

Results Monthly March 2023 MCC

Category	Category Name	Firstname	Lastname	Club Star Rating	Title	Score	Award	Comment
AS	Action And Sport	Ronelle	van den Heever	5	Astro Dive	11	Gold	Well captured moment with all the action focused in the centre of the image. The distracting background is not especially bad and gives context. To improve the care should be taken with handling the whites which are overbright. The shadows on the faces are quite dark and could be lifted to some extent without violating the no manipulation rule.
AS	Action And Sport	Vicki	Street	6	The Jump	Not judged		This image appears to be manipulated or a filter applied and was not judged.
N	Nature	wynand	lens	1	Thick Bill Weaver	13	Merit	The weaver is well portrayed in it's natural habitat with loads of reeds to give context. The bird is well exposed and the eye sharp and with a good catchlight. To improve, crop heavily on the left to reduce the distracting reeds and try to capture the bird when there is no leaf to obscure the tail.
N	Nature	Diane	Backhouse	2	Dragonfly - DB	13	Merit	The dragonfly is well shown and depth of field excellent. To improve, increase the feathering of the tool used to brighten the area around the head.
N	Nature	Diane	Backhouse	2	High Maintenance - DB	14	Merit	A superb image of the weaver preening. The colours are great and the shadows expertly handled. The diagonal perch is a great anchor and enhances the feeling of action in the image. The unusual pose is brilliant, keep it up!
N	Nature	Diane	Backhouse	2	Striated Heron - DB	13	Merit	The heron is well placed in the image and the composition enhanced by a suitable perch. To improve, look at reducing the bright and distracting elements in the background and bright areas in the bird and branch.
N	Nature	Marna	Roelofse	3	Why did the Rhino Cross the Road	11	Gold	The image tells a good story of a magnificent beast crossing the road. The distracting sky should be cropped to keep focus on the main character. Also try to give the rhiino some space to walk into. The is some camera movement to be seen resulting in a not quite sharp image.
N	Nature	Ronelle	van den Heever	5	Amethyst Sunbird	11	Gold	Sunbirds are pretty hard to photograph and this a great effort. To improve, try to coax a little more detail from the shadows on the bird's breast and crop the sistracting bright are on the left frame.
N	Nature	Leon	Heyes	5	Bush Beauty	13	Merit	An excellent study of the flower. Exposure and sharpness spot on. The diagonal placement is good and the flowers sit nicely on that diagonal. Well done.
N	Nature	Ronelle	van den Heever	5	Pelican in flight	12	Gold	The pelican is sharp and superbly exposed. White birds are the worst to get right and this shows the hand of an experienced photographer. To improve, the very bright sky dominated the subject and could possible be toned down a bit. The movement shown in the wing tips is just right.
N	Nature	Des	van Tonder	5	Squawking Youngster	Not judged		This image has been manipulated and should be entered into the correct category if allowed.
N	Nature	Des	van Tonder	5	Wriggling Sushi	13	Merit	There are a lot of heron eating fish images doing the rounds at the moment, and they all see to have been taken at Durban Botanic Gardens. This one wherever it was taken is great and the inclusion of droplets flying as the poor victim is trying to escape adds to the action. The eye is bright and super sharp. To improve, try to bring down the level of the white on top of the head as it is right on the cusp of being over bright.

