



ASTROPHOTOGRAPHY
PRIZE

Astrophotography Prize Rules 2025

The Astrophotography Prize celebrates outstanding work from photographers worldwide.

All entries are scored, with the top 25 in each category judged live by a panel of expert astrophotographers at the 2025 Astro Prize Event.



WHO AND WHAT

Who can enter

The Astrophotography Prize awards are open to all national, international, amateur, student, and professional photographers.

What can be entered

Images submitted must be from original photographs captured by the entrant that have not been entered into previous Australian Photographic Prize competitions. All elements that make up an entry must have been captured on or after 5th August 2020. Images captured before 5th August, 2020, are ineligible for entry. Participants may purchase an unlimited number of entries, either for single images or in discounted image bundles. However, you cannot enter the **same image** into multiple categories.

Categories

Astro Landscape, Deep Space, Remote Imaging and Solar System.

WHEN, WHERE AND HOW

2025 Important Dates

Competition entry opens on 4th August 2025 (AEST) and **closes at 5 pm on Sunday 31st August 2025 (AEST)**.

- All entries must be submitted digitally through the Astrophotography Prize website: <https://astrophotographyprize.com/>
- Judging of the top 25 entries from each category will take place online during the Astrophotography Prize Event on **Saturday, 14th and Sunday, 15th September 2025 (AEST)**.
- Category winners will be determined by judges' votes on the top 5 highest-scoring images from each category.
- The Overall and Category Winners will be announced live on Monday, 16th September, 2025 AEST.
- All entrant scores and feedback will be released online **one week** after the event.

PRIZES

The winner of each category will be determined by judges' votes on the top 5 highest-scoring images from each category. Category winners will receive a title, e.g. '2025 Deep Space Photographer of the Year, trophy, and sponsor prize. Winners of physical prizes are responsible for any associated postage fees, import duties, and relevant taxes required for prize delivery. Non-cash prizes cannot be exchanged for cash and are not transferable.

Astrophotographer of the Year - Sponsored by Celestron

The overall winner of the 2025 Astrophotography Prize will be selected by a vote from a panel of five highly skilled judges, chosen from the winners of the Astro-Landscape, Deep Space, Solar System and Remote Imaging categories.



Astrophotographer of the Year Prize: Celestron Edge HD OTA valued at \$3000 USD.

EdgeHD is an aplanatic, flat field Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope that produces aberration-free images across a wide visual and photographic field of view. The optical system was designed to reduce more than just off-axis star coma; it also provides an astrograph-quality flat focal plane all the way to the edge of the field of view.

Celestron has been an optics industry leader for decades, ever since Tom Johnson unveiled the game-changing C8. They strive to continue his legacy by continually developing exciting products with revolutionary technologies.



The Celestron Prize - Sponsored by Celestron

The winner of the 2025 Celestron Prize will be the highest-scoring image across all four categories taken by an astrophotographer using a Celestron OTA.



The Celestron Prize: [Celestron Origin Intelligent Home Observatory Valued at \\$4000 USD!](#)

- Stargazing and Astroimaging Redefined: Celestron Origin is an intelligent, all-in-one home observatory that captures stunning views of faint, deep-sky celestial objects and delivers them to your phone or tablet. The images you capture in seconds look better than what you'd see in the eyepiece of a much larger telescope under much darker skies.
- Revolutionary RASA Optical Technology
- Automated Setup with StarSense
- Intuitive App Interface



The Celestron Origin redefines amateur astronomy by combining stargazing and astrophotography in a smart, all-in-one home observatory. Easy to use and powered by advanced optics and an intuitive app, it brings celestial objects to life on your phone or tablet. Built on decades of Celestron expertise, Origin makes astronomy more accessible and engaging than ever.

Astro Landscape Photographer of the Year - Sponsored by Sidereal

First Prize: Samyang 14mm F2.8 MK2 Lens and Move Shoot Move NOMAD Pro Kit A Bundle valued at \$900 USD.

