

# CAPE CAMERA

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May/June 2019

Official Newsletter

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CAPE TOWN PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

## CAPE CAMERA

## WHAT'S INSIDE

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## On the cover

Our front cover image *Twig* by Jean Bradshaw was the winning print in April 2019 in the set subject category 'Nature up close.' "We were camping in the Nkasi Rupara reserve in the Caprivi strip on the border with Botswana. During one of my photographic excursions in the vicinity of the camp, I was trying to capture the water lilies in the water, but couldn't get close enough to get anything meaningful.

"I pointed my camera towards the sun and noticed the spectral highlights caused by the light bouncing off the water and I got all excited and spent the next while trying to find a suitable motive. This was not easy as the reeds on the edge of the water were thick making it difficult to isolate any subject. Also the lens was going in and out of focus trying to find something. I could finally settle it on this twig, and I was lucky enough to have caught the brightest spectral highlight in the fork of the twig," explains Jean.

The image was shot using a Canon 5D Mark 111, 100 to 400mm lens, f8, shutter speed 1/800, ISO 500.

# Themes for 2019

Month	Set Subject	Competition Date	Entry date
August	<b>Creative composites</b> Create an image which is composed of several different elements from other images that you have captured. The composite image should convey a new story to the viewer and invite them to explore your vision.	7 August	31 July
September	<b>Long exposures</b> Create an image where the shutter speed is 15 seconds or longer. The use of a tripod will be essential in most cases although an image that is created handheld could be interesting	4 September	28 August
October	<b>Abandoned places</b> Shoot an image which tells the story of a place abandoned by humans or animals..	2 October	30 October
November	<b>Repetition</b> Find repetition in Nature or in the urban environment and produce an image which has a motif that repeats itself. It can be a pattern or a single element that repeats itself in one or more forms.	6 November	30 October
December	<b>The colour Red</b> Red should be the dominant colour in your image.	5 December	28 November

## PSSA Salon Calendar 2019

20 July 2019	3rd Pretoria Photographic Society PDI Salon ( <a href="#">Brochure Updated</a> )
27 July 2019	Western Cape Junior Youth Competition ( <a href="#">Brochure Updated</a> )
03 August 2019	On the Rocks Camera Club PDI Salon ( <a href="#">Brochure Available</a> )
10 August 2019	PSSA National AV Salon ( <a href="#">Brochure Available</a> )
17 August 2019	Vereeniging Photo Soc PDI Salon ( <a href="#">Brochure Updated</a> )
31 August 2019	Krugersdorp PDI Salon ( <a href="#">Brochure Updated</a> )
14 September 2019	Rustenburg PDI Salon
28 September 2019	Swartland PDI & Prints Salon
12 October 2019	SAVAS PDI Salon
16 October 2019	4th International Circuit Camera Obscura 2019 Edenvale", Edenvale, South Africa PDI Salon ( <a href="#">Brochure Available</a> )
21 October 2019	Cross Continental Circuit 2019 PDI Salon
26 October 2019	Vanderbijlpark PDI & Prints Salon
02 November 2019	17th PSSA Up and Coming Competition

Refer to the [PSSA website](#) for full list of Salons for the year ending June 2020.

Refer to PSSA website for list of [International Salons](#).

# News from the Council

Much has happened since writing two months ago and some plans have changed from what was written then! Last week Wednesday, I attended an excellent cheese and wine evening at St Stephens where all the winners and some of the acceptances from our two CTPS International Salons 2019 were shown. There were some amazing photographs which, I am sure, inspired those of us present to try and emulate. Those of you who were not present at the evening really missed out!

On the Wednesday before that, our Audio visual section held a very successful instructional evening at which 20 members were present. The presentation on the emotions generated by music, done by Joy Wellbeloved was particularly enlightening. Us new-comers have been challenged to make an AV for the next meeting in August, and we will do so, no matter how rudimentary. You too can join us in doing so. All you have to do is download some free software (like Wings) and start experimenting.

Our Volmoed mini-congress plans for the 18th/20th October weekend are now being firmed up and have resulted in our Council deciding to not hold our annual prize-giving dinner there, but to rather hold another cocktail party on the 20th of November at St Stephens, where images will be shown and awards made. So would you all please start thinking of what you would like to enter into our annual competition? See details in Cape Camera and on our website. Coming back to Volmoed, see elsewhere in Cape Camera what is being planned. We are hoping for a bumper turnout of our members.

As per my last epistle in this magazine, the Council debated an appropriate survey to put to members, but have now decided to rather hold a simple discussion after one of our Education and Development evening speakers, either in July or August. I would be amiss not to mention the fantastic congress twenty or so of us from CTPS attended at Montagu since our last issue. It was excellently organized, with great speakers – completely in-

spiring! So join us and start saving and planning for next year's Cape Congress due to be held at Cape St Francis in March 2020.

Thanks to Mike de Villiers for organizing an outing to Newlands Forest early on Saturday morning the 25th of May. Our hopes for a misty morning were dashed, but still we played around up and down the river and you will see some of the pictorial results elsewhere in the magazine. Pat Scott is organizing our next outing to Allee Bleue wine farm in the Paarl/Franschhoek valley for Sunday morning the 14th of July, where the Cape Hunt and Hounds will be having their meeting. So we will be running around catching shots of horses, hounds and riders in the dust and maybe the mud. Should be fun!

I subscribe to the Landscape magazine that comes out monthly. Last month's edition had an article that surprised me. It talked about the future of cameras – the big heavy types most of us lug around. Apparently the CEO of Canon has just made a startling prediction. He estimated that the sale of cameras will fall by half in the next two years. The only people buying cameras will be professionals and high-end amateurs. Is that us? They talk about the only way to stay profitable is to double the price of their new products. Smartphones are taking over for many of us. The quality of their images is all that most people desire. When you push the shutter of a phone camera in tricky light conditions, a number of images will be taken and then combined together to get perfect, noise-free exposures. Some phones even give you a choice of lenses. Anyway, the article ends by saying that we can still enjoy our present cameras for many years into the future! By the way, I can recommend you subscribing to the Landscape magazine. It is digital and inexpensive.

**Richard Goldschmidt**  
President



*Two of our top performers in the CTPS International Salon, Ken Woods and Kim Stevens, receiving their well-deserved prizes from Nicol du Toit at the special cocktail party on Wednesday night.*



*(from left) Anna Engelhardt, Robert Maginely, Neels Beyers and Erik Seket from Tygerberg*



*(from left) Ariane Jenssen, Steff Hughes, Nicol du Toit, Len van Wyk & Neels Beyers*

*All photographs by Trudi du Toit*



## A year after the official formation of the Western Cape Photographic Forum

Chairman Nicol du Toit reports

At a meeting of Western Cape clubs in July 2017 it was decided that we need a structure in this region where clubs can have the opportunity to discuss common problems and identify areas where photography can be jointly promoted, while also improving communication between the clubs as well as with the PSSA. A task team consisting of JP Bester of Tafelberg, Francois du Bois of Tygerberg, Phillip de Lange of Swartland and me from CTPS was asked to propose a constitution for the Western Cape Photographic Forum. This was tabled and accepted at a meeting held in April 2018 and the Forum, as it is now commonly called, was founded. The members of the Forum are the different clubs in the region, whether they are affiliated with the PSSA or not.

An executive consisting of a chairman (me), a treasurer (Francois du Bois) and secretary (Trudi du Toit) was elected for the first term of two years. They subsequently co-opted Phillip de Lange and JP Bester to the exco for the first year.

### PSSA Honours group

Antenie Carstens has volunteered to run a PSSA Honours group for the Western Cape with the assistance of Christo la Grange and me. The idea behind the group is to advise potential applicants for honours.

The participants are representing 6 Western Cape clubs and the individuals are working towards applications for Licentiate, Associate and Fellowship. Meetings are held monthly or bi-monthly as needed and usually follows our Western Cape JAP meeting on the first Saturday of each month.

The 3 meetings to date were well attended by an average of 19 participants.

We usually start the meeting by looking at 'case studies' of previous unsuccessful and successful applications in order to understand and learn from the process.

The participants are encouraged to bring their initial selection to the group and by means of discussing and selecting, it is then recommended to reduce the number of images for the final number to be submitted. If more images for selection are needed, the person is requested to bring additional images for re-selection.

### Judging Appreciation Programme

The JAP is now in its second year of its third two-year cycle and about 30 people are on the current course list. Antenie Carstens and Celia Fouche run the group assisted by Alicia Greyling and me. It consists of monthly meetings ten months of the year on the first Saturday of the month where experts in different genres lecture the group on the aspects which should be of importance for judges. Participants are then asked to judge some images in the genre and given guidance by the lecturer and organisers.

There are two sessions which are totally devoted to judging practice where participants are given the opportunity to judge in public and given written and verbal feedback by their peer group and the organisers. The last session consists of a verbal examination.

The JAP continues to be one of the most successful and popular activities in the Western Cape.