N	Nature	Vicki	Street	6	A harvest mouse	DQ		
OP	Open	Marisan	Victor	1	Balancing act	10	Gold	A fun picture that must have been a pleasure to make. The bright lighting especially on the foot and face distracts but overall the story value overrides the technical shortcomings.
OP	Open	wynand	lens	1	Flying Chipmunk	11	Gold	Well captured especially since the faces of the pilot and passenger are clearly shown. The movement in the propeller is a good indication of the movement of the plane which is crisply sharp. Unfortunately the greatest asset in making this image is also its greatest problem the soft light from the overcast sky has left the image a bit flat.
OP	Open	Marisan	Victor	1	Sundowner	9	Silver	Good colours well put together in a good composition Offsetting the bright drink against a neutral background is good. Two things to look out for are 1) lighting glass is tricky and attempting it outdoors a challenge. Leaving very bright spots on the glass as in this case. A scrim or softbox may help reduce the bright spots. 2) when making food photos be very aware of the details the blue stain on the citrus slice is distracting and best cleaned up before making the final shot.
OP	Open	Marisan	Victor	1	To go or not to go	10	Gold	Go go go! A lot of potential in this image. The path into the story is clear with the road and green verges making for compelling leading lines. The bright blue where the action is keeps the eye there. To improve be careful of the very bright light on the model and a bit of face if not the whole face would add so much to the story.
OP	Open	Jan	Lens	2	My ford	9	Silver	A super attempt at making a great story. The hero is clearly the car and is well represented. The image can be improved by taking a bit more care of the shadows under the the car to give it less of a floating look and also toning down the bright light visible out of the back of the car. This bright area fights with the dark and toned down look of the rest of the image.
OP	Open	Cornelia	Appel	3	feather	10	Gold	Delicate and ethereal image. The surprise of the deep orange adds to the story and was a good choice. To improve I suggest cropping off the bottom (at least 25%) also try to include the whole of the top right feather. Extremely good use of the available light on the detail section.
OP	Open	Cornelia	Appel	3	girl and teddy	10	Gold	This image should be entered into the Portraits category. The child's cheerful face tells a great story and a good connection with the viewer is made. To improve keep the bunny a bit darker than the face so as not to draw attention to the lightest area in the image. The monochrome conversion is good but a bit flat and could be improved by introducing a bit of contrast.
OP	Open	Cornelia	Appel	3	Measuring up	10	Gold	The subject is interesting and well exposed. The tape measure is well separated from the background and clearly the hero. To improve a smaller aperture would increase the depth of field so that more of the tape is in focus. The F2.8 is front and centre and should not be out of focus. Using F8 instead of F3 could make quite a difference.

OP	Open	Meleney	Naik	3	Orange Delight	11	Gold	A great subject beautifully lit and carefully positioned in the centre of the frame. The gentle softness to the image is in keeping with the delicate flower (a square crop would also work with this image) To improve look at the lighter area on left especially bottom left as this is a bit distracting.
OP	Open	Meleney	Naik	3	Pastel Oil on Water	11	Gold	These images are always fun to make and provide hours of fun or frustration. The gentle handling of the background is great and the distinct bubbles always nice to see. I wonder if a crop on the right hand side might focus the attention more on the bubbles as the large area of negative space while pleasing is not really necessary.
OP	Open	Meleney	Naik	3	Rainbow Refractions	10	Gold	A fun image making full use of repetition in the composition. The clearly defined rainbows in the middle row may have been expanded to the front row by using an even smaller aperture. Overall a very pleasing and colourful image.
OP	Open	Liesl	Couperthwaite	4	dahlia	9	Silver	The dahlia fills the frame nicely and the square crop suits the subject matter well. Unfortunately the softness towards the edges of the frame don't enhance the image. To improve consider making the edges darker and the centre slightly lighter the eyes are drawn towards the edge by the brightness surrounding the subject. Use a levels / curves adjustment to counter the loss of detail in the darker areas.
OP	Open	Doug	Couperthwaite	4	Highway Light Trails 3791	11	Gold	The light trails are well captured and make for a great image with lots of things that keep the interest. The unusual squares of lights in the foreground intrigue me and absolutely make this image stand out. The white and red lines converging and then leading onward forces the eye to stay on the road. To improve consider a portrait crop or painting out the distracting town lights at top right.
OP	Open	Tracey	Rhodes	4	I am shy	8	Silver	The bird is posing in an interesting way and the eye the centre a good choice in this instance. Regrettably the all important eye is not sharp and also showing signs of over-sharpening. Beware the white patch under the wing is a distraction and could be cropped out. Care should also be taken to tone down the bright neck feathers as the eye struggles to look further than that spot. Well done on portraying an animal portrait with mood.
OP	Open	Liesl	Couperthwaite	4	light colours	8	Silver	A colourful and cheery image. The little lanterns are sharp and bright and should be the main attraction. Unfortunately they are way too near the top of the frame and the reflective fabric on the table competes quite aggressively for attention. To improve crop this image without mercy the image is in the top half throw away the rest. Well done on keeping the crystal vase almost completely free of bright spots.
OP	Open	Liesl	Couperthwaite	4	pollen	10	Gold	A good study of the stamen set against the bright yet unobtrusive background. The simplicity of the image is where it succeeds. To improve try cropping a bit of the top and possibly even the bottom. A slightly smaller aperture may have left the second stamen in focus as well.

