
Crikey!
MAGAZINE
PHOTOGRAPHY
2026 COMPETITION
ENTRY GUIDE
Australia
Canon
Pro
THE CROCODILE HUNTER
LODGE
Australia Zoo
Home of The Crocodile Hunter

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Images showcase previous winning and shortlised entries.



















COMPETITION OVERVIEW

In 2026, Australia Zoo proudly celebrates a decade of the Crikey! Magazine Photography Competition - a global platform where photography, storytelling, and conservation unite.

Over the past ten years, the competition has brought together photographers and passionate conservationists from around the world, each capturing powerful moments that showcase the extraordinary diversity of life on Earth. Through compelling imagery, these artists help shine a spotlight on the beauty, fragility, and importance of our natural world.

Judged by a distinguished panel of acclaimed photographers and naturalists, we invite submissions of outstanding nature, wildlife, and conservation photography. Winning images not only receive prestigious prizes but are also honoured through exhibitions across Australia, allowing thousands of visitors to experience these remarkable works firsthand.

Now marking its 10th anniversary, the Crikey! Magazine Photography Competition stands as a celebrated showcase of wildlife photography and a powerful voice for conservation. For a decade, it has inspired audiences to look closer, care deeper, and take action to protect the planet we all share.

Join us as we commemorate ten years of extraordinary imagery and continue our mission to connect people with nature, one photograph at a time.

Entries open 15th June and close 31st August 2026.
Winners announced 9th October 2026. To enter, visit:

australiazoo.com.au/photography-competition/

COMPETITION CATEGORIES

CATEGORY 1
CRIKEY! MAGAZINE COVER

The winning image will be awarded the cover on the 2026 Summer issue of *Crikey! Magazine*. To be successful, the image must be portrait orientated with space for the magazine's title. Entries should be of an animal or the natural world, and compelling as a cover.

CATEGORY 2
THE NATURAL WORLD

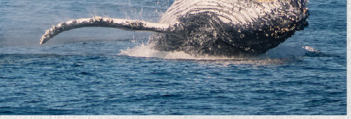
A category to celebrate and showcase the beauty of the natural world and thus the need to protect it. Images submitted can showcase wildlife and wild places from anywhere on earth, and depict exciting new perspectives on our complex ecosystems. It is through these images, that we can raise awareness and advocate for the conservation of our precious biodiversity. Images may be landscape or portrait orientated.

CATEGORY 3
AUSTRALIA

NEW CATEGORY

In recognition of our 10 year anniversary, we are delighted to introduce a new category to celebrate the beauty and diversity of Australia. This category invites photographers to showcase the nation's breathtaking landscapes and unique wildlife, from rugged coastlines and vast deserts to iconic native species, capturing the spirit, scale, and natural wonder of Australia. Tourism Australia will participate in the judging for this special category, and winning images will have additional exposure opportunities through them.

















YOUTH CATEGORIES

CATEGORY 4

CRIKEY! KIDS - 10 YEARS AND UNDER

We are proud to encourage our youngest generation to get outdoors, explore our natural world and try their hand at wildlife photography. Images can be landscape or portrait orientated.

CATEGORY 5

CRIKEY! KIDS - 11-14 YEARS

This category is designed to promote youth to pursue photography and wildlife conservation. Images can be landscape or portrait orientated.

CATEGORY 6

CRIKEY! KIDS - 15-17 YEARS

In this category, youth from 15-17 years of age can enter images in landscape or portrait orientation. We are so pleased to showcase the incredible images from the next generation of nature photographers.

NOTE: Children and youth are welcome to enter the open categories too, however entry fees will apply.

PEOPLE'S CHOICE

CATEGORY 7

PEOPLE'S CHOICE

In October, a selection of additional and memorable images will be shortlisted by the judges and Irwin family, after the winners have been announced for the other categories. The public will then help select the winner, highly commended and three finalists through online voting.

MEET THE JUDGES!

