

# CAPE CAMERA

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January/February 2018

Official Newsletter

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**CAPE TOWN PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY**



## CAPE CAMERA

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## On the cover

This award-winning image was taken by Jean Bradshaw at Arniston in June last year. "It is one of my favourite places for seascapes," explains Jean, "because the coastline there is so varied and photogenic. The winter months often produce wonderful colours in the sky at sunrise and sunset which are reflected in the sea and the intertidal zone. Before this particular visit, I spent the previous evening in the exact same location and did not even get near the rock pools in the image as the tide was too low and there was little to draw my attention to them. The next evening, the tide was just right and I managed to get to a suitable spot on the rocks where the wave movement was over the pools (and not my camera!). I managed to get the eddies in the pools with the glorious light over the sea. A week later, when I returned at sunset to the same spot I found these rock pools completely under water!"

"Because I love this evening sea/water photography, I start shortly after sunset and use a shutter speed which gives me a slow movement in the sea. As the light fades, shutter speed decreases and as a result the images show a flat and milky sea. Of course, any cloud cover is advantageous! I generally stay in the same spot until it is almost dark, getting softer and softer images as the light fades. I always get my feet wet as the tide rises and forces me to move!"

"This particular image was taken shortly after sunset, using a Canon 5D Mark 111, 16 to 35mm lens at 16mm, f16, ISO 100 and a shutter speed of 2 sec. No filter was used as I wanted to catch the little bit of sea movement in the rock pools," concludes Jean.

# Themes for 2018

Month	Set Subject	Competition Date	Entry date
January	From the top	17 January	10 January
February	Churches and cathedrals	7 February	31 January
March	Human portraits	7 March	28 February
April	Macro photography	4 April	28 March
May	Low key photography	2 May	25 April
June	Panoramas	6 June	30 May
July	Dramatic skies	4 July	27 June
August	Sports photography	1 August	25 July
September	Curves of the human form	5 September	29 August
October	Graphic design	3 October	26 September
November	Monochrome	7 November	31 October
December	Altered reality	5 December	28 November

## Outing schedule for 2018

Sunday 18th March	To be confirmed
Weekend 20/22 April	Weekend in Hermanus
Sat 19th May	Late afternoon on Llandudno beach
Sun 17th June	Groot Constantia vineyards and a cellar tour
Sun 22nd July	Milnerton beach/lagoon/lighthouse/bridge – early morning or late afternoon?
Sun 2nd Sept	Philadelphia and surrounding canola fields
Sun 7th Oct	Green Point Park, the Stadium area
Sun 4th Nov	The Cathedral/ The Gardens/ Centre of the Book/ Art gallery and museum
December (TBC)	BoKaap walk about

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# News from the council

On behalf of the Council may I wish you a happy 2018, with much progress on your photographic journey towards your next level of enjoyment and proficiency. Our Society continues to attract new members, which is the lifeblood of any organization. We are currently at about 150 members, with new people joining monthly, some of whom are highly accomplished photographers, indicating a healthy state of affairs for our Society. There are 12 photographic clubs in the Cape area and we are by far the largest. But size is not what matters. It is how active we are and how happy we are. Council is currently managing to deal with over 100 entries for each competition evening, but is aware that we are at the limit for a three-hour meeting. On the other hand, we are encouraging all of our members who do not regularly submit images for judging, to do so, as that is the way to grow. Council will be looking at ways to limit the time taken for our long competition evenings.

Carrying on with my theme of letting our members know what the various Council members do throughout the year, I would like to talk about our vice President and Treasurer, Nicol du Toit this month. I first became aware of Nicol at an AGM a few years back when, as a fairly new member, he questioned the treasurer's report. We were moving into an increasing income scenario with the rental of our building beginning to pay dividends, and the monetary position of the society was beginning to become complicated, and income tax was looming. Quite frankly, our monetary affairs were in chaos. An unknown Nicol volunteered for the Treasurer position the next day and CTPS has not been the same since! Everything is neatly tied up in statements, constitutions, bosberaads, council minutes, standard procedures and investment committees. Nicol steered us through the selling of our building and the head-

aches of rental collection, income tax assessments, capital gains, investments of our money and even our own auditors. Nicol has made CTPS the success it is today.

Nicol took over as President of CTPS two and a half years ago from a long-serving Detlef Basel. How his publishing business survived given all the time he and Trudi gave willingly to our Society is a marvel, as it was the time of the 125 year celebration with all the functions, exhibition and salon that went with it. During this time Nicol never neglected his own photographic interests, attending and qualifying for the JAP course, entering many Salons and qualifying as a Salon member at CTPS, whilst attending every outing that we held.

Nicol has now accepted the position of the Western Cape Regional Director of the PSSA and in his own style has instituted a Western Cape Photographers Forum to bring together all the clubs in our region to assist in all matters of common interest (see his report below). Once more, a constitution is being implemented and a website created that forms the basis of a newsletter to all clubs. None of his regional work will take from his continued input to CTPS as Treasurer and vice President. It amazes me how he thinks ahead with respect to our finances, our forms, our running of AGM's, Salons, whilst also dealing with countless emails, new members and organizing our monthly judges. Many thanks Nicol!

A busy programme of events, talks, training courses and outings is planned for 2018, and I encourage members to involve themselves as much as possible.



Happy shooting!  
**Richard Goldschmidt**  
President

## *Formation of the Western Cape Photographic Forum*

Towards the end of last year, photographic clubs in the Western Cape decided to form the Western Cape Photographic Forum. It provides a platform where all the clubs in the region can voice their needs and problems and share successful projects, as well as help to improve communication between the individual photographic clubs in the Western Cape.

The Forum meets every three months and the most recent one took place at the end of January. Several innovative ideas and programmes have been suggested and/or implemented. The chairperson of the Forum, Nicol du Toit, reports as follows:

A list of Western Cape judges who have judging experience or are JAP-accredited judges, have been compiled by Christo la Grange of Tygerberg Photographic Society to assist clubs who often battle to find judges for their monthly competition.

The Forum will host its first salon in September 2018 with Francois du Bois from Tygerberg Photographic Society as salon director. A specific date will be communicated. As it is hosted by the whole of the Western Cape region, "it should be unique with high prestige value", says Francois.

The JAP (Judging Appreciation Programme) has already started at the beginning of February and will run over the next two years.

Additional plans include:

- To host a photographic exhibition/auction with the title 'Night of 1000 Images' where prints are to be donated by photographers in the region and auctioned off – with proceeds to be donated to a local charity.
- Alicia Greyling to liaise with experienced AV makers from CTPS and Helderberg and co-ordinate an AV workshop for photographers in the region who are interested in learning more about AV making.
- Alicia Greyling and Antenie Carstens are formulating rules that will standardise the judging of the annual Interclub Competition. It will, however, be up to the individual hosting club to present an evening to remember during the prize giving and announcement of winners. This year, Tafelberg Fotografiekлуб will entertain us with unique touches as the hosts of the awards evening.

The Forum is an umbrella body for club photographers in the region, and all Western Cape clubs are invited to send representatives to the Forum's quarterly meetings.

We encourage everyone to come up with ideas, suggestions and sharing of information that will benefit all photographers, and photography in general, in the region. These can be sent through your club representative at the Forum or directly to me – nicol@sportstrader.co.za

# IN THE NEWS

## 2018 Interclub competition

Entries are now open for the 2018 annual competition. This year members are able to enter up to two images in each of 8 categories making a total of 16 possible entries. It is not necessary to enter all categories. Any image, regardless of when it was taken, is eligible. It need not have been entered in a monthly competition. The only restriction is that no image may be used that has been entered in a CTPS annual competition before.

The categories are:

- Open
- Open monochrome
- Nature including wildlife
- Photojournalism
- Art photography
- Portraiture
- Scapes and
- Macro

A winner and two runners up will be declared in each category and the overall winner will be the photographer earning the highest number of points. The points will be allocated as follow:

- Winner - 3 points
- 2nd place - 2 points and
- 3rd place - 1 point.

The winner of each category will receive a silver medal and the overall winner will receive a Gold medal. Certificates will be awarded to 2nd and 3rd places.

Images must be entered using the Photovaultonline upload portal. Images should be sized as for monthly competitions, i.e. 1920 x 1080 pixels, and a maximum of 2 Mbyte.

**Entries are open and close on the 21st October 2018.** The winners will be announced at the annual awards dinner at the end of the year.

## What's on in Cape Town

**Nature's Best Photography Africa** is still on at the Iziko Museum until the 4th of march. The exquisite photographic exhibition consists of 75 winning images from photographers across the globe.

**A Quiet Place - An exhibition by Nicole Clare Fraser** Thursday 8 March 2018 18:00 - 20:00 at the ORMS Cape Town Schools of Photography. Entrance is free but booking is essential. For more information go to [www.ctps.co.za](http://www.ctps.co.za).

## 2018 Cape Photographers & PSSA National AV Congress

*18th March to 22nd March 2018 in Prince Albert*

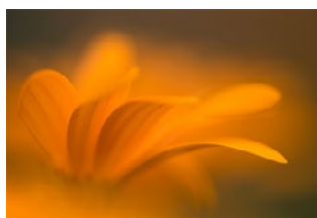
This popular photographic event will again take place at the Showroom Theatre and will once again host a 3-in-1 event consisting of: The 20th Annual Cape Photographers Congress; the 11th biennial PSSA Audio Visual Convention and the 3rd biennial PECC International Audio Visual Festival. It will feature a host of well-known speakers, such as Martin Barber, Salvio Meyer, Willem Dafue, Willem Oets and more.

