

## PHOTO COMPETITION RESULTS AND COMMENTS FROM JUDGE

Those of us with children know the Gardens as a place of delight and wonderment, of picnics and feeding ducks, of clambering over the fig tree's roots and jumping off the cannon. For the grown ups it's also a place of weddings, Australia day celebrations and musical events.

Not to forget the BOTANICAL bit.

Most of this is celebrated in the photographs.

Two major problems exist for a modern day photographer of our Botanical Gardens and for us the judges:

1. The familiar nature of the place.
2. The ubiquitous nature of contemporary photography.

Making the familiar and the ubiquitous exceptional is not an easy task and selecting 6 images from 160 was not easy either.

Unlike the Australian Electoral Commission we were able to come to a consensus without resorting to insult. In fact we came to agreement relatively easily. However, we could have easily finished with a different combination.

There are some really delightful images to choose from and we congratulate the entrants on their search for a way to show us the gardens in a new and personal light.

### **Under 12 year old**

We were not looking for an overly sophisticated view we were surprised to admit that we found it anyway.

Highly Recommended

This is a lovely small image –competing against larger prints – that managed to capture the sense of a favorite part of the Gardens including the bridge and autumn leaves, lovely light and colour.

No 3 Alanna Hansford

Second.

A little further on towards the south and east, a favourite spot looking across the lake towards all that foliage and space. A line of school children on excursion to a place of discovery. There is a simple delight in this image.

No 21 Sophie Sully

First.

This image is as different as it can be. Black and white and more singular and personal. It captures that moment we have all had, lying on our backs looking up into the foliage against the sunlight – perhaps

alone or with our family and friends.

No 67 Kael Umney

### **12 – 18 year old**

This section was a bit trickier, were some great ideas, a little less resolved technically and some that gave too little information to locate it in the Gardens.

Honourable Mention

The subject of this image is repeated several times in other works and indicates it's a common event. It also provides evidence of Warrnambool's proximity to the Ocean. It perhaps also reminds us of the juxtaposition of indigenous and the introduced. Behind the line of seagulls on the bridge is the lush dense vegetation of the gardens.

No 142 Johanna Kerney

Second.

We all enjoyed this image, at first we discounted it because it made limited visual reference to the Garden's. However we decided this was replaced by another personal view where we can reflect on our place in the world. Looking down into the pond. Precariously toe to edge, the Warrnambool wind in the hair, we have a selfie with autumn leaves and classic school shoes.

No 119 Hannah Bottomley

First.

This image articulates much of what Guilfoyle planned. A path winding through a botanic garden of variety. The path leads us from plant to plant curving to open new perspectives and new plants. Choosing to put the path dead centre at the front of her image we are lead into the rich greenery of the gardens. A simple but very strong image with a wonderful sense of space.

No 132 Amelia Kearney

### **Open**

There are numerous images which could replace ours and you will have your favourites, these are ours.

Honourable mention

We believe this will be a very popular image, it is poetic and quite beautiful. The time carefully selected, early morning, the colour warm as a consequence. A soft mist suggests a new day which is repeated in the new plantings in the middle ground and the dead tree with it unexpected regrowth in the foreground, is bravely included.

No 126 William Hannah

Second.

The more time we spent with this the more we liked it. The iconic fig tree's roots provide a place where children can play under its canopy. However we come to it from an unusual angle, side on from most starting points, leading us up and into the tree and its curvaceous branches, The foreground's mulch is warm with clear green contrasting newly fallen leaves. It is an image of delightful contrasts.

No 151 Mark Kirby

I always hate doing the prizes backwards, there are now 5 people who know they're out of the running.

First.

Sometimes you have to take a second look.

This image would almost certainly please Guilfoyle if he could see it. It reflects the growth of plants, the planning of space, the importance of the architectural elements and the impact of each individual day on the beauty of the place. It relies on the drama of the moment and a carefully selected placement of the camera. We see the sun rise behind the sinuous elegance of a palm against a typical big western district sky.

No 130 Paul Moloney