### Interclub

Tafelberg hosted a very successful Interclub in 2018 where 11 clubs took part. The winner was Tygerberg followed by CTPS and Tafelberg.

The Forum decided that the competition aspect of future events will be run centrally by the Forum itself while clubs will still be asked to host the event on a rotational basis. It was felt

that the retention of expertise where the same people can be involved in running the competition from year to year will ensure the smooth running of the event and avoid mistakes.

The 2019 event will be hosted by Hermanus, while Bennie Viviers of Tygerberg and Lesley Parolis of CTPS have been asked to oversee the competition aspects. Judges will be appointed by the exco.

Alicia Greyling is tasked to oversee the organisation of the annual interclub event for the Forum.

### Salon

Francois du Bois was tasked to run the Forum's first salon as salon director with Bennie Viviers as salon administrator and JP Bester as salon treasurer. More than 4000 entries were received, and the salon generated a healthy profit, providing all the funds currently controlled by the Forum.

Judging was handled by Tygerberg (two sections), Tafelberg, Paarl, CTPS and Swartland clubs and almost all of them donated their judging income to the Forum. We thank the clubs and the individual judges for this generous gesture.

Our own Johan Kloppers won the Nature colour section.

### Facebook

Marleen la Grange of Tygerberg volunteered to administer our Facebook page. It is a small group because we limit membership to members of clubs in this region only. It currently has 72 members.

It currently is the Forum's only public face and club members should be encouraged to join it to further improve communication across the region.

### Judging list

Christo la Grange volunteered to create and maintain the Western Cape list of salon and club judges. The original list was put together by including judges who were known to all and did a good job in the past without any formal tutoring, JAP qualified judges and holders of PSSA honours.

This is a very useful document which helps the judging co-ordinators of the clubs as well as salon administrators to find judges for club competitions and salon. He updates it regularly and send it to the different clubs.

At present we have 94 names on the list, of which 59 are willing to judge at clubs, 73 who are willing to judge salons and 20 who are not willing to judge at this point but might change their minds over time.

### Promotion of AVs

We have had this on our agenda for some time but was unable to get it going properly. Elizma Fourie of Hermanus has recently volunteered to take over this portfolio and we wish her success.

### Youth

Phillip de Lange has volunteered to look after the youth and will organise the first Western Cape junior youth competition in July 2019. The opportunity to take part is extended to photographers still at school and to photographer with a junior grading at the different clubs.

### Conclusion

I would like to thank everybody who volunteered to perform tasks for the forum as well as the people who regularly attended our quarterly meetings. You all contributed to making the first year of the Forum's existence a success. I believe it is extremely important to have a regular forum where ideas can be exchanged. I am confident that many new ways of promoting photography in this region will still be hatched at the Forum.

# NEWS ITEMS

## CTPS competition rules

Steff Hughes' concern about possible copyright infringements when using members' images in club publications and exhibitions was put forward to Council who agreed that the changes below should be added to our Competition rules. Obviously the Intellectual property rights are maintained by the photographer but it gives CTPS permission to use the images as stated.

### CTPS website and newsletter

Once submitted via Photovault, the CTPS member accepts that his/her image(s) may be published on the CTPS website and in the Cape Camera newsletter. This usage does not infringe on a member's copyright or ownership of an image. The author retains full copyright of the image.

### Interclub and similar competitions:

CTPS also reserves the right to enter a member's image(s) into any PSSA, Western Cape Photographic Forum or Interclub Competition. CTPS will first seek permission from the author before submitting the image(s) into the above-mentioned competitions. Please note that these bodies may in turn then display these images on their platforms, according to their competition rules.

### CTPS exhibitions:

CTPS also reserves the right to hold an exhibition of members' images. Again, permission from the author will be sought before the image is exhibited.

Refer to the [CTPS Website](https://www.ctps.co.za/competition-rules/) page <https://www.ctps.co.za/competition-rules/> for all competition rules.

## Annual CTPS Competition 2019

### Now open for entries

Members are able to enter up to two images in each of eight categories making it a total of 16 possible entries. However, it is not necessary to enter all the categories, and any image, regardless of when it was taken, is eligible. It also need not have been entered in a monthly competition to qualify - 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
- 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 follows: Winner 3 pts, 2nd place 2 pts and 3rd place 1 pt. 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 close on the 1st October 2019. The winners will be announced at the annual awards dinner at the end of the year.

## All set for our Weekend Outing/Mini-Congress

**Friday 18th to Sunday 20th October**

It will happen at the Volmoed Retreat & Conference Centre in the Hemel-en-Aarde Valley near Hermanus which is set in its own little valley of 130 hectares of fynbos, interspersed by large meadows, beautiful trees, a river and wetlands with bridges and a beautiful waterfall within easy walking distance.

The accommodation comprises eight individual cottages with terrace, kitchen, lounge/dining room and varying numbers of bedrooms that can sleep between two and eight people. The accommodation cost for those staying at Volmoed will be around R1 000 for the weekend plus a further R200 contribution towards food costs, the rest is self-catering. The cost of the two evening meals will be covered by CTPS.

The programme will start with a flexible arrival time around lunch time on Friday and those that are present in the early afternoon will be shooting in the grounds of Volmoed with guidance from some members who know the area well. Saturday will consist of several lecture sessions in the morning and afternoon presented by well-known photographer Leon Oosthuizen. The Sunday programme will include a guided photographic tour in and around the valley.

Naturally, there will be the traditional sunset and sunrise shoots, but always leaving enough time for socializing over meals.

Please book before the end of July 2019 to help us secure the place!



*All photographs by Kim Stevens*



## Latest National Salon Results

Congratulations to all our deserving winners!

### 1st VSS Creative 4-in-1 PDI, Print, AV & School Salon 2019

Kim Stevens received two Club Medals for her *Heartbeat of the City* and *Alley Barber* and an additional 8 Acceptances.



At the **Sandton PDI Salon**, Kim Stevens achieved a PSSA Silver Medal for *The Reading Room* and a Certificate of Merit for *The Wave*, plus 3 Acceptances; Chris Coetzee, Richard Goldschmidt and Peter Turnbull received 3 Acceptances each; and Lesley Parolis and Mireille Landman 2 Acceptances each.



At the **Hibiscus PDI Salon 2019**, Jeanette du Toit received a Certificate of Merit for her *Scissoring Gannets at Lamberts Bay* (see below) and 4 Acceptances; Richard Goldschmidt got 4 Acceptances; Chris Coetzee 2 Acceptances; and Lesley Parolis & Peter Turnbull one each.



At the **15th PSSA Up and Coming Competition**, Carmen Anderson received 3 Acceptances.

At the **Brandpunt PDI Salon**, Chris Coetzee received a Certificate of Merit for his *Sacred Water* and 5 Acceptances; Jeanette du Toit got 5 Acceptances; and Peter Turnbull 3 Acceptances.



At the **6th Tygerberg PDI Salon**, Chris Coetzee and Anna Engelhardt got 2 Acceptances each; and Crighton Klassen one Acceptance.

## Successful month for AV Group

ROBERT MAGINLY reports that the past month has seen a lot of activity in the AV group, this is due to the National AV Salon that was run by CTPS, and the staging of a workshop on 12th June 2019 – which served as an introduction to the making of Audio Visuals.

The Salon attracted 23 entries from around the country with eight entries from our own members. Our congratulations must go to Ken Woods for winning the CTPS Bronze medal for his AV Lost Love – also being the best CTPS Entry. A list of all winners and acceptances can be found on the CTPS website under the Salons tab.

Our workshop 'Introduction to AV Making' was attended by 20 interested photographers, which included members from other clubs. The evening went off well and a number of complimentary e-mails have been received since then. The evening con-

cluded with a challenge for members to start making AVs and to bring them to the August meeting for screening.

Help on making AVs can be obtained from the following people:

- For 'Wings' please contact Joy on joywelb@Gmail.com
- For Pictures to Exe Arthur on fitt.ah@telkomsa.net
- For Proshow Robert on rmaginley@worldonline.co.za

Members can also look on Youtube.com where they will find various tutorials to help them as well as giving them ideas for AV making.

There will also be a follow up meeting on Wednesday 14th August.

## Cape Camera Yearbook Collections for 2017 & 2018



### Now available for Sale at a special Prize of R500 each

Every couple of years Council arranges to have the issues of Cape Camera printed, bound and stored in our archives for future generations of the Cape Town Photographic Society. This practice exists for more than a centenary and has made it possible for the author/compiler Trudi du Toit to delve deep into the history of our society in 2015 and create the very special 125th CTPS Anniversary book (there are still copies available).

Before these books go into our archives, you will be able to view them at the next competition evening and decide whether you would like to order a copy for yourself. This will provide you not only with a complete record of what has happened at the society but also in your own personal photographic life – not to mention the pleasure it will give you, your family and friends to see in printed form the most amazing photographs of the world around us.