OP	Open	Tracey	Rhodes	4	what did you call me	10	Gold	The bird is placed in a good spot in the image with a good background and context giving perch. The catchlights in the eyes are good and give life to the image. Unfortunately the blacks on the chest contain no detail at all. There also appears to be some artifacts which could easily be cloned out.
OP	Open	Terry	Burne	5	deHavilland Chipmunk 6438	12	Gold	Pin sharp and well exposed. The added bonus of the pilot and pssenger's faces is a great plus so is the movement portrayed by the blurred propeller. A great sky would have been amazing but well done on capturing a technically challenging image quite masterfully.
OP	Open	Maxi	Holder	5	Dragon With A Touch Of Gold	9	Silver	The placement of the dragonfly is very pleasing the diagonals formed by the body and wings add dynamism to what could easily be a static image. To improve try to avoid bright edges especially the very bright patch behind the dragonfly is distracting. I imagine that the ethereal feel of the image was intentional but some sharp element would help.
OP	Open	Heidi	Taylor	5	Golfers actually getting exercise	8	Silver	The image tells an interesting story and I'm sure the people involved are having a good chuckle. To improve - retry the monochrome conversion. The histogram is concentrated on the dark side leaving the whites a dull gray. Also look for items behind people or other distracting elements in this case the golf clubs are not entirely flattering.
OP	Open	Des	van Tonder	5	Hungry baby	12	Gold	The birds are sharp where it matters and tell a beautiful story. To improve consider a light crop on the right and neutralise the blue cast in the image. The bit of noise evident in the image is not enough to be distracting but should be avoided if possible.
OP	Open	Roger	Fanner	5	Muichiro Tokito	11	Gold	Very creative light painting. The patterns are pleasing and well executed. It is especially good that the model's face is well exposed and a key part of the story. To improve - reduce the brightness of the light wands (especially the front one) as the bright spot draws attention away from the action. Consider dressing the model in lighter clothing to reveal a complete human performing the act. Dark clothes are more appropriate where the light painter is to remain invisible.
OP	Open	Stephen	Pryke	5	Rhinos in the Sunset	9	Silver	The silhouettes of the two rhino backlit by beautiful golden light is a great scene. The image is not as sharp as expected and the overbright areas below the animals should be toned down.
OP	Open	Leon	Heyes	5	Still Life with Eggs	9	Silver	The scene is well placed against a neutral background and a good effort was made at not over exposing the white feathers. The yolks in the bowl don't need to be in the picture. To improve - try to backlight the flasks of liquid. A trick I use when photographing wine is to dilute it with water. This prevents the liquid from becoming too dark. The highlights on the bottles give shape but are too strong and should be reduced preferably during set up with a diffuser. Take your eggs out of the fridge earlier the condensation on the cold eggs could lead to unwanted bright spots

