

# focus

the newsletter of the matamata camera club

www.matamatacameraclub.org

## Critiques July 2012.

### Theme Digital – One Leaf

All theme images were critiqued by Anna Mandeno of Tuakau.



**C-Grade: Leaf Reflections**

An excellent idea and well taken.  
If you felt that it didn't need so much space you could possibly crop it in a little.

Honours.



**C-Grade: Leaf Flakes.**

What a clever photograph!  
You have made a wonderful abstract photograph and the centred point and pattern work well.

It would make a very good card.

Honours.



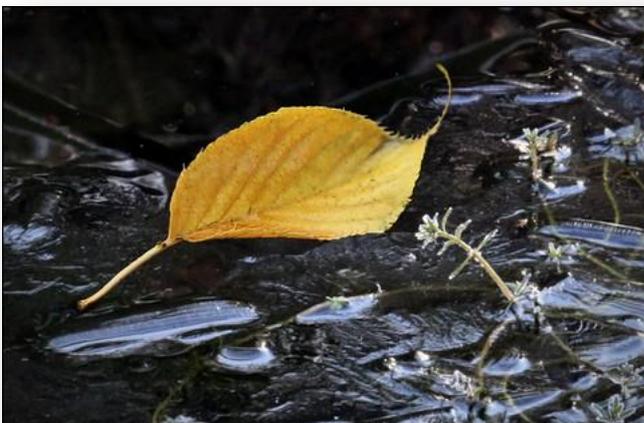
**B-Grade: Verdant**

A good monotone, quite moody. The background is sufficiently out of focus, but the depth of field on the leaf is a little shallow. To rectify this perhaps being a little more above the leaf would allow you to have more in focus. Highly Commended.



**B-Grade: Ready To Fall**

The angles of the stem and the shape of the leaf are very good. The background colours and depth of field work well. I like the holes in the leaf – it adds interest. You could tone down the out of focus stem and give the leaf more space. Highly Commended.



**B-Grade: On Ice**

The yellow leaf looks good against the dark background, but the brightness of the ice becomes distracting, mainly on the bottom and the right. If it were mine I would crop it in a little more and vignette it then it is more about the leaf than the ice, but you haven't lost the environment. Merit.



**B-Grade: New Leaf**

There are some lovely tones in this photograph. The leaf looks dramatic in scale against everything else but a tighter crop would have achieved the same thing. The lighter area on the trunk catches your eye.

Acceptance.



**B-Grade: Natures Perfection**

A well balanced photograph with the tips of the leaf just inside the frame. I like your black and white background as it has isolated the green leaf and played down the detailed background. Vignetting the photograph would add to this effect.

Highly Commended.



**B-Grade: Liquid Amber**

A lovely leaf better on a less complicated background. If this was my photograph I would turn it into something arty.

Merit.



**B-Grade: Leaf In Ice**

What a lovely rich brown colour. There is just enough background around the ice to show that the leaf is encapsulated in ice.

Well seen and taken.

Honours.



**B-Grade: Large Autumn Leaf**

I like the crop you have made – quirky. If you had stood a little to the right it would have hidden the highlights on the leaf behind.

Highly Commended.



**B-Grade: Jack Frost**

A very effective photograph. A lovely background, out of focus but in the same tones. That draws you to the leaf pattern and drops.

Honours.



**B-Grade: I Shouldn't Be Here**

Some lovely brown tones to contrast with the green. Maybe use a bigger leaf or come in closer.

Generally leaves look better coming in from an angle.

Merit.



**B-Grade: Heart Shaped**

A very effective black and white photograph.

You have used the curve of the stem well, and given space for the leaf to reach in to.

There is a lovely subtle toning in the background.

Honours.



**B-Grade: Free Fall**

This was a clever idea, but you haven't pulled it off.

Try using a tripod, different shutter speeds and lots of leaves.

Entry.