The Crikey! Magazine Photography Competition marks its 10th year in 2026, celebrating a decade-long journey that began with a simple goal: to showcase the beauty and diversity of the natural world through photography.

Today, the competition's international reach plays an important role in fostering a deeper public appreciation of wildlife and wild places, while inspiring meaningful action to protect them for future generations.

Central to the competition's success is its distinguished judging panel, comprised of leading photographers, naturalists and storytellers who are not only at the top of their field, but also dedicated advocates for conservation. Many bring years of experience capturing the natural world, while others have a special connection to the competition itself, having risen through its ranks as past entrants and winners. Together, they reflect the spirit, integrity, and purpose that define the Crikey! Magazine Photography Competition.

We are proud to announce the judging panel for the 2026 Crikey! Magazine Photography Competition.







ROBERT IRWIN

Robert Irwin is an award-winning nature photographer and Wildlife Warrior, who travels the world in search of incredible images of wildlife and wild places that have inspired many.

He and his family own and operate Australia Zoo and a non-profit environmental organisation, Wildlife Warriors, supporting conservation projects around the globe. His photographs have been featured in galleries around Australia as well as through news publications world-wide. He also has his own photography gallery at Australia Zoo. Furthermore, Robert has judged the Crikey! Magazine Photography Competition yearly, and has been recognized in many photography competitions. These include being the winner of the Natural History Museum's Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2020 People's Choice Award, highly commended in the Wildlife Photographer of The Year Awards, highly honoured in Nature's Best Windland Smith Rice International Photography Awards 2018 and 2019, commended in the Birdlife Australia Photography Awards 2019 and more.



‘Tundra Swan’ by Robert Irwin

Klamath Basin, Oregon, USA

Robert Irwin PHOTOGRAPHY



ASHLEIGH SCULLY

At the young age of 24, Ashleigh Scully is an accomplished nature photographer with a keen interest in bringing awareness to wildlife conservation. Ashleigh has been recognised by the top international photography competitions in the world, including the London Museum of Natural History's Wildlife Photographer of the Year, National Geographic's Por el Planeta and Nature's Best Photography Magazine's Youth Wildlife Photographer of the Year.

She is also a two-time winner of the Yellowstone Forever Youth Wildlife Photography competition and twice placed in Audubon's annual Top 100 Photography Competition. Her images have been exhibited in London's Natural History Museum, the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C. and in other top galleries and museums in more than 70 countries. Ashleigh has been published in National Geographic Kids, Shutterbug, Outdoor Photographer and Amateur Photographer magazines.







RUSSELL SHAKESPEARE

Russell is a well-known photographer working in digital and analogue, based on the Gold Coast, Australia. His work has been published in many magazines and newspapers, such as The New York Times, Qantas Magazine and Time, as well as in books by The Magnum Foundation, Australian Geographic, The Museum of Brisbane and The Tim Fairfax Family Foundation.

Russell has numerous accolades for his photographic work, including The Moran Contemporary Photographic prize (four times Finalist, 2007 - 2014), Black and White Photographer of the Year (Documentary, Finalist, 2015), National Photographic portrait prize (two times Finalist, 2020, 2011), Olive Cotton Exhibition (six times Finalist, 2006 - 2021) and Walkley Award for Journalism (best news photograph, 1995) He has work in collections at The Queensland Art Gallery, Tweed River Art Gallery, Redcliffe Art Gallery and The National Portrait Gallery.

Russell Shakespeare is an Ambassador for Leica Camera Australia.



HARMAN SINGH HEER

Harman Singh Heer is a wildlife and travel photographer whose work has been featured in National Geographic, Discovery and BBC, and has received international recognition from the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History and Australian Photographer of the Year. Growing up in Kenya, Harman experienced the country's beautiful national parks from a young age, discovering his lifelong passion for wildlife and photography.

He shares his work with an audience of over 240,000 people on Instagram, using the platform to tell visual and written stories from his time in the African bush. Harman's deep connection with Africa's wildlife is reflected in his vision to combine photography and writing to advocate for the plight of vulnerable wildlife and their vanishing habitats, particularly in a current global zeitgeist of environmental angst and uncertainty.







