

News, Travel & Events

DPG WETPIXEL MASTERS UNDERWATER IMAGING COMPETITION 2021

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: OCTOBER 31ST, 2021

DivePhotoGuide (DPG) and Wetpixel are excited to announce the launch of the DPG/Wetpixel Masters Underwater Imaging Competition 2021. The contest celebrates the splendor of the oceans, the skill of the entrants, and the intricate and challenging art of underwater imaging.

For 2021, the contest aims to give back to those that have historically supported the Underwater Competition Series. The global pandemic continues to adversely impact dive travel and underwater imaging brands, so it is our turn to help them in their time of crisis. As such, the contest continues to celebrate its sponsors, but rather than offering sponsor-donated prizes, it will award the winners of each category a simple cash prize of \$250. In addition, the Best of Show winner - the top image among the category winners - will receive an additional cash prize of \$750!

We call on underwater photographers and videographers of all levels, from novice to professional, to join and compete in what has become the 'World Championship' of international underwater imagery events. As well as the cash prizes, there is also huge status and kudos in being placed among the finalists. The selected winners are the world's best underwater shooters, judged by an all-star panel. Their images and videos will expose millions of dive, travel and photography magazines and websites to their work worldwide.

Winners will be revealed on UnderwaterCompetition.com and published by supporting media partners worldwide shortly thereafter.

The entry fees are US\$10 per image or video entered.

As with all Underwater Competition Series events, 15% of entry proceeds will be donated to marine conservation efforts.

www.underwatercompetition.com

West Australian Underwater Photographic Society

The West Australian Underwater Photographic Society (WAUPS) is a non-profit organisation which was established and incorporated in January, 1984.

WAUPS is a member of the The West Australian Photographic Federation Inc (WAPF)

The aims of WAUPS are to:

- Promote an improvement of underwater photography among it's members
- Promote underwater photography in the community
- Encourage an understanding and preservation of the marine environment
- Promote an exchange of skills and ideas from within the society and from external bodies; and
- Have fun and enjoy socialising, diving and photography

WAUPS holds regular monthly meetings, a range of competitions, monthly photo dives, dive trips, exhibitions and social events. WAUPS members also get membership to the WA Photographic Federation and can participate in their events and trips.

We communicate to members through an e-news bulletin twice a month, a bi-monthly printed

newsletter and Facebook

WAUPS holds regular monthly meetings where members, guest speakers and visitors exchange ideas and information. The topics include practical and theoretical sessions in photography (for both the novice and experienced photographer), marine biology lectures, presentations of dive areas and trips, competitions, evaluation of photographs and in fact anything that may be of interest to photographic divers. A show-and-tell of digital images from members takes place at each meeting. Anyone interested in underwater photography with any level of experience is welcome to come along to our monthly meetings.

Monthly meetings are conducted at 7:15pm for a 7:30pm sharp start, at Drabble House, corner of Stirling Highway and Webster Street Nedlands (behind the Nedlands Public Library) on the 4th Tuesday of every month (except December).

<https://waups.org.au>

Australian Geographic Nature Photographer of the Year 2021 winner

A captivating photograph of a Leafy Seadragon camouflaged in the shallow reefs of the Fleurieu Peninsula, South Australia has won the Australian Geographic Nature Photographer of the Year competition in 2021.

Scott Portelli is based in New South Wales and took the winning photograph in March 2020 shortly after the announcement of COVID-19 restrictions impacted his year long journey around Australia.

“The nation-wide lockdown was declared and we were stuck for six weeks at a small campground in the Fleurieu Peninsula. This ended up being a blessing in disguise,” Mr Portelli explained.

“Over the course of the six weeks I had the opportunity to dive regularly, becoming familiar with the terrain, getting to know the dive site and spotting a few individual Seadragons. I became acquainted with the resident dragons of Second Valley and this is how I managed to get the shot.”

After several encounters with one particular Seadragon it appeared to become unperturbed by my

presence and I was able to compose a shot that tightly captured its eyes, features and appendages front on.”

Mr Portelli has been a photographer for over 20 years. When asked how it felt to be named the Australian Geographic Nature Photographer of the Year 2021, Mr Portelli said:

“Winning the 2021 Australian Geographic Nature Photographer of the Year is a highlight of my photographic career. Being awarded in one of the most prestigious and respected nature photography competitions in Australia is an honour and a privilege. This is one of my proudest moments.”