OP	Open	Stephen	Pryke	5	The Road to Rosetta	10	Gold	A most satisfying story well told. The road and repetitive telephone poles lead you right into the scene. To improve try cropping a bit on the left to exclude the fallen tree and also reduce the brightness of the mist. This image has potential to be a superb monochrome image.
OP	Open	Stephen	Pryke	5	The Southern Berg	8	Silver	The mountains are beautifully lit and a good attempt made to show the splendour of the moment. To improve check the white balance as the picture appear to be very blue. It also appear that some noise reduction was applied this has left the image waxy.
OP	Open	Carol	Phillips	Master Gold	colourful globe	11	Gold	The light reflected in the globe make for a super image with the colours all working well together. To improve try giving the globe a bit more space and paint out the very bright spot on the metal base. To be picky there is quite a bit of fluff on the globe a microfibre clothe or lens cleaner will help with this.
PA	Photo Art And Creative	Doug	Couperthwaite	4	Ghost Tree 1401	8	Silver	An interesting image which leans more towards a graphic design than a photograph One of the elements is not needed and it would worth trying the image again without the moon or without the electricity cables. (The moon adds very little to the story in my opinion) To improve - Double check the tree and cables there are some branches in front of the wires. There is quite a bit of noise in the night sky and could be very easily fixed considering the flat effect shown in the tree.
PO	Portrait	wynand	lens	1	Smile in the Darkness	10	Gold	An infectious smile and obvious joy on the subject's face. To improve consider a slightly less aggressive crop this man needs space to laugh into and his beard should not be trimmed. The shadows are very dark and could be lifted somewhat to bring back a bit of detail on his right side. Open eyes are usually required for portraits in this instance the closed eyes convey the sheer joy and I'm ok with that. Beware of the very bright spots in nose and cheeks.
PO	Portrait	Mags	Vosloo	2	Lovely Lorraine	11	Gold	The model is well placed in the image and the square crop suits her hat and broad shoulders. The lighting on the face is gentle and most flattering but do leave the image slightly flat. To improve consider bringing the levels down on the white blouse as it starkly contrasts with the charming face.
PO	Portrait	Mags	Vosloo	2	Too Hot for a Husky	10	Gold	This is a fun photo and full of warmth and smiles. The humour of the dog wearing glasses makes for a good portrait with a touch of surprise. Beware of the overbright light on the nose and below the left eye. To improve - there was some attempt made at lightening the dog's right eye this was done to the point of introducing noise and could be stepped back a bit. There is substantial noise evident in the image and the nose is slightly sharper than the eye.

PO	Portrait	Terry	Burne	5	02 - Street Musician Port Lligatt - 0644	14	Merit	Toni sitting there in the shade playing what can only be a piece of flamenco music is a captivating image. The face and guitar are expertly exposed and the whole image works together to form a coherent and intriguing story amplified by the open door adding mystery. The stone wall background could very easily have been over bright and is well handled. The triangular shape formed by the musician and the guitar case anchors the subject very effectively against what could be considered a busy background.
PO	Portrait	Vicki	Street	6	Back to school	14	Merit	I get the feeling this might be adult education but as a portrait this image is very well planned and executed. The colours are rich and work well to accentuate the model. Her pose and expression tell the story and technically everything is well looked after. To improve - This is really nit-picking try to control the fly away hair especially towards the ends of her locks.
SC	Scapes	Jan	Lens	2	A fall over a cave	12	Gold	A great image with the elements of foreground, middle ground and background well shown. The light is great. To improve reduce some of the foreground.
SC	Scapes	Jan	Lens	2	Feeding down stream	10	Gold	Superb drone shot showing the beauty of water flowing from a different angle. The dodging and burning was done with a bit of a heavy hand and should be approached with greater care. To improve, reduce the sky and try it without darkening as much as shown here.
SC	Scapes	Mags	Vosloo	2	Touring KZN	9	Silver	There are two images here and one of them is not a scape. The background image is a great scene and without the distraction of the bus and offramp has tons of potential. It's best not to apply creative filters to scapes as this then becomes more of a creative image than a true rendition of the scene. The exposure is very well handled.
SC	Scapes	Jake	Alletson	3	Phantoms of the Moth Hall	Not judged		This is not a scape and should be entered into the correct category.
SC	Scapes	Jake	Alletson	3	The Wall	11	Gold	An excellent image showing the power of water and the beauty of the repetitive patterns formed by the structure of the wall. This is not quite a scape, but the benefit of the doubt goes to the author. The whites are well handled. To improve, add either foreground or background to give better context and adjust the angle of the wall to be perfectly level as it leans slightly left in this instance. Beware of the white fringe on the wall edge.
SC	Scapes	Terry	Burne	5	Cases de IOnyar 0977	13	Merit	An excellent scape with loads of colour and interesting detail from front to back. The canal, leads the eye into the picture and the gentle curve of the waterway makes for interest. The sky is well handled, but a crop off the top might keep attention on the buildings.
SC	Scapes	Carol	Phillips	Master Gold	calm and peaceful	11	Gold	Subtle curves and soft light make for a serene image. The colours match the scene and the long exposure adds to the calm being portrayed. To improve, consider cropping on the right to reduce distraction. The horizon in the centre of the frame may not be to everybody's liking, I think it works well in this image.
W	Wildlife	Jake	Alletson	3	Spider Spider Burning Bright	11	Gold	Great composition! The repeated X draws the eyes to the hero and anchors them there. The slightly bright web is a mild distraction and could be toned down a bit.
W	Wildlife	Marna	Roelofse	3	Time for my mud bath	9	Silver	An excellent and unusual buffalo scene. The beast is well placed in the frame and showing both eyes is a definite plus. The image is sadly not sharp and some adjustment to the white balance (away from blue) is recommended.

