



Presents

OZTek2017 Underwater Imagery Competition

Including the **Nikon Dive Portfolio of the Year**

TERMS & CONDITIONS OF ENTRY (Rules & Regulations)

1. This international competition is open to everyone, excluding OZTek staff and judges.
2. Images must have been taken underwater (over-under images accepted.)
3. All images must be, or have been, taken between Feb 1, 2015 and January 31, 2017
4. OZTek is adopting the Conservation Rules established by EPIC®. Marine life should never be stressed or endangered for the sake of a photo. Conservation rules will apply to all entries, and decisions will be final. Entries suspected of exhibiting the following behaviour will be disqualified:
 - Divers visibly damaging the environment (e.g. gear dragging or kicking up sand)
 - Animals with signs of stress (e.g. puffed puffers, inking octopus)
 - Animals moved to an unnatural environment or risky location
 - Marine life being touched (e.g. coral polyps, seahorse tails)
 - Divers exhibiting poor buoyancy control
5. Entrants must be the sole author and owner of the copyright of all images entered.
6. Entries which have previously won 1st, 2nd or 3rd places in any major national or international UWP competition will not be eligible. A winning image is defined as follows:
 - Any image placed 1st, 2nd, or 3rd in any contest that resulted in prizes worth \$100 AUD or more.
 - Any image placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd in a major photography contest (determined by judges).
 - Any image placed 1st, 2nd, or 3rd in any photo-of-the-year type contest. Photos of the day, week, or month, are fine, as long as they have not resulted in prizes worth \$100 AUD or more.
 - Any single image that was part of a portfolio, but did not place as a single image, is eligible to be entered.

7. Initial entries are limited to jpeg digital files maximum of 2500px on the longest side. Entries can consist of transparencies (35mm) taken with any lens configuration but need to be transferred to **digital jpeg** format. Images will be viewed on a large monitor and should be in the AdobeRGB 1998 or sRGB colour space.
8. Winners will be asked to supply raw files or original jpg for manipulation verification & printing / display at OZTek2017.
9. Winning images will need proof of date to be provided.
10. An image can only be assigned to one category per competition.
Please note: Nikon Dive Portfolio of the Year is considered a separate category incorporating four out of the five general competition categories.

11. All categories are subject to the same Digital Manipulation rules:

Image Manipulation - Please note:

- a. Each category allows for the adjustment of brightness, contrast, colour, and sharpness.
- b. Cropping is allowed up to a reduction in total area/pixels by 20% (i.e. 80% of original area).
- c. Removal of backscatter allowable (tone and contrast, burning, dodging, cropping, sharpening, noise reduction and minor cleaning work)
- d. Digital manipulation NOT allowed includes cloning, removal or moving of objects (e.g. fish) and other distractions.
- e. This photography contest is NOT a Photoshop contest and all entries should represent reality.

Before selecting winning entries, we reserve the right to audit your original RAW or JPG files.

12. To be eligible for entry, images must meet the following category criteria:

- a. **Wreck** – an image taken of a wreck, or part thereof, with or without divers
Underwater images *larger than a 7x5 inch picture area.*
- b. **Cave** - an image taken inside a cave or cavern, with or without divers
Underwater images *larger than a 7x5 inch picture area.*
- c. **Marine Images with Diver** – *any underwater image featuring marine life with a diver or divers in the shot, where the main focus is the marine life or environment.*
Underwater images *larger than a 7x5 inch picture area.*
- d. **Marine life / Wide Angle** – *Must not include diver in the shot. Macro images will not be accepted in this category.*
Underwater images *larger than a 7x5 inch picture area.*
- e. **Macro & Super Macro Marine Life** –
Any underwater image of a *7x5 inch or smaller picture area.*

13. **General Competition:** A limit of 3 images per category per entrant. No image may be entered in more than one category. Please be careful when selecting the category for your entries. If, for example, there is no marine life obvious in the Marie Life category, the image will not be included in the judging.

