

ASTROFEST

Astrofest Astrophotography Competition and Exhibition 2020

General Information

This document provides general information on the Astrofest Astrophotography Competition and Exhibition. This document helps you understand the requirements and process for entering the Astrophotography Competition and provides information about the associated exhibition.

For Terms and Conditions please see the Astrofest Astrophotography Competition and Exhibition Terms & Conditions document available on the Astrofest web page: <http://www.astronomywa.net.au/astrofest.html>.

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Introduction

Each year Astronomy WA runs the very successful Astrofest science outreach event in Perth, Western Australia. Astrofest has associated with it an exhibition of astrophotography, the Astrofest Astrophotography Exhibition.

Selection of photographs to display in the Astrofest Astrophotography Exhibition is by way of an annual competition. Entries are invited from astrophotographers in Western Australia, judged by a selected panel, and a select number of photographs chosen for exhibition in the Astrofest Astrophotography Exhibition.

Following the Astrofest event the Astrofest Astrophotography Exhibition then tours Western Australia, being exhibited at metropolitan and regional galleries and community events.

The Astrofest Exhibition provides an opportunity to showcase Western Australian astrophotography and encourage new photographers to the field of astrophotography.

Important dates

Important dates for the 2020 Astrofest Exhibition are:

- September 20th 2019: Entries open
- November 15th 2019: Entries close
- February 29th 2020: Astrofest Exhibition at Astrofest. Awards ceremony.

How to submit entries

Entries may be submitted electronically only, via the link on the Astrofest web page:

<http://www.astronomywa.net.au/astrofest.html>

Ensure that your entries are successfully uploaded, and confirmation received before the entry closing date. Late entries will not be accepted.

Entries should be submitted via the online form including the following information:

- Title
 - A short title for your photograph
 - Maximum 50 characters
- Category
 - Selection of category (see category information below)
- Astrotourism WA
 - If a Nightscape photograph is taken in an Astrotourism WA location specify the Shire/Local Government here to have it considered for the Best Astrotourism WA Nightscape Award. See below for the list of Astrotourism WA locations.
 - Leave blank if not applicable.
- Brief technical description
 - Describe your photograph including any relevant technical details.
 - Maximum 500 characters
- Date photographed
 - Date that the photograph was taken (or starting date for photographs that span multiple days).

Categories

Each photograph entered in the Astrofest Exhibition is entered for one category. Categories are designed to provide a more equal comparison of photographic subjects.

Entrants may submit the same photograph for multiple categories but are limited to overall 10 entries per Entrant. For example you may submit one photograph to 10 categories or 10 photographs each to one category.

The Astrofest exhibition accepts entries to the following categories:

- Deep Sky
- Solar
- Lunar
- Planetary
- Nightscape
- Time Lapse video

Entrants will nominate the category they are entering each of their entries to, at the time of submission.

Awards

There will be the following awards presented with prizes and trophy's:

1. Best Astro Photo sponsored by Camera Electronic
 - a. All photographs from any category and any valid entrant are candidates for this award.
2. Best New Talent sponsored by Pendoley Environmental
 - a. All photographs from valid New Talent entrants are candidates for this award.
3. Best Astrotourism WA Nightscape Award sponsored by Astrotourism WA
 - a. Nightscape photographs from any valid entrant, where the photographs are taken in the Astrotourism WA Shire/Local Government localities are candidates for this award.

- b. Nightscape photographs applicable to this award will feature terrestrial elements located in the Astrotourism WA Local Government locality* (for example a natural or built landmark or local person).
- c. The eligible Local Government localities include the City of Greater Geraldton-Mullewa and the Shires of Carnamah, Chittering, Coorow, Dandaragan, Lake Grace, Northam, Mingenew, Moora, Morawa, Perenjori, Three Springs, Wagin, West Arthur, and Wongan-Ballidu.
- 4. Frederick de Houtman Award for the Best Magellanic Cloud Photo sponsored by Batavia Coast Maritime Heritage Association
 - a. All photographs incorporating the Large and/or Small Magellanic Cloud are candidates for this award.
 - b. At least one Magellanic Cloud must be clearly visible in reasonable scale.
- 5. People's Choice Award sponsored by Kudos Cameras
 - a. All photographs from any category and any valid entrant are candidates for this award.
 - b. The People's Choice Award will be awarded based on online voting ahead of the exhibition event.

In addition, winners will be announced for each of the award categories and certificates awarded:

- 6. Best Deep Sky photograph
- 7. Best Solar photograph
- 8. Best Lunar photograph
- 9. Best Planetary photograph
- 10. Best Nightscape photograph
- 11. Best Time Lapse video

Preparing your photographs for submission

It is recommended you submit your images at a high-quality setting of JPG, being aware of any loss of quality due to JPG compression and choosing an appropriate compression ratio.

There is no minimum size specified for entries of photographs however it is recommended that to permit fair judging you submit astrophotography images with a width of no smaller than 2000 pixels, or as close to this as possible (realising that this may not be practical for subjects such as planetary photographs). Similarly, for video sequences it is recommended you submit these in HD format as a minimum.

When preparing your photographs or video sequences for submission we strongly suggest you use a colour calibrated screen to ensure correct and fair representation. We will not alter your photographs or video sequences to colour match them, they will be taken as-is.

We request that timelapse video sequences and still astrophotos are submitted without watermarks or credits identifying the creator to enable anonymous judging. Credits will be attached to each photo chosen for the exhibition, and we will request a version of selected timelapse entrants with credits included for display.