Should you miss this opportunity, please contact the editor at [annengel@iafrica.com](mailto:annengel@iafrica.com).



## Forthcoming E & D presentation on 17th July 2019

### Journey to Antarctica: Science, SANAE and Shackleton

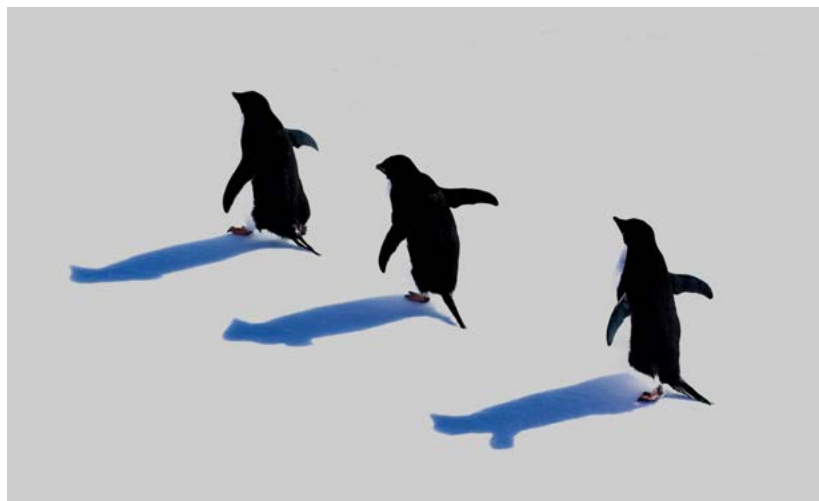
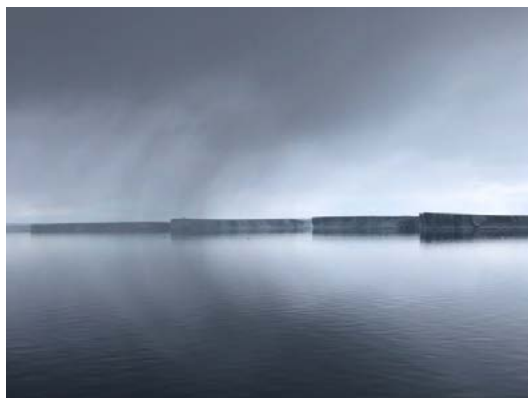
by Colin del la Harpe



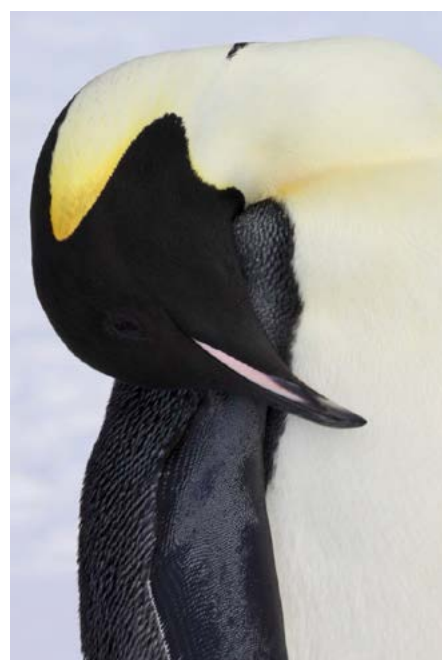
In this talk Colin del la Harpe will share with us his recent experiences as a scientific research member (and passionate amateur photographer) on the South African research ship, The Agulhas II.

"During this three months long journey, I not only performed work as a scientist on all legs of the expedition but was also very fortunate to visit SANAE, the South African base in Antarctica. From there we went on an extended expedition into the Weddell Sea, one of the most remote places on earth, which required detailed scientific research including an attempt to find *The Endurance*, Shackleton's Ship that was crushed in the ice some 104 years ago.

"It was truly a journey of discovery with countless opportunities to photograph this extreme place and its fascinating wildlife, which I would like to share," explains Colin.



*All photographs by Colin de la Harpe*





(left) NG Kerk, Montagu by Lambe Parolis and *From the top* by Marleen la Grange (right)

## Highly successful Cape Photographers Congress

*This year's congress was held from the 28th April to 2nd May in the picturesque town of Montagu, attracting some 102 delegates – and not only from the Western Cape but from as far afield as Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal - although the largest delegation from a single club came from CTPS with some 23 members attending. The organisation of the congress was in the capable hands of Trudi and Nicol du Toit who ensured that everything ran like clockwork.*



*Attending delegates from CTPS*

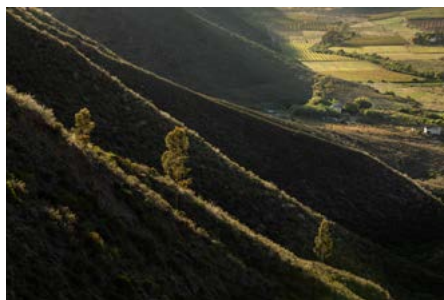
The congress programme had been planned to allow for various photo opportunities in and around Montagu – several of them guided by experts, such as an outing to the Sheilam Cactus Gardens outside Robertson for macro photography; a visit to Dancescape in Zolani – a inspirational township dance school for some ballet photography (both organised by Kim Stevens); an architectural shoot and walk with Bipin Prag; two street photography walks with Peter Brandt; and an early morning sunrise shoots in the mountains above Montagu. The 'Dream Car & Divas' photoshoot in front of the Montagu Country Hotel, which show-cased some colourful American vintage cars and two local beauties, attracted the largest number of photographers - even some local residents were inspired to participate.

The line-up of outstanding speakers on a wide variety of topics was most impressive and included renowned and much admired Martin Osner who enjoys creating contemporary art using photography as a medium; Martin Barber who is well-known for his inspiring lectures on the creative use of photo editing; JJ van Heerden, who photographs with the philosophy that images are not taken but created, using principles of design and an understanding of human psychology and visual perception. Don Pinnock shared some of his fascinating investigations into conservation issues and introduced his latest publication 'Last of the big tuskers'; Susan Greef introduced us to the most recent of her African travel portraiture portfolio; Bipin Prag contributed to our knowledge of landscape photography; Peter Brandt shared some of his street photography knowledge; Steff Hughes explained the intricacies and problems with copyright issues to protect our photographic work; and Chris Daly enlightened us about time-lapse photography.



*The Congress Delegates (Photo by Marleen la Grange)*





*Sunrise in the mountains by Kim Stevens*



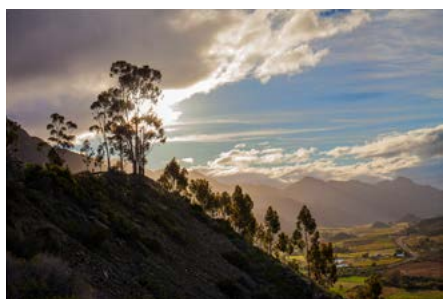
*On the tractor drive up the mountain by Christo la Grange*



*Sharing with the audience by Christo la Grange*



*Unusual cloud by Christo la Grange*



*Getting up early by Neels Beyers*



*Congress helpers from the Eastern Cape: Roel van Oudheusden, Adri van Oudheusden, Paul Rixom (MC), Mattie Grobler plus Antenie Carstens (sound). Anne d'Olivieira in foreground by Anna Engelhardt*



*Margaret Collins, Christo la Grange, Nico du Toit, Kim Stevens & Steff Hughes by Anna Engelhardt*



*Christo & Marleen la Grange sharing knowledge with Johan Kloppers by Trudi du Toit*



*Attractive sales lady by Lesley Parolis*



*Photographing and getting photographed by Kim Stevens*



*Early morning light by Jean Bradshaw*



*Getting instructions by Robert Maginley*



*Nellian Bekker with Elmara and Lionel Willis by Trudi du Toit*



*On the architectural walk by Anna Engelhardt*





*Striking a pose by Marleen la Grange*



*Ready, steady, go by Neels Beyers*



*Perfect reflection by Christo la Grange*



*Catching the early light by Lesley Parolis*



*View from the very top by Neels Beyers*



*Into the blue mountains by Neels Beyers*



*Colourful textures by Robert Maginelly*



*Street Scene by Jean Bradshaw*



*Sharing a photo by Kim Stevens*



*Amazing variety of cacti by Joyce Goldschmidt*



*Jacoba van Zyl, Marius Stockenstrom and Robert Maginelly by Trudi du Toit*



*At the Cactus gardens by Joyce Goldschmidt*



*(from left) Jean Bradshaw, Anna Engelhardt and Lesley Parolis 'talking shop' by Trudi du Toit.*



*On the streets of Montague by Margaret Collins*



*I love this car by Richard Goldschmidt*



*Proud to be a dancer by Christo la Grange*





*Photographs (from left) by Richard Goldschmidt, Pat Scott, Mike de Villiers & Barbara Hallock*

## Autumn Outing to enchanting Newlands Forest

**Mike de Villiers reports**

When our President Richard Goldschmidt asked me to lead a photographic outing I thought that an excursion into the lower Newlands Forest at this time of the year would be an ideal photographic opportunity. We – that is Pat Scott, Mike de Villiers, Barbara and Brian Hallock, Andrew Denny, Mireille Landman, Richard Goldschmidt and Stephen Gibson - met at the entrance to the reserve at 08h00 on Saturday, 25th May, with cameras and tripods at the ready. Having rained earlier in the week, the stream which runs down the lowest portion of the Newlands Ravine was running strong, and being a clear and windless day the forest was looking at its very best. Many trees were showing their classical colour palette of autumn hues, in contrast to the stately pines and emerald green ferns and abundant ground cover.