14. Entry to General Competition: \$10AUD per category or a \$40 one-off entry fee which covers all five categories / images.
Entry to the Nikon Dive Portfolio of the Year is \$20 AUD
15. **Nikon Dive Portfolio of the Year (NDPOTY)** is considered a separate category. It has a separate entry process with a few additional rules:
 - a. The Nikon Dive Portfolio of the Year is for ages 18 and over.
 - b. Entrants can submit between six (6) and 10 images from which our jury will select a maximum of six (6) images for the final portfolio.
 - c. Each entrant may submit one (1) portfolio only.
 - d. Images provided need to represent three (3) out of five (5) of the existing competition categories (wreck, cave, macro, marine life with diver, marine life).
 - e. The same image may not be entered in more than one (1) category of the competition i.e. if you have entered an image in Macro, the exact same image cannot be entered in to the Nikon Dive Portfolio.
16. Competition judges will be looking for the following criteria when choosing the Nikon Portfolio of the Year:
‘The portfolio needs to demonstrate clarity of vision and artistic intent to produce an inspirational body of work from three out of the five standard OZTek Underwater Photography Competition categories (see above). Portfolio images should show breadth of skill with different underwater photography styles (e.g. wide angle, macro etc.), lighting techniques and subject matter while illustrating the passion, dedication and expertise needed to create a consistent collection of captivating images’.
17. All images are subject to the overall competition terms & conditions
18. The judges and organizers’ decision on all matters relating to the competition is final and no correspondence will be entered into. Judges will be announced on the website closer to the event.
19. Should the quality of entries fall below the standard required, the organizers reserve the right not to award prizes.
20. Prizes* will be provided to each category winner and be shown separately on website. Prizes are not transferable or redeemable as cash and need to be taken within the time specified by the provider. First place images (minimum) will be displayed at the OZTek 2017 Photographic Exhibition.
** Prizes may take up to 6-8 months to be delivered depending on availability*
21. Copyright of images remain with the photographer, however OZTek & Nikon retain the right to publish the contest entries in print or online to congratulate or feature the winners and their respective images, and to promote future events. Winning images will be included in a press release for third party websites and publications in the context of congratulating and/or featuring the winners and winning images, and to promote future competitions. Strict guidelines requiring photo credit and specific one-time press release usage are issued along with the press release.
22. **CLOSING DATE:** All entries (& payment) must be received by January 31st, 2017
23. Registration and uploading of images will be via the website <http://www.oztek.com.au/Photo-Comp>

REGISTRATION

1. Payment of registration and entries must be received by January 31st, 2017 - the closing date of the competition.
2. Registration, payment of entry fees:
 - a. **General Competition:** AUD\$10 per category or \$40 for entry in all five categories.
 - b. **Nikon Dive Portfolio of the Year:** AUD \$20 to enter the Nikon Dive Portfolio of the Year.
3. Web images should be sized no greater than 2500 pixels on their longest dimension.
For correct colour reproduction we recommend participants use the Adobe sRGB colour space.
4. Each images digital file **must** be named using the following format:

Name of FirstName_LastName_CATEGORY_photo number

For example: Jo-Bloggs_CAVE_1

Jo-Bloggs_CAVE_2

Jo-Bloggs_CAVE_3

Jo-Bloggs_WRECK_1

Jo-Bloggs_MARINE_WITH-DIVER_1

Jo-Bloggs_MARINE_LIFE_1

Jo-Bloggs_MACRO_1

Jo-Bloggs_NDPOTY_1

Jo-Bloggs_NDPOTY_2

Jo-Bloggs_NDPOTY_3

Jo-Bloggs_NDPOTY_4

Jo-Bloggs_NDPOTY_5

Jo-Bloggs_NDPOTY_6

5. Submission of images in the OZTek Underwater Photo Competition and Nikon Dive Portfolio of the Year implies you have read, understood and accepted all of the competition rules.
6. Image uploads will be available through the website <http://www.oztek.com.au/Photo-Comp> from September, 2016

Good luck, we look forward to enjoying your images.