KATE BERRY

Kate Berry is a conservation photographer, Australia Zoo's research manager and 2019 National Geographic Explorer. Her background in science and commitment to conservation has led her on numerous expeditions, from photographing the world's largest crocodilian study in far north Queensland to pioneering new research on the Galapagos Marine Iguana's unique evolutionary transition to an aquatic life.

When she is not out in the field, Kate works at Australia Zoo where she helps inspire passion towards the natural world. For over eight years, she has photographed the Irwin family, and her images and editorial contributions are regular additions in Crikey! Magazine. They have also been featured by many other publications, from National Geographic, Australian Geographic, Q Weekend to PEOPLE Magazine. This is Kate's ninth year of coordinating and judging the Crikey! Magazine Photography Competition and she looks forward to reviewing another spectacular array of wildlife photography.





DAY SCOTT

Scott is a wildlife photographer and biologist studying animal movement and behavior in the U.S. Drawing on her experience as a disabled scientist, she brings a unique perspective to her research and a deep commitment to conservation. Day is also an influential science communicator who uses stories to help people see wildlife and their habitats in new ways









SEAN SCOTT

Sean Scott is an award-winning Australian photographer, Canon Master, and Tourism Australia Ambassador, renowned for his striking imagery of landscapes, oceans, and remote wild places. With more than two decades behind the lens, Sean has built a respected career capturing the power, beauty, and emotion of the natural world — from iconic Australian coastlines and rugged outback horizons to the frozen frontiers of Antarctica and the Arctic. His work blends fine art, adventure, and storytelling, inspiring audiences to connect more deeply with the planet and experience extraordinary places through a fresh perspective.



WHAT COULD YOU WIN?

A winner, highly commended and three finalists will be selected from each category. Finalists will receive a copy of Robert Irwin's Australia photography book, have their images exhibited at Australia Zoo, featured in Crikey! Magazine and will receive a personalised certificate.

There are a variety of exciting prizes to be won from each category, including an incredible trip to Australia, cash prizes, stays at the luxurious Crocodile Hunter Lodge, epic Australia Zoo gift packs, zoo passes and more!

You will also have the opportunity to attend a spectacular gallery unveiling event hosted at Australia Zoo.

OPEN CATEGORIES

Crikey! Magazine Cover

WINNER

- $15,000 Travel Credit towards a once-in a lifetime Australian getaway, courtesy of Tourism Australia
- Inclusion as the cover photo of the 2026 summer edition of *Crikey! Magazine*
- $2,000 AUD Cash Prize
- A two night stay at the Crocodile Hunter Lodge in a Black Cockatoo or Red Kangaroo Cabin valued at *over $1,800* (conditions apply*).

HIGHLY COMMENDED

- $1,000 AUD Cash Prize and;
- A choice of Australia Zoo family (2 adults, 2 children) admission and giraffe encounter (over $300 in value) **OR** a signed Australia Zoo gift basket (over $300 in value).

OPEN CATEGORIES CONTINUED

The Natural World and Australia

WINNER

- $2,000 AUD Cash Prize
- A two night stay at the Crocodile Hunter Lodge in a Black Cockatoo or Red Kangaroo Cabin valued at *over $1,800* (conditions apply*).

HIGHLY COMMENDED

- $750 AUD Cash Prize and;
- A choice of Australia Zoo family (2 adults, 2 children) admission and giraffe encounter (over $300 in value) **OR** a signed Australia Zoo gift basket (over $300 in value).