Selection of Photographs for the Astrofest Exhibition

A selection of the Astrophotography Competition entries is selected for display at the Astrofest Exhibition.

At the Astrofest Exhibition we exhibit approximately 35 images in print format, and additional images in digital format on screens. This number is subject to change at the discretion of the Astrofest organisers and the Curator.

The selection of these images is made by the Curator and will include a combination of still images and video sequences. We are not able to include all images submitted due to limitations including the large number of entries received and limited print space and screen time.

Entrants whose submissions have been selected for print or digital inclusion in the Astrofest Exhibition will be notified by email after judging and before the 29th February 2020.

Judging

Judges for the 2020 Astrofest Exhibition have been carefully chosen for their specific experience and association with astronomy and photography.

Dr. David Malin



Dr. David Malin AM has been involved in scientific imaging all his working life. He joined the Anglo-Australian Observatory (AAO, now the Australian Astronomical Observatory) as its Photographic Scientist in August 1975, shortly after scheduled observations began on the then-new, 3.9m Anglo-Australian Telescope (AAT) in June 1975. He is also now Adjunct Professor of Scientific Photography at RMIT University in Melbourne. He was born in England and trained as a chemist, working for many years with a large international chemical company in the north of England. There he used optical and electron microscope and X-ray diffraction techniques to explore the very small before turning his attention to much larger and more distant things in Australia.

Prof. Peter Quin



is the Director of the International Centre for Radio Astronomy Research (ICRAR) in Perth, WA. He was born in Australia and received his BSc (Hons) in Mathematics and Physics from the University of Wollongong. He conducted graduate studies in astronomy and astrophysics at the Australian National University (ANU) and received his PhD in 1982 with a thesis dissertation on dynamics of disk galaxy mergers.

Since then Peter has worked at the California Institute of Technology, the NASA Space Telescope Science Institute and the Data Management and Operations Division at the European Southern Observatory headquarters in Munich. In December 2005, Peter was awarded a Western Australian Premier's Fellowship and took up the position of Professor of Astronomy and Astrophysics at the University of Western Australia in August 2006. He was appointed Director of ICRAR in 2009.

Mr Patrick Baker



Mr Patrick Baker is a passionate photographer with almost sixty years experience; a recorder of the natural world and built-environment, from the heavens, to the depths of the sea, from mountains to the microscopic world. Early in his photographic career, Pat volunteered his time and skills to various archaeological endeavours. In 1973, he emigrated from England to Australia, to begin his specialist photography career at the Western Australian Museum; a job he remained in for the next 44 years. Pat's maritime archaeology photography has featured widely in many publications including National Geographic, Australian Natural History, Landscape and Australian Geographic. He has twice been a winner of the international BBC Wildlife Photographer of the Year Competition and has previously judged photographic competitions such as the

first years of the ANZANG Nature Photographer of the Year and the Australasian Institute of Maritime Archaeology (AIMA) competitions. Now retired from permanent employment, his enthusiasm for his life-time interests continues.

Cost & Sponsorship

There is no cost to entrants entering in to the Astrofest Exhibition. The exhibition is kindly sponsored through the Astrofest program by:



Additional sponsors for the 2020 Astrofest Astrophotography Exhibition include:



For more information on these sponsors please see:

- www.icrar.org
- astronomy.curtin.edu.au
- www.scitech.org.au
- www.csiro.au
- www.uwa.edu.au
- www.astrophotography.com.au
- www.cameraelectronic.com.au
- www.astrotourismwa.com.au
- www.penv.com.au
- Search Facebook for “Batavia Coast Maritime Heritage Association”
- www.perthobservatory.com.au
- www.leofoto.com.au

The exhibition at Astrofest

On the night of 29th February 2020 the Astrofest Exhibition will be held at the Curtin Stadium, Curtin University, Bentley. Refer to the Astrofest website for open and closing times.

Entrants are encouraged to visit the exhibition and see theirs and others photographs before the exhibition then travels over subsequent months around Western Australia.

Travelling Exhibition

Following the Astrofest event on the 29th February the Astrofest Exhibition will travel to various locations around Western Australia, and possibly Australia, being exhibited.

Entrants who have their photographs included in the exhibition will be notified via email of upcoming touring exhibitions by the Curator.

Locations will include:

- Astro Rocks festival at Mt Magnet, typically held in September each year. For more information see: <https://mtmagnet-astrorocks.com/>
- Museum of Geraldton exhibition space. More information will be provided when dates and information are confirmed.

If you know of somewhere that would like to feature the Astrofest Exhibition please let the Curator know at astrophotography@icrar.org

Additional use of entries

From time to time the Astrofest organising committee has a need for photography/imagery to use for promotional, outreach and other reasons. When this need arises the organising committee regularly draws upon the Astrofest Exhibition entries.

As per the Astrofest Exhibition Terms & Conditions you grant the organisers of Astrofest the right to use your photography in this way.

As a courtesy, if an entry of yours is chosen to be used for such a purpose the Astrofest organising committee will make every effort to contact you and check you are happy with the intended use, and to let you know where your photography will be used.

If a member of the Astrofest committee would like to use an Astrofest Astrophotography Exhibition entry for a purpose not associated with Astrofest, they will seek your separate agreement before any such use. Declining permission for such a use will not change your participation or inclusion in future Astrofest exhibitions in any way.

Feedback

If you have any feedback regarding the organisation or details of the Astrofest Exhibition please contact the Curator at astrophotography@icrar.org