



PIXELS 2023

Pixels Competition Rules

1. WAUPS Competition Rules, available on the WAUPS website www.waups.org.au and as updated from time to time, also apply to this competition. If the WAUPS Competition Rules contradict rules in this document, those in this document prevail.
2. Competition duration is for one calendar year and the results will be presented in January of the following year.
3. Images entered must have been taken in the period 3 years before the closing date for entries. Files will be checked and if they don't meet this time-line / or the EXIF data is not included, they will be rejected.
4. Image sizes are to be consistent with the WAUPS Image Size Guidelines, available on www.waups.org.au.
5. Image submission will be via an online form which automatically adds your image to the WAUPS Google drive. Image submission will be open for the whole month of the advertised theme. Late entries will not be accepted and entries can only be submitted via the form, not via email. Submission details including the link to the form will be communicated in the WAUPS enews.
6. For each monthly submission, an external judge will view the submitted images. Every image entered will be eligible to be awarded one of the following standards. There is no obligation for the judge to award a gold, silver or bronze award if the images entered do not meet the standard as described below.
 - a) **Gold** – Most judging criteria are expertly handled. A very strong image displaying a high level of excellence in art photography. Technical standard is very high.
 - b) **Silver** - Some elements are very good and the technical standard is high. A strong image and successful visual communication has been achieved.
 - c) **Bronze** - Sound image with at least one strong element. The message is present but not strong. Any flaws are minor or compensated by other successful elements. Evidence of intent to combine skill and artistry.
 - d) **Entrant** – the image does not meet the above standards.
7. The external judge will be encouraged to provide critique on the images submitted.
8. The name of the external judge will only be provided once the images have been judged and not before.
9. Points to be allocated are as follows:



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- a) Gold – 15 points
 - b) Silver – 10 points
 - c) Bronze – 5 points
 - d) Entrant – 1 point
10. The PIXELS Competition winner for the year will be based on the total points received for all 6 entries within that calendar.
 11. Images may only be submitted once for the PIXELS Competition. Previous entries and entries having only minor variations from those entered previously by the same author will not be accepted.
 12. Images that have won Image of the Year are not eligible to enter the PIXELS Competition.
 13. Competition closes on last day of month at 11.30 pm.
 14. The results from the judge will be announced at the following monthly meeting.



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The theme for 2023 is focusing on techniques. The images can either be wide angle or macro.

Month	Theme	Definition
January	Black background	<p>This technique is to focus on achieving a black background in order to make the subject pop.</p> <p>This can be achieved using strobe light combined with a high shutter speed / small aperture and distant background. Alternatively snoots or inward lighting techniques could also be used.</p>
March	Monochrome	<p>The monochrome image is to display a single colour or different shades of a single colour.</p> <p>How about changing your camera settings so you see the image in mono as you take it!</p>
May	Creative lighting	<p>The image should demonstrate the use of creative lighting.</p> <p>Lots of options with effects created using strobes, video lights or a focus/dive torch. How about using snoots, or coloured light, or inward lighting? Or practice using continuous lighting, off-camera or back lighting?</p>



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July	Bokeh	<p>The aim for this technique is to achieve a sharp subject with a blurry background.</p> <p>Bokeh is a Japanese term to define the aesthetic quality of the out-of-focus areas of an image.</p> <p>Play with shallow depth of field to generate out of focus backgrounds, but remember to reduce the power settings on your strobes at the same time, and /or ISO. Alternatively consider using a longer lens i.e. 100mm macro compared to a 60mm macro if you can.</p>
September	Silhouettes	<p>The secret to a good silhouette is to switch off your strobes, shoot up, expose for the water and leave the subject in shadow.</p> <p>You can also do silhouettes on macro subjects by leaving the strobes on and position them to back light the subject.</p>
November	Long exposure	<p>There are a number of techniques to be practiced here. The aim is to show movement in the image through lowering your shutter speed to less than 1/15 sec.</p> <p>See if you are able to adjust the timing of the strobe flash using rear curtain sync, or try panning, zooming, dragging and spins with long exposure to create movement of the subject.</p>

The above themes have been prepared making reference to Alex Mustard's book 'Underwater Photography Masterclass'.

As we advertise the theme each month we will provide some links to YouTube videos or articles for further reference/information on each of the techniques.