



GENERAL RULES

All entered photos and videos must be taken on dives with Sundive Byron Bay on any of the following dates: June 2nd, 3rd and 7th, 8th, 9th, and 10th.

Photos must of course, have been taken by the competitor in whose name they are entered.

Three finalists will be selected in each photo and video category. One First prize will then be awarded in each category.

A photographer can only win *one* award out of the standard *Competition Categories**. The awards will be judged commencing with the most prestigious award first and then filtering down as per the Categories listed below. Photographers that do well in different categories will get an Honourable Mention.

**Note* that you may still enter and win one of the *Special Themes* if you have been awarded a win in the standard Competition Categories.

2012 Competition Categories

- *Best Competition Photo*
- *People's Choice Award Best Photo*
- *dSLR cameras*
 - *Best Wide-angle Photo*
 - *Best Macro Photo*
 - *Best Portfolio*
- *Compact and CSC Cameras*
 - *Best Photo*
 - *Best Portfolio*
- *Best Digital Video.*

2012 Special Themes

- *The SCUBA Diver*
- *World Oceans Day theme (Youth: The next wave of Change, <http://worldoceansday.org/>)*
- *Best Nudibranch Photo*

All entries must be submitted by 6pm on Sunday 10th June 2012 at Sundive.

An experienced jury nominated by Sundive will select the winners who will be announced during the Shoot-out Finale on Monday 11th June 2012.

Sundive reserves the right to change prizes and entry categories.

The copyright of the entered photographs remains with the photographer. By entering the competition, the participant gives Sundive permission to publish all winning photos on its website and other media. Your photos may be used by Sundive for advertising purposes but will always be accredited to you.



Photo Category Guidelines:

Best Competition Photo:

No entries are required for this particular category directly. The winning photo will be selected by the judges from all photos entered across all categories. This is the top award for the 2012 Shoot-out and will therefore be selected by the judges before any other category.

People's Choice Award:

You may enter only one photo into this Category. The photo may have been previously entered in any other categories. Your photo will then be uploaded into an album on the Sundive Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/SundiveByronBay>). All Photos will remain anonymous. All photographers and all members of the Sundive Facebook page will then be asked to "Like" their favourite photograph. The winner of this category will then become the photo with the most "Likes" as of Monday 11th June, 11am.

dSLR Categories

1. **dSLR Wide Angle** - Underwater images larger than a 7x5 inch (180x130mm) picture area. A maximum of 5 photos may be entered in this category
2. **dSLR Macro** - Any underwater image of a 7x5 inch (180x130mm) or smaller picture area. A maximum of 5 photos may be entered in this category
3. **dSLR Portfolio** - The judges would like to see the use of different lenses and a range of different subjects. An understanding of different forms of lighting (strobes, natural light and combinations of both) is desirable. Each picture should represent something different and have different colours and textures. When put together, the selection should give a broad picture of the underwater world. Photos submitted in the portfolio category may be any combination of photos submitted in the dSLR Macro category and/or the dSLR Wide Angle category or new photos not previously represented in either dSLR category. You may enter a maximum of 6 photos in a portfolio. Only one portfolio of 6 photos maximum can be submitted.

Compact Camera and CSC Categories

Whilst Compact System Cameras do have interchangeable lenses, they are still relatively new in the market place and therefore this year the CSC and the Compact cameras will be included in the same category. (This may change in following years).

Compact Camera and CSC – Best Photo. A maximum of 5 photos may be entered in this category.

Compact Camera and CSC Best Portfolio - The judges would like to see an understanding of different forms of lighting (strobes, natural light and combinations of both) and a range of different subjects. Each picture should represent something different and have different colours and textures. When put together, the selection should give a broad picture of the underwater world. Photos submitted in the portfolio category may be any photos submitted in the Compact and CSC Best Photo category or new photos not previously represented. You may enter a maximum of 6 photos in a portfolio. Only one portfolio of 6 photos maximum can be submitted.



