

## Stories from the Sea – Photography Exhibition

1. Stories from the Sea is open to photographers from the Mid North Coast, NSW, Australia.
2. Images must have been captured within the last 12 months.
3. Previously submitted images to Stories from the Sea are ineligible for re-entry.
4. Entrants are permitted to submit multiple entries, however each entry must be submitted individually.
5. All elements of the submitted images must be photographed by the entrant, ensuring they are 100% photographic in origin. The use of stock images or clip art is prohibited.
6. Images created wholly or partly with the assistance of artificial intelligence, 3D rendering, or illustration processes are not admissible.
7. Employees of Gowings Bros Ltd (the competition organiser) are not permitted to enter the competition.
8. All pricing, including entry fees and prize money, is in Australian Dollars (AUD).
9. The theme for Stories from the Sea 2024 is the beauty, mystery, and significance of the ocean.
10. Images created wholly or partly with the assistance of artificial intelligence, 3D rendering, or illustration processes are not permitted.  
This is a photography competition; and therefore, any entered images must be entirely captured with a camera by the entrant. The competition organisers reserve the right to request original image files to verify the photographic integrity of a submitted entry. Failure to provide original image files may result in disqualification.
11. Images entered must be entirely photographic in origin. Permissible adjustments include cropping, noise reduction, sharpening, shadow/highlight adjustments, and contrast adjustments, including dodging and burning. Stitched panoramas, focus stacks, and HDR images are also allowed, where multiple exposures captured in the same location are merged into a single image. Competition organisers reserve the right to request original image to confirm entry compliance. Furthermore, they reserve the right to disqualify any image if they feel it lacks authenticity due to excessive manipulation.
12. Entrants retain copyright of their images. The entrant provides Stories from the Sea with limited-use authorisation to publish and distribute their photographs solely for the purpose of promoting Stories from the Sea. Images will be credited with the photographer's name if used by Stories from the Sea in any promotion.
13. The entrant must be the creator of all elements in their submitted images. Any post-production and editing must be the work of the entrant.
14. Image format: Initial Entries must be supplied in JPEG (.jpg) format.
15. Image file size: Individual images must not exceed 5MB.
16. Images must be free of watermarks or other branding, or they may be disqualified at the discretion of the competition organiser.
17. Entries open 9am (AEST) on Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2024.
18. Every submission requires a non-refundable entry fee of \$15, with 100% of the proceeds directed to the Gowings Whale Trust.
19. The deadline for entries is 11:59pm (AEST) on Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2024.  
Photographers will be informed of their finalist status by 4:00pm on Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> June 2024 via email.
20. All finalist photographs selected must be supplied framed or printed onto canvas and ready to be hung including D Rings at a maximum size of 40cm x 60cm (landscape or portrait) to the Gowings Head Office, Level 3, Gowings Coffs Central by no later than 4:00pm on Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> July 2024. Name of photographer and Title of Work must also be displayed on reverse side of print.
21. All finalist submissions will be displayed in a public exhibition and will go to public vote to determine the winner and runner up for the period of 13<sup>th</sup> July – 28<sup>th</sup> July 2024.

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22. Gowings Coffs Central will not be responsible for any loss or damage suffered to any work in its possession or under its control. Works will not be insured by Gowings Coffs Central.
23. Finalists will be determined by a panel of Gowings staff, located at 303/ 35-61 Harbour Drive, Coffs Harbour.
24. The finalist entries will go to public vote open for the duration of the exhibition period – 13<sup>th</sup> July – 28<sup>th</sup> July 2024.
25. In the event of a tie for first or second place, a panel of Gowings staff will determine the winners respectively.
26. Judges' decisions are final, and no further correspondence will be entertained.
27. Winners and Runner-Up will be contacted via email on Wednesday, 31<sup>st</sup> July 2024 and subsequently announced on Gowings Coffs Central social media.
28. Works must be collected by one's own means of transport from Gowings Coffs Central Head Office during the hours 9:00am–4:00pm between Monday 5th August 2024 and Thursday 8th August 2023 unless prior arrangements have been made.