As Australian Geographic Nature Photographer of the Year, he receives a cash prize of \$10,000 and a Coral Expeditions holiday.

Portelli’s photograph had been judged the winning entry out of a pool of 2,206 photographs – the second highest number of entries in the competition’s history.

www.samuseum.sa.gov.au



© Scott Portelli

Torbay Splash-In 2021 winners

The fifth annual Splash-in run by the Torbay branch of the British Sub-Aqua Club (BSAC) took place on Saturday, 14 August.

There were four categories of entry: Beginner, Compact Camera, Wide-angle, and Close-up/macro. Once a popular form of competition, they seem to have declined in recent years, and now the Torbay Splash-in is one of the few being held anywhere each year.

Poor underwater visibility in Torbay on the day presented the competitors with particularly challenging conditions, so it was encouraging to receive a total of 65 photographs, submitted by 16 competitors. As in previous years, the quality of most photographs was very high, which given the conditions on the day, testified to the skills and resourcefulness of the contestants (one enterprising contestant got a winning shot in the seawater swimming pool at Shoalstone in Brixham).

An evening dinner and presentation were held at the Royal Torbay Yacht Club, where all the photographs were shown, and a 'Popular Vote' held to select a 'peoples' favourite'.

The judge was Peter Rowlands, the well-respected photographer and editor of Underwater Photography

Magazine, who provided insightful and interesting comments on the winning photographs.

"When I heard what the visibility had been like during the day I thought I'd be back in the bar much quicker this year but how surprised I was at both the number and the quality of the images; and this is what makes Splash-Ins so special because we are all, so to say, in the same boat and it makes it a pleasure to judge.

Beginners 1st: David Snow, 2nd: Andy Braithwaite, Highly Commended: Meg Barstow.

Compact 1st: Karen Ho, 2nd: Tony Reed, Highly Commended: Meg Barstow.

Macro 1st: Terry Griffiths, 2nd: Dan Bolt, Highly Commended: Simon Temple.

Wide-angle 1st: Dan Bolt, 2nd: Simon Temple, Highly Commended: Dave Peake.

Popular Vote: Tony Reed.

This year, the competition attracted sponsorship from OonasDivers, who sponsored the Beginners category, and O'Three who sponsored the Compact Camera category, including a voucher for 50% off a new drysuit.

<https://torbay-bsac.co.uk>

Wide-angle First Prize

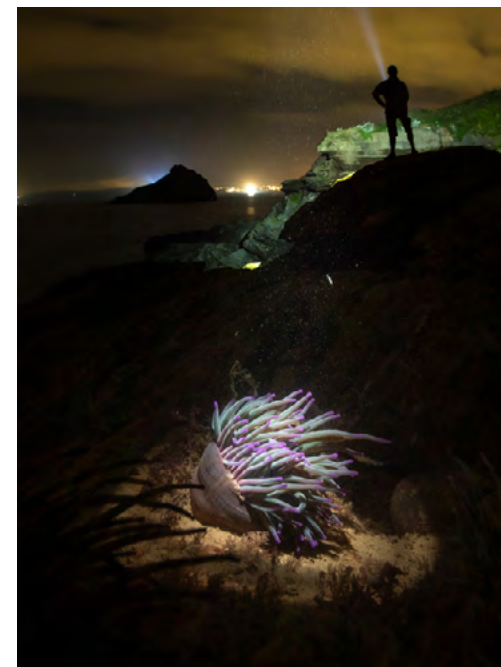
Dan Bolt

Dan commented: "Given that prevailing conditions were less than optimal, I knew I had to come up with something different. Recent years have seen well executed "in-camera double-exposure" images do very well in UK competitions, so I thought it was high-time I gave it a go.

The lower half of this image was shot on a night-dive at Babbacombe. I needed a strong subject in this section of the composite for it to work and the anemone was the perfect target.

The top half of the image was taken at my favourite rock-pooling location: Hopes Nose. I was hoping for a Perseid meteor trail, but the clouds came over just as I arrived... at 1am. This meant I had to improvise. I made use of the topography, with multiple torches, to capture the stargazer portion of the eventual photo."