There is still time to register (although you would have missed the 'Early Bird' advantages). For more information and updates go to the PSSA website or make congress enquiries to Paul Rixom at [prixom@webmail.co.za](mailto:prixom@webmail.co.za) or Roel at [capephoto2@gmail.com](mailto:capephoto2@gmail.com).

## National & International Salon Results

Congratulations to our members who regularly entered their images in a range of salons. They do us proud with their very impressive results! We would like to encourage all our members, no matter what their grading, to start entering salons and thereby gain valuable experience and knowledge.

## Pietersburg Digital Salon 2017



*Jeanette du Toit*



*Chris Coetzee*

Both Chris Coetzee and Jeanette du Toit walked away with top awards: Jeanette won the PSSA Silver medal for her image 'Reaching Out'; and Chris achieved a Certificate of Merit for his 'Shipwrecked', as well as three acceptances.

## 4th Boksburg National Digital Salon 2017

In this particular salon Jeanette du Toit achieved five acceptances; Karyn Parisi four & Nicol du Toit two.



## 4th PSSA International Salon of Photography 2018

This salon attracted a massive 3 876 entries from all over the world, with South Africa being the largest single contributor with 2768 entries, and winning 585 acceptances, medals or Merit awards. CTPS could record 21 winning images. Our star performer was Kim Stevens who received the FIAP Gold Medal - Best Overall Image with her image 'Fever', plus a PSA Gold Medal – Best Urban Street Image with her 'Lone man', and an additional six acceptances.

Anna Engelhardt got a PSSA Certificate of Merit for her image 'For the love of music' and four acceptances. Jeanette du Toit got also a PSSA Certificate of Merit for her image 'New born Elli' and an acceptance.

Margaret Collins, Nicol du Toit and Chris Coetzee received two acceptances each



*Fever & Lone man by Kim Stevens*



*New born Elli by Jeanette du Toit*



*For the love of music by Anna Engelhardt*

## 5th Centurion Digital Salon 2017

Quite a large number of CTPS members had entered this particularly Salon, most successful was the Parolis husband and wife team with Lambe winning a Certificate of Merit for his 'Partial Reflection in semifrozen Bow Lake' and three acceptances; and Lesley also receiving a Certificate of Merit for her 'Maligne Lake in the Canadian Rockies' and two acceptances. In addition, Chris Coetzee received six acceptances, Nicol du Toit four, and Jaenette du Toit and Karyn Parisi two each.



*Partial Reflection in semifrozen Bow Lake by Lambe Parolis*



*Maligne Lake in the Canadian Rockies by Lesley Parolis*

## Apology

Our sincere apologies for giving the incorrect AV winners of the Annual Western Cape Interclub Competition that took place on the 3rd November last year – as reported in the November/December issue of Cape Camera. The correct winners were: 1st place Len van Wyk for *The last Drop*; 2nd place Jenny Powis for *Birth of the Tumbleweed* and 3rd place Margaret Collins for *Impressions of Summer*.



# Latest E&D NEWS

## *First evening of the year – a unique triple bill*

### **Kgalagadi Leopard Project**

by Dr Matthew Schurch



On 21st February, the first E & D evening of the year, Matthew enlightened members about the use of collaborative photography in identifying leopard and cheetah in the Kgalagadi. He is a scientific expert with a passion for wildlife. In 2009, he came to UCT from the UK to do a post doctorate in astronomy. However, after a serendipitous encounter with a leopard on his first trip to the Kgalagadi, his love for scientific endeavour lead him to start the Kgalagadi

Leopard Project followed by the Kgalagadi cheetah project.

The projects, aided by photos submitted by visitors of the park to the Facebook page, track leopard and cheetah behaviour throughout their lives - from birth, reproduction and territorial migration to death. The named individual animals are recognized through spot patterns logged and saved in the central data base. Matthew's fascinating talk was followed by a stimulating Q&A from the appreciative audience.

The guides to identifying the leopard and cheetah can be downloaded [here](#).

### **CTPS West Coast Outing**

by Len van Wyk

To round off a most successful E & D evening in the main hall, Len presented his AV on this much enjoyed weekend outing, which was received with great acclaim.

### **A drive through the Kgalagadi**

by Pat Scott

After tea Pat gave an intimate photographic presentation, using her own photographs, that reflected her deep love for this region and its wildlife. With her talk, she was able to showcase the natural wonders of this gem of a game park. It included images depicting the harshness of survival, large and small raptors, and mother and child interactions.



### **Lightroom teaching Session**

by Basil Parker

In the other smaller hall, Basil Parker expertly presented the first of his editing workshops on Lightroom in an accessible way.

This will be followed by a session on Photoshop over the next two months. The date will be communicated.

## **Forthcoming E & D events**

### **Wednesday, 18th April**

This meeting will be a double bill, taking place in the two available rooms at the church hall.

In the large one Eugene van der Merwe will be talking about choosing your best images; as well as evaluating images that have been submitted.

Basil Parker will use the smaller room to present an editing lesson this time using Photoshop.

### **Wednesday, 16th May**

Kirsten Frost of Oryx Worldwide Photographic Expeditions will speak about his photographic journeys thus far, concentrating on cultural travel photography which includes images of the tribes of the Omo valley in Ethiopia.





## New Members' Profiles

*As we have mentioned before, the health of any photographic club or association can be assessed by the number of new members that join it on a regular basis. During 2017 alone, we could welcome 36, and if the five newcomers during the very first weeks of January are any indication of what 2018 will look like, then this certainly serves as a strong confirmation that we are doing things right for our members.*

*Please note that the numbers of new member profiles we publish every month in our Cape Camera are not a true reflection of how many have actually joined CTPS, as we can only highlight those that were willing to be interviewed and included in this regular feature.*

### Peter Turnbull



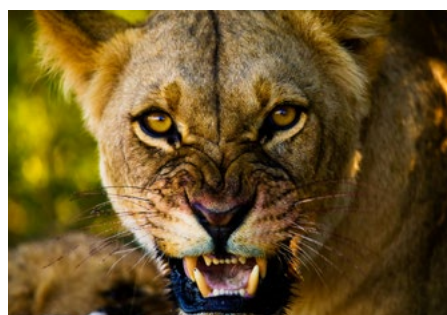
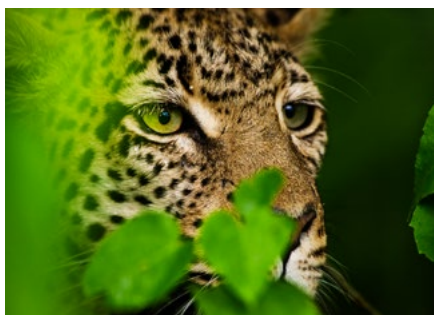
Peter first got involved in photography during his high school years when he joined the school's photographic society with a special interest in motor racing, and processing and printing in black & white. Of all the different genres, however, his passion today is wild life photography.

He currently has a Canon 1Dx Mk I, a Canon 5D Mk III and a range of suitable lenses for wildlife and general photography. When asked what was his most memorable experience in the field of photography, he said that all of them have been wonderful and rewarding but perhaps he learned the most from a few workshops with the much admired wildlife photog-

rapher Manus van Dyk.

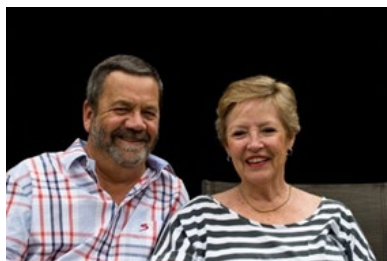
"I joined CTPS because I feel the need to find out if I am progressing, photographically speaking. Perhaps the opinions of fellow photographers can assist in this quest. I also draw inspiration from the work of others.

"My image (below left) of the lion was taken some time ago, when I still considered digital inferior to film (I have since changed my mind). It is from a slide, which I scanned at home on a Nikon 35mm film scanner. The image of the leopard was also taken a long time ago with a Canon 20D. Image quality has improved a lot since then as the image on the right will show. All three images portray the sense of drama that I feel wildlife photography offers," explains Peter.



Photographs by Peter Turnbull

### Dave & Barbara Gordon



"Barbara and I live part-time in Edenvale (Gauteng) where we are members of the Edenvale Photo Club. To get away from Johannesburg, we also spent time in Nelspruit enjoying our time there and at the Nelspruit Photo-

graphic Society. We recently sold our Nelspruit house and replaced it with a home in Langebaan. Yes I know that is quite a distance from Cape Town but we have family in Melkbosstrand

where we have an 'allotted bedroom' and granddaughter so we have the perfect excuse to come to Cape Town regularly.

