

March 2014

Theme: Character of Life  
A Grade



**We Remember Them**

**Keith**

This is a colourful image and a great opportunity. These grab shots are hard to manage and turn into a Portrait Salon buster. Sometimes it is best to approach them afterwards and ask to take their photo.

**Acceptance**



**The Old Gypsy Man**

**Helena**

This is very good, good light in the eye, seems sharp and the treatment suits the face. I am concerned you have cropped off his ear when you have so much space on the right?

**Highly Commended**



**My Mama**

**Helena**

this has everything going for it, good expression, light in the eyes, very good pose of the hands, angle of the eyes, soft colour palette which is flattering to us 'older' women.

**HONOURS**



**Mr Fix It**

**Robo**

A very good use of depth of field used here, competent work. There are some areas that are a tad bright, one behind the thumb and the top of the hand, these could easily be toned down. Then an Honours, but a good. **Highly Commended**



**Mind How You Go**

**Liz**

a well recorded moment on a difficult walk for older folk. Just remember photography is also about good light, not just recording something.

**Acceptance**



**Happily Retired**

**Cushla**

sorry the title doesn't match the expression, he does not look happy at all to me. I like the angle of the head but try not to cut off the ears, it hurts!! The monochrome suits the subject well.

**Acceptance**



**Good Company**

**Liz**

This has a lovely story to it, a good rapport between the woman and her dog. I like the composition, and would like to see this in Black and white, although the colour is working well. Clone out her sticking plaster

**Merit**



**Gas Cutter**

**Robo**

Lovely light in this, well done. A shallow depth of field would have made him stand out more from the busy background. In this instance he doesn't need to look at you, seeing him working on something may have been stronger, but a very good effort.

**Highly Commended**



**Contemplating**

**Brie**

This tells a strong story... good depth of field, sharp. The lighting could be better but it is good, the vignetting is appropriate. Do we need light in the eyes, maybe not, maybe they could have been closed? Anyway it is a strong image in this subject.

**Highly Commended**



**Companions**

**Carl**

Street photography is a fabulous concept. In the A Grade I would expect better light control. The angles are a tad distracting too, he might fall over any minute.

**Merit**



**Anne**

**Carl**

This is just as I can imagine the scene was, no tidying of the desk, nothing changed. A great slice of life image telling a strong story. Very good lighting on Ann's face. I would have liked to see one arm or hand but that is incidental. **Honours**



**Always a Song in their Hearts**

**Keith**

This is very well cropped, I like the story here very much. It is a tad flat, I added some contrast and brightness and it came alive? **Highly Commended**



**A Life Time of Togetherness**

**Brie**

This has a slightly posed feel to it, the woman is smiling at nothing visual.. perhaps she could have looked at him? The large blanket is rather dominant. A strong concept but not quite putting across the emotion I hoped for. **Merit**

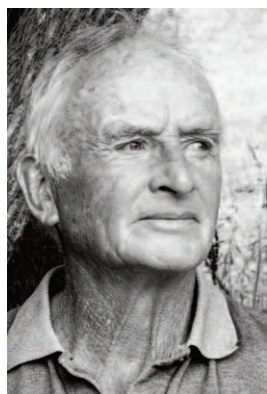


**79 Wonderful Years**

**Cushla**

A nice tidy image, don't crop too tightly on the right ear. Also I prefer a little more space beneath the chin, below the clothing neckline usually works well. The lighting is not special and in this grade I'd expect better light, although the eyes are well illuminated. **Merit**

**B Grade**



**Pete the Farmer**

**Sue**

he is not a gnarly old farmer and I wonder if his occupation in the title adds anything? It didn't for me. Watch your sharpness, this is a tad soft. I prefer the eyes toward the camera a little more. I quite like the pose but again watch where you cut off the neckline? This image if it were sharp and had more post processing would be very good. **Merit.**



**Mother at 86**

**Geoff**

Looking at this I am not gleaning much about the character of this woman, the darker glasses and turned away face close the door on her personality, not really a portrait. Watch where you crop off the neckline, at the bottom of the sweater V is more comfortable.

**Acceptance**



**Laugh Out Loud**

**Sue**

this is warm and friendly. Watch the V on the shirt and crop just below this line. Again no rapport between the photographer and the subject.

**Acceptance**



**C Grade**

**Hands**

**Marie**

A very good effort. Don't be afraid to crop right in close on this, can be the difference in a higher score. I would have cropped off from the sleeve down and some at the top as well. But you are definitely on the right track!

