



The MAY 2021 Flare

ballaratcameraclub.org.au

B A L L A R A T C A M E R A C L U B I N C .



Feeding the Cuckoo - Carol Hall

Presidents Report

Mark Bevelander | President Ballarat Camera Club Inc.



Next Informal Imaging Night:
Mon 3 May, 7.30 pm at Bibby's Place.

Next Club Meeting: Wed 12 May
Judge: Dan O'Donoghue

Next Club Outing: Sat 22 May, 1.30 pm
La Gerche Trail. Meet at Rotunda, Creswick Main St.

VAPS Virtual Convention June 6

Looking at Post Production of your Images

There has been some discussion about methods of tweaking your images after they come out of the camera i.e. cropping, brightness, sharpness, some minimal cloning out of distractions etc.

The Club has setup a Group on the photographer's site: www.flickr.com to allow members to upload their photos and receive comments from others about your adjustments as well as suggestions on other ways to improve the photo.

Members must first register with Flickr (it's free) and then they can upload their photos onto their own private site. Gary Freestone has uploaded his photo of the Arch as an example of the process involved.

The Group is located at:
www.flickr.com/groups/ballaratcameraclub/

You can view it straight away but you will need to be a Flickr member to interact with the Group.

Take your time to look around Flickr as it's a site dedicated to photographers only and has a multitude of goodies in it.

La Gerche Trail

The La Gerche Trail is a 2.2 km long walking track north-east of Creswick that commemorates the life and work of John La Gerche who was a forest bailiff at Creswick from 1882 until 1897. La Gerche's two outstanding achievements were to halt the rampant cutting of trees for mining and fuel-wood so as to allow regeneration of the forest, and the establishment of the Creswick Nursery.

The current interest in this Trail is the variety and volume of fungi growing. This year the fungi is very prolific due to the



Annuals Competition 2019-2021

The rules are simple, select up to 9 images that you've entered into monthly competitions from between 1st September 2019 until 31 August 2021. Images can be a combination of EDPIs or prints in any of the following categories:

- Open – Colour
- Open – Monochrome
- Landscape / seascape
- Nature
- People / portrait
- Creative
- Portfolio



Note that if you have previously entered an image as an EDPI you can enter that image into the Annuals as a print or vice versa. As long as the image is only submitted once. More details will follow.

April 2021 Competition Judging Sheet - Judge Neil Sinclair

Image Title	Maker	Score	Honour /Merit	Judge Comment
Club Logo				
Section Slide - EDPI Open				
A touch of red	Ken Marsh	9	Acceptance	Red is always a winner, however this image is rather cluttered. suggest cropping it top and bottom to a panoramic image.
A tunnel in the moonlight	Mark Bevelander	10	Acceptance	B & W a good choice for your subject. Has a "spooky" aura. I'd be careful where shadows present in a night shot. Full moon ?
Carved in Stone	Vera Paulin	10	Acceptance	Good capture of mono subject. Could the image be enlarged slightly in processing and straightened on the right hand side .? Lightroom or PS.
City View	Frank Carroll	11	Merit	Well thought out positioning of camera to contrast the statues with the modern skyscrapers. Would have even more impact if the left hand side of image lightened in post processing.
Cosmopolitan Trentham	Ken Marsh	9	Acceptance	Mono suits this capture of country hotel. Try to either exclude or capture the complete door.
Don't Look Down	Anne Carroll	13	Honour	What fun! Speaks of having a great time with the children, of all ages. Colour (including red) makes for fun , Placement/capture of the two kites rising upwards and comfortably sitting in the frame excellent.
Feeding the cuckoo	Carol Hall	14	Honour	Wow! I admire photographers who combine patience, foresight, steady hands and more patience. great placement and post capture processing to clear the frame of any distracting background.
Fog on the Breakaway	Betty Bibby	13	Honour	Golden tones ! Very pleasing viewing image. Well framed. no suggestions.
Fresh Mangoes for Sale	Vera Paulin	12	Merit	Good street shot with the support of the subject. Very busy visually but that's par for the course. composition and focus clearly bringing the subject "out" from the background . Suggest trying to lighten exposure a little on the subjects face through Lightroom or PS.
Lunar Branches	Steve Demeye	13	Honour	Imaginative and simple creation. Love it. I'm not concerned about the network of limbs as they seem to support the key subject.
Misty Forest	Steve Demeye	10	Acceptance	I like the way in which thais image ceates a feeling of cold and uncertainty. However I'm not taken with the prominence given to the falling treeing the centre. Use if mono and framing effective.
Morning Glow	Steve Demeye	9	Acceptance	Sharp and composition with reflections good. However the overall feeling is too dark for me. Could you have waited a little longer to gather some more light and warmth?
Music Man	Frank Carroll	11	Merit	Interesting one man band ! Eye catching, exposure good, (Did you use fill in flash?) Background nicely out of focus. Would suggest that the image would have greater effect if after paying the piper/musician his due, you ask him to work his audience and then .capture him at work
Nankeen Night Heron portrait	Carol Hall	13	Honour	I felt under surveillance with this one. Ticks all the right boxes. well exposed. background subdued, sharp where it should be sharp and the eye catches and holds the viewer.
On Guard	Geoffrey James	11	Merit	. A reversal of the popular way to catch a meerkat. Lighting excellent with the halo effect capturing the eye on first view. Exposure and focus showing the sharpness of the image.
PInk	Anne Carroll	11	Merit	demonstration of the positive effect of a well placed slice of colour against a background of B&W. Skilful post processing (I'm. envious) Exposure and sharp.

