

# Editorial

## UPY last call

One of the downsides of being a bi-monthly publication is that some events have taken place before we could bring them to your attention but this year the UPY (Underwater Photographer of the Year) closing date for entries has been put back a few days so we are able to highlight that the closing deadline is midnight GMT on January 5th 2021.

UPY has become a highly regarded competition in the underwater photography calendar and each year the winning entries have been, quite literally, spectacular.

I apologise if you are reading this after the deadline but, to those who are not, we look forward to being inspired by your images again this year.

Covid had no doubt reduced the number of photography dives this year and many of those will have been much closer to home than in previous years so, in recognition of this, a new Award has been introduced for the winner of the My Backyard image.

This is for images taken close to your home and the definition is on the UPY website linked below.

## UWP Survey

First of all, many thanks to those 1182 readers who replied to our annual survey. That's a very encouraging number.

The replies were as follows:

**1. If you're an SLR user, are you considering moving to a smaller format (for less bulk and expense) in the next 12 months?**

12.4% (147 readers) are planning to downsize.

**2. If you're a smaller format user (4/3rds, APS-C, etc.), are you considering upgrading to full frame mirrorless or SLR in the next 12 months?**

7.3% (254 readers) said Yes

**3. Whatever system you use, are you considering a major purchase (e.g. a new lens or strobe) in the next 12 months?**

44.3% (330 readers) said Yes.

**4. Are you planning to spend more this year on diving travel than you did last year?**

44.8% (530 readers) said Yes and

63% said that Covid had affected their decision one way or the other.

The conclusion seems to be that only a very small percentage of readers are planning to either up or downsize which says that the large majority are happy with their gear.

There was a final box for feedback comments and almost to a reader it seems we are still on the right track and providing what you want which is very encouraging.

Thanks again and we plan to repeat this annually to keep our finger on the pulse.

## The Shot Chat

Later in this issue you can read about an interesting and informative site, The Shot Chat.

It's the brainchild of Henley Spiers and I recommend it highly as a source of inspiration from the images but also a fascinating insight from several prominent underwater photographers.

The other positive angle is to read

how the photographers can discuss images for competitions openly and honestly and anyone considering entering competitions will glean a great deal from the evolving editions as they come on line.

Subscribe and be enlightened.

## My Backyard (again, again)

Once again I will make no apology for banging on about this because despite the very recent arrival of approved new Covid vaccines, 2021 may still prove to be just as restricted in terms of air travel.

As a result it may well be that your local dives will be all you'll be able to enjoy for some considerable time so continue to make the most of them.

Finally on a more positive note, Happy New Year and may your images be immaculate :-)

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