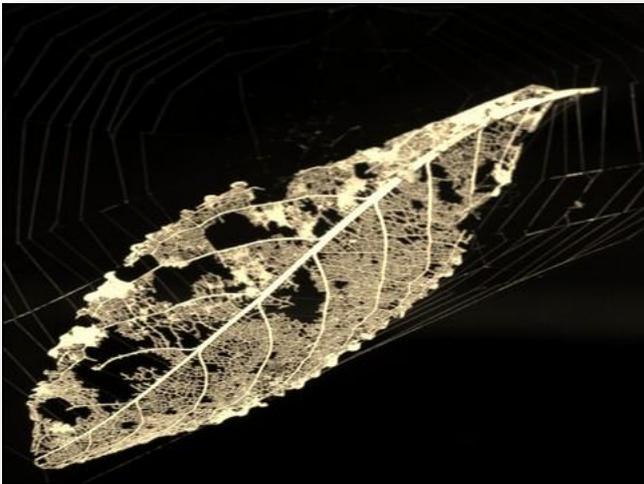


**B-Grade: Flax**

There is some very dramatic colour in this picture.

A shallower depth of field would have allowed the flax to be sharp and the background more out of focus.

Merit.



**B-Grade: Broken Fall**

The balance of the photograph is good. Well captured and a good angle of the leaf and web.

A good dark background to show the web and leaf.

Sadly it is out of focus. These are hard to do. Take several and also use a tripod. Accepted.



**B-Grade: Barely There**

What a beautiful monotone with a soft romantic feel. It feels as if it is floating and the darkened edges add to the overall effect.

I really like the swing of the leaf.

Honours.



**B-Grade: Autumn Beauty**

Lovely blues and reds in quite an eye-catching photograph.

It may help to angle the leaf and perhaps not directly from one side.

The highlights are distracting. It takes time and many photographs to get the leaf and background without them intruding.

Highly Commended.



**B-Grade: Autumn Leaf**

You have chosen a lovely coloured leaf but it is too tightly cropped.

I like that you have the sun and some shadows behind it.

Try taking more with different angles and leaf combinations.

Merit.



**B-Grade: Autumn Leaf**

A lovely complimentary tone in the background with the leaf.

I like the balance of the hint if the other leaf and stem, it shows how good a dried up leaf can be.

Honours.



**B-Grade: Aging Gracefully**

Lovely gentle green and red tones. You have kept the focus on the dominant red leaf.

My eye is drawn to the light sky and maybe a crop on the right and more on the left would keep more emphasis on the leaf.

Merit.



**B-Grade: Aerial Landscape**

Beautiful colour and a good abstract photograph.

Lovely arteries and veins. It is also very effective turned upside down as the crinkly part is at the bottom and softens to the top.

Honours.



**A-Grade: Tricolour**

An eye-catching photograph. I like the feel of the leaf being captured with some of its tips anchored in the frame.

I wonder what other colours you could have used as the leaf in the left hand panel is darker than the others.

Honours.



**A-Grade: Shadowplay**

A lovely shade of green and an interesting abstract feel in the photograph.

You can see all of the textures in the leaf and the photograph certainly makes you look at it several times.

Highly Commended.



**A-Grade: Patterned**

Beautiful angles and colour, with a soft barely-there background.

You can appreciate the transparency of the leaf and clearly see all of its veins.

Honours.



**A-Grade: Green**

You have brought out the lovely fan shape of the leaf with all of its arteries and veins.

A very pleasing photograph.

At a lower grade I would give it Honours, but I feel that you could be a little more creative with the angles.

Highly Commended.



**A-Grade: Fall**

A lovely sharp photograph. The photographer has stood at an angle the sweeps the leaf through the photograph. I like the darkened background as it makes the leaf glow.

Honours.



**A-Grade: Beached**

Wonderful contrast between the yellow and the black.

A very good balance with the pebbles.

The leaf takes up a pleasing amount of the photograph.

Honours.

## Open Digital

All open images were critiqued by Anna Mandeno of Tuakau.



### **C-Grade: Castlepoint**

You have found a good idea with a sense of humour and placed yourself so that you can see all of the elements in the photograph.

The sign is perhaps a little central and a fraction off the left would help. Can you darken the sky?

Highly Commended.



### **B-Grade: What's Up**

The animal is very sharp but perhaps a little lost with all of the background on the left. I would crop it into a portrait shape and vignette the outside to keep your eye on the animal.

Merit.



**B-Grade: Walking Home**

I like the one colour and the space in front for the people to walk.

It appears to be very grainy and if it were mine I would crop the foreground and try something that is extreme (i.e. pencil sketch in Picasa). Put it into the experimental section in camera club.

Accepted.



**B-Grade: Tethered**

A restful study of a horse. It needs more contrast and if you had stood a little to the right you would have had the horses head filling the light background.