Rainbow on the Hill	Geoffrey James	10	Acceptance	Two parts compete for the viewers attention. I feel the foreground could be cropped at bottom (1 10th ?} Maximise the power of the green farmland and of the rainbow.
Reclining tree	Ken Marsh	9	Acceptance	One of my favourite local areas. Exposure good, focus good od centre of image. Reflection and texture of tree. However the image has too much going on in it for the viewers eyes. Simplify.
Soldier	Frank Carroll	8	Acceptance	Appears under exposed, Grey on grey. I feel the overall impact of the message of strength and sacrifice is lost with the darkness of the image. In difficult lighting situations you could try exposure bracketing. Some work with PS or Lightroom to pull the detail out would also help.
Stone Buddha	Vera Paulin	12	Merit	Another example of the value of a single element of colour amid the background of strength, devotion and past generations..I can't add any suggestions for consideration.
Sunrise	Geoffrey James	10	Acceptance	Lovely end of day at the beach. The figure fits in well, however I would have preferred to see him facing the water bringing in his catch. Perhaps the title could have been "mission accomplished"
View across the salt lake	Mark Bevelander	13	Honour	Colourful shot of post sunset with simple/unclustered scene. Placement of person photographing provides an anchor or guide to the viewer's eyes.
Walking the Dogs	Anne Carroll	10	Acceptance	Very popular scene in Lake Wendouree and well composed by the author. Leading lines and soft foggy background, all good. However I'm not taken with the ghostly walker and dogs.
Wreck Beach	Murray Mc Eachern	10	Acceptance	Wintery ocean and forested foreground make for a pleasing photo. Pleasant but not arresting.
Section Slide - EDPI Set Bridge				
A bridge to the dawn glow	Mark Bevelander	13	Honour	This caught my attention immediately and held it while I explored the various elements. The composition was simple with my eyes being taken through the sunlit reeds, along the bridge to Yuille Island and then across the lake to Warrenheip. Excellent composure and exposure.
Algebuckina Bridge form Below	Betty Bibby	9	Acceptance	Sharp image, clear simple and a definite statement of strength. However I found the intrusion of the tree branch diverting.
Bridge Decking at Nagambie	Trevor Bibby	8	Acceptance	We can see why there is a safety barricade at the end of the bridge. Sharp, well exposed but too many elements.
Derwent Bridge	Judy McEachern	11	Merit	A historic stone bridge on a country road, well captured to show the care and "architecture" of it. The image is deatiledand sharp enough to show the path up the hill and the stone wall on the hill.
Foggy Nimons	Anne Wilson	10	Acceptance	who doesn't love a fog? Well photographers any how. The author has chosen an excellent approach to show strength and focus on only that without any distractions .
Golden Gate.	Daniel O'Donoghue	11	Merit	A mid day shot which rather flattens the impact of the colour range in the image. I suggest cropping out the bottom of the image (Is that a penitentiary) and see if without the distraction the image's story has more punch.
Goodluck with the Fishing	Betty Bibby	11	Merit	I feel that B&W was a good choice to highlight both the strength of a rural bridge and the note for aspiring fishermen. The B&W also clearly shows the effect of age and wear on the bridge planks.
Gorge Bridge	Judy McEachern	13	Honour	My immediate reaction was, wow, how did they build that ? The image is well captured, the viewer's eyes would not wander from the colour and shape of the bridge. Excellent photo.