“The SCUBA Diver”:

In this category we are looking for the best photo of a SCUBA diver. Only one photo can be submitted for this category and may have previously been entered in other categories. We want to see what you believe is the essence of a SCUBA Diver, what best represents us as divers. dSLR, CSC and Compact Cameras may enter this category. Your photo may or may not include marine life. If your photo does include marine life we want to see environmentally and ecologically responsible diving. If it appears that you are interacting with marine life in a manner that is not responsible you may lose favour with the judges. This photo may be taken above or underwater or a combination thereof.

World Oceans Day Award:

Friday June 8th is World Oceans Day. The theme for this year is *Youth: The next wave for Change*. In this photo category we want to see your interpretation of this theme. Only one photo can be submitted for this category and may have previously been entered in other categories. This photo may be taken above or underwater or a combination thereof. This photo can be taken anywhere in the Byron Shire (i.e. It does not need to be taken at the Julian Rocks on a dive) as long as it is taken on the dates the photo competition is running. We would like to see the three themes (Oceans, Conservation, and Youth) showcased in one photo. You may enter one photograph into this category. This category is open to non-divers.

Photo Editing Guidelines

Photoshop manipulation is allowed, but limited to:

- a. Tonal corrections and colour corrections (no dodging/burning allowed)
- b. Moderate sharpening and saturation (but blurring of backgrounds is not allowed)
- c. Removing backscatter or noise from digital images
- d. Cropping, but only 10% of the original image. Submissions which have obviously heavily cropped will be disqualified

Please keep in mind that this is a photo competition, not an editing competition. Judges will award prizes accordingly.

Entry Submission Guidelines

Entries must be saved in jpeg format and should be sized to be between 2000 and 6000 pixels in the longest dimension. Please limit your images to a maximum file size of 5,000KB (5MB).

Images will be viewed on a large monitor and should be in the AdobeRGB 1998 or sRGB color space. *Optimized photographs need to be submitted together with the original files in jpeg format with all image data intact.*

All entries are to be marked with the photographer's first and last name, category, number of entry and distinction between original and optimized files (e.g.: **john-smith-macro-1-ori.jpg**). Please ask if you are unclear!



Only digital photographs can be entered. Submissions must be on DVD, CD or USB memory stick. Participants must label their submissions clearly with their name and contact phone number and include a written or printed list of photographs entered and entry category chosen.

All photographs entered in the portfolio category must be submitted in a folder on the submitted media. The folder must be named "first and last name, dSLR or compact Portfolio" and can only contain a maximum of six photographs.

Due to the large volume of data, entries that are not labelled correctly may not be considered. Please make sure you follow the above guidelines or ask for a more detailed explanation.

Digital Video Guidelines:

1. Videos should be no longer than 3 minutes in length
2. No more than 30 seconds of the video can be shot on land or at the surface.
3. All video submitted should be in HD format 1920 x 1080 and be in mp4 compressed and submitted on a USB data key by 6pm on the 10th of June.
4. All footage used in the video has to be shot during the competition dates June 2nd, 3rd and 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th of June 2012
5. All footage has to have been shot by the competitor named on the entry
6. All music used in the film has to be copyright free or the competitor has to have express permission of the music license holder.

Diving Code of Conduct and Safe Diving Practices

All participants must adhere to the NSW Marine Parks Authority Code of Conduct at all times. Participants must not touch, manipulate, damage or harm marine life in any way. This includes but is not limited to the damaging of sponges, corals or anything living on the bottom substrate. Divers must maintain good buoyancy control at all times. It is not acceptable to touch the bottom and cause damage whilst photographing. Any evidence that a participant has done so will result in immediate disqualification. Please dive responsibly.

All participants must agree to abide by PADI Safe Diving Regulations. This also means that you must dive buddy at all times. Solo Diving is not permitted in this competition. A copy of these regulations will be provided on our website with a copy of these rules.

Dives are limited to a total dive time of 55mins, if diving with a dive computer. Safety stops are recommended at 5 metres for 3 minutes.

Note: Please be sure to read the final version of the rules which will be available on the 1st June, 2012. There may be some minor changes that you will need to be aware of. We may introduce another special theme e.g.: "Black and White".