YOUTH CATEGORIES

Crikey! Kids - Under 10, 11-14 and 15-17 Years

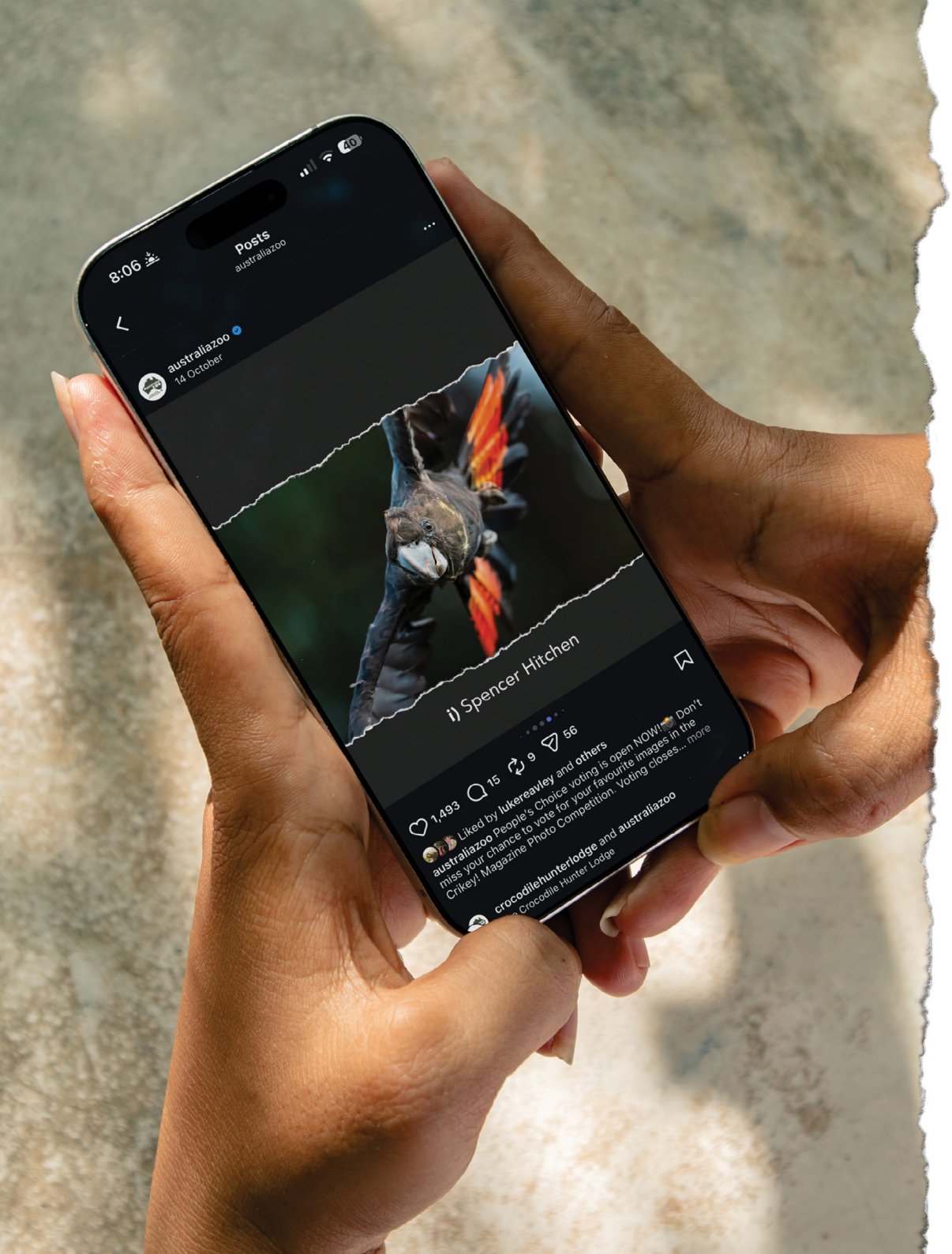
WINNER

- $1,000 AUD Cash Prize
- A two night stay at the Crocodile Hunter Lodge in a Black Cockatoo or Red Kangaroo Cabin valued at *over $1,800* (conditions apply*).