"I am probably the 'serious' photographer while Barbara is, as I call her when I'm feeling brave, my 'tripod carrier'. Jokes aside, while Barbara does give me tremendous support she enjoys viewing club photographs and going on photo trips and outings. Barbara does use a camera but almost exclusively for her own enjoyment. We both enjoy meeting like-minded people. "Following a many years of long 'dry periods' and having been a 'boy with a camera', I began taking photographs as a birder to help identify bird species. Before long, I was enjoying photography more than birding (NB: I still love birds) and invested in some Canon equipment that has been upgraded over the



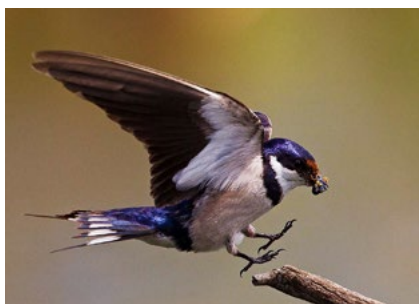
years, but I'm still a committed Canon man.

"I enjoy almost all genres of photography - particularly nature and landscape, but I dislike intensely being asked to take photographs at weddings and christenings!

"The single photograph that I remember most was my very first ever shot. As an eight year old I saw a circus elephant being exercised. I took the animal's photograph with my Kodak Brownie Box camera that I proudly owned, on a 620 black & white film; I then cycled to the chemist to have it developed. Other than that first picture, my memorable experiences are

not of one event or image but of ongoing travel and experiences that non-photographers seldom see. Barbara and I have been to some stunning (sub-Saharan) places and met many wonderful people - all in the pursuit of the perfect photograph!

"Barbara and I are sure that our membership of the Cape Town Photographic Society will allow us to continue on that journey. We hope that we can share our enthusiasm and experience with other members and to also learn from them as I have much room for improvement," concludes Dave.



*Photographs by Dave Gordon*

## Ashleigh Olsen

"I only got into photography last year after I had taken some pictures of my little sister on my phone and my parents liked how I could capture her emotions. That's when I decided to get a 'proper' camera, and so my love of photography began.

"I really enjoy portrait photography and also nature. I love how I can capture people's emotions and display them through a simple picture; and nature is just so utterly beautiful it's hard not to love and capture it.

"My most memorable photographic experience so far has to be being the photographer at my cousin's Confirmation. It gave me a chance to experience how it feels to be an actual photographer. I had to do things I normally wouldn't do, like getting out of my shell and talking to people so I could get a particular shot.

"Right now all I have is my Canon EOS 7D, together with two lenses a Canon EF lens 50mm and a Canon Zoom Lens 55-250mm. I'm trying to buy my own equipment rather than to rely on my mom and dad to buy it for me.

"I am hoping to learn more about how to take better pictures through the criticism I get on my picture at the competition evenings by a judge, explaining what I should and shouldn't have done. I am also keen on going to the lectures and courses.



*Photographs by Ashleigh Olsen*

es. Looking at all my fellow photographers' work only inspires me to reach their level and it will make me work harder and try to improve my work. They are all so talented and I'm so happy to know that if I need help I can always ask them."

## Phillip Green



Phillip bought his first film camera in 1983, while working in Namaqualand. Today, he uses Canon DSLR cameras with a range of lenses - from prime, zoom, wide angle to macro. "I have had a lifelong passion for wildlife, nature and all

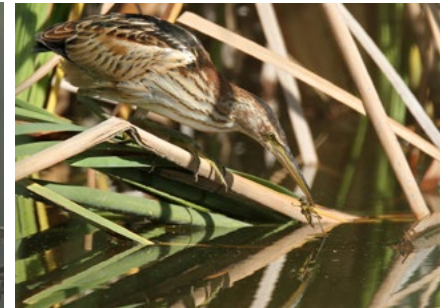
things beautiful. Photography has been my tool for recording special moments and to assist my passion for art (painting), focusing more on wildlife and landscapes, although I have done several weddings and the odd sport event for friends.

"My preference, probably more to do with ignorance and time constraints, has been to capture in camera as best as possible, with minimal post processing required. I still feel I have so much to learn, with my focus having been on capturing the moment rather than spending time on being creative. I still feel like a beginner when I look at the standard of work around today, hopefully I can learn much from fellow members," explains Peter when asked what he expects to gain from becoming a member of CTPS.

"The image of a Little Bittern (below right) was my first published image and has an interesting story to it: It was one of a series of photos I took while trying out a new lens at Rondevlei in 2010. In 2013, a well-known ornithologist and author, Peter Steyn, was browsing through some of my bird photographs

and became very excited when I explained what the little bird was doing. It turned out that a Little Bittern that is using a bait fishing technique, has never been documented before, and is only the second member of the Ardeidae species recorded to be using it."

*Photographs by Phillip Green*



## Cathy Bell



"Like many other photographers, my first camera was a Kodak Box Brownie which was used with enthusiasm but left to gather dust after a few years. Many years later and when I picked up a camera again, the digital age had arrived and I was hooked again. A short course at the

Orms School of Photography grounded me in the basics, and getting to know my camera and lens capabilities made me think differently about it all.

"Initially, I was very much into taking pictures of people, but after I was given a macro lens that is when the real learning began. A friend asked me to join a photographic club, as there were some excellent macro photographers in the group. The generosity and sharing of knowledge in the group was such a gift to a budding photographer. Through these very special people I was able to take their wisdoms and gentle criticisms to heart. Each aspect of my photography was looked at with great interest, allowing me to grow with an ease of mind and joy of heart. The willingness to share their time and great knowledge helped me step into other genres.

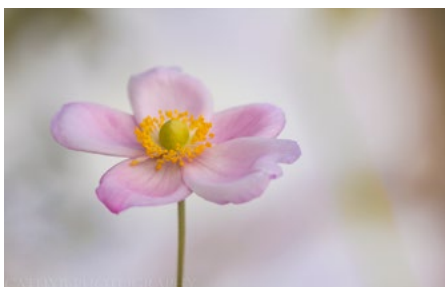
"Landscape was still the genre in which I had the most difficulty. I just couldn't see the patterns in the shape of the rocks, trees and the movement of the waves. I signed up for a landscape course, run by Martin Osner, and I couldn't have asked for a more inspiring experience. All of us came away with a

wealth of knowledge we could use to enhance our photographic enjoyment. The landscape began to speak to me and I began to see the patterns and the flow that would make a picture work. I finally understood the importance of foreground interest, light balance and what holds the eye's interest in a picture. I also came away with an understanding of Lightroom, Bridge and a smattering of Photoshop.

"The next important learning curve was when I attended a Wild Shots Symposium and listened to a talk by Hougaard Malan. His theory of returning to a place time and time again and seeking to simplify the photo to its essence was a light bulb moment for me. He was not afraid to wait for the right weather conditions, the right light, the right tide changes and the ability to walk away when it wasn't perfect.

"After attending one of Hougaard's courses I was able to scan through my large portfolio and thin it out significantly. My eyes began to seek simplicity. I no longer tried to fill my photos, and anything that didn't apply to the rule of thirds was deleted. Looking at my photos from this perspective calmed my frenetic search and landscape photography began to be a real enjoyment for me. I began to slow everything down, taking my time in setting up and really looking to find the ideal spot."

"I now thought about the shot before I took it, visualizing where the shadows were going to fall, what the light was really doing, how the waves would create the movement in the shot. I found that waiting for the perfect moment to emerge was much more satisfying than the hurried activity I had been used to," concludes Cathy.



*Photographs by Cathy Bell*



## Graeme Walker



Photographs by Graeme Walker

"I started taking photographs way back when I was in matric (I'm not giving the year though) and have been shooting for a number of years. My first camera was a Yashica FX-7, which I got for my 21st birthday. I used this for a number of years until I bought a 2nd hand Pentax KR. This camera was finally replaced in 2004 with my first DSLR - a Canon 400D, which was a good camera to start out with.

"Before the PSSA national congress at Langebaan in 2012, I decided to move on to a more advanced camera body so I went with the Canon 50D. I used that until last year when I bought my Canon 7D MK II - a really stunning body. I have various lenses ranging from a Canon 17-40mm to a Canon 100 - 400mm.

"I only became really serious about photography when I joined the Fish Hoek Photographic Society in 2008. There I spent many happy years and learnt a great deal. I'm pretty much of an all-rounder at the moment as I am still finding my feet photographically. My favourites are landscape and motor sport.

"A bit of a turning point in my photography happened last year after attending the congress at Hogback and having been exposed to portrait photography there with a great bunch of local models from the town and a group of very passionate photographers, led by Hein Waschefort. I am now trying out some of this newly-found knowledge, but a whole lot of learning is still required.

"I decided to join CTPS because it offers more resources i.e. training and outings with feedback on photographs taken during both. I would also like to regain my photo mojo as it is lacking at the moment and at the same time hope to hone my skills by learning from partaking in the monthly competitions.

My aim is to become more specialised in a certain genre of photography by joining some of the special interest groups in the near future," explains Graeme when asked what made him decide to join our association.

In addition to the new members featured above, the following photographers have also joined our Association since the previous edition of Cape Camera: Suzanne Hayano, Nicholas Moschides, Andrea Hopkins, Clare Cole, Prem Moodley, Marion Jackson and Dirkie Heydenrych.

