

Judging Criteria

Relevance to Theme: How well does the photograph capture the theme? Is the connection to the theme clear and compelling?

Visual Impact: The aesthetic quality and visual appeal of the photograph, including consideration of composition, lighting, colour, and overall artistic expression.

Narrative and Storytelling: Does the photograph and its accompanying caption tell a story or convey a message related to the theme?

Themed Categories

Ocean, Wetlands & Rivers

Dive into the diverse ecosystems of Australia's aquatic wonderlands through this category dedicated to oceans, wetlands, and rivers. From the depths of the oceans teeming with marine life, to the tranquil beauty of wetlands and the meandering flow of rivers, this category celebrates the vital role these environments play in our world.

What We're Looking For:

- 1. Biodiversity and Habitats:** Capture the rich biodiversity of oceans, wetlands, and rivers, showcasing the variety of species that inhabit these environments. From colourful coral reefs to mangrove forests, rivers, and creeks, highlight the unique habitats that support life.
- 2. Natural Landscapes:** Showcase the natural beauty and landscapes shaped by these aquatic environments. Whether it's a serene wetland at dawn, a thriving coral reef, or the majestic flow of a river, your photograph could celebrate awe-inspiring landscapes shaped by water.
- 3. Human Interaction:** Illustrate the interaction between humans and these aquatic environments, whether it's sustainable practices, recreational activities, or people volunteering to ensure these ecosystems thrive into the future. Your photograph could capture the many ways we interact with aquatic ecosystems every day.
- 4. Conservation and Preservation:** Highlight efforts and initiatives aimed at conserving and preserving oceans, wetlands, and rivers. Your photograph could showcase restoration projects, protected areas, or the resilience of these environments in the face of environmental challenges.

5. **Traditional Knowledge and Practices:** Document the traditional knowledge and practices that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities have developed to sustainably interact with oceans, wetlands, and rivers. This could include traditional fishing techniques, Indigenous conservation practices, Indigenous crafts using wetland plants, or Land and Sea Rangers in action.

The oceans, wetlands, and rivers category aims to raise awareness about the importance of these vital ecosystems and inspire action towards their conservation. Through your lens, capture the beauty, complexity, and significance of oceans, wetlands, and rivers, and help us showcase their remarkable diversity and fragility.

Sustainability

In an era where Nature Stewardship is crucial for the health of people and the planet, the Sustainability category invites photographers to explore and capture the essence of sustainable living, practices, and innovations. This category celebrates human efforts in striving for a balance with nature that ensures the wellbeing of our planet for future generations.

What We're Looking For:

1. **Innovative Solutions:** Showcase creative solutions and innovations that promote sustainability. This could include renewable energy sources, eco-friendly technologies, sustainable agriculture, or circular economy practices.
2. **Nature and Conservation:** Highlight the beauty and importance of natural ecosystems and conservation efforts. From protected areas to wildlife habitats, illustrate the impact of sustainable practices on biodiversity and ecosystem health.
3. **Community and Culture:** Document how sustainability is integrated into communities and culture. Show examples of local initiatives, traditional Cultures and knowledge, and community-led projects that promote environmental sustainability.
4. **Urban Sustainability:** Explore how cities and urban areas are adopting sustainable practices. This could include green infrastructure, urban agriculture and community gardens, waste reduction efforts, and transportation innovations.

The Sustainability category aims to inspire and raise awareness about sustainable practices, innovations, and their impact on the environment and communities around Australia. Through your lens, capture the spirit of sustainability and contribute to the National conversation on building a more sustainable future.

Species and Habitats

Celebrate the remarkable diversity of life on Earth through the Species and Habitats category, which invites photographers to explore and capture the beauty, uniqueness, and importance of Australian native species and their habitats.

What We're Looking For:

1. **Native Species:** Showcase the richness of species found in different habitats, from terrestrial to aquatic environments. Highlight endangered or lesser-known species, the native species that we see every day, those thriving in their natural habitats, or those that have adapted to living in our urban environments.
2. **Habitats:** Capture the essence of diverse habitats, including forests, grasslands, mountains, wetlands, oceans, urban environments, and more. Show the intricate relationships between species and their environments.
3. **Traditional Knowledge and Practices:** Capture traditional knowledge and practices that contribute to the conservation and sustainable management of species and habitats. This could include traditional land management techniques that promote biodiversity, or species that have cultural uses, such as food and medicine.
4. **Conservation Challenges:** Illustrate the challenges faced by species and habitats today, such as habitat loss, climate change, pollution, and human-wildlife conflict. Showcase the efforts and initiatives aimed at conservation and restoration.

The Species and Habitats category aims to highlight the beauty, diversity, and fragility of life on Earth. It encourages photographers to explore the intricate relationships between species and their habitats while recognising the activities that contribute to their conservation. Through your lens, capture the essence of these ecosystems and contribute to the efforts to highlight biodiversity conservation and sustainability.