It was a perfect morning with perfect light and the first comment was that we should have met even earlier to capture the mountain peaks bathed in the early morning sunlight. The plan was to walk up on either side of the ravine which presented a

multitude of photographic opportunities, from moving water to rock formations and exposed tree roots. Needless to say, everyone got totally absorbed with the task of capturing the many beautiful images that were so well presented in the soft lighting conditions. Pat was extremely helpful by passing on some of her expert knowledge of technical aspects on how to capture the multi-coloured leaves.

We slowly worked our way up to the weir where we found a father with his exuberant kids sitting on a bench. Pat saw the opportunity and using her charm, got the kids to pose in the arch of trees to create an excellent focal point. After a group photo, we proceeded back down one of the forest tracks to the car-park.

It was decided not to attempt to have tea at the Gardener's cottage, being a Saturday, so everyone dispersed at about 11h00. As always, it was a most enjoyable outing that presented many opportunities to share ideas and techniques - or just to chat with fellow photo enthusiasts about the beautiful surroundings.



*Photographs (from left) by Stephen Gibson, Richard Goldschmidt (showing Richard Goldschmidt, Andrew Denny, Brian & Barbara Hallock, Mike de Villiers, Stephen Gibson, Pat Scott & Mireille Landman) & Andrew Denny*



*Photographs (from left) by Mireille Landman, Barbara Hallock & Pat Scott*





## Forthcoming Outing - Sunday 14th July

*Cape Hunt @ Allee Bleue Wine Farm, Franschhoek*

### Don't miss this spectacular photographic event!

It is our intrepid PAT SCOTT that has organised this exciting event and has been given permission by the owners to attend together with members of CTPS. The hunt leaves at 10h00. It is worth getting there early to catch all the preparations and get close-ups of horses and riders.



The Cape Hunt is a weekly event during the winter months and is held every Sunday morning on various wine farms in the Cape area. Not only are these Hunts full of action with superb horses, formally dressed riders and a band of well-trained hounds, but they are held in beautiful surroundings with mountains and rivers.

However, Pat needs to know the numbers of those wishing to attend "as we must be organised with our 4x4s and also have to limit the number of cars, which will make it necessary to double up.

"The basic protocol is that the spectators are led by the Lead car and others follow, and then park where the person in charge indicates. All cars must move together, and go ahead of the hunt to get 'out of the way' and position themselves at the Fences (jumps) to take photos, as the hunt comes through. Although there are several fences, the cars only stop at about six of them.

"A list will be available at our competition evening on 5 July for those interested to participate. Hopefully we can finalise the numbers and organise the doubling up with our 4x4 cars," concludes Pat.

Any queries please contact Pat Scott: [p.a.charteris@gmail.com](mailto:p.a.charteris@gmail.com)



*All photographs from a previous event by Pat Scott*



*A member's profile*

## Sibyl Morris



It was the mentioning of the pianist Sibyl White-man Morris in a recent newsletter of the Cape Town Philharmonic Orchestra that sparked our interest to find out what happened to one of our esteemed honorary life members who had joined CTPS way back in 1990. From our club records it was obvious that she was a very committed and active

club member for a long time - but has been mostly absent from our club's activities for almost a decade.

She had taken over the position of editor of our Cape Camera in 1995 when it was a bi-monthly newsletter which was printed on an A4 sheet of paper, using a Roneo machine (a rotary duplicator that used a stencil), that was individually mailed to our members.

"When I took over, the printing and publishing world was changing and I sensed that I needed to learn about computers to keep up with the time. I was very fortunate that my eldest son was able to help me to set it all up, but I had to learn fast. It was a huge learning curve as well as a great challenge, but I really enjoyed it with the added pleasure of getting the newsletter printed and posted like clockwork every two months," explains Sibyl. For her efforts she was awarded the CTPS gold medal in 2002. She stayed on as editor until 2003.

Although we may not have seen much of Sibyl during the past decade (except during our 125th Anniversary celebrations where one of her photographs was part of the retrospective exhibition that took place), we understand that she still continues to be a keen photographer; and this together with her love for music and music making fills her life with purpose and meaning. As an accomplished pianist she has often performed with

CPO's predecessors, and has two CDs of piano recordings to her name with a third one pending completion.

Her photographic interest started many years before she joined CTPS and after her husband had given her a SLR camera – an Exakta, which was ultimately donated to CTPS's collection of historic photographic equipment. Since then she has bought a succession of cameras, always with the aspiration of getting one of the latest in camera gear. Her first digital camera was bought in 2005 and "life has not been the same since".

"Throughout my active years with CTPS, the most helpful aspect was entering the monthly CTPS competitions and trying to produce a story-telling photo for those, especially for the set subject category. This forced me to think and search about subjects that I had never tried before or did not particularly interest me, informed us Sibyl.

"I entered several Salons and collected a number of acceptances and a few Certificates of Merit. In 1999, I was awarded an APSSA in colour slides. At club level, I won the Johannesson Trophy for nature slides in 1995, 1996 and 2006, plus Roy Johannesson's Golden Apple award for service; the Poichet trophy for pictorial slides in 1994 and 1997, and the Agfa trophy in 1993, 1994 and 1997 for highest point aggregate in slides.

"During those early years of my membership, the CTPS numbers gradually decreased with hardly any competitions taking place. At its lowest point there were only a dozen or so members who attended an evening's meeting. I think we all could sense that photography needed to change course radically in order to attract new members and ensure that our club survived. The beginning of the digital photography age proved to be the spark that was so badly needed," concluded Sibyl.

When we asked her about what she had been doing after she stopped coming to our monthly meeting, she explained that she is still an active photographer but just not at club level anymore. It is in particularly wild life and bird photography that interests her today, having attended six workshops over the years with such experts as Albert Froneman and Chris van Rooyen.



*All photographs by Sybil Morris*

## New members

# Dieter Bütow



Ever since the birth of our first son some 45 years ago, a SLR camera has always been in the family. Later, as marketing director, I decided to produce all material in-house within our marketing department and had a good excuse for photographing and updating my equipment regularly, especially when returning from business trips to the Far East.

My first use of a DSLR was in 2000 when Canon had launched the EOS D30 DSLR with 3.1MP sensor (2160 x 1440) and where an A4 print was not yet of acceptable quality. We climbed Kilimanjaro in 2002 with a EOS D60 that had just been launched with 6.2 Megapixel sensor. Since memory cards at the time were very limited in capacity, I intended taking a state-of-the-art Compact Flash digital disc up the mountain but realized, just before we departed, that it would crash on the mountain (magnetic heads float on a thin cushion of air – and at almost 6000m altitude the air is too thin). Losing all pictures of such a special trip would

have been a bummer.

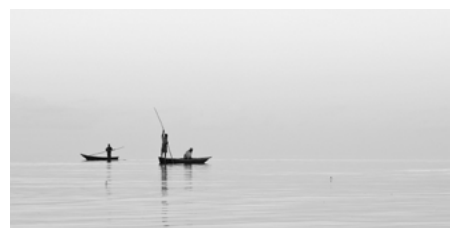
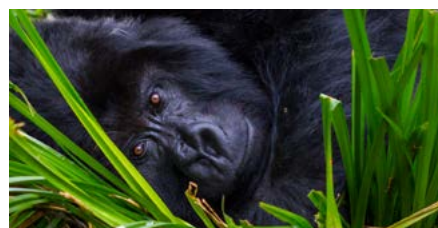
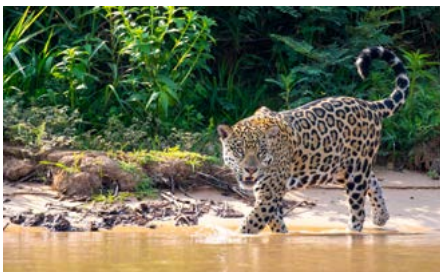
Ever since, I have enjoyed the rapid development of digital technology and the experimental possibilities it offered. I soon realized that the camera is just one part – it is the glass that produces the better results and Megapixels is just one side of the coin.