W	Wildlife	Denise	Harvey	4	Big Ears	9	Silver	The very alert kudu cow makes a great image and she is placed perfectly within the square crop. The background is well handled although the very bright bottom right could be toned down. The image has been over sharpened to the point where artifacts appear and mar the enjoyment of the image.
W	Wildlife	Denise	Harvey	4	Lappet Faced Vulture	10	Gold	The bird in profile is a great idea and is very effective in showing not only a ferocious beak but also the the fantastic colouration. To improve the darkening of the bright patch above the eyes should be done less aggressively and carried through to the back of the head. The loss of detail in the feathers under the chin could be possibly countered by a slight levels adjustment in that area. The eye has been sharpened and lightened to such an extent that this is distracting maybe try to take that edit a little back.
W	Wildlife	Denise	Harvey	4	Together	9	Silver	The two lions are beautifully lit against a very flattering light and the backlight serves to separate them well from the background. The eyes are compelling and I wish it were possible to get the two heads closer together to increase the impact herding cats is difficult so this was understandably not possible. The composition could be improved by not amputating the front lion's right paw and I wonder if a little more of the rear lion's rump wouldn't also be good. The panoramic crop is good but appears to be a bit tight around the cats.
W	Wildlife	Maxi	Holder	5	Drakensberg Rockjumper Male	10	Gold	The splendid use of several strong lines create a strong and dynamic image. The diagonal base is great and a strong building block of the intersecting lines to strengthen the composition. The intrusive rock front right is a problem but given the subject matter and their active nature reposition would not have been an option. The lack of detail in the dark parts is a problem caused by the strong ambient light and should ideally be compensated for when making such an image in strong light.
W	Wildlife	Maxi	Holder	5	Drenched Terminal Cuteness	12	Gold	A super image with cute factor in buckets. The eyes and face are sharp and well exposed. Overall a very pleasing image. To improve consider darkening the foreground grass slightly so as not to compete with the muted whites of the foal.
W	Wildlife	Leon	Heyes	5	Golden Dragon 2	12	Gold	A strong diagonal line gives life to the static dragonfly. Colours are well handled and so is the background. Using a side view to maximise sharpness along the length of the insect was a good idea. While having the wings in focus as well would be great at such close range this is not always possible and in this instance while not in focus they are visible and allow the viewer to see the head and body. Exposure is spot on.
W	Wildlife	Heidi	Taylor	5	Just a little ruffled	10	Gold	A slightly soft kingfisher is a great subject and the pose is well capitalised on. The diagonal perch and pleasing background make for a great image. To improve consider cropping the distracting reeds behind the bird as it will still leave the bird all of the right of the image to look into. The catchlight in the eye is great.

W	Wildlife	Heidi	Taylor	5	Pied Kingfisher	13	Merit	The kingfisher is perfectly placed in the frame and the preening taking place add an action element. The strong diagonal lines contribute to a vibrant and action filled composition. The background is perfect. Whites and darks are well handled. To improve consider a portrait crop.
W	Wildlife	Carol	Phillips	Master Gold	whale tail wave	12	Gold	The gentle giants are such a pleasure to see and coming this close a definite highlight. The movement and grace of the animal is well caught. To improve consider adjusting the white balance on the whale as it appears quite blue. The image also appears to be leaning slightly to the right.