The sought-after lens for wide-field astrophotography, the Samyang 14mm f/2.8 has become famous for producing the highest quality, award-winning wide-field images. Bundled with the Move Shoot Move NOMAD Pro Kit A, which includes the NOMAD rotator, polar scope, headlamp and wedge. The NOMAD is the latest generation Grab & Go Star Tracker from Move Shoot Move and is ideal for beginner and experienced astrophotographers.

Runner-up Prize: Astrography store voucher valued at \$200 USD.



Deep Space Photographer of the Year - Sponsored by Chroma Technology



First Prize: Chroma Technology Voucher valued at \$1175 USD.

Chroma Technology manufacture the highest quality Broadband and narrow-band spectral line filters for detecting ionised sulphur, oxygen, and H-alpha or H-beta and other elements. Chroma filters have extremely durable, sputtered hard coatings using single substrates of the best glass, eliminating the need for laminations.

Chroma's longtime commitment to providing attentive, knowledgeable customer service and complimentary technical support makes them the partner of choice for Astrophotographers.

Runner-up Prize: Astrography store voucher valued at \$200 USD.



Solar System Photographer of the Year - Sponsored by Sidereal

First Prize: QHY5III678C valued at \$500 USD.



The QHY5III678C is a colour planetary camera with a 1/1.8" size sensor and small 2.0µm pixels. It is especially well suited to colour planetary astrophotography and close-up Lunar photography. It also has an excellent response around the near infrared through all the Bayer filter elements. This means that with the included IR850 filter, the camera is perfect for monochrome infrared astrophotography.

The QHY5III678C is a member of Version Two of the QHY5III planetary and guiding cameras. These are all equipped with a 512MB DDR3 image buffer, which can effectively reduce the pressure on computer transmission. This is a great help for planetary photography, which often requires writing a large amount of data in a short period.

Runner-up Prize: Astrography store voucher valued at \$200 USD.



Remote Imaging Photographer of the Year - Sponsored by Deep Sky West

First Prize: Full Annual Subscription to Deep Sky West Valued at \$1500 USD.



A typical subscription system generates 40-60 targets annually, each with a minimum integration of 16 hours. Deep Sky West will offer the winner either their AP-RH305 or PW14 in New Mexico or their FSQ85 in Chile. Depending on the winner's desires, DSW is flexible up or down either way!

Runner-up Prize: Astrography store voucher valued at \$200 USD.



JUDGING

All entries will be pre-judged offline by a panel of highly skilled international astrophotographers, using calibrated monitors, to determine the Top 25 images of each category. Images not making the top 25 will still be eligible to receive Gold, Silver, and Highly Commended Awards.

The Top 25 highest-scoring images from each category will be re-judged live by an expert panel of judges during the Astroprize Event. Category winners will be determined offline by judges' votes on the top 5 highest-scoring images. The overall winner of the 2025 Astrophotography Prize will be selected by a panel of highly skilled judges, from the winners of the Astro-Landscape, Deep Space, Solar System and Remote Imaging categories.

The winner of the 2025 Celestron Prize will be the highest-scoring image across all four categories taken by an astrophotographer using a Celestron OTA.

The winners will be announced during a live presentation on Monday, September 16th AEST. If the winners are present, they will have an opportunity to accept their award live online.

Assessment criteria include capture skill, processing skill, detail, composition, visual impact, target selection, and image quality. Each image will receive a grade based on the following scoring ranges:

50 - 74 Pre-Award

75 - 79 Highly Commended

80 - 89 Silver Award

90 -100 Gold Award

Image critique sessions to further understand the criteria judges are looking for will be conducted prior to the close of entry. Entrants are recommended to attend. Further information can be found here: <https://astrophotographyprize.com/app-events>

COMPETITION ENTRY FEES

Single Entry (one image)	\$ 25 AUD
Single Entry (one image) with Written Feedback	\$ 35 AUD
Discounted Entry Bundle - Enter five images for the price of four	\$ 100 AUD
Discounted Entry Bundle (5 images) with Written Feedback	\$ 140 AUD

HOW TO ENTER

Entries into the Astrophotography Prize categories must be submitted as digital entries through the astrophotographyprize.com website. Further step-by-step entry instructions can be found here: <https://astrophotographyprize.com/app-page-how-to-enter>.