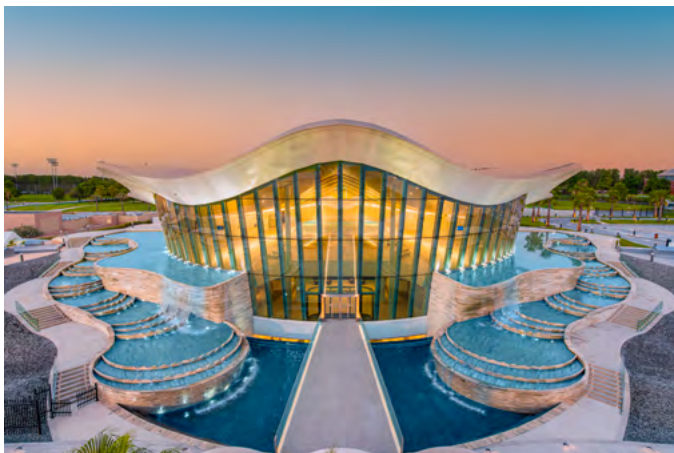
Peter Rowlands: "This image is so obviously different. It is both clever and visually appealing and is a classic example of a good competitive picture because it grabs your attention and gives you lots to look at. The lighting is from several sources and the initial impact is very strong indeed but you can look at it time and time again. It's a very, very well executed shot, especially in the conditions there have been today. It's a cracker!"



Anemone: Olympus O-MD E-M1, 14-42mm lens at 14mm, f/10, iso400 1/320th, snooted Sea & Sea YS-D1 strobe.

Night-scene: Olympus O-MD E-M1, 14-42mm lens at 20mm with WCON-P01 wide-angle conversion lens, f/4, iso640, 15seconds. Two torches were also used, one to light up the cliffs and the other to point to the sky.

Using the in-camera "Multiple exposure" functionality to combine the images.



Deep Dive Dubai

Dive into the world's deepest and largest underwater attraction in Dubai. Take the plunge and explore an abandoned and flooded city, an incredible 60 meters underwater. Experience Deep Dive Dubai – a world of exciting and unique scuba and freediving opportunities.

Created for both professional and beginner divers, Deep Dive Dubai is unlike any other pool in the world.

Boasting a record-breaking depth of 60 meters, this underwater attraction allows novices to explore in the safety of a controlled diving environment. Filled with 14 million liters of warm water, it opens up new adventures for experienced divers and thrill-seekers who want to go deeper and explore further.

Inspired by the UAE's rich pearl-diving heritage of the past, this venture sets new heights (and depths) in the nation's ambitious vision for an incredible future.

Located in Nad Al Sheba – 15 minutes from Downtown Dubai and 25 minutes from Dubai International Airport – Deep Dive Dubai is now open and offering a variety of experiences including discovery dives for first timers, scuba dives, freedives as well as diving courses and workshops on all levels of diving from beginner to technical instructors.

Dive into another world. We look forward to your visit!

<https://deepdivedubai.com>



World Shootout 2021 OPEN



© Roni Sofer

Announcing the winners live at
boot Düsseldorf show
January 29th 2022

[Learn more](#)



BIUPC engages the British and Irish underwater photography communities in a one day photography shoot out.

The competition is open to all underwater photographers of all nations, but images must be from any body of salt or fresh water in the seas, rivers, streams and lakes of Britain and Ireland, including the Isle of Man, the Channel Islands, the Isles of Scilly and the other 5000 or so other islands around our shores that are bounded by the Atlantic Ocean, the English Channel and the North Sea.

A late August/ early September on-the-day multi-location competition format reduces the travel and cost burden for competitors, whilst encouraging participation

commensurate with a championship.

Photographers compete for a trophy in memory of one of BSoUP's co-founders, the late Peter Scoones, and the title British & Irish Underwater Photography Champion.

Images can be taken and submitted electronically from anywhere within the championship geographic boundary from 10pm on the Friday to 10pm Saturday.

BSoUP convenes a panel of judges including John Collins and Atanas Petrov during the week following the competition. The results are announced about 2-3 weeks after the competition in a live broadcast from the monthly BSoUP meeting after the competition.

www.bsoup.org