Japanese Garden Bridge	Murray Mc Eachern	11	Merit	Simple and answers the competition challenge. Clear of extraneous material, sharp and well framed.
Lake Powell Bridge	Murray Mc Eachern	12	Merit	Now that's a bridge ! Immediately captures the viewer's eyes with the strong colours and single leading line across the valley or mine that it spans. The only element that I could wish for if possible is in post capture to lighten up the top of the bridge.
Lakes Entrance Bridge	Carol Hall	12	Merit	Attractive submission where the load of descibing "Bridge" is answered with street lights and reflection in the water that the bridge covers.
Looking down the heights at Nimmons	Mark Bevelander	10	Acceptance	The image is well described by the author. Bridge, Heights, Looking down . All sharp and well captured. However I felt it needed some "punch" but I'm at a loss to suggest how. Sorry.
Moruya Mist	Carol Hall	11	Merit	Intriguingly simple. Calm setting without distractions (8 knot speed limit excepted) I like it.
Nimmons Bridge Sunset.	Daniel O'Donoghue	14	Honour	Whilst it could be said is this a landscape or a bridge ? The overall effect on me is I like it either way. The dirt road radiates colour/warmth. It leads us into the centre of the image. The colours all make me feel like I'm there in person. The sky is alive and the outline of the bridge is the end of my visual journey. But please clone out the outline of a tree on the right hand side of the horizon though.
Old Bridge at Nagambie	Trevor Bibby	11	Merit	Attractive scene, colour, placement of subject, in the image, sharp focus from front to back. Well done
Ponte Vecchio	Daniel O'Donoghue	9	Acceptance	Colorful and warm. The bridge is sharp and visually separated from the huge array of building with the "toy" effect. However my eyes kept being confused and distracted from the principal subject.
Ross Bridge	Carol Hall	10	Acceptance	Interesting image with the three arches turning into three ovals .Well seen and captured. However with two thirds of the image tree and blue sky I felt that it was unbalanced. Back to my earlier suggestion of displaying it as a panorama.
Skye Bridge	Judy McEachern	10	Acceptance	Anther wow for simple yet magnificent bridge. My main problem was the eye catching red roof on the foreground right and the perfectly focused grass and weeds in the foreground left. Maybe using a larger aperture and shutter speed to soften the immediate foreground or post processing on the foreground which could include reducing saturation .
Snowed Under	Anne Wilson	10	Acceptance	A good bridge shot. Composition, exposure and helped by B&W. Not a great deal I can comment on other than to wonder what a slower shutter speed would have contributed to the feeling of winter with the snow flakes blurring as they fall.
Stormy Bridge	Geoffrey James	12	Merit	An arial shot ? The aspect of looking down on the bridge doesn't seem to diminish its grandeur and it is still able to stand out against the rural background. The character filled sky with the clouds and the lightning strike all add interest. My only suggestion is too much open, recently levelled and therefore without colour, foreground, becomes a distraction. P S filters or cropping ? experiment.
The Bridge	Geoffrey James	9	Acceptance	A clear and well defined shot of the bridge showing its size architecture. Placement of the bridge across the image good. As in another submission I clone out the was distracted by the large colourless area in the top of the image. As it occupies about 1/3rd of the image it steals some of the attention the bridge warrants. Photo Shop again? I would also crop .out the photographer lying on the bridge