HIGHLY COMMENDED

- $500 AUD Cash Prize and;
- A choice of Australia Zoo family (2 adults, 2 children) admission and giraffe encounter (over $300 in value) **OR** a signed Australia Zoo gift basket (over $300 in value).





PUBLIC CHOSEN CATEGORY

People's Choice

WINNER

- $2,000 AUD Cash Prize
- A two night stay at the Crocodile Hunter Lodge in a Black Cockatoo or Red Kangaroo Cabin valued at over $1,800 (conditions apply*).

HIGHLY COMMENDED

- A choice of Australia Zoo family (2 adults, 2 children) admission and giraffe encounter (over $300 in value) **OR** a signed Australia Zoo gift basket (over $300 in value).

**The stays at The Crocodile Hunter Lodge are subject to availability and not redeemable for bookings over Christmas Day.*

$15,000 AUD Travel Credit prize is only valid for flights to or within Australia, Australian accommodation and/or Australian experiences.

Please read the Terms and Conditions for further information on prizing.



ENTRY AND FEES

CRIKEY! MAGAZINE COVER, THE NATURAL WORLD AND AUSTRALIA CATEGORIES

There is an AUD $10 entry fee for each individual category. Photographers are encouraged to enter multiple categories. While an image may not work for the cover of *Crikey! Magazine*, it may still be a great image for The Natural World or Australia category.

- *Each entry submitted can include up to 100 images.*
- *An entry fee applies to each category entered (AUD $10).*
- *Participants are welcome to submit multiple entries to each category, with each entry subject to the AUD $10 fee.*
- *An image will only be judged in the category it has been submitted.*

CRIKEY! KIDS CATEGORIES

It is free for participants to enter our youth categories. This includes our Crikey! Kids Under 10, 11-14 and 15-17 year categories.

Entrants must ensure they submit images to the relevant age category and be able to provide proof of age if shortlisted.

PEOPLE'S CHOICE

There is no fee for being chosen as a part of the shortlisting for the People's Choice category - these images will be selected by the judges, participants notified and voted on by the public.

For more information regarding participant entry to the Crikey! Magazine Photography Competition, download our full Terms and Conditions at:

australiazoo.com.au/photography-competition/

How Do I Enter?

Step 1: Take your most creative wildlife photo that matches the theme/requirements of the category you are entering.

Step 2: Read the Terms & Conditions and downloadable guide for the full overview of the Crikey! Magazine Photography Competition.

Step 3: The photograph must be in portrait format for the Crikey! Magazine Cover category, and consideration needs to be taken to allow for the 'Crikey!' masthead to be positioned over the top quarter of the winning photo.

Step 4: Successful photographs will be high resolution, JPG or TIF format and preferably a minimum of 300DPI. No borders, signatures or watermarks are allowed. Submissions not meeting these requirements, or without successful payment of the entry fee, will not proceed to judging.