## National & International Salon entries

### *When is manipulation allowed & when not?*

#### Open category

There are no restrictions whatsoever in the way authors can manipulate their images in post-processing, such as

- Cropping
- Correction of lens distortion, chromatic aberrations, purple fringing, lens vignette and vertical/horizontal perspective adjustments;
- Removal of dust spots or scratch marks from sensor or scanned images;
- The blending of different exposures of the same scene to broaden the dynamic range e.g. High Dynamic Range (HDR);
- Photo stacking to overcome the limitations of the digital sensor heat artefacts in long exposures.
- Focus stacking to widen the depth of field especially in Macro photography. In the case of Nature and Wildlife, HDR and focus stacking will not be considered as manipulation and may be used provided that the end result is a faithful representation of the original scene.

#### Nature and Photojournalism category

There are no manipulations allowed, and this includes any or all of the following modifications to the original image:

- Adding an element to the image that was not contained in the original capture;
- Removing an element from the image that was contained in the original capture;
- Moving or repositioning an element of the image that was contained in the original capture.

#### Photojournalism and Street Photography category

All the above as well as no HDR and Focus stacking are allowed.

For more detailed information, covering the individual categories, visit the [PSSA website](http://www.pssa.co.za).

## A member's Profile

# Jeanette du Toit - aiming for perfection



An unwavering determination to succeed has driven Jeanette du Toit throughout her life – whether studying dress design full-time at the age of 29 – after many years of dreaming about getting a degree; partaking very successfully in competitive sports activities; or taking on challenging business ventures into industrial land sales and purchases that turned out well. She used the same approach when she took up photography

in 1997 and after only two years of entering competitions and salons, became an Associate Member of PSSA – no mean feat. The multitude of awards and honours she has accumulated during her 20 years of excelling in photography are staggering. The above APSSA award – in both Nature Slides and Prints – was followed not long afterwards with a Fellowship (FPSSA) in Nature Slides. After the introduction of digital photography, she also attained an APSSA in the same category and in Visual Art, which finally led to a VERS Honour award.



Jeanette grew up on a farm in Namibia, only a few kilometres away from the border of the famous Etosha Game Reserve, where she came into close contact with some tame antelopes and even some lion cubs, before being sent off to boarding school. After leaving school and without being given the study opportunity by her strict father (who did not believe in the advancement of women), she worked in several positions but was never really satisfied until she had saved enough money to study and get her degree in dress design. At the age of 31,



she had qualified which led to an employment in this field and that included extensive travels in Europe and North America for the next 10 years – until finally she was able to open her own successful boutique in Cape Town.

Her first encounter with photography was after she had to endure a personal tragedy that made her realise that there should be more to life than hard work and financial success.

"I started taking photographs every weekend to record my memories and places. As my interest increased, so did my collection of photographic equipment although I didn't really know how to use it properly and was envious when I heard people talking about aperture priority, f-stops, slow shutter speed, depth of field etc. This bucked me and in 1997, I enrolled for a two months photographic course at the Technikon, and shortly afterwards I joined the CTPS where I met my mentor Roy Johannesson, to whom I owe so much of what I am today as a photographer.

"Roy had joined the society in 1951, was elected to Council in 1955 and served as President from 1969 to 1970 – he was also selected to the position of President of PSSA in 1975/76. It always gave him great pleasure to share his extensive knowledge about photography with others. He did this in the form of exhibitions, photo schools and workshops as well as through his written articles. However, for me he was so much more than that, he became my very special and much admired friend.

"I could call on him at his home and go through the work I had done, say over a weekend or after a trip. He was incredibly tough on me and often more than half the slides I had brought along (it was still the time of film) would land in his wastepaper basket, after having first given me his critique and pointing out my mistakes.



The phrase I remember most about him was: 'You can do better!' He constantly pushed me to the limit, and was responsible that I got my PSSA Associationship and Fellowship. When he passed away on 20th May 2002, aged 76, I stopped photographing for nearly four years," reveals Jeanette with noticeable sadness.

Fortunately Jeanette took up her camera again and has continued to delight and inspire her fellow CTPS members at the monthly competition evenings with her extraordinary talent – not only by being awarded the top marks, but also with her winning countless Acceptances and Merit Awards in national and international salon and with such regularity that is just astounding. We wish her the same success for the next 20 years and look forward to being motivated and challenged by her creativity.



# Latest AV NEWS

– a thrilling start to the New Year



(from left) Clare Cole; Detlef Basel, Narda Rubens, Mike de Villiers, Alida Rubens, Arthur Fitt, Sue and Steve Doherty, Marion Johnston, Pat Hutchinson, Robert Maginley, Elmara Willis, Prem Moodley, Nellian Bekker, Ingrid Gane, Margaret Collins, Joy Wellbeloved, Len van Wyk, David Gray, Glynnis Schutte, Hannelore Seifart, Jenny Powis, Heiner Seifart and Robert Gossel. (Photograph by Johann Greeff)

Some 25 members of the AV group attended the first meeting of the year, which was a most stimulating and motivating event, and not only because of the guest presenter, Ingrid Gane, who was a leading light in the CTPS AV Section before she emigrated to Australia, but also because it served as a confirmation of the health of this long-standing group of dedicated CTPS members who have shared their love for this integral field of photography for so many years, with many successes in competitions and salons to their name.

"Those who knew Ingrid as a natural story-teller will remember her quirky sense of humour, and that telling a story is more important to her than only making AVs that follow PSSA's rules. During the first half of the evening she shared with us what motivates her to make AVs (and she produces many); while presenting some of her work, that included Golden Eye, Ketchup, Shapes, The little Fiddle, and the Spanish train – the latter a project that started already before she emigrated and has only recently been completed.



"Ingrid's main motto/approach to AV making is: 'The only rule is - there are no rules'; and 'Whatever you do when creating an AV, having fun and enjoying the challenge should take priority. It is therefore not surprising that her enthusiasm and amazing ability to inspire people to give of their best, encouraged all of us to go home and start a new AV while trying out some of our newly-found knowledge," enthuses Joy Wellbeloved.

Here are some of Ingrid's practical tips:

- Dare to step outside the box.
- Close your eyes and dream a while.
- Start with the music as this is what creates the emotional side of the whole show.
- If using music with vocals, print out the lyrics, read them a few times while listening to the music and make notes as you go along.
- Audacity (free) is a great tool to make adjustments to the music.
- Get organised - create a dedicated folder for each AV and give it the same title as the AV.
- Copy or save your music, sounds, photos, video clips and anything else you want to use (i.e. brushes, fonts etc) into this file/folder.
- Once you have finished a session, save everything in an individual file, so that you can always go back to a previous sequence if you are not happy with it.
- Your introduction is crucial to the success and of utmost importance as it gets viewers/listeners attention from the very first note!
- Explore other mediums like Power Point 2016 which offers amazing transitions and animations. Export it as an MP4 and bring it into your show as a video
- There are some really great ways to morph one word into another and other text tutorials on YouTube.
- There is always a chance that you might like to take another direction or have a new idea. However, before you do this, rename and save the original idea because sometimes a brilliant new idea doesn't work and you have to go back to the previous version.
- When you think you've finished your sequence, leave it for a few days and then 'play it again Sam'. This lets you re-look at everything with fresh eyes and make any adjustments that might be necessary.
- Photographers who only aim for gold awards approach a photo shoots looking for "that perfect shot". However, if

you are also a keen AV maker you will always be on the lookout for filler images that you can add to an AV. Keep these in a special folder – I call it “My Goodie Box”. This is a must if you want to have those ‘background’ or ‘Special Effect’ photos readily available for your AVs.

- In my goodie box, I have sub-folders, such as: animals; beach and sand; bits and pieces; clouds; cut-outs; dice and cards; doors and windows; flags, flowers and plants;

graffiti; macro; masks; pathways and avenues; people; reflections; spider webs; statues; templates; textures and backgrounds; and short video clips – 10 seconds maximum.

### Next AV meeting

14/03/2018 – Screening & comments on members AVs, plus Antenie Carstens – Sound in AVs (to be confirmed)

## Latest News from the SIGs

*As is to be expected, the beginning of the year is always a challenge to get going and to fit additional photographic activities into an already tight schedule. This is the reason why only the Portrait group has had a meeting, and other SIGs – such as the Monofanatics, Macro and Sports – are still busy planning their year ahead.*

### Portrait Group

A group of nine people met at the home of Lesley and Lambe Parolis on the 29th January, to first discuss the way forward in 2018, and then view the excellent and moving documentary on the life and work of world-famous photographer Sebastiao Salgado.

It was decided that the group should become more proactive and have regular photographic shoots with follow up meetings where images from these shoots would be shown and discussed. Both natural lighting and studio lighting will be used in these portrait shoots to accommodate the requests from members of the group. Several street portraits and environmental portrait shoots will be organized in the near future.

“We will also continue with the practice of discussing the

work of famous and influential portrait photographers at each meeting where we assess the results of our outdoor shoots,” says Lambe, who has been the coordinator of this group until now.

Unfortunately due to health reasons, Lambe had to hand over to someone else, and it is with great pleasure that we can inform everyone that Andre Mouton was willing to step in.



### Sports Group



Andrew Denny, who has been the provider of news about sports events as well as giving us regular reports about (mostly) his own sports photography ventures, has to say the following: “This group has no structured meetings or

plans ahead. However, we readily share news about opportunities, but this is generally on very short notice, which might not work well for the busier members. This means our group won’t necessarily have something to report every month. It also means I have no idea what everybody has actually been shooting – unless they share it with the group or enter a club competition.