My wife Karin and I enjoy travelling and used the first available opportunity, after selling our engineering firm in 2015, to ship a 4x4 vehicle to South America where we explored the continent for 18 months; and to experience the art of “drifting”, we never booked anything and enjoyed not knowing where we would sleep that night. This is travel pure and we highly recommend trying this style of exploring a country. In this period we produced a lot of images and video material (about 4 TB ) which we are still processing. As we enjoy nature more than man-made landscapes, my photography currently centres more around landscapes and wildlife.

Over the years, we have been very lucky to tick off a few of our bucket list destinations. One of the most gripping experiences has been a trek to photograph the mountain gorillas in Rwanda, of which there were only 308 left at the time – a fact that vividly highlights how mankind is destroying this wonderful planet at an ever increasing rate. Other special trips included three month by vehicle through Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania; a trip by boat into the Antarctic; and a voyage around Galápagos Islands.

Photography enriches my life daily and there is so much to learn and to keep up with technology. Retirement plans? I am too busy enjoying myself! By joining CTPS, I hope to meet many like-minded people and in the process aim to upskill from a Traveler who photographs to a Photographer who travels.

(Note: I have been writing a blog and if anybody is interested in South America go to [www.aufpad.com](http://www.aufpad.com); I will soon expand it to include other travels as well.)



*All photographs by Dieter Bütow*



# Melanie Delamare



Ever since I was a child, I liked taking photos, but it was only when I turned 19 that I acquired my very first professional Canon camera. It was the best birthday present I have ever received! Since that day, I have discovered a really big passion for photography and also a love for sharing my images and knowledge with other equally passionate photographers. Whenever I hold a camera in my hand, I feel confident and happy. Seeing the world in my very

own way, I always hope that other people can experience the same emotions when looking at my images.

My camera equipment includes a Canon 60D, a Canon 5D mark III together with a 24-70mm f2.8 and a 70-200mm f2.8 Canon lens. Although I have no particular preference, because every type of photography poses a different kind of challenge and brings out a different kind of emotion in me, I particularly like to take portraits, landscapes and wildlife.

One of my most memorable experiences was while I was working as a field guide and we decided to get out of the vehicle to get closer to a pack of wild dogs. It was a fantastic experience to lie down only five metres away and get some amazing low angle shots of these fascinating predators.

I decided to join CTPS because I want to keep on learning about photography, get judged on my photographs and meet other photographers in and around Cape Town.



*All photographs by Melanie Delamare*

A warm welcome to our new members!



## *A member's travelogue*



# Magnificent splendour of an Indian wedding

*by Andre Mouton*

When life gifts you a chance, the key is to grab it and run with it. This gift presented itself in the form of a wedding invitation to a remote Indian village in the state of Gujarat at very short notice. It was an easy decision to take as the memories of the welcoming nature of India, the generosity, warmth and fragrant food from my previous trip was still fresh in my mind and no argument could convince me otherwise. I was also excited about experiencing my first Indian wedding.

My itinerary was tight. The journey was to commence in Mumbai, followed by a couple of days in Parkhet, Gujarat for the wedding and then a couple of days in Pune, Maharashtra visiting my Indian colleagues.

My short time was littered with happy memories of faces and places. Mumbai did not disappoint. It's always buzzing with activity in every corner with endless interest that keep you wanting more. I arrived in Mumbai on Republic Day, the day the Indian nation commemorates the Constitution of India. Indians love a good party and the city was abuzz with parades, flag hosting ceremonies, cultural events, photography exhibitions, and colourful floats. Flags of all shapes and sizes were draped around people, motorbikes, lampposts ... and anything tangible.

The street vibe was addictive with ample of photographic opportunities but I learned from my previous trip that with so much happening one must take time to appreciate and enjoy the process of exploration and observation. I enjoy interacting with people and sometimes missed a picture opportunity but then in hindsight taking one would have interfered with the moment.

The period between October and February is the most popular time of the year for weddings when the days are sunny and dry. I travelled by train from Mumbai to Bharuch from a very lively Mumbai Central Station. Transportation is not the only reason to take the train. The activity and life on trains and stations is filled with many photo opportunities, interesting people, railway entrepreneurs, and gives a different perspective of urban life. The view from the trains also reiterates the big divide between the affluent and the poor. It is through these windows that poverty in India becomes a reality. It is only then that you start to comprehend the masked beauty of the continent. The railway also forms an intricate part of the linen courier system. Through this system, bales of linen used as wedding decor are transported to wedding venues around Mumbai. I'm grateful to the interesting stranger who gave me a lift to the station and provided me with snacks as I found myself without a single ru-

pee to pay for transport and food after Standard Bank in their wisdom decided to block my bank card in error. It is these human moments that stick with you forever, the random acts of kindness.

The journey was delightful. I made myself comfortable and ready to read a book on my Kindle, but my travel companions had other plans for the trip. This is not unusual in India. An older gentleman and two young girls sat opposite me and we all started sharing stories and reasons for our respective journeys. We were all on our way to weddings. The wedding took place in a village called Parkhet which is about 22kms away from Bharuch in the state of Gujarat, with a population of just over 3000

There are weddings and then there are Indian weddings and it was an absolute wonderful experience witnessing the warmest of all hospitality and a large part of the Gujarat culture. The Patels, which is a cast, rather than a family, are known for their lavish wedding celebrations which lasts for four days. During these four days, the wedding guests participate in a variety of rituals, ceremonies and culinary feasts. Attending a wedding in India is like exploring a part of the country as it is a reflection of the culture and traditions specific to the area.

I arrived in time for the Pithi ceremony, the day after the Mehendi evening. This ritual is performed by both the bride and the groom at their respective homes. The groom sits on a low chair with upturned palms and all the female relatives take turns to apply a paste of turmeric, sandalwood, rosewater and herbs to the groom's face and feet. Turmeric has healing powers and enhances the skin tone. The Pithi was a whirlwind of vibrant colours as most women dressed in bright yellow sarees for the ceremony.







The Pihti ceremony was followed by many ceremonies and preparations for the main wedding day. And this starts with the 'Mandap Mahurat'. A priest or pandit is invited to perform a Griha Shanti Puja at both the homes, seeking God's blessings over the couple, their homes and all wedding-related tasks ahead. They pray for an extended envelope of peace and happiness over both the households and to remove any possible obstacles that may hinder the couple's path ahead.



The Garba evening is one of the highlights of the Indian Gujarati wedding. The ritual presents an informal setting for the two families to get to know each other, as most marriages in the villages of India are still arranged. It is a fun-filled evening of music and traditional dancing the night before the wedding day. The women are dressed in their finest jewellery, matching bangles and the latest chaniya choli's (a skirt and blouse, and a scarf draped around their waists). These sights are often seen in Bollywood movies, where all the guests dance in sync. The guests are twirling and clapping to the beat of Garba and Dandiya till the early hours of the morning and the whole village participated. Besides these main rituals, the days are filled with fascinating traditions, celebration and ceremonies unique to the village, an endless food fare and forever changing attires.

I was treated in the most special way. It didn't matter that for some of the time I didn't understand what was going on even though I was guided through each stage of the wedding in broken English.



It was an all-vegetarian affair as most Hindus are pure vegetarian in Gujarat, the Ghandi State. The food was lip-smacking good. Gujaratis surely know how to combine soul food with the festivities. The food is fragrant, with a very subtle taste and a delicate blend of flavours and textures which favour the sweet palate. During the day, meals with Dhal, rotis, talis and sweet meats were served. The festivities often continued until the early hours of the morning, which was also significantly colder. Platters of freshly fried samosas, pakoras and chai were served to ensure that the guests stay warm and their tummies full.



Hindus do not choose their wedding dates. They consult a pandit who will study the bride and the groom's horoscopes and then decide on an auspicious time and date for the wedding. The wedding rituals had to commence at exactly midnight as this was the auspicious hour for this wedding couple. During the day the groom visits several homes in the village on horse-back where he receives gifts and blessing.





Finally it was time for the Varghodo. This is when the wedding procession makes its way to the bride's home. The procession consists of relatives and friends and they are accompanied by a band, gregariously announcing the arrival of the groom. The groom is transported in a brightly lit horse drawn coach, and fireworks are set off on the way.

This concludes the celebrations on the groom's side and is then continued at the bride's home. The wedding rituals are very symbolic. The most significant part of the wedding is walking around the sacred fire ... during the first four circles the groom leads his wife and during the last three, the bride leads the groom. The marriage is concluded once the groom puts sindhoor (red powder made from turmeric and lime juice) in the bride's maang (the parting of the hair). This is symbolic of a visible desire of the wife for her husband. The wedding ceremony comes to an end with the newlyweds seeking the elders' blessings by touching the elders' feet. One can't help but feel a strong connection to all the villagers - a connection that surpasses any language barrier.



I was very curious to see how wedding photographers in India handle the rigours of shooting a wedding and it was fascinating to work alongside the Indian wedding photographers. I realised to my horror that everyone was shooting all the images in fine JPG using high apertures in a way I had never seen a professional use before. With the wedding season only lasting about four months with the peak months in January and February being extremely busy, there is very little time between weddings for retouching and preparing wedding albums. When the photographers leave the wedding they have a few hours of work left in the creation of the album. It is therefore important to get the picture 100% correct in camera ensuring every image is album-ready straight out of the camera, thereby reducing their turnaround time.