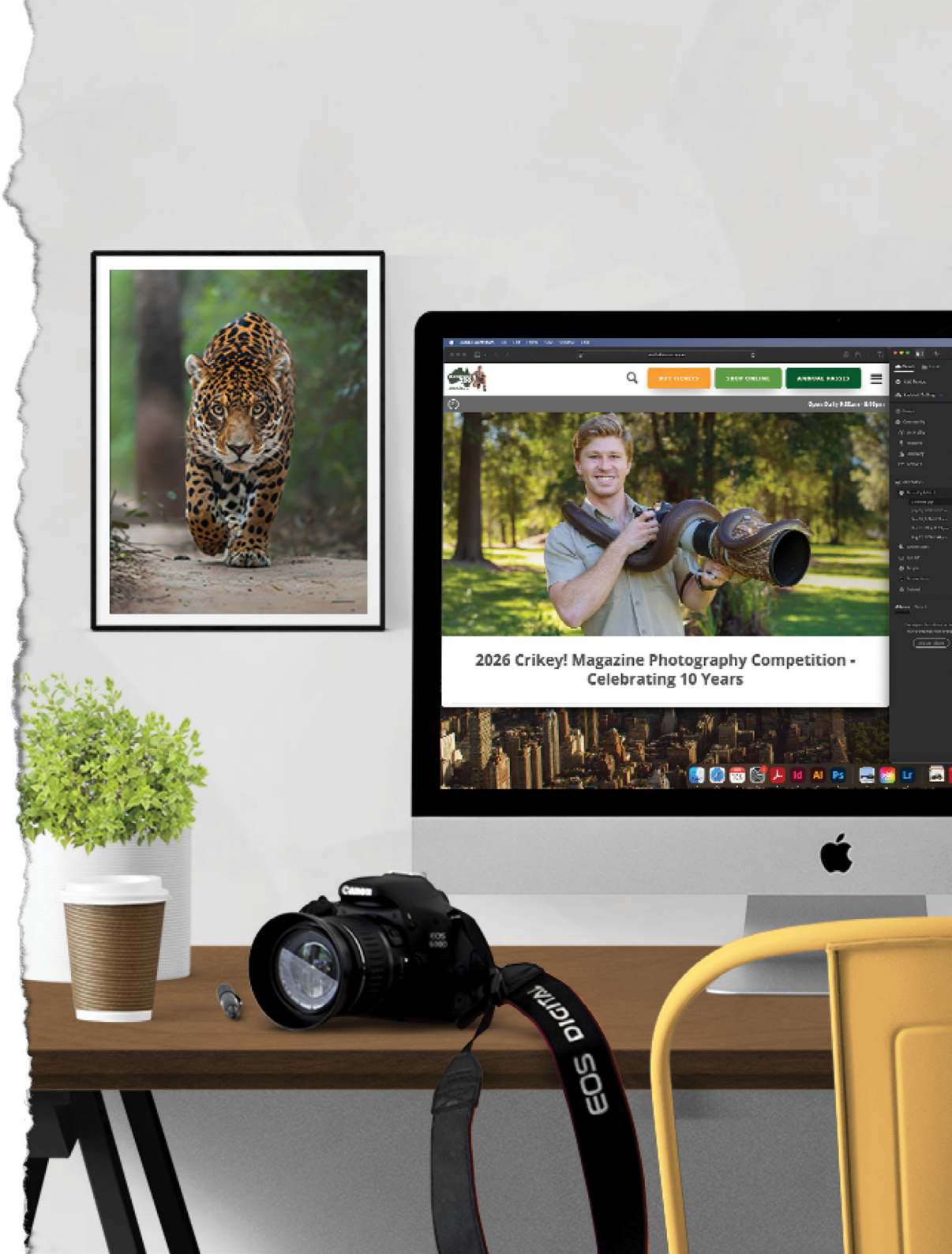
Step 5: Each photograph must be labelled with your name category, subject of the photo and, if required, a number for multiple images of the same subject. For example, an acceptable file name is:

JaneSmith_Crikey!Kids_Lion or JaneSmith_Crikey!Kids_Lion2

Step 6: A panel of judges, consisting of expert, award-winning photographers, will choose the winners for all categories except People's Choice. Tourism Australia will be involved in the judging process for the Australia category.