Entries must comply with the following specifications:

1. High-resolution JPEGs only are accepted. If requested, raw files must be provided by the entrant. See page 11 for complete details.
 - 4000 px on the longest side
 - Convert to sRGB Profile
 - Save as maximum quality JPEG
 - **No © copyright message, name or logos that identify the creator visible on the image**
2. When uploading your entry, you will be asked to submit the following information:
 - Location and country image was taken
 - Camera, Telescope or lens, and filters used (inc. Barlow and ADC if appropriate)
 - Quantity and duration of exposures

In addition to this, the entrant *may* submit a 25-word statement of image purpose or creative intent to assist the judges when assessing the merits of your image **(25 words or less)**.

3. All entries must be uploaded by 5 pm **Sunday, 31st August, 2025 (AEST)**.

COMPETITION GENERAL RULES

The Astrophotography Prize is designed to celebrate the best astrophotography from worldwide entrants. Thanks to our generous sponsors, entrants have the opportunity to gain international recognition, claim titles and win fabulous prizes.

The following general rules apply:

- All images entered, including individual elements used to make up an entry, must be **100% photographic in origin** and captured on or after 5th August, 2020.
- Images incorporating stock or commercially produced datasets are not permitted. Only original photographs taken by the entrant are allowed. The use of editing aids that do not add additional data, such as StarXTerminator, BlurXTerminator, and similar products, is permitted. **Images partially or wholly generated using Artificial Intelligence (AI), the Photoshop Generative Fill tool, or similar AI-based tools are strictly prohibited.**
- Star removal or replacement is acceptable, i.e. replacing Narrowband stars with Broadband stars. However, the replacement stars must match the original star field to maintain the authenticity of the subject. Techniques that remove in-camera elements, such as dust and digital noise, are allowed.
- To avoid misuse of AI processing, scrutineers may request processing method information and original Raw, Fits or video files as appropriate. Files requested during initial vetting must be submitted by 3rd September, 2025. Files requested during finalist validation must be submitted within 24 hours. Failure to submit files may result in disqualification and forfeiture of any prizes awarded.
- An independent third party may review a selection of entries to confirm that submissions are original photographic works, free from copyright infringement, and do not contain content generated by artificial intelligence.
- Except for the Remote Imaging Category, entries must be taken with the entrant's own equipment. In the Remote Imaging Category, images can also be taken with commercially rented equipment, but only under the specific direction of the photographer.
- **If the equipment you use (whether owned or rented) is located in a Remote Observatory, you may ONLY enter these images into the Remote Imaging Category.**
- All entries must be entirely the work of the entrant, including all post-production work. Images created in collaboration with a team or other individuals are ineligible.
- It is the entrant's responsibility to ensure that images do not infringe copyright, moral rights, property, person, or other third-party rights.

CATEGORY SPECIFIC RULES

Astro Landscape

Astrophotography images taken back on Earth depict a feature or element of astronomical interest in which the night or twilight sky is a prominent feature with a land-based element. Any image containing terrestrial foregrounds will be considered an Astro Landscape image. Star trails and images of noctilucent and nacreous clouds, halos, meteors, etc., may also be entered into this category. The integrity of the subjects must be maintained, and physical changes to the landscape, such as the removal or addition of fences or trees, are not permitted.

Entries into this category must have been produced from entrant data, captured using entrant equipment. Composite images are eligible for entry, provided all photograph elements, i.e., the sky and foreground, were shot in the same location with the same camera and lens.

Deep Space

Astrophotography images that are out of this world can include deep space objects such as star clusters, globular clusters, supernova remnants, nebulae, galaxies and galaxy clusters. Images may be taken with telescopes or camera lenses, using mono or colour cameras, with or without filters. The purpose of this category is to award images with both technical and creative skills in photographing deep-space objects.

Data must have been collected with the entrant's own equipment. Data from professional observatories, such as ESO/NASA, and paid subscription services, such as iTelescope, DSW, Chilescope, etc., are ineligible. **Data taken from remote observatories, whether the photographer owns the equipment or not, is ineligible.**

Remote Imaging

This category features astronomical images captured from remote observatories, where the equipment is either privately owned, rented or operated under lease by the photographers themselves. Eligible subjects include deep space objects, planetary bodies, or solar system objects such as star clusters, globular clusters, supernova remnants, nebulae, galaxies, galaxy clusters, and comets.