“In December I discovered an acquaintance was running the Ultra Trail Cape Town with her husband and I offered to do the paparazzi thing for them. When I inspected the map I realised that they were going to start in Gardens and scamper straight up Platteklip Gorge at dawn! But I’d promised, so I decided to catch them later in the race above UCT, just before they headed up to the Blockhouse. Thanks to the event’s

live-tracking app on my smartphone I could see when Cari passed through Kirstenbosch and I could estimate more or less when to expect her at UCT. I still almost missed her. She spotted me before I spotted her, so I had to take a short cut and sprint ahead, leap into a drainage ditch, calm my breathing like an Olympic biathlon skier and fire off a burst of shots while she pretended this wasn’t staged at all!

“I’m not 100% sure what went wrong. I think I must have hit the exposure lock while I was fumbling for back-button focus-tracking. Anyway, Cari’s face was perfectly exposed but everything else was totally blown out in the midday glare. Thankfully I’d shot in RAW so I was able to make drastic exposure adjustments. Lightroom CC had also just released their new luminance masking feature which helped to save the shot and get me out of trouble.

“That’s the story of sport photography: A bit of planning, a lot of waiting, a few seconds of frenzied activity and then the opportunity is all over!”

### Macro Group

According to Joy Wellbeloved, the next get-together will be on Sunday afternoon 11th March from 14h00 onwards. The venue will be at Mike de Villiers’ home in Pinelands, which is at 6 Lisse, Meerlust, Pinelands. All are welcome!





Both photographs by Richard Goldschmidt

# November Outing to the West Coast

*In search of sunsets, salt pans & Bokkoms Laan – where time stands still (almost)*

*At the end of November 2017, some 23 loyal outing supporters attended our annual weekend away from 'home' and descended on our base camp - the St Helena Bay Hotel, to explore some of the original (and mainly un-spoilt) fishing villages on the West Coast – St. Helena Bay, Stompnuisbaai, Laaiplek & Velddrift, reports RICHARD GOLDSCHMIDT.*

In the late afternoon on Friday, we set off from our base for the 20 minutes' drive across to the Laaiplek harbour at Velddrift to capture the boats and sunset. Unfortunately we can't order the weather and we had a clear sky for sunset. As darkness descended, we repaired to the Alegria restaurant on the water's edge in St Helena for our 'formal' dinner of the weekend. As usual we thoroughly enjoyed being in the company of each other over a glass of wine, or two, eating some typically West Coast fare of fresh fish and mussels.

On Saturday, those crazy enough to endure only five hours sleep, met at 5am at the security gates of Shelley Point estate, where we made our way down to the lighthouse. This time the photographic gods were with us and stunning shots were there for the taking, as the sun rose in a cloudy sky across the bay. An hour or so later the magic had gone and we headed to our various homes and hotel for breakfast and a little shut-eye.

Later that morning our members were to be seen taking images along the St Helena Bay coast, starting at boats in the harbour, rusty oil tanks, rocks and even in an amazing old graveyard. Once again meeting at the Hotel at 5pm, we travelled in convoy across to Laaiplek for more of the Rooibaai jetties and boats at sunset, as well as the salt pans in very low light. Upon our arrival back at the Hotel we found the pre-ordered fire all ready for our communal evening braai, and everyone sat around on the stoep enjoying our food, drinks and the company. The party continued until late, without a single complaint from our members in the bedrooms just above! Perhaps this was because we had already announced the postponement of the next morning's departure from 5am to a more leisurely 7.30am.

On Sunday morning members had the choice of photograph-

ing the wind turbines on the gravel road leading to Paternoster, or to return to Velddrift and go to Bokkomslaan. For those who have never been to Bokkomslaan there are numerous old wooden jetties reaching out into the Berg River, rustic shops and eateries along the river and any number of birds. One can do a boat trip up the river. Sadly it has recently lost some of its 'old world charm' and has now become the tourist 'waterfront' of Velddrift, although there are still bokkom fishes hanging out to dry!

Most of our participants headed out to look for birds, but the wind was blowing now and it was generally not as photogenic as it could have been, so breakfast was called for at the Riviera hotel overlooking the large bridge over the Berg River and the salt pans. We should have gone at 5am – lesson learnt! However, it is not always only about photography on these weekends, getting to know your fellow CTPS members better is an important part, as well as having a restful weekend away. People were free to meander slowly down the West coast on their way home.

Quite a few decided to visit Paternoster and were seen at the Voorstrand restaurant on the beach, enjoying lunch. My thanks go to editor Anna Engelhardt for conceiving the idea of the West Coast weekend away and for doing much of the organizing.

## Next Outing – 18 March 2018

Unfortunately the Atlantic Rail steam trains that normally run to Stellenbosch and Simonstown, are not running due to the water crisis. Richard is busy looking at alternatives for this outing's date. Watch out for our Snapshot announcement.





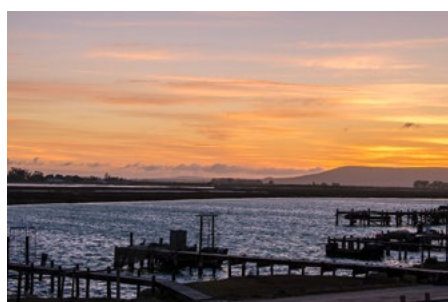
*Picture by Joyce Goldschmidt*



*Picture by Trudi du Toit*



*Picture by Robert Maginley*



*Picture by Richard Goldschmidt*



*Picture by Margaret Collins*



*Picture by Neels Beyers*



*Picture by Len van Wyk*



*Picture by Richard Goldschmidt*



*Picture by Elmara Willis*



*Picture by Lionel Willis*



*Picture by Margaret Collins*



*Picture by Richard Goldschmidt*





Photographs by Andrew Denny (left & right) & Richarddt Goldschmidt (middle)

# Triathlon World Cup event in February

*- the best ever no-show outing*

*Well, it was the best outing I have ever organized! I waited for twenty minutes under the elevated circle in Green Point and absolutely no one pitched. I finally found Andrew Denny, who had decided not to follow recommendations or suggested meeting places, and had placed himself a kilometer down the road, filming the start of the Elite ladies swim, reports RICHARD GOLDSCHMIDT.*

It didn't take long and the Discovery Health World champion Elite ladies were roaring past me on their bicycles and all thoughts of looking after others receded and I was frantically snapping away, thoroughly enjoying myself and the freedom to do and move where I wanted to go.

Being free to move quickly around the course to find the best advantage angles has taught me a lot about how difficult it is to take sports photographs when the action is really fast. In hindsight, it is amazing that I never got wiped out by a speeding bicycle, as the access to the competitors was just so up close and personal, but I admit taking some risks.

The ITU Triathlon World Cup is an annual series of triathlon races staged around the world. Professional competitors represented their countries from all over the world. Since 2014 Cape Town

has been one of the host cities. The event is held in February so that the temperature of the water in the harbor is warm enough for the amateur swimmers.

By the time I got to the water's edge at the V&A for the start of the swimming of the Elite Men's race, I found the area packed with spectators, and so my images of the swimming are not quite what I had hoped for. I then managed to capture the cycling and running of the men in the vicinity of the Stadium. The afternoon seemed to fly past and I left for home only at 5.30pm.

My photographic results? I took 120 images of which I have dumped 70, and I am so glad I took the remaining 50 in RAW, otherwise I would have lost even more. It is not easy! And I am not even a member of our association's Sports special interest group with all their experience! However, I am a lot wiser now!



The above four photographs are all by Richard Goldschmidt

## A member's Travelogue



# Cambodia - a story of re-discovery

by Kim Stevens

Ever since my husband and I visited Cambodia for the first time in 2003, I wanted to go back, particularly to Siem Reap, to revisit the City of Angkor and to re-photograph the beautiful temple complex with my newly found photographic knowledge and skills as well as being able to use my more recently acquired photographic equipment. Back then my images were shot on a Canon 300D (6 megapixels) and only in Jpeg!

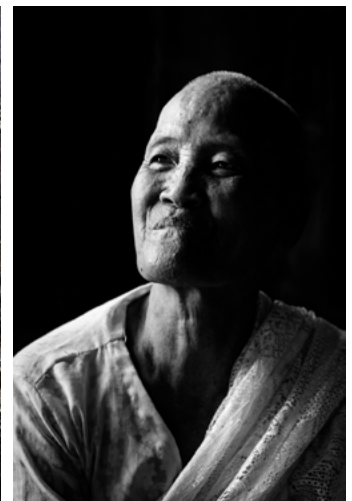
When we returned last year, I found that what I had envisaged to photograph - based on my memory of the previous visit, and what I actually did photograph was not necessarily congruent. My eyes and feelings for light and composition have definitely evolved and I felt myself shying away from the 'usual' travel snapshots - searching for something new which was not always that evident.