I was gripped by their process and speed of working; there is so much happening so fast. Detail is everything hence the need for large apertures. A huge part of their approach for the day



is their vision which was drilled into me all the time; thinking about what is it you are doing, how you're doing it and why. Each photo must tell a story and add to the overall storyline. Very quick decision making is essential... what angle, lens choice, light direction interaction with the subject etc. During the wedding I had time to explore a bit of the village between events and wished I could

speak their language to get to know what hides behind some of their faces and what stories they have to tell. Some of these houses in the village are more than 200 years old ... some of the houses quite modern and some of them tell the story of centuries. After an amazing three days I returned to Mumbai by train and travelled by taxi to Pune 150kms away where I met with my team face-to-face for the first time

Pune is the second largest city in the Indian state of Maharashtra, after Mumbai and one of the fastest growing urban cities. It is a vibrant metropolis and a perfect example of the 'New India'; tradition with modernity and academia with business and a baffling mix of capitalism and ancient and modern spirituality. Because of its close proximity to Mumbai and the availability of skilled resources it is home to several IT companies one of which provides IT support and application development to my local client. It has a pleasant climate throughout the year and is well known for its Western Ghats and hill stations (nature reserves). It is quite acceptable to start work at 10am so I had time in the mornings to explore the city, visiting temples. I've been working with the team since 2017 but this opportunity gave me important insights into their work ethic and culture. The team made me feel at home and treated me to some of the best eateries Pune has to offer.

My last few days in Mumbai were spent exploring different parts of Mumbai. On every last Sunday of the month some of the streets in Mumbai are closed for traffic till 11am and everyone comes out to play, ride their bikes, do yoga, meditate, pray, walk, talk, wash their cars and engage in all sorts of interesting activities. Sometimes going out with the intention to get a few good shots doesn't work. You just have to immerse yourself with street life, soak up the energy, engage with people and that makes me happy even though I sometimes do not get the shot. Once again India did not disappoint and I left with a sense of inner peace and a deep love for this ancient civilisation.



*All photographs by Andre Mouton*



# Winning images from May

## Set subject: Backlit portrait

*The meeting held on the 8th May proved to be quite challenging considering the small number of entries in the set subject this month. The judges for the evening were our own Kim Stevens, Anna Engelhardt and Ken Wood who were asked to judge in place of the published judge for the month who had knee surgery.*

*The images were viewed and discussed on the Monday preceding the competition evening but due to time constraints the original plan to have the images scored and put into the judging system for upload to Photovault was not possible. We will do this for the next internal judging session later in the year and then the scores will be read out and the images commented on only without the need for time consuming punching in of scores. If any member feels that they would like to join an internal judging team to obtain experience in judging then please let me know, comments LESLEY PAROLIS.*

*Congratulations to Marleen la Grange who was promoted to Master. A few members have enough points for ranking promotion but lack the necessary salon acceptances. You are encouraged to enter the national salons which can be found on Photovault and also on the PSSA web page*

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

### Set Subject



Winner PDI - Set (Salon) *After dinner coffee* by David Barnes (27). A delightful out-of-the-box image. Wonderful use of light and shadow to create a graphic line which we all recognize. Faultless.

Winner PDI – Set (Advanced) *Megan Sunset* by Roger Trythall (24). A successful image for the set subject taken at the last light of day to make the subject pop out from the background. The use of just enough fill flash has balanced the light well allowing us to see detail in the subject while still modelling her features. The pose looks a little awkward but the colours are lovely.

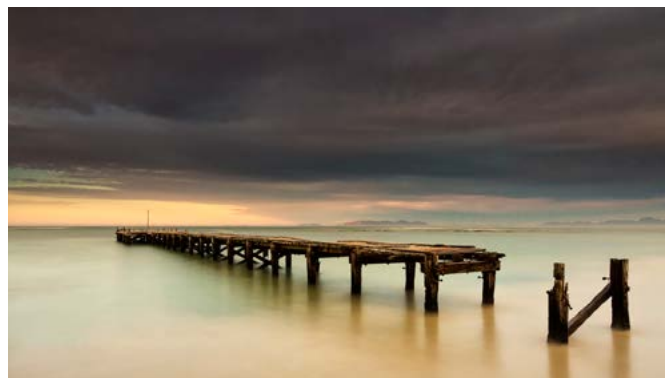


Winner Print – Set (Advanced) *Megan Sunset* by Roger Trythall (24). Nicely posed portrait with soft backlighting and a hint of rim lighting around the model

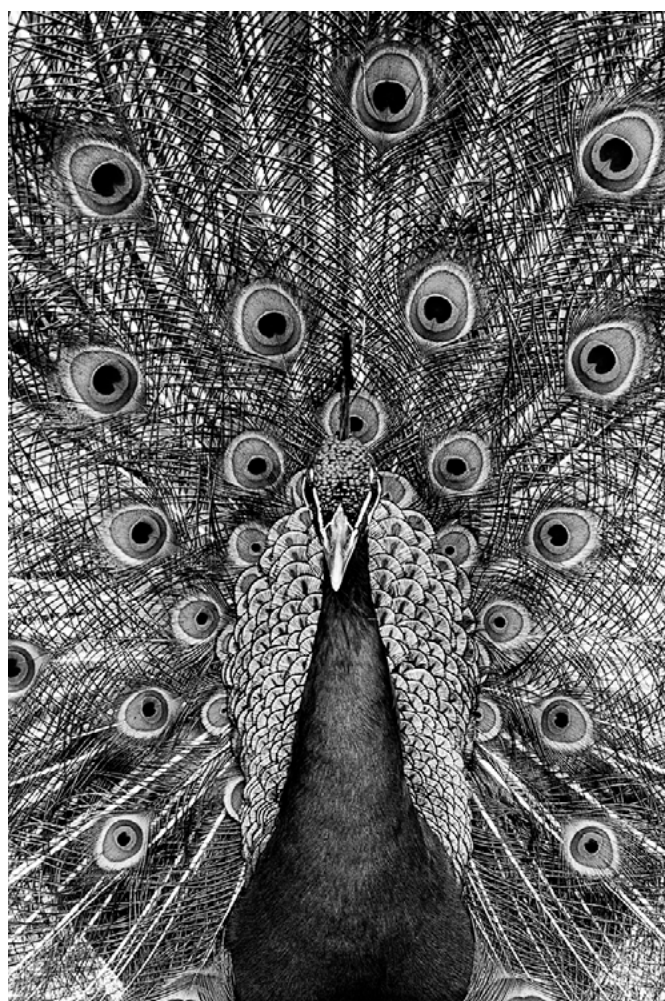
## Open Subject



Winner PDI – Open (Salon) *Flight Abstract* by Catherine Bruce Wright (27). A beautiful abstract 'painting' created by successful intentional camera movement. The brown and blue colours are repeated through the image with the flight path of the birds passing through the coloured canvas. The movement in the wings of the birds is enhanced by the slow shutter speed.



Winner PDI – Open (Advanced) *The desolated Jetty* by Crighton Klassen (26). Beautiful rendition of this often photographed subject. The angle of view is different and the author did well to contain the jetty below the horizon. Lovely detail is retained in the rotting wood and a dreamy mood is evoked by the pastel colours in the sky and sea . A successful long exposure shot.



Winner Print – Open (Master) *A most regal bird* by Anna Engelhardt (27). Very effective conversion to black and white of the peacock displaying its feathers. The image is sharp and has a graphic feel to it, with symmetry between the two halves of the image.





Winner Print – Open (Advanced) *Oak* by Stephen Gibson (25). A very successful infra-red image that was either shot in camera or later successfully converted in Photoshop. The very soft and gentle colours - with mainly just a touch of the palest pink or blue - create a dreamlike atmosphere that adds to the overall moody feeling of an intimate space in a woody landscape.