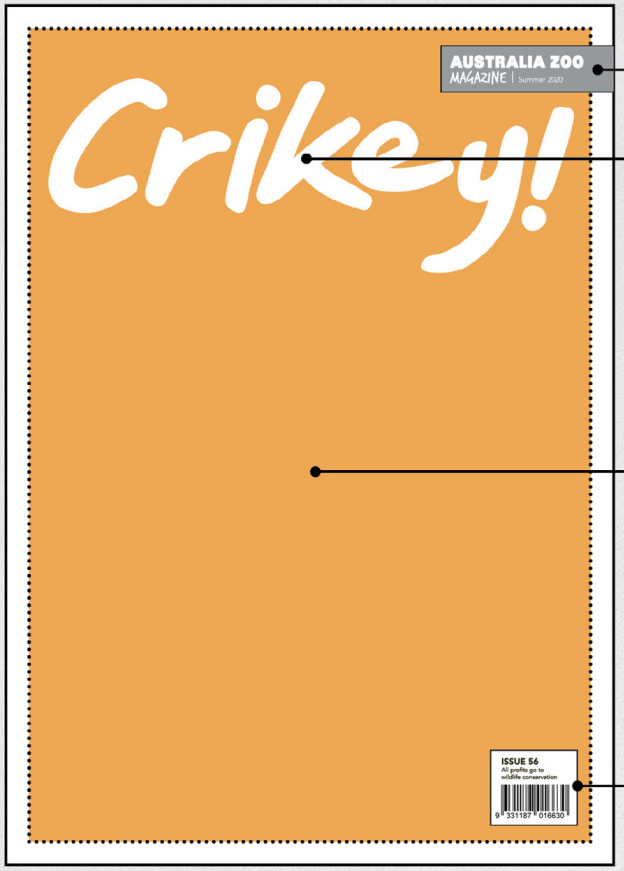
Step 7: Wait until 9th October 2026 to find out if you are one of our competition winners!

A $10 AUD entry fee applies for each category excluding Crikey! Kids. The entry fees cover competition administration to allow proceeds from Crikey! Magazine to continue to provide essential support to Wildlife Warriors and make an immediate impact in the world of wildlife conservation. Entry fees are non-refundable.



CRIKEY! MAGAZINE COVER OVERVIEW

A4 PAGE SIZE



The Crikey! Magazine edition tab is here.

Crikey! Magazine logo is placed here and covers the top quarter of the image.

This yellow area will be where the winning image will be placed.

This area of the image will be covered by a barcode/issue number.

ENTRY CONSIDERATIONS

CRIKEY! MAGAZINE COVER

When submitting your images to the Crikey! Magazine Cover category, it is important to keep in mind the following things:

- *The winning image will be chosen by it's visual aesthetics, subject matter and how well it fits the Crikey! Magazine's cover.*
- *Images submitted to this category* **MUST BE PORTRAIT** *in orientation.*
- *As demonstrated to the left, the winning image will be covered by the Crikey! Magazine logo and other standard visual elements, so be careful to ensure that the subject of your image won't be compromised or covered by these elements.*

CRIKEY! KIDS AND THE NATURAL WORLD

Unlike the Crikey! Cover category, images submitted to these two categories don't have as many considerations. Both landscape and portrait orientated photographs are welcome!

AUSTRALIA

Images submitted to this category should showcase Australian landscapes and wildlife, and can be either landscape or portrait orientated. Tourism Australia will assist with the judging for this category, and winning images will have additional exposure opportunities presented to them.

PEOPLE'S CHOICE

A selection of additional and memorable images will be shortlisted by the judges and Irwin family, after the winners have been announced for the other categories. The public will then help select the winner, highly commended and three finalists through online voting.

SHORTLIST/FINALIST REQUIREMENTS ON THE NEXT PAGE

SHORTLIST/FINALIST REQUIREMENTS

Shortlisted photographers will be contacted in September to provide the following information. This information will need to be supplied by the specified deadline in order to progress to the second judging round.

- *Image title*
- *Image description (75 words)*
- *Location image was taken*
- *Camera specifications*
- *Full resolution jpeg image, no watermarks, 300 DPI*

The winner of Crikey! Cover will also receive a request for additional content for the "Story Behind the Cover" article feature. Further details will be discussed directly with the winner.

The winners and finalists of the Australia category may receive requests for further details from Tourism Australia, for additional photograph feature opportunities through their channels.

DON'T WAIT... ENTER TODAY!

The Crikey! Magazine family cannot wait to see your entries this year! So, be sure to get outside and start snapping!

"In an era of global change, wildlife and habitats are declining at an unparalleled rate and it has never been more important to promote the protection of the natural world. Through the Crikey! Magazine Photography Competition, it is our mission to showcase the wild kingdom and inspire others to conserve it for future generations."

– Robert Irwin

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