Angkor is the ancient capital of the Khmer Empire built during the 11th century and is one of the most magnificent world heritage sites with great archaeological and historical significance. Well-preserved bas reliefs adorn the walls of the temples, depicting life and beliefs in those times. There are about 70 temples and tombs in the 200 sq km complex and Angkor Wat is the world's single largest religious complex. After the death of Jayavarman VII, the most forceful and productive king of the Khmer empire in the early 13th century, the temples lay forgotten and in ruins, buried by jungle and forests for 600 years until a French explorer, Henri Mahout, uncovered the ruins in 1860. This started a period of restoration which is still ongoing today,

sponsored by many nations from all corners of the globe. Worthy of special mention are the Angkor Thom temple with its 54 towers and 216 exquisite Bayon Buddha heads and Ta Prohm where Tomb Raider was filmed. Angelina Jolie is almost a national heroine and many cocktails available at bars and hotels in Siem Reap are named after her!

Because March to October is the hottest season, the crowds descend in November and December. We travelled in September as a compromise but nonetheless we experienced stifling humidity and much increased tourism. Tourism is probably the only source of revenue for the impoverished residents of Siem Reap and they cater in their own way for all the visitors' needs. Whereas many visitors schedule only one day to shuttle through this world heritage site, we chose to stay for a week to take full advantage of all light conditions and being able to visit other temples further afield.

We hired a tuk-tuk and driver for the duration of our stay. Our days started at 4.30 am with a 30 minute journey to catch the sunrise and avoid the crush and the heat. We would return for breakfast, a swim and a much-welcomed rest in our air-conditioned room. We generally returned to the Temple complex around 4pm and stayed till last light. Evenings were very evocative with the smell of coal fires being lit for cooking and the sounds of people chattering, temple bells ringing and chanting filling the night air.







As I had taken an infra-red adapted camera with me, I ventured out (alone!) at midday in the searing heat to make use of the light reflecting off the ancient stones and the foliage. Black thunder clouds would build up during the afternoon - along with the rising humidity. I will never forget sheltering from a torrential downpour in an archway under a gigantic Bayon Buddha head and the smell radiating off the hot earth.

Part of our stay was also a pre-arranged day visit to the water-dwelling community at Tonle Sap lake with a guide and this proved to be another highlight of our trip. Elderly and children are treasured in this caring community of Buddhist people and we felt humbled by the welcome we received. They live a simple life relying on the lake for all their needs - washing and ablutions, fishing for food and water hyacinths for vegetables. The school is on the temple grounds where the children are fed and locals and old people visit the temple throughout the day. This is a truly inclusive community life which is so different from our solitary individual routines back home.

All round, this was a great and varied photographic trip that can easily be combined with other South East Asian destinations. The local people are almost exclusively Buddhist, very friendly

and accommodating and the country appears to be almost crime-free.

Travelling to Siem Reap is easy - we flew Singapore Airline from Cape Town to Singapore and from there Silk Air to Siem Reap. A visa can be purchased on arrival; and everything is charged in US dollars. Hotel accommodation and food is relatively cheap, although the type of accommodation is varied. We chose a smaller more intimate place which was comfortable and clean. Food is spicy but tasty and fresh! A seven day temple pass is 60 USD and tuk-tuk drivers charge about 15 USD per day.

In my bag was a full-frame Canon body, an infra-red adapted Canon camera and lenses ranging from 16mm to 200mm. A stable travel tripod is essential. I also took along a Fuji XT 2 with a range of lenses. I can recommend the purchase of silica gel packets to absorb moisture from the camera bag as condensation on my lenses and sensors was the biggest challenge. Sometimes it took up to thirty minutes for the condensation to clear. I soon learned to leave my bag open outside for an extended period of time between shoots to equilibrate!

If anyone would like more detailed recommendations and information please contact me at [zoomin50@icloud.com](mailto:zoomin50@icloud.com)



*All photographs by Kim Stevens*



# Winning images from January

## Set subject: From the Top

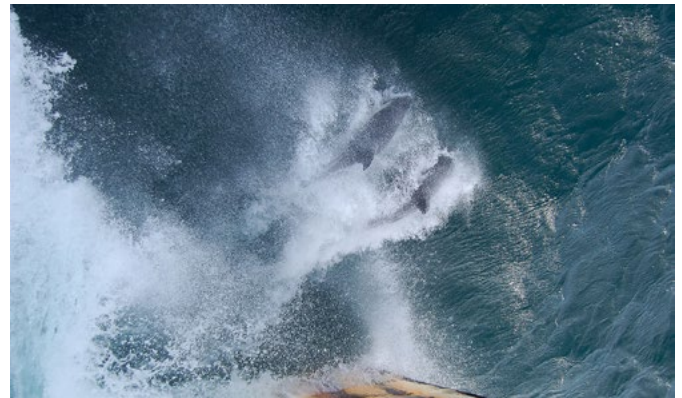
*For the theme of the first competition of the New Year the members produced quite an interesting array of images on the topic. The judge for the evening was Jan Marais from Paarl Photographic Club and we thank him for making the journey all the way in from Paarl to judge for us. He stepped in to help out at the last minute when the allocated judge let us down. His comments were really instructive and members felt that he took a real interest in each image, reports LESLEY PAROLIS.*

*Below are the winners in the various categories together with the judges' comments.*

### Set Subject



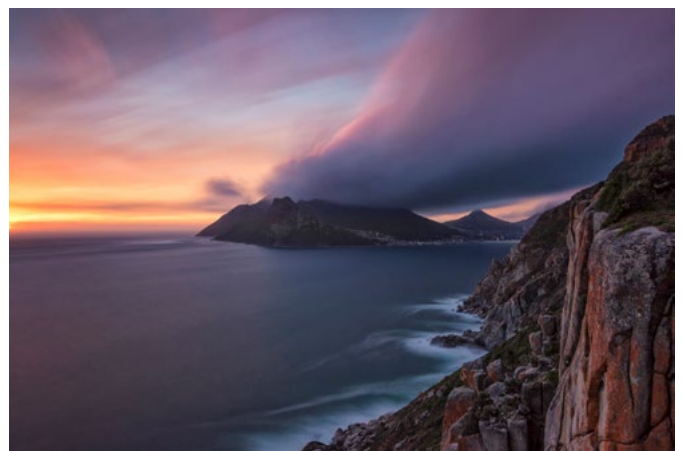
Winner PDI Set (Advanced) *From the top of St Peters Basilica* by Alison Bull (22). *The very strong symmetry and the rather bright reflection off the surface of the plain draw the eye into the scene. The good alignment of the needle with the road enhances the image. Depth of field well handled.*



Winner PDI Set (Intermediate) *Killer whales from the ships bow* by Roger Trythall (23). *A beautiful image with both exposure and focus well handled. The fast shutter speed is perfect to freeze the spray. Showing a bit more of the ships bow may help the viewer to orientate him/herself a little better, and cropping out a bit of the very bright spray on the left would improve the image.*



Winner PDI Set (Advanced) *Hot air balloon above the Tsauchab* by Jenny Cole-Rous (22). *Well captured image with crisp detail. The two lines of the river beds help to make the eye move through the image. The uncommon point of view creates the interest in the image. The image would have been stronger if the balloon had been in the centre of the open space to the bottom left.*



Winner Print Set (Salon) *Going down pink* by Cathy Bell (24). *A well captured and beautiful image with soft colours and textures. Well done!*



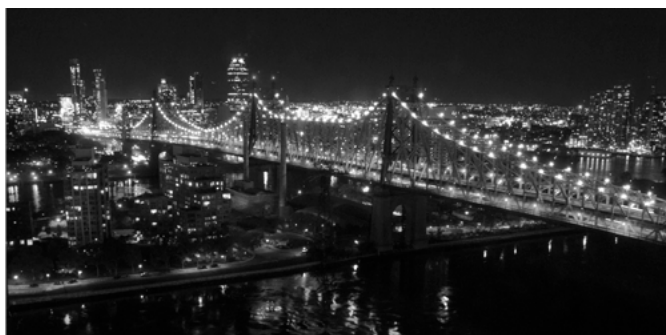
## Open Subject



Winner PDI Set (Advanced) *From the top of Leopards Kloof* by Marianna Meyer (22). A well captured slow shutter speed image with an unusual point of view. The soft line of water coming in from the right helps to create the mood of this image. The green leaves left bottom and rock right bottom are a bit bright and detract slightly from the dark soft mood of the rest of the image.



Winner PDI Set (Beginner) *Fort Adelaide Mauritius* by Antonio Chavry (21). The strong element in this image is the triangle between the three elements of interest. The empty space emphasizes the person walking across the court yard. Nice repetition in the columns and stable doors in the background.

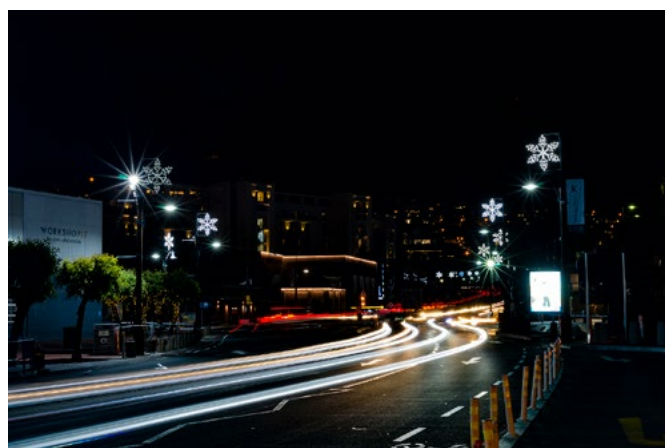


Winner Print Set (Advanced) *A Passage of light* by Mireille Landman (23). Well captured night shot, exposure and depth of field is well handled. The two crossing diagonal lines add interest, so does the reflections in the water in front.

