



the wall dives, offering opportunities to photograph leaf fish, nudibranches, angelfish, frogfish, ghost pipefish, and a variety of anemone fish species.

The range of cameras in use from participants ranged from simple compact cameras with no external add-on lenses or strobes to massive DSLR housings with all the bells and whistles. The level of photography experience was also varied with several experienced photographers who had been shooting underwater for many years, to folks who



(Left) 1st place WA Mr. Bradley Cox (Australia)
(Above) 3rd place Macro Mr. Matthew Lawrence (Australia)

dive once or twice a year and enjoy documenting what they see with a few snaps of their camera. However, in encouraging fashion, the final results featured a nice variety of winners from both types of camera systems and of all experience levels.

With a total of 12 prizes up for grabs, 6 each for wide angle and macro, it was a common site to see participants up late at night skimming through their photos in order to pick their top 3 images for each category. On the 22nd, the 4 judges gathered together in the morning to go through all of the images and somehow choose the winners. With an outstanding variety of top notch photos submitted it took many hours to come up with the cream of the crop. The 3 judging categories included composition, technical perfection, and the “Wow” factor. The judging was close on many of the images as the talent level of participating photographers was very high.



The final night ceremony and award presentation got off to a great start with a fantastic video presentation of the event from Scubazoo’s Sam Fernandez who joined all the participants throughout the week to put together a DVD of the diving and topside activities. With everyone salivating over the prize table, it was time for a slideshow of the week’s images and the award ceremony. With so many great sponsors there were certainly no shortage of prizes for the top 6 entries in each category, the first prize alone was worth US \$6000!! Thanks to sponsors Nautica, Nikon, Layang Layang, Asian Diver, Coral Redang Resort, Macana Maldives Liveaboard, Baani Explorer, Oceanic, GP Batteries, Ralf Tech, NAUI, Borneo Divers, and SMART resort.

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