

MEDIA RELEASE: WEDNESDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2023



THE WORLD'S BEST WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY COMING TO AUCKLAND MUSEUM IN DECEMBER

The world-renowned exhibition, on loan from the Natural History Museum in London, will open exclusively in Aotearoa New Zealand at Tāmaki Paenga Hira Auckland War Memorial Museum on Saturday 9 December 2023. Wildlife Photographer of the Year 59 will deliver exceptional images that capture fascinating animal behaviour, spectacular species and the breathtaking diversity of the natural world.

Using photography's unique emotive power to engage and inspire audiences, the images shine a light on stories and species around the world and encourage a future of advocating for the planet.

Auckland Museum Chief Executive David Reeves says the Wildlife Photographer of the Year 59 is a must see for anyone passionate about the natural world and its protection.

"It's a privilege to again offer the latest iteration of this world-class exhibition to Aucklanders. Wildlife Photographer of Year is not only an opportunity to see the world's best nature photography, but also allows us to examine and learn about our natural world and what we risk losing if we don't prioritise its protection," says Reeves.

Wildlife Photographer of the Year is the most prestigious photography event of its kind, providing a global platform that showcases some of the best photography talent from around the world for nearly 60 years. Launching in 1965, today the competition receives entries from 95 countries all over the world, highlighting its enduring appeal. This year's award-winning images will embark on an international tour that will allow them to be seen by well over a million people. It is the fifth time the hugely popular annual exhibition has been on show at Auckland Museum.

This year's competition attracted an astounding 49,957 entries from photographers of all ages and experience levels. During an intense week at the Natural History Museum in London, entries were judged anonymously on their creativity, originality, and technical excellence by an international panel of industry experts.

The winning images, including the prestigious Grand Title Award winners, will be announced on 10 October 2023.

Dr Doug Gurr, Director of the Natural History Museum says, 'We are facing urgent biodiversity and climate crises, and photography is a powerful catalyst for change. The Wildlife Photographer of the Year exhibition reveals some of nature's most wondrous sights whilst offering hope and achievable actions visitors can take to help protect the natural world.'

The exhibition at Auckland Museum is a chance to view these stunning photographs, beautifully illuminated, up close and in person from Saturday 9 December 2023. Tickets are on sale from 28 November at aucklandmuseum.com.

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[IMAGES AVAILABLE HERE](#)

For image or interview requests contact:

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[WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 59](#)

OPENS SAT 9 DEC 2023 – FEB 2024

AUAHA ATEA NUI SPECIAL EXHIBITION HALL

ADULTS \$9, CHILDREN (0-15) FREE

CONCESSIONS (STUDENTS & SENIORS) \$8

FREE FOR MUSEUM MEMBERS

TICKETS ON SALE FROM 28 NOVEMBER.

[ABOUT AUCKLAND WAR MEMORIAL MUSEUM](#)

Auckland War Memorial Museum is one of New Zealand's first museums. The Museum tells the story of New Zealand, its place in the Pacific and its people. The Museum is a war memorial for the province of Auckland and holds one of New Zealand's top three heritage libraries.

It has pre-eminent Māori and Pacific collections, significant natural history resources and major social and military history collections, as well as decorative arts and pictorial collections.

ABOUT WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

- The Natural History Museum's acclaimed Wildlife Photographer of the Year competition and exhibition ignites curiosity about the natural world by showcasing Earth's extraordinary diversity and highlighting the fragility of wildlife on our planet. Using the unique emotive power of photography, the competition inspires people to think differently about their relationship with nature and become advocates for the planet:

www.nhm.ac.uk/visit/exhibitions/wildlife-photographer-of-the-year.html

- Wildlife Photographer of the Year was founded in 1965 by BBC Wildlife Magazine, then called Animals. The Natural History Museum joined forces in 1984 to create the competition as it is known today. The competition is now solely run and owned by the Natural History Museum.
- Open to photographers of all ages and abilities, the competition opens for entries every October. The 2024 competition opens on 16 October 2023.

ABOUT THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

The Natural History Museum is a world-leading science centre and one of the most visited attractions in the UK. A global source of curiosity, inspiration and joy. Our vision is to build a future in which both people and the planet thrive. We aim to be a catalyst for change, engaging advocates for the planet in everything that we do. Our 350 scientists are finding solutions to the planetary emergency in all aspects of life. Visit, join and support the Natural History Museum today. Protecting the planet. It's in our nature.