Winner PDI Open (Intermediate) *Scar face* by Louise Tarr (21). A good image of a male lion. The background bokeh is sufficient to not distract attention. The colours are a bit blueish due to the shade. Another shot with the head turned slightly more towards the camera might be stronger.



Winner PDI Open (Beginner) *Cape Weaver* by Nicholas Moschides (19). A well exposed image with beautiful background bokeh. The shutter speed is too low to freeze the wings and consequently the focus is on the nest rather than on the bird. The bird's eye and beak are nicely sharp.



Winner PDI Open (Beginner) *Fast cars* by Paramasivam Saravanakumar (19). This night shot cityscape was well captured. Exposure on the street lights and buildings are good and the depth of field suits the image. The electronic billboard to the right and oncoming car lights are too bright and overpower the image.







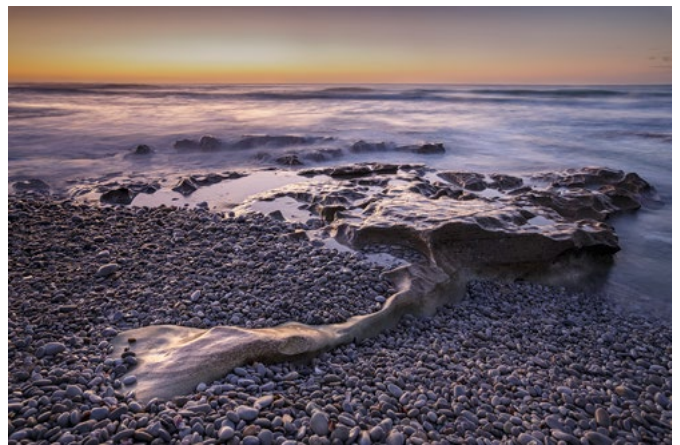
Winner Print Open (Intermediate) *Iceberg Kitiwakes* by Louise Tarr (21). Exposure and focus are well handled. Good to capture details on the iceberg itself. The gull on top of the ice outcrop and the one flying towards the photographer adds interest.



Winner Print Open (Advanced) *Bokkoms* by Margaret Collins (24). An interesting artistic image, well exposed and focused for the purpose. The hint of brown in the otherwise blue toned image works well.



Winner Print Open (Beginner) *Purple heron with breakfast* by Nicholas Moschides (24). The photographer did well to be ready and capable to capture the shot when the opportunity presented itself. Well exposed and focused, super moment to capture! More bokeh in the background would have made it stronger.



Winner Print Open (Salon) *Rock amongst the Stones* by Jean Bradshaw (25). A very good image displaying foreground elements, texture and colour. Focus and exposure are well handled and very well presented. Pulling down on levels above the sky-line would have enhanced the colours of the sunset/sunrise.



Winner PDI Open (Advanced) *Illumination 2* by Danie Coetzee (25). A beautiful image and very well presented. The photographer started off with a good image and developed it into a work of art by adding the special effects. Colours and blacks very well handled. Well done!



Winner PDI Set (Master) *Spirals and Stripes* by Kim Stevens (25). A very graphic image tending towards abstract with all the lines and patterns. Both exposure and depth of field very well handled. Converting to the image to b&w was very successfully done to eliminate colour disturbances. Well done!

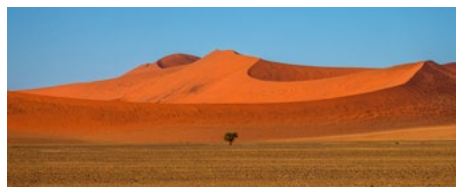


Winner PDI Open (Salon) *Lone Pelican* by Ken Woods (25). A beautiful image with great colour rendition and very well exposed, making sure the whites retain detail. Depth of field is perfect as the flamingos are still recognisable. Good composition with space in front of the single pelican, and a bit of luck (?) with all the flamingo's looking in the same direction. Well done!



# Other high-scoring images from **January Competition**

**(24 & above)**



*Tree in the middle* by Neels Beyers (23)



*Dust Storm* by Jean Bradshaw (23)



*Sicilian fishing village* by Alison Bull (23)



*Harvest Splendour* by Keith Bull (23)



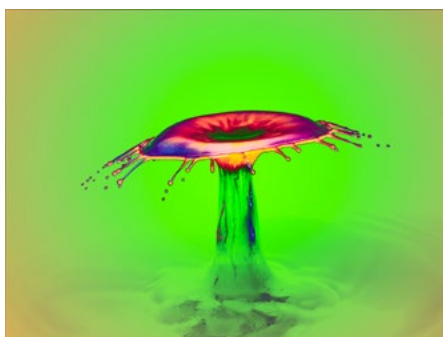
*Silhouettes* by Danie Coetzee (23)



*Daisy Daisy* by Jeanette du Toit (23)



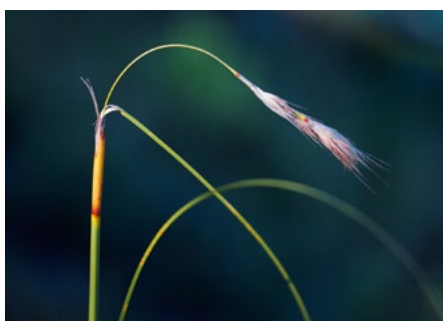
*Fish eagle on the Okavango River*  
by Nicol du Toit (23)



*Magic mushroom* by Arthur Fitt (23)



*Cosy Bay* by Crighton Klassen (23)



*Grass* by Jennifer Morkel (23)



*Stairs from the top* by Richard Goldschmidt (23)



*Beautiful Cape Town* by Karyn Parisi (23)



*Cheetah family by Rob Tarr (23)*



*Mist passing through the Vineyards by Jean Bradshaw (24)*



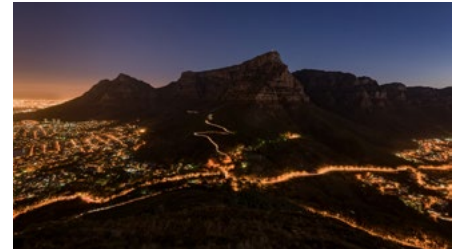
*City Awakening by Karyn Parisi (24)*



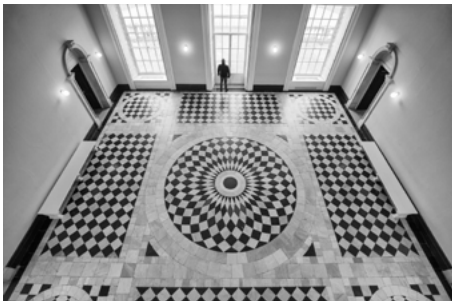
*Misty Night by Marianna Meyer (24)*



*Woodstock Impressions by Anna Engelhardt (24)*



*Table Mountain and surrounds from Lions Head by Lesley Parolis (24)*



*Through the Looking Glass by Kim Stevens (24)*



*Cleaning by Joan Ward (24)*

## **PSSA Western Cape conducts important survey**

*By Nicol du Toit*

The 2017 PSSA National Congress Streets of Jozi attracted a disappointing low number of delegates – fewer than 50 people, according to unconfirmed reports, compared to the more than 200 people who attended the Langebaan congress in 2016.

During the PSSA Excom meeting in January 2018, the regional directors were asked whether they could gather information from members in the regions to try and explain why they did not attend the congress held in September 2017 in Johannesburg. I decided to do a snap survey in the Western Cape. The questions asked were based on feedback I obtained when we tried to put together a group from the Western Cape to go to the congress.

The survey was sent to 97 PSSA members in the region on Monday morning and the results from 34 respondents were gathered on Friday – a very satisfactory 35% response, indicating strong feelings from the Western Cape members. By far the majority (67%) said they wanted to attend the congress, but specific reasons related to the organisation made them decide against attending. The main reasons can be broken down as follows

- Cost factors: Most (73%) cited cost factors as one of the reason for them not attending, and 25% said they would have attended the congress if the costs were lower.
- Speakers not offer value for money: the limited number of speakers indicated on the program and narrow focus of the topics was a deterrent for 68% respondents – more than half of them said they didn't believe they would get value for money.
- Lack of information was a reason why 29 (85%) of the respondents did not attend. This included very little or late information about the speakers and topics (35%) as well as lack of information about how the photoshoots would be conducted (50%). Some mentioned that they requested information but received none.
- The choice of venue was a contributor to their decision not to attend said 71% of respondents. Unfamiliarity with Johannesburg, fear of safety and of driving across the city put delegates off – and also the fact that delegates couldn't stay at one conference venue where they could socialise in the evenings.

