



ASTROPHOTOGRAPHY  
PRIZE

# Astrophotography Prize Rules 2024

The Astrophotography Prize recognises exceptional astrophotography from photographers worldwide looking to showcase their best work. Every entry receives a score, and the top 25 images in each category will be judged by a live panel of esteemed astrophotographers and experienced judges at the 2024 Astro Prize Event.



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# 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 2019. Images captured prior to 5th August, 2019 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

## 2024 Important Dates

Competition entry opens on 5th August 2024 (AEST) and **closes at 5 pm on Sunday 1st September 2024 (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 **Friday, 13th and Saturday, 14th September 2024 (AEST)**.
- After each category is judged, there will be a speaker presentation. After this presentation, the category winner will be announced live.
- All entrant scores and feedback will be released online **one week** after the event.

# PRIZES

The winner of each category will be the highest-scoring image determined after live judging during the Astrophotography Prize Event. Category winners will receive a title, e.g. '2024 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 Stellarvue Telescopes

The overall 2024 Astrophotography Prize winner will be selected from first-place category prize winners of Astro Landscape, Deep Space, Solar System & Remote Imaging categories by a panel of five highly skilled judges by discussing assessment criteria and voting.



**Astrophotographer of the Year Prize:** Stellarvue SVX102T valued at \$3344 USD.

This is the aluminium tube version of Stellarvue's premier high-performance lightweight 4" f-7 (714mm focal length) air-spaced apo triplet refractor. The telescope comes with a highly rated Stellarvue F-SV3B 3" dual-speed focuser and an SFFX-1 photographic field flattener. For imaging, this size focuser works well with Optec or ZWO EAF focus motors, minimises vignetting and is smooth and stable. The telescope will be supplied with a Vixen or Losmandy rail, a handle that accepts a control box, a Bahtinov mask and free international shipping!



## Astro Landscape Photographer of the Year - Sponsor by Sidereal

**First Prize:** Samyang 14mm F2.8 MK2 Lens and Move Shoot Move NOMAD Pro Kit A Bundle valued at \$1000 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:** LRTimelapse Pro 7 licence valued at \$300 USD.

**Third prize:** Astrography store voucher valued at \$200 USD.



## Deep Space Photographer of the Year - Sponsored by Sidereal & CFF Telescopes

**First Prize:** QHY367C Full Frame Cooled CMOS Colour Camera valued at \$4000 USD.

The QHY367C uses the IMX094 full frame, 35mm format, 36 Megapixel, 14-bit CMOS sensor. This sensor is also used in the Nikon D810A camera. The QHY367C offers

true raw Image output and produces an image comprised of the original signal only, thereby maintaining the maximum flexibility for post-acquisition astronomical image processing programs with a high dynamic range of more than 14 stops.

**Runner-up Prize:** Chroma Technology Voucher valued at \$1175 USD.



**Third prize:** Astrography store voucher valued at \$200 USD.



## Solar System Photographer of the Year - Sponsored by QSI



**First Prize:** Atik Infinity Colour Camera Valued at \$1179 USD.

The Atik Infinity is the first Atik CCD camera dedicated to video astronomy. Supplied with Atik's custom software dedicated to video astronomy, with a Sony ICX825 sensor embedded with EXview HAD CCD II™ technology and a generous 6,45 µm pixel size. It is well-suited to a broad range of telescopes bringing the wonders of deep sky imaging to your screen in seconds.

**Runner-up Prize:** Atik GP Colour Camera valued at \$425 USD thanks to QSI

**Third 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:** Subscription to Deep Sky West Valued at \$300 USD.

**Third 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 that do not make it to the top 25 will still be eligible to receive Gold, Silver, and Highly Commended Awards. Entrants will receive their image score and feedback (if pre-purchased) via email or logging into the Astrophotography Prize website one week after the Astroprize Event.

The Top 25 highest-scoring images from each category will be re-judged live by an expert panel of five judges during the Astroprize Event. Further details on registering to attend the event can be found here: <https://astrophotographyprize.com/app-page-email-list-astro>

The highest scoring image of each category will be determined the winner. In the case of a tie, judges will vote to determine the winner. The winner will be announced at the end of the category speaker presentation, following the judging. If the winner is present, they will have an opportunity to accept their award live online.

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

- 50 - 74 Pre-Award
- 75 - 79 Highly Commended
- 80 - 89 Silver Award
- 90-100 Gold Award

An information session to further understand the criteria judges are looking for will be conducted prior to the close of entries. Entrants are recommended to attend, further information can be found here: <https://astrophotographyprize.com/home>

# COMPETITION ENTRY FEES

<b>Single Entry</b> (one image)	<b>\$ 30 AUD</b>
<b>Single Entry</b> (one image) <b>with Written Feedback</b>	<b>\$ 40 AUD</b>
<b>Discounted Entry Bundle</b> - Enter five images for the price of four	<b>\$ 120 AUD</b>
<b>Discounted Entry Bundle</b> (5 images) <b>with Written Feedback</b>	<b>\$ 160 AUD</b>

# HOW TO ENTER

Entries into the Astrophotography Prize categories must be submitted as digital entries through the [astrophotographyprize.com](https://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. Naming format: category\_firstname\_lastname\_Image#.jpg  
Image# relates to the number of the entrant's entry, with the first entry uploaded titled Image1, the second entry uploaded Image2, etc., e.g. Deepspace\_Andy\_Campbell\_Image8.jpg

2. JPEGs only are accepted. If requested, raw files must be provided by the entrant. See page 11 for complete details.

- 3840px 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

3. When uploading your entry, you will be asked to submit the following information:

- Location image was taken
- Camera, lens and filters used (including 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.

3. All entries must be uploaded by close of competition entry at **5pm on Sunday, 1st September 2024 (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, 2019.
- 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, 2024. 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 will review a random selection of entries to confirm that submissions are original photographic works, free from copyright infringement, and do not contain content generated by artificial intelligence
- With the exception of the Remote Imaging Category, entries must be taken with the entrant's own equipment. In the Remote Imaging Category, images can be taken with commercial rented equipment under the specific direction of the photographer.
- If the equipment you own is located in a Remote Observatory, you may enter these images into the Deep Space or Solar System categories, but not 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.
- Images must 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 equipment. Data from professional observatories, such as ESO/NASA, and paid subscription services, such as iTelescope, DSW, Chilescope, etc., are ineligible.

## Remote Imaging

This category features astronomical images captured from commercial remote observatories. 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 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 commercially run remote observatories to capture their data, yet utilise their skills and creative abilities to produce award-worthy imagery.

## 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 requested RAW/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 cash and prizes across the Astrophotography Prize awards is \$13,000 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, 5th August 2024 and close on Sunday, 1st September 2024, at 5 pm (AEST). No late entries will be accepted. The Astrophotography Prize Awards announcement will be live-streamed during the Astrophotography Prize event. Category winners will be posted to the Astrophotography Prize Facebook Page.

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 entrant's 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 a diverse event for astrophotographers of all levels. They appreciate the support of volunteers, judges, staff, and team members who have helped make this all-inclusive 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 and Bunurong Boon Wurrung peoples of the Eastern Kulin 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](mailto:hello@astrophotographyprize.com)

# ASTROPHOTOGRAPHY PRIZE SPONSORS

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

