



A prestigious nature and landscape photography award is inviting entries for its 2006 competition. Initiated by Perth surgeon Stuart Miller in 2004, ANZANG Nature aims to encourage nature and wilderness photography in the region encompassing Australia, New Zealand, Antarctica and New Guinea, raise public awareness of Australasia's unique natural heritage and assist conservation efforts.



The ANZANG competition is tightly focused on Australasia's nature and its wilderness landscape. Now in its third year, the competition's categories include animal behaviour, animal portrait, botanical subject, underwater subject, wilderness landscape, threatened plants or animals, black and white photography and junior photography.

A competition snapshot

Last year's competition attracted 680 entries from some of the best photographers in Australia, New Zealand, France, the United Kingdom

and the USA. They were judged by a panel of professional photographers specialising in nature photography. ANZANG Nature's Chairman, Perth surgeon Stuart Miller, said that the quality of entries in the nine sections of the competition was very high. The style of many of the winning entries in 2005 was particularly artistic. The 2005 competition included two innovations in format: the new section, Interpretive Photography, where no limitation is placed on image manipulation, and the Portfolio Prize for the best six images entered by any one photographer.

Digital era

The spread of entries showed that digital photography is becoming an increasingly popular form of capturing images, with almost half of the winning and highly commended photographs taken on digital cameras. The exception was the Wilderness Landscape section, where the winning and highly commended shots were taken with film.

Unlike the year before, all sections of last year's competition were open to film and digital photography. This reflects the major, and ever increasing, impact that digitalisation is having on



by Stuart Miller

Nature's album

all areas of photography, particularly among amateur and semi-professional photographers. Gone are the days where the cost of film and processing were major considerations for these groups, especially in nature photography, where it can be necessary for many frames to be shot to capture the desired moment.

A winning shot

Against a field of dingos, pythons, damselflies and spectacular wilderness landscapes, a graceful pelican launching into flight won last year's ANZANG Nature and Landscape Photographer of the Year competition. The winning

pelican photograph, titled 'Flight' by Western Australian Kitchner Bain, was all the more remarkable as Bain took up photography only three years ago. WA photographers dominated in 2005, taking out the overall prize and the Underwater, Interpretive and Junior sections, a total of four out of the possible 11 major prizes.

The touring exhibition of the 63 winning and highly commended photographs, created from the competition, opened at the WA Museum on 15 September 2005, then toured the museum's regional branches before travelling to the eastern states.

Above 'Flight' was the overall winner of the ANZANG Nature and Landscape Photographer of the Year Award for 2005. The photographer waited at the edge of Lake Monger for more than an hour, with his camera ready, anticipating the pelican's launch into flight.
Photo - Kitchner Bain

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Top left 'The Survivors', the winner of the Interpretive Photography section, was taken shortly after a recent intense fire at Mount Manypeaks Nature Reserve, east of Albany, and was manipulated electronically by the photographer.

Photo - David Boyle



Above left Gideon Mettam took both the equal winning entries for the Junior Photography section, including 'Carpet python on bush'.

Photo – Gideon Mettam

Left This impressionistic shot of jarrah and wandoo forest took out second prize in the Interpretive section.

Photo – Andrew Davoll

Above Winner of the Underwater Subject category, which depicts bubble coral and a shrimp. The shrimp, which is only 12 millimetres long, was taken at Christmas Island.

Photo – Glen Cowans

Focused on conservation

The ANZANG competition has three primary aims: to encourage photography of the natural world, to assist in raising public awareness about its wonders and to raise money for conservation. Funds surplus to the cost of each year's competition and travelling exhibitions are donated to conservation organisations in Australia, New Zealand and New Guinea that manage natural habitat for native flora and fauna and are involved in 'bush buy back' schemes. In particular, the competition sponsors the work of Birds Australia, the Australian Wildlife Conservancy, the Australian Bush Heritage Fund and the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society in New Zealand. This is achieved largely

by the support of the competition sponsors and in-kind support from the WA Museum.

Stuart said the competition was also an appropriate recognition of the skill involved in nature photography, which is often not very commercially viable but done more for the love of the subject.

Information regarding the annual competition, such as prize money, plus all of the winning and highly commended images from the 2005 competition may be seen at www.anzangnature.com. A book, *ANZANG Nature and Landscape Photographer of the Year: The Second Collection*, which showcases the 2005 competition is available from the website.

Stuart Miller, as well as being a Perth surgeon, is ANZANG Nature's Chairman. He can be contacted on (08) 9481 1238 or by email (compete@anzangnature.com).

For more information about ANZANG and the Photographer of the Year competition, and to view the winning and highly commended images from 2005, visit www.anzangnature.com.