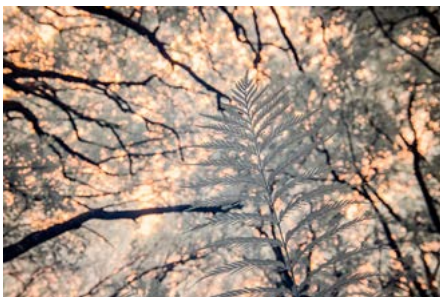
Winner PDI – Open (Intermediate) *Bokaap Eyecandy* by Carmen Anderson (23). Pleasing capture of the area. Colours complement each other, and the design of the image is good with attention to detail in keeping verticals straight and balancing all the various shapes

*"When I'm experimenting with an idea, I'll determine the technical aspects well beforehand, so when I'm shooting, I don't need to think. This lets me be as receptive to the moment as possible."*

*Chris McDonough*

## Other high-scoring images from our **May competition**

**(24 & above)**



*Fern* by Stephen Gibson (24)



*Illuminated yellow room Kolmanskop* by Jonathan Mark Burchell (24)



*The Wave* by Kim Stevens (26)





*Cute* by Jean Bradshaw (24)



*Queen of the sun* by Marleen la Grange (24)



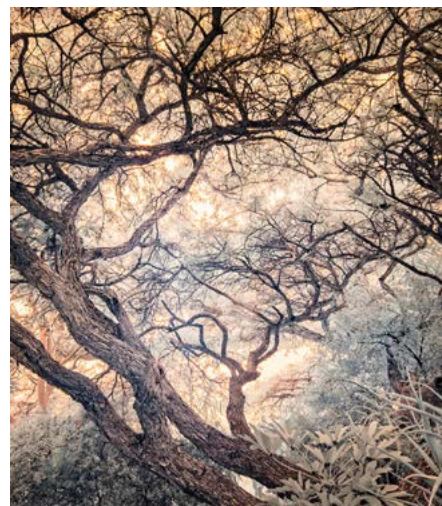
*Sunset at Aus* by Neels Beyers (24)



*Old steps* by Jean Bradshaw (24)



*Ostrich ruffled up* by Neels Beyers (25)



*Acacia* by Stephen Gibson (24)



*Sundowners* by Keith Bull (24)



*Rock tree* by Pat Scott (24)



*Trying to forget the past*  
by Marleen la Grange (25)



*Late afternoon fishing* by Lesley Parolis (26)



*Study without Eskom*  
by Christo la Grange (25)



*Autumn sky* by Steff Hughes (26)



*Reeds in the sand* by Mireille Landman (25)



*Sunday morning at the park*  
by Anna Engelhardt (25)





*Tranquil seascape* by Lesley Parolis (24)



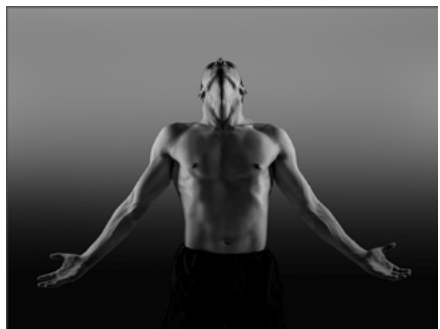
*Media24* by Kim Stevens (24)



*Stapelia Leendertzia*  
by Jeanette du Toit (24)



*Ethiopia pipe* by Roger Trythall (24)



*Rising up* by David Barnes (25)



*Intense Concentration*  
by Jeanette du Toit (25)



*Crystal Miner* by Christo la Grange (25)



*Sunday walk in the dunes*  
by Anna Engelhardt (24)



*First Light* by Ken Woods (25)



*Half the story never been told*  
by Crighton Klassen (24)

# Winning images from June

## Set subject: Movement

*The competition evening was held on the 5th June with a total of 105 entries in the different categories - 50 images in the set subject section with a large percentage of them being sports and action photography. The judge for the evening was Alicia Greyling.*

*Below are the winners in the various categories. We do apologize for the non-inclusion of the judge's comments which unfortunately were not available at the time of going to press.*

### Set Subject



Winner PDI – Set (Salon) *I love to dance* by lesley Parolis (25)



Winner PDI - Set (Advanced) *Hanging on* by Andrew Denny (22)



Winner Print – Set (Advanced) *Dog chasing vehicle*  
by Jenny Cole-Rous (24)



Winner Print Set (Salon) *Winning stare* by David barnes (26)

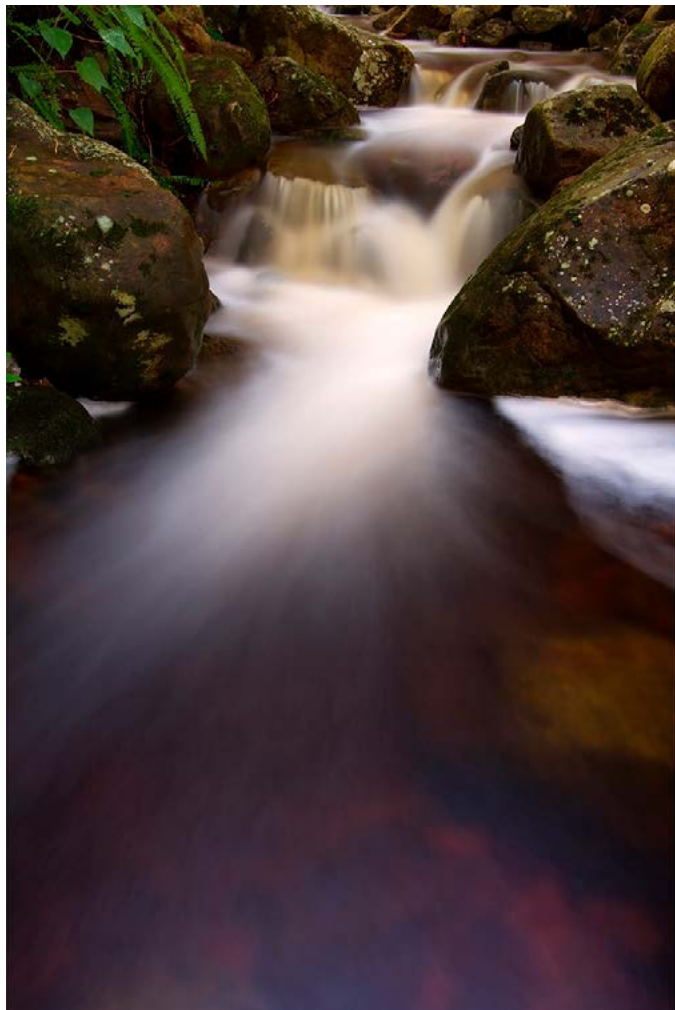


Winner Print – Set (Advanced) *Shanghai F1 GP*  
by Peter Turnbull (24)



Winner PDI – Set (Intermediate) *Beach run* by Teli Proto (24)





Winner PDI – Set (Advanced) *Liquid motion*  
by Crighton Klassen (22)

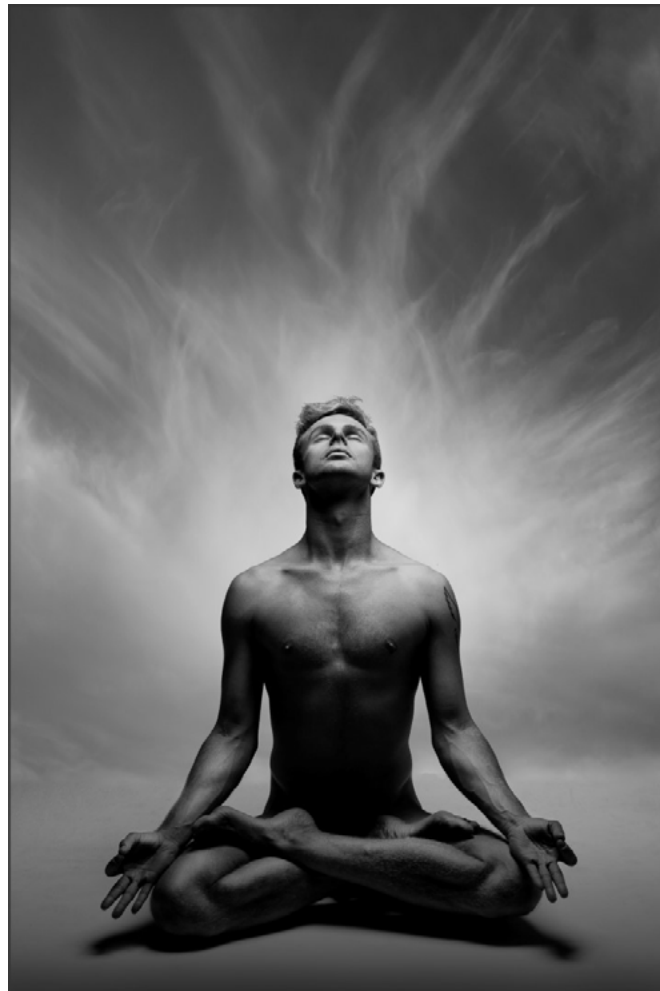
## Open Subject



Winner Print – Open (Master) *Manhattan* by Kim Stevens (26)

*Congratulations to David Barnes who was promoted to Master*

Winner Print – Open (Master) *Teal waters*  
by Jacoba van Zyl (26)



Winner PDI – Open (Salon) *At Peace* by David Barnes (26)