**Highly Commended**



**Christchurch Homeless**

**Danielle**

The title tells me this, but the image doesn't really. Story telling is an art and we needed a little more of his surrounding to succeed. His head gets a little lost amongst the background too. Try and isolate your subject with a shallow depth of field or by moving them. It is sharp. Watch you don't crop off his fingers.

**Acceptance**



**A to Z**

**Danielle**

Not sure what the title means? This is superb, needs bit of cropping on the left, that side doesn't add to the image or the story I don't think. It is all about the baby hand and the old hand. I will give you an **Honours** as a beginner but please go home and crop in tight on this...

Sorry I sound like a broken record on the necklines!!!

Quote Posted by rolandogomez. "If the full-length or three-quarter crop doesn't work with the photo concept you're trying to achieve, the next crop is from beneath the bust of a woman. If photographing a man, the crop is usually coined as "one and a half buttons up." Simply meaning, that the photographer will capture one and half buttons of a man's formal shirt, excluding the collar button. Depending on the type of suit the man is wearing, the crop is usually just beneath the V-line formed by the lapels." The rules of photography are often broken by professional photographers, in fact, some of the most effective photographs are the rule breakers, but only because the photographers that captured those photos knew and mastered the rules first – they understand how to break the rules effectively, not break them on purpose so the photographer looks like a cool, maverick artist.!!



**Open**

**A Grade**

**Water slide**

**Liz**

Infectious fun being had by the two girls at the front. This is a wonderful holiday/family photo however I don't see it quite at the standard of a competition image in A Grade.

**Acceptance**

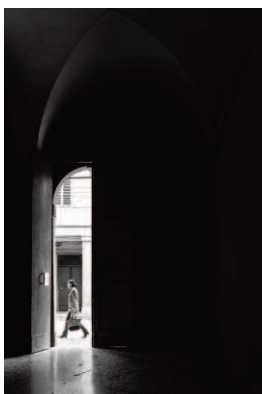


**Walkabout**

**Brie**

Lovely sunset & sky, the foreground isn't exciting and the figure is almost the same size as the fence posts! Still worth taking and pleasurable.

**Merit**



**Under the Portico**

**Carl**

A Cartier Bresson Moment one might say, in other words you pressed the shutter at the precise moment! Your post-processing lets this down I feel, there is more detail available in the image and I would like to have seen it shown... I played in NIK Software and it was superb!

**Highly Commended**



**Dreamy Gaze**

**Cushla**

Photography is about light and story telling. Children are never easy and their clothing contributes a lot. In this the stripes dominate the beautiful soft features of the face. Eye contact is always an advantage, we look for rapport between the subject and the photographer most of the time.

**Accepted.**



**Battered Ice Cube**

**Helena**

I love the use of a slow shutter speed here. I feel that the colour of the ice could have been brighter or clearer but then again you can't wait around when travelling for perfect photo conditions!

**Highly Commended**



**Auckland Sky Tower**

**Cassandra**

I love it when a photographer comes up with something unique on a much photographed subject. I'm not sure why you didn't try and fill more of the top quarter but I am sure you had a reason, I like negative space but this seems a little empty.

**MERIT**



**Whangarei Basin**

**Tracy**

I love the composition and the square-ish format! If you are going to use these apps/treatments be aware they make a lot of noise sometimes, particularly in the sky. So slide the reduce noise slider along and try and remove it. This sky is as noisy as a train passing my apartment! ☺

**Highly Commended**



**Race for the Lead**

**Robo**

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**B Grade**

**Ruapehu from Ohakune**

**Geoff**

A very good record shot of Ruapehu on a beautiful day. However as a photographer I want more from you, more dramatic lighting, a stormy sky something extra.

**Acceptance**



**Bridge Over Troubled Waters** Sue

A very tranquil scene, but remember photography is story telling and about light. The bland sky takes my eye away from the charming bridge. I get the feeling the light was about to become dramatic, or that you just missed it.

**Acceptance.**



**C Grade**

**Sarah**

**Marie**

This could have been soooo good. However the size is only 3cm x 5 cm; consequently it is a tad soft. A slightly suggestive pose and a beautiful woman... **Highly Commended**



**Petulant**

**Danielle**

Absolutely and you will be forever grateful she was. **HONOURS**, I love the attitude, the angle of the head, the negative space the entire image is fabulous!

Comments by Lynn Clayton APSNZ, EFIAP  
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