(Extract from the PSSA Western Cape Newsletter)



# Winning images from February

## Set subject: Churches and cathedrals

*The meeting held on the 7th February saw a record number of entries, 123 in all. The set subject for the month attracted many interesting images depicting a large variety of places of worship. The large number of entries was challenging for our judge for the evening, Celia Fouche, as she wasn't feeling very well, but she did us proud by getting through all the images by 10 pm; and giving meaningful comment on all of them. We are very grateful to her for persevering under such trying circumstances that included some microphone problems and a computer glitch, reports LESLEY PAROLIS*

*Below are the winners in the various categories together with the judges' comments.*

### Set Subject



Winner Print Set - (Salon) *Panagia Paraportiani Mykonos* by Jacoba van Zyl (24). *The photographer deserves credit for creativity in this set of images. All 3 images are well-composed and sharp; the monochrome technique is applied well. All the images fit perfectly into the category.*



Winner PDI Set - (Advanced) *Wells Cathedral* by Alison Bull (24). *This image is very pleasing and has nice soft lighting. It is a beautifully balanced image. A very nice symmetrical composition. The main focus area stands out clearly. Pushing up the contrast and saturation of the yellow and red tones will make it an even more striking image. The photographer has a good eye for symmetry and balance.*



Winner PDI Set - (Master) *Perfect symmetry* by Anna Engelhardt (27). *Stunning symmetrical image. The composition is well balanced. The Monochrome technique is perfectly applied. The dark areas still have detail and the exposure of the light areas is spot on. The lines, curves and other shapes work in perfect harmony. The title is a perfect description of the structure of this image. The photographer did very well with this image.*

*There were no rank promotions in February.*





Winner Print Set - (Salon) *Chapel in the Alps* by Haralambos Parolis (24). The exposure in the image is up to standard. The composition is strong. The dramatic clouds contribute to the mood of the image. The path in front is well placed and leads the eye towards the church.



Winner PDI Set - (Beginner) *Ganga Talao Hindus Temple* by Antonio Chavry (21). Nicely composed and sharp image with the steps leading the eye up to the temple. The reflection of the clouds contributes to the mood of the image. The lighting is a bit flat which makes some of the areas in the image a bit dark.

## Open Subject

Winner PDI Open - (Advanced) *Macassar* by Danie Coetzee (25). The photographer's creativity is admired. The image is well composed. The high key effect and colour scheme contributes to the mood of the image. A bit more contrast could make this image more 'punchy' and even stronger.



Winner Print Set - (Intermediate) *Sacre-Coeur Basilica* by Louise Tarr (21). The composition of the image is good. The church has beautiful architecture and fills the frame nicely. The lighting is a bit flat and the contrast in the sky area can be improved.



Winner Print Set - (Advanced) *Patterns in the Blue Mosque Istanbul* by Jonathan Mark Burchell (24). This image is a work of art. The abstract effect of the 'grid' gives the image an artistic feeling. The exposure, contrast and depth of field are well handled. The symmetry in the image is good and it is well balanced. The photographer was very creative with this composition.



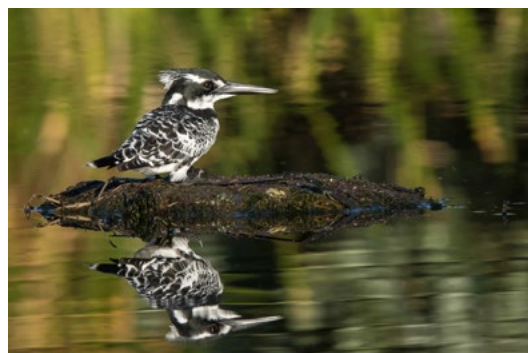




Winner Print Open - (Beginner) *Cormorant Catch* by Nicholas Moschides (25). Very nice action in this image. The image is pin-sharp and the exposure is spot on. The composition is great and it tells a story. The photographer could be very proud of this 'catch'.



Winner PDI Open - (Intermediate) *South Celestial Pole* by Roger Trythall (23). This image has a pleasing mood. This is a good attempt at a star trail. Although the exposure in the sky area is good, a little bit more light is required on the ruin in the front of the image. Selecting that area and working on the exposure would solve this.



Winner PDI Open - (Beginner) *Kingfisher Reflection* by Nicholas Moschides (24). This is an excellent image for a beginner. It is sharp, the composition is strong, the lighting is up to standard and it has beautiful reflections. The background colours could be toned down a little bit to make



Winner Print Open - (Advanced) *Flora or Fauna* by Margaret Collins (26). There is perfect balance in this image. The symmetry is exceptional and very pleasing. The colours are beautiful and the abstract effect of the image is contributing to the mood. The photographer can be very proud of this creation.



Winner PDI Open - (Salon) *Little frog 2* by Marion Jackson (29). This image has perfect lighting, the composition is great, the image is pin-sharp and the neutral background is emphasising the subject in front. The only slight improvement recommended is to leave a little more space on the right side of the frog.



Winner Print Open - (Intermediate) *Stadsaal Evening* by Stephen Gibson (21). Interesting landscape. The canyon leads the eye into the image. There is good contrast and detail in the image. The top right section of the image is unfortunately over exposed and due to this detail is lost. By selecting the top area in the image, the exposure and gamma could be adjusted to try and fix this as much as possible.



Winner Print Open - (Salon) *Eddies in the Rocks* by Jean Bradshaw (27). This is very successful seascape image. It has beautiful pastel colours, the exposure is perfect and the contrast is spot on. The mood of this image is very pleasing and the photographer did very well with the composition.

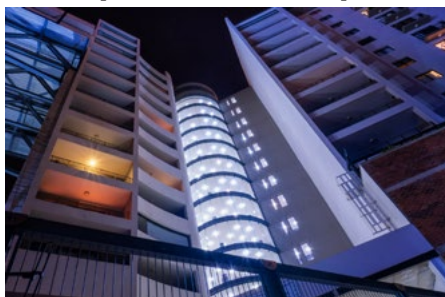


# Other high-scoring images from February Competition

(24 & above)



*Touchdown* by Dave Gordon (24)



*Comic book city* by Steff Hughes (24)



*Looking at you* by Nicol du Toit (24)



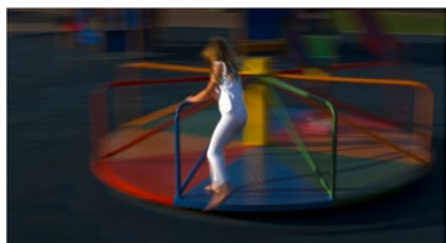
*Slender Mongoose* by Vic Els (24)



*Tribal Dancers at Waterfront* by Jeanette du Toit (24)



*What a sky* by Steff Hughes (24)



*Having fun all on my own* by Anna Engelhardt (24)



*Old English church* by Steff Hughes (24)



*My brother* by Mireille Landman (24)



*Three flowers* by Jennifer Morkel (24)



*Indian mosque sweeper* by Rob Tarr (24)



*San in Giraffe dance* by Neels Beyers (24)



*Religious Belief* by Prem Moodley (24)





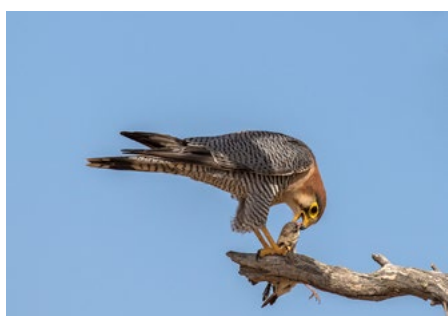
*Overberg wheatlands Scape* by Haralambos Parolis (24)



*Tree fern abstract* by Lesley Parolis (24)



*Mouille point sunset* by Lesley Parolis (24)



*Harshness of survival* by Pat Scott (24)



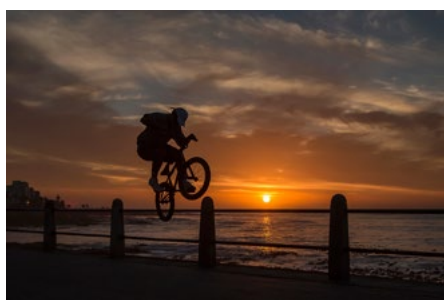
*Solitary* by Jean Bradshaw (24)



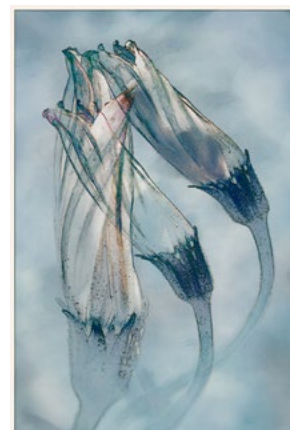
*On the prowl* by Pat Scott (24)



*Geyser Eruption* by Mo Bassa (25)



*Leap into the setting sun* by Pat Scott (24)



*Arctotis (African Daisy)* by Margaret Collins (25)



*Early Morning Mist* by Jeanette du Toit (25)



*Into the chancel* by Keith Bull (24)



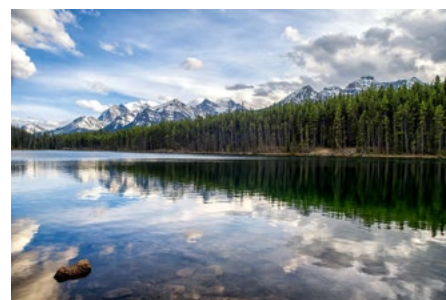
*Places of Worship* by Keith Bull (25)



*Supermoon Aughrabies* by Rob Tarr (25)



*Encapsulated* by Arthur Fitt (25)



*Hector Lake Highway 93 Alberta* by Haralambos Parolis (25)