Merit.



**B-Grade: Reflections**

A lovely picture, beautiful bones.

Maybe the horse's nose would have been better included in the picture.

The photograph is a little light so I would darken it and perhaps crop a little off the right hand side.

Highly Commended.



**B-Grade: Mr Ed Takes A Bath**  
Good colours and action in the water.  
I like the angles of the horse, the wall  
and the pole.  
Highly Commended.



**B-Grade: Icy View**  
This is a clever idea and good fun to do.  
To make the picture look more abstract  
try cropping to the edges of the ice so  
that the picture is less about her hands  
and more about the distorted faces.  
Merit.



**B-Grade: Healing Waters**  
There are lovely colours in the picture  
and it looks sharp. Your eye roves  
around looking for something to focus  
on. Was it the reflection that you were  
drawn to as there could be a good  
picture there? Revisit the area and take  
more photos.  
Merit.



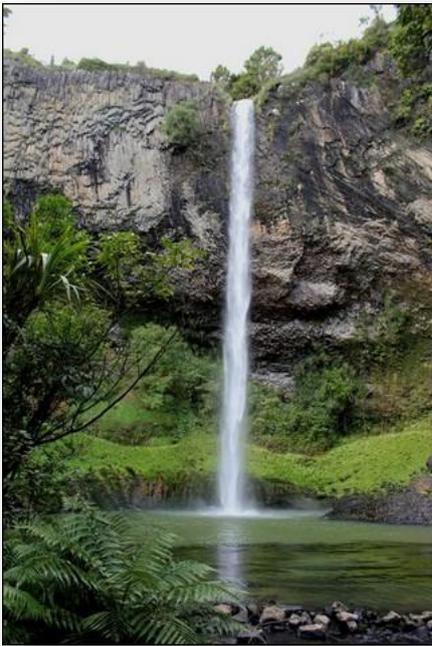
**B-Grade: Coffee stop**

This is a beautiful old hotel with a lovely backdrop.

Perhaps if you had included the foreground it wouldn't be so cut off at the base.

I like the framing you have made.

Merit.



**B-Grade: Bridal Falls**

It is a good scenic shot of the falls. If it had been possible to move to the right you could include the flow of the pool.

Does it need to be darker and maybe straighten the falls.

It can look better.

Merit.



**B-Grade: All Done**

A simple effective picture and I like the way you have handled this photograph. A good monotone. The only improvements that I would make are that the seed heads on the left are a little tightly cropped.

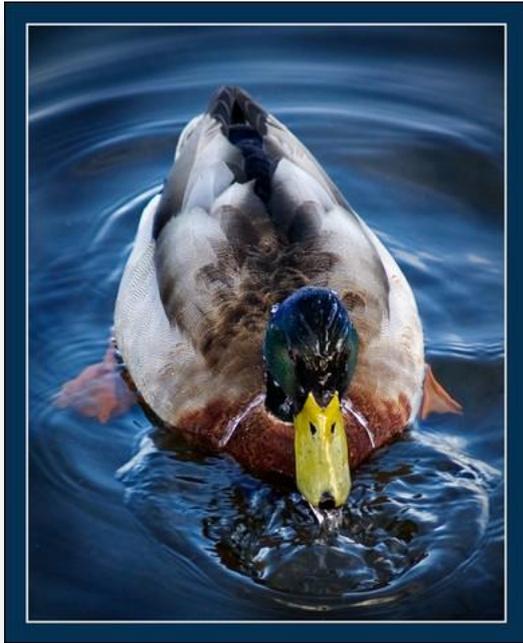
Highly Commended.



**A-Grade: Turtle Bridge**

There seems to be two parts to this photograph. The group interacting and the stones & turtles. I would have waited until the man walked to the turtles and made sure I included them. I like the black and white.

Accepted.



**A-Grade: Dippy Duck**

Lovely colours and the feathers are very sharp.

The duck is on a good angle and there is a lovely swirly motion behind him and bubbles in front.

I felt that he filled too much of the photo. The mount effect would be better as a frame outside the photo.

Honours.



**A-Grade: Daisy**

A lovely simple photograph. Great effect with the delicate daisy and dried leaves.

It is effective as it is but if it were mine I would crop a little off the top and right-hand side.

Honours.

**Quote:** "Without a struggle there can be no progress"  
– *Frederick Douglass*