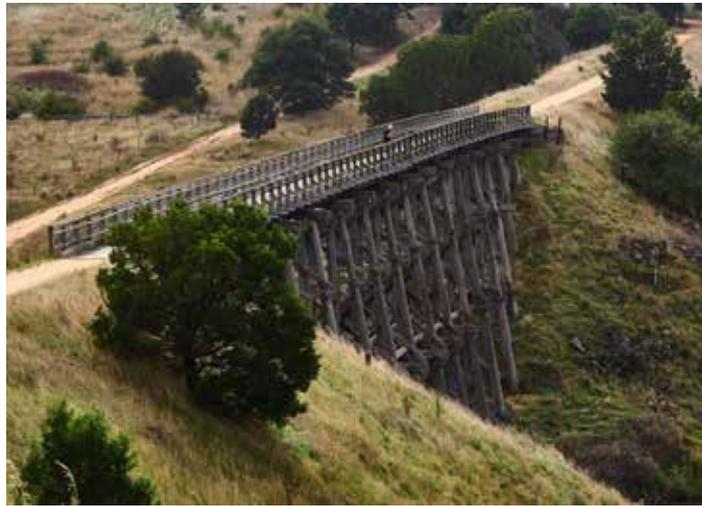
The Bridge and the Bike	Frank Carroll	9	Acceptance	Good subject at the end of the photo set in what appears to be a very pleasant European river. However I was unable to discern what was the bike doing or even is that it in the bottom right corner of the image ? it needs either to completely be removed or "recovered" in post processing.
Trestle Bridge	Ken Marsh	14	Honour	I like this, it has punch. Therefore I cannot add any suggestions for the author to add or subtract from what is a statement of strength and survival. Colours are pleasing, placement of the bridge showing height from ground to sky. The path giving a feeling of being "there" All in all, excellent. Well done.
Trestle Work	Anne Wilson	11	Merit	Good composition with eyes being led into the fog. Suggest cropping right hand side to get rid of "triangle'
Under the Bridge	Trevor Bibby	10	Acceptance	A striking image of wood and angles. The title is needed to confirm what we see, unless the viewer simply is fascinated with the regulation, strength and characterisation of the scene. Exposure and sharpness good. I wonder though if it may've been possible to have moved the shot slightly to the right and better balanced the space on either side of the image.
Watch your head.	Frank Carroll	12	Merit	Love the colours and the composition. The Gondolier ducking his head shows some realism to the scene. Technically all seems to ave been attended to. If there's an element for attention, the blue craft with the white protection "bag" on the right hand side of the screen could have its saturation reduced.
Water under the bridge	Ken Marsh	13	Honour	Creates a feeling of being there. Sharp, peaceful and natural feeling colours, in the sky and in the reflections.
Section Slide - Large Print Open				
Building Angles	Steve Demeye	12	Merit	I feel like I'm lying down looking skyward and wondering how to get up ! So the image "speaks" to me but I'm not sure how to respond. I believe that any communication should arouse emotion or call to look for meaning. On that criteria "building angles" has succeeded. Allocating a mark is therefore not really important. The viewers will decide separately and differently. My marking is unimportant.
Dragon Head Rock	Murray Mc Eachern	14	Honour	You must examine this beautiful print to really appreciate this work. Excellent detail and colour in the rock and supporting elements. The slow shutter speed creates a silver veil around the rock and silver curtain between sea and supporting soft cloud mid sky. sky. Yes, I like it !
Mittens	Murray Mc Eachern	12	Merit	Impressive sight in the desert. The image speaks of hell on earth for the unfortunate person who would dare enter here. The monotony of the heavy red foreground seems to deter longer inspection which is a shame as these 3 pillars are magnificent. I suggest that image be lightened a little in post processing so we can better be impressed with the detail that the image does contain.
Peterborough Rocks	Trevor Bibby	9	Acceptance	A good seascape is good for the soul and this is a good seascape. However the print doesn't do justice to the image that the author has created. The printed image on display does not show the work done by the author. On the print colours are blown out and details lost in the rocks, the sand in the foreground is ????? Can't make any recommendations other than have it reprinted because the image deserves. it.

Wreck	Judy McEachern	11	Merit	Every picture tells, or should tell a story and this wreck surely must. The image of the boat uses the full screen to the best advantage and detail is good. However could the left hand side of the wreck be lightened a little in post processing to better balance the whole image ?
Section Slide - Large Print Set Bridge				
Sea Bridge	Steve Demeye	12	Merit	A lovely shot of a nantural bridge in a sea setting. Colours are subdued but effective. The slow shutter speed is effective for the water movement but has caused some blurring bottom left hand side. I would suggest lightly cropping the bottom and right hand side to see if this could help.
Squirrel Bridge	Judy McEachern	12	Merit	Refreshing B&W treatment which I feel suits the subject that is very much black and white. Strong, smooth wooden sides, regulated as to design and construction. Nothing fancy and showy. Conudrum, do you zoom in on the squirrel and "lose" the bridge or capture the whole bridge. I agree with your treatment.
Section Slide - EDPI Set Bridge				
Foot Brifge Keep Your Feet Dry	Leo Ryan	13	Honour	Doesn't red grab the eye ! The author has captured the essence of this bridge as we can appreciate design, construction and immediate placement of the bridge. Well captured.

Some Images from April's Competition









Syllabus 2020 -2021

June

Open/Creative/Set - "A Leaf"

Image can include many leaves but must feature one leaf - dead or alive, complete or skeleton. May include fern fronds but not blades of grass.

July

Open/Set - "Liquids"

Any substance in liquid state - can be any shape or form. You are challenged to be as creative as you dare. The liquid must dominate the image. Must not include or be a part of large bodies of water.

August

Open/Set - "Shadows"

May or may not include the object/person generating the shadow. The shadow must form the main subject of the image.



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