

TIN CAN BAY CAMERA CLUB_2026 DIGITAL COMP_POINTS AWARDS & JUDGE'S CRITIQUE/COMMENTS					
MONTH: January					
SUBJECT: Open					
JUDGE: Tin Dial					
Member ID	Member Name	Image Title	Points	Award	Judge's Comments
<b>A GRADE</b>					
21A	John	Blew It	4	Bronze	Great timing with the action. The story is strong, with the crowd all paying attention to the action, and even a photographer in the mix! Personally, I find the image a bit strongly processed, personal taste. Be good to have another play and while still having punch, make the contrast a bit less strong, moreso on the horse and rider. Watch those blacks.
04A	Julie	Blue Doors	4	Bronze	Door can be interesting subjects, as is the case here. The older architecture tells me of buildings that have been around for a while, but the doors replaced over time. I think why we like doors is because here they tend to be a bit bland, and often have security screens in front. Processing is a little punchy, but it's okay for this image. Good composition, having half windows on either side compliments the doors. I keep looking at them, think gee they are narrow, what fun getting lounge suites through there. Would be great to see inside.
19A	Jacquie	Bribie Sunrise	3	Merit	Sunrises are my favourite time of day. Whilst I see that you wanted a bit of foreground, consider cropping off a bit at the bottom as I don't feel it adds to the image, and maybe some of the top to keep composition. Watch your horizon as well. To get more mood from an image like this, have a play with using slow shutter speed. The smoothed out water will look less busy. A magic time of day, keep playing.
08A	Maree	Brisbane Wheel	1	Entry	Taking shots of bright lights with a dark night sky is very tricky. For me the wheel lights are very overexposed, and the image overall out of focus. Wondering if there is a teeny bit of camera movement from a hand held shot. It is a tricky image horizon wise.... The rydges sign seems straight, yet the image in general is crooked. The water in the foreground takes away from the rest of the scene, so cropping some of that out might help. The wheel is a very photogenic subject, but needs extra care at night. Consider bracketing as a means to combat tricky exposure issues. Raw is also important in these types of shots, to get as much detail back as you can. I hope you can have another go next time you are in Brissie, and consider an earlier time of evening, and using a tripod.
10A	Maureen	Crowded House	4	Bronze	A well taken image, you really get drawn into the sad decline of our older homes. Not only is the house looking a little worse for wear, but the grass is also adding to the story of neglect. I wonder how long before it goes and an apartment is in it's place. Though the bars and the security gate door tell me it's probably in a dodgy area. Amazing how close it is to the neighbours, think a fair bit can be heard between those walls! Well seen.

20A	Cheryl	Eager Chicks	6	Gold	Really good capture of the action here, the photographer obviously knows their stuff as these birds are not easy to take, being super fast. I so feel sorry for the parents, the morsels are small and they are on the hunt all day to feed their bubs. The parent's face is a teeny bit dark, easy to just lift that a little using layers and either curves, levels or brightness. Just a tweak. But great capture, those little ones really grab attention.
20A	Cheryl	Expectations	3	Merit	So cute sitting in a row like that, like butter wouldn't melt. Until the parent comes, then it is on for young and old! The image feels a bit oversharpened, maybe because you felt it was a bit soft from cropping? But, some of the background seems a bit smooth, so am wondering if the noise removal has not worked too well (it too can oversharpen). I feel the colour balance is also out, swallow chicks do not normally have that bright salmon coloured chest, it is more subtle and their heads are more of a deep blue steel type colour. The pale green background also feels a bit out. Special to see them in a row like that though, nice shot.
01A	Cathy	Intermediate Egret	3	Merit	Egrets are lovely birds to photograph, but can be tricky being so white. I like the mood you have created here, though I do find the exposure on the egret a bit dark. Maybe making the image overall less dark might help with that. Some of the egret feels quite smooth, and the feathers sharp over parts of the body, so am assuming denoise may have done this. Overall a nice capture with the bird doing something.
19A	Jacquie	Just Resting	5	Silver	This is a lovely capture of the butterfly, everything is sharp where it needs to be. The blue background is actually quite a nice change from the usual greens, and nicely out of focus. Composition is good, though I did think about whether a crop off the left and bottom would improve composition, but then having that bright area right on the edge is probably not great, so I think it works best as it is. It is a lovely image regardless.
06A	Leanne	Juvenile Whistling Kite	3	Merit	Nice capture. I am feeling though, that the eye is just a tiny bit soft. For me, the eyes are the most important part of an animal. Sometimes just running a sharpen tool over the eye, or edge of the eye, helps with this. Downsizing can cause slight softness issues (has happened to me). I think a radial gradient over the bird to increase some exposure would help lift it. The background is quite busy, even though it is blurred, and detracts from the main subject. As I don't know what gear you had, or settings, my suggestion is a shallow aperture, focused on the eye, step back and zoom in as much as you can so the background has a more natural softness to it...though if the background is too close, that can be harder to achieve. Not easy when you have to take these birds in a non natural environment, so you have done well, and the close in crop suits.
26A	Leigh	On the Hunt	4	Bronze	Excellent timing with the action. Image is a bit dark overall, though you have done well to not blow out any whites. I can't help but feel the bird is a bit plastic looking, am wondering if denoise was used and it was a bit too strong. Be careful when darkening, and with contrast. The colour feels quite strong around its head and beak, plus the eye has become quite dark. Have a play with a bit less 'punch' and see what you think. It is ultimately your image and your vision. Crop is good, and the play of light on the reeds as well.