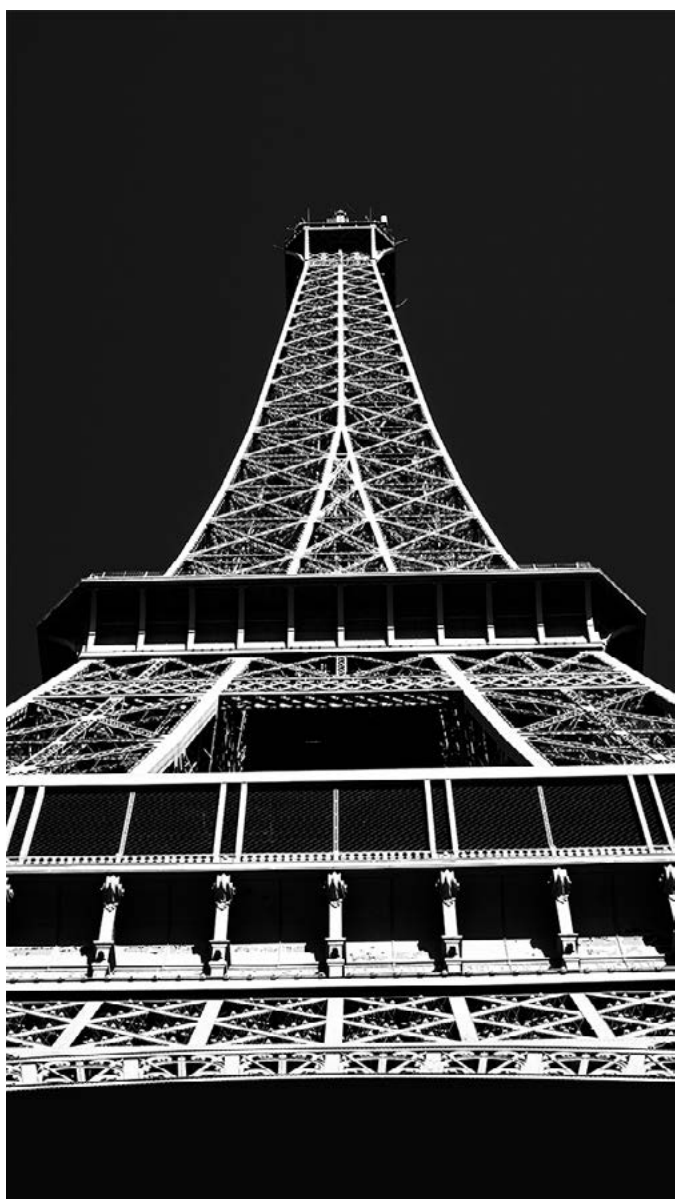


Winner Print – Open (Advanced) *Go Your Own Way*  
by Marianna Meyer (26)





Winner PDI – Open (Advanced) *Jordan Jerash wonders of Rome* by Roger Trythall (25)



Winner PDI – Open (Intermediate) *Eiffel Tower* by Paramasivam Saravanakumar (23)

## Other high-scoring images from our **June competition** (24 & above)



*Vineyard between the rocks* by Lambe Parolis (24)



*Wave riding* by Ken Woods (24)





*Kitesurfer kicking a wave*  
by Neels Beyers (24)



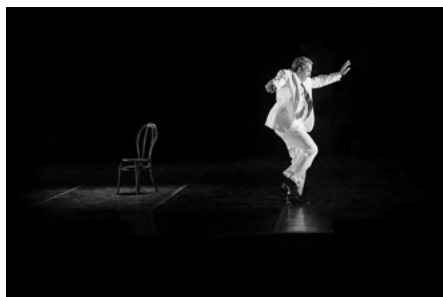
*Pelican Close Contact*  
by Jeanette du Toit (24)



*Rose in the waves* by Steff Hughes (24)



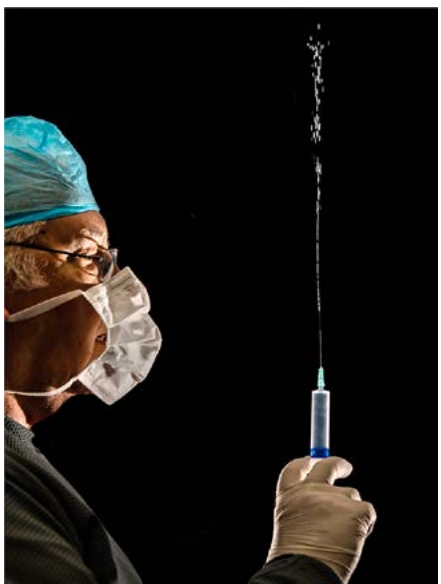
*Distracted attention* by Pat Scott (24)



*Mr Bojangles and he loved to dance*  
by Lesley Parolis (24)



*Go green* by Sonja Grunbauer (25)



*It won't hurt* by Christo la Grange (24)



*Natures Ballet* by Christo la Grange (25)



*Stillness in movement*  
by Catherine Bruce Wright (24)



*Black Rhino Duo* by Jeanette du Toit (24)



*Silky motion* by Steff Hughes (24)



*Curious* by Jacoba van Zyl (24)

## How to rekindle your photographic passion?

*I guess it has happened to most photographers: We start off with great enthusiasm and make use of every opportunity to take photographs while slowly improving our knowledge and the quality of our images, but the time comes - sometimes only after many years – when our enthusiasm starts to fade. We feel stagnated in our growth, and are just doing the same old thing, over and over again.*



Below are some suggestions, collected over the years from several distinguished teachers and successful photographers, to help us get back on our feet:

### **Carry a camera at all times**

Have at least one camera with us at every waking moment so that whenever we feel inspired or see a photo opportunity we are ready to shoot. Nothing is more frustrating than seeing a perfect photo opportunity and not having a camera ready to use. This advice is much easier to follow today as we are never without our omnipresent cell phones which are now capable of producing high quality images and allow us flexibility in what and how we shoot.

### **Get critiqued**

Receiving feedback from other photographers can help to both encourage us and open our eyes to new ways in which we can improve or approach our 'making' of images. Listening to what other photographers have to say about our work helps a great deal. Another great help is to publishing our work on the web and taking in what visitors have to say about our photos.

### **Join a photographic community**

There are countless different services on the web that allow us to both store our photographs and share them with family, friends, and random strangers from around the world. Build a relationship with other people whose work we respect, and give them the type of feedback we would like them to give us. Those photographers can both inspire us through their work and educate us with their critique.

### **Get new gear**

As we all know, obsessing over gear is futile and foolish, but getting our hands on a new body or lens can give our passion for photography a jump start. If someone is always shooting with a wide-angle or normal lens, maybe it is time to try a telephoto or macro lens; or perhaps take out and dust that old film camera and set up that dark room again.

### **Start a 365 day project**

This involves taking one or more photographs every single day of the year. The benefits of this exercise are numerous: Not only will we have a fascinating record of a particular time in our life, but we will have grown in ways we never would have imagined in the beginning, and will have tried countless new things that helped us learn and improve our photographic skills.

### **Set goals & do assignments**

A great way to broaden our horizons is to narrow our focus by selecting a theme and sticking to it. This can be, for example, shadows and/or reflections, patterns/textures, unconventional angles, creative framing, portraits of family, friends or even complete strangers on the street; or choose any ordinary object that we can find everywhere - such as fire hydrants, bicycles, windows, doors or doorknobs – the list is endless.

Let us walk around the neighbourhood with a theme in mind, and it is amazing how much we notice when we are actively looking. Let us also step outside the box and look for a completely original idea and think of something that has never been seen before in a photograph, or of taking pictures in a completely different to the normal way.

### **Change location**

If we find ourselves in the same places day after day, maybe what we need is a complete change of scenery. This could be something as simple as taking a different route to work or school. If we spend most of the time indoors, we should make a concerted effort to go out and take a photo walk (also good for our health). Of course, traveling is another great way to change location that will help to rekindle our love for photography. It only takes a day-trip or two into the country (which is inexpensive) to change our photographic perspective and to get some spice back into our photographic life!

### **Learn something new**

If we feel that we are stuck or have not changed our shooting technique or post-processing skills in a long time, then it is time to learn something new. This could be as basic as a button or setting on our camera. Do we actually know every feature our camera has to offer, have we explored all the menu options, and when is the last time we took a look at the instruction manual of our camera? Search - we might come across some fundamental camera feature of which we have been ignorant all this time!

### **Experiment**

In addition to learning new things about our camera, we should also be trying out new practices, experiment with different camera techniques such as painting with light, panning, double exposure, long exposure, using shallow depth of field, high-speed photography like catching water droplets etc.

### **Follow other photographers**

A great way to motivate ourselves is to be inspired by the work other photographers are producing. Make a trip to a gallery or museum nearby and check out photographic exhibitions. If it is good enough to be shown in a gallery, then it is probably good enough to inspire us, even if it is in a weird or random way.

### **Making prints of your photographs**

It is always surprising how few photographers make prints of their work and thereby miss out on an important part of photography, and the particular enjoyment gained by seeing one's images in real (printed) form. Now is the time to start - whether it's making prints of negatives using an enlarger in a darkroom or sending that digital file to a photo printer. Don't miss out on the additional creative options here, such as colour management, choosing a special kind of paper to print on, as well as mounting and framing the images.