Images taken as part of a team subscription are eligible as long as all data processing is completed solely by the entrant. Images derived from professional bodies, such as ESO, ESA, and NASA, or from purchased commercially produced datasets, are ineligible. This category is intended for photographers who use remote observatories to capture their data.

Solar System

Astrophotography images of our Solar System may include the Sun, Moon, Planets, or their satellites, comets and asteroids. Images may be captured with telescopes or camera lenses, using mono or colour cameras, with or without filters and appropriate ancillary equipment such as Barlows or Atmospheric Dispersion Correctors (ADC).

Entries into this category must have been produced from entrant data, captured using entrant equipment. Data from professional observatories, such as ESO/NASA, and paid subscription services, such as iTelescope, DSW, Chilescope, etc., are ineligible. Composite images, such as time-lapse over multiple seasons, are acceptable.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Disqualification

If an entrant knowingly breaks the rules, their submission will be disqualified, and awarded prizes must be returned. In addition to breaking general or category rules, images may be disqualified if:

- The image does not meet the size and file specifications outlined in the rules.
- An image contains information (e.g. graphics or a watermark) **that identifies the creator.**
- The entrant cannot supply any requested RAW/FITS capture files within 24 hours.

The Astrophotography Prize organisers have the right to re-categorise, remove and disqualify any entry without public dispute. Any entrant who attempts to bring a dispute to the competition through social media or otherwise may face permanent debarment from all future entries.

Copyright

Copyright of all images entered will remain the property of the entrant. The Astrophotography Prize reserves the right to use images entered, whether awarded or not, for marketing, promotion or education purposes. The entrant owns all rights and takes full responsibility that the work submitted is original and does not infringe any third party's copyright, moral rights, or other rights. The entrant will indemnify and keep indemnified any claim by a third party concerning their work.

Competition Legalities

Entry fees and prizes are quoted in US dollars. The total prize pool of prizes across the Astrophotography Prize awards is \$12,000 USD. Prizes will be as stated, with no alternative prizes available for winners*. If the Astrophotography Prize cannot contact the winning entrant by phone or email within a reasonable timeframe, the judges may award the prize to another entry. Unless otherwise stated, the entrant is responsible for transport and delivering prizes if living outside Australia. The Astrophotography Prize event promoter is the Trustee of the Melbourne Headshot Trust ABN 73798720731.

Digital Entries open at 9 am Monday, 4th August 2025 and close on Sunday, 31st August 2025, at 5 pm (AEST). No late entries will be accepted. The Astrophotography Prize Awards announcement will be live-streamed after the Astrophotography Prize judging. Category winners will be posted to the Astrophotography Prize Facebook & Instagram Pages.

The decisions of the judges and the Astrophotography Prize concerning any aspect of these awards **are final. No further discussion will be entered into.** Also, the Astrophotography Prize will interpret areas or issues not explicitly covered by these terms and conditions and other competition rules if and as they arise.

We request that entrants hold back on sending feedback about the awards or entrants' scores **for one week after the event** to allow time for emotional processing and self-reflection.

ABOUT THE ASTROPHOTOGRAPHY PRIZE

Who We Are.

The Astrophotography Prize is directed by Andrew Campbell and Robyn Campbell, who, together with the Astrophotography Prize team, have collaborated with various Astrophotography communities to create an event for astrophotographers of all levels. They appreciate the support of volunteers, judges, staff, and team members who have helped make this event possible.

We acknowledge and pay our respects to the Traditional Owners of the land on which the Astrophotography Prize will take place, the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung peoples of the Kulin Nation and pay our respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.

Additional information

Please visit the Facebook page first to answer any questions. If you cannot find the answer, please contact us: hello@astrophotographyprize.com

ASTROPHOTOGRAPHY PRIZE SPONSORS

We acknowledge our sponsors and thank them for their generous contributions.