21A	John	Oops	5	Silver	Lol, this is a fun image, and very well captured (or executed). Has the story, the bits of grass flying create the sense of movement and impending doom. Lighting is good.
06A	Leanne	Pretty-face Wallaby	4	Bronze	I really like this image in high key, well done. The face is in focus, the mouth open to show it is eating, so there is that story element to it. I suggest cropping a bit off the top to remove that dark line and add a bit of the white vignette to subtly make the dark lines a bit less obvious. My preferred method for vignetting is to use a gradient filter at a very soft feather, usually 100%, so that transition is very smooth. Nicely done though.
26A	Leigh	Raft Point	3	Merit	A pretty coastline, and I can see what attracted you..the shapes, colours... a tricky image though with bright sunshine and deep shadows. I feel some more of those shadows could be brought out with processing, and I also suggest cropping some of the bottom off. The most interesting part are the rocks, so even though I see you wanted to keep in all the reflections, for me they don't add too much value to the image, so consider taking off maybe a third and see how that enhances the main attraction. Toning down some of the highlights will help as well. I am wondering if this was shot in jpeg (I have no issues with jpeg, just that it does limit editing somewhat), and if so, suggest changing to 16 bit when editing, as your sky is showing banding. This is usually a result of pushing the pixels a bit, and am thinking you wanted to darken the sky hence the banding. It is the only thing I can think of. Also keep an eye out for dust bunnies, you have one obvious one, easy to remove. I would say you had a lovely day out on the water, it looks very calm.
03A	Mary	Seaweed	3	Merit	Unusual seaweed, a good find. Lots of potential in this image. Consider removing the black bits, especially on the bottom right, vignette the edges and run a soft exposure radial gradient over the middle. Consider a more square crop as well, before vignetting.
10A	Maureen	Sleepyhead	6	Gold	This is a fabulous image. So simple, and so effective with the close up crop. In focus where it needs to be, well exposed. Love it.
04A	Julie	Sound the Alarm	2	Acceptance	I really like the concept of this image. However, I am having some issues with some of the editing, and I can't understand what the problem may be. I am thinking it is probably a composite image given the issues, and the differences in sharpness, yet they do look as if they are there together on the purple cloth. The main problem is the area between the 2 main clocks, it is blurry and smudgy and I can't work out why. There is some of that on the main clock too. The depth of field seems inconsistent. For example, the main clock face is in focus, but drops off along the body. Next to it, the smaller clock, the top part of the clock face is in focus, drops off at the bottom (both indicating a shallow dof). The rear clock has a blurred movement feel to it, yet the top right wording at the back in the image is sharp. There are some other things, but these are my main areas of note. Sorry, I am totally stumped if it isn't a composite. As I said, I like the concept, but the editing has not worked for me. If you have these items at your disposal, have another play! They are interesting pieces and the story is good.
01A	Cathy	Striking a Pose	5	Silver	Well captured image with the egrets fluffy feathers on display. The background is a bit dark, but given it is also busy, being darker makes the bird stand out more, and reduces the impact of the branches. Good composition.

03A	Mary	Sundew	3	Merit	That is an unusual looking plant, and the drops tell of a cold or possibly wet night. Overall I find the image very busy, and suggest cropping in just a bit if you have enough pixels to do so, and using a vignette to help tone down the side areas to create more impact on the plant. Then do a radial gradient over the plant, and increase exposure just a little. This will help the image to pop.
08A	Maree	Walk Bridge	1	Entry	I like the subject, the sky being less dark means the bright colours have not blown out. But the image is not in focus, and your horizon is crooked as well. The water looks odd with the water appearing somewhat blurry either side of the coloured reflections which look to have been sharpened. The colours are attractive in the image. As I can't see your exif data, I can't offer you any specific suggestions, except to make sure your shutter speed is fast enough for hand holding if you were, and easy to crop so horizons are straight. Maybe next time, if you didn't, I suggest using a tripod, and ensuring you have enough aperture and speed for your image. I hope you had a fun night though.

B GRADE					
07A	Lynn	Ancient History	3	Merit	Very good capture of an interesting place. I feel the image is just a touch dark so increasing the shadows a bit will help with this, plus feel it is just a teeny bit soft, could be a resizing issue. Good composition.
25B	Greg	Beautiful Beach	4	Bronze	Good to see photographers out there playing, and what a nice day it looks. A nice capture of what is happening. However, don't forget to make sure your horizon is straight before entering. Image was well taken with all the essential elements in focus. Consider cropping a bit off the bottom to remove that wire, and that will also make the people stronger in the frame, and maybe just a tweak in exposure as part of the image is a bit on the darker side, mainly on the left (polariser?). Using the histogram in levels (not sure if you have PS, but pretty sure most software out there will have similar), gives a good indication of light. If the right side is a flat line, move the slider so that it sits closer to where the histogram starts showing light. If unsure of what I am talking about, I am sure some of the A graders can show you. Hope that photographer on the rocks got some great shots.
07A	Lynn	Hammock Bliss	5	Silver	An interesting scene, and well captured. That poor boat sure has had better days. The shadows are quite dark, maybe see if you can lift them just a bit, especially on the boat. I also feel that the boat adds extra interest to the image, so it isn't just a picture of hammocks. Well done.
25B	Greg	Time to Freeze	2	Acceptance	I can see why you took this image... great combo, a photographer and a sunrise. Just that the image overall is soft, so am thinking your shutter speed was just a touch too slow for the available light. I wonder if it had been shot in landscape mode, if more of the scene that he was shooting would be in the frame, think it would add a bit to the story. As is, consider cropping some off the right so that the image feels a bit more balanced, given the tripod is so close to the edge. Always look through your viewfinder to see what is in, or not in, or even in the background, of your scene. I like the story and good attempt.