

The Bellows

Official newsletter of the Tygerberg Photographic Society



Set subject winner - February 2024 - Story Telling/Street Photography
Where to from here *by Coert Venter*

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Proud member of the
Photographic
Society of South Africa

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Thought for the day

Rob's Ramblings

Hi everyone,

I've had some fruitful discussions with members this past month on the purpose and content of our newsletter, and thought it would be worthwhile for everyone to just clarify things. The discussions have also helped me to make some changes to things I have done in the past, and these are incorporated into this edition.

Put simply, the newsletter is there to help inform members of recent, current, and future happenings in our club. So the content will focus on club events, meetings, new members, members' achievements, etc. In other words, it's basically our local newspaper. Being a photographic club, a fair bit of the content will highlight members' photographs. When we attend our monthly competition meetings, we only get a fleeting look at the images that were entered. Here, if there is an image that you especially like and would like to spend more time on, you can do so at your leisure.

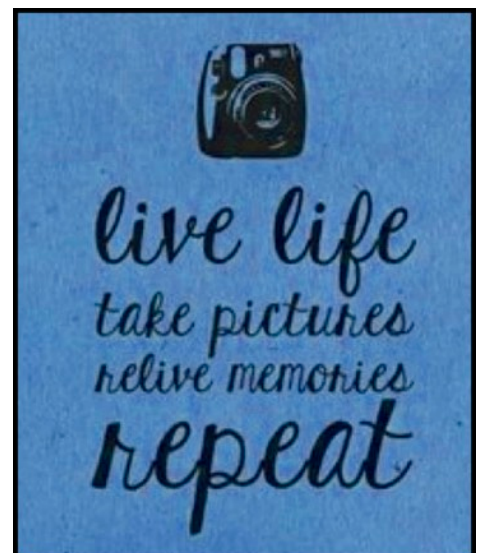
Also, while the newsletter cannot be all things to all people, the images and articles are meant to be of interest to most members, and not targeted at a specific group. Where appropriate, and rather than burden everyone with a load of information, there will be links in the article for those members who would like more detail.

Tutorials on how to improve one's skills will not be part of the publication. We have a specific Learn and Share section in the club, and those sessions are designed to teach and help improve one's photographic knowledge. I have also been guilty in the past of including links to tutorials or web pages that I have found interesting, but on reflection that was being a bit presumptuous, so they will no longer form part of the content. However, if I come across a saying or cartoon relating to photography that I think might brighten your day a bit, I will include it.

My thanks to all those who have contributed to the content this month - it's been a great help, and is appreciated.

To close, if there are any changes that you think would improve the communication to members, please email me at robminterza@gmail.com.

Till next month,
Rob



Chairman Chatter

Hi there Tygertogs

As we settle down into the new year (the 5th month of our financial year), we are starting to see a bit of churn in our membership. A couple of members have decided not to renew their membership for 2024, but this is expected, as every year we see a similar trend. Hopefully, this will be offset by new members joining TPS.

We decided to do something a little different with our L&S in February, by reviewing the previous year's judge's comments on our February set subject – Street Photography/Story Telling. Judging by the comments, this was a hit, and I am hopeful it helped our members in preparing for the set subject.

For our outing in February, we met at Vergelegen, and were led by John Read in maximising our Macro/Close Up photography knowledge, Macro/Close-up being the set subject for March. A very good turnout of 10 members joined us on the day. Looking forward to seeing some great images at our Macro competition, and who knows, maybe one of our members will win The Essence of Vergelegen competition.

Our February meeting at the NG Kerk in Panorama was attended by 8 members and we had 15 members join in via zoom, including our judge for the night, Johan Brits. Unfortunately some gremlins crept into the proceedings, which caused some delays. These will be looked into and we will try to mitigate this in future.

For February, we had a good number of entries - 45 in our Set Subject and 32 in Open. I must say that I am encouraged by the higher number of set subject images, which for the past few months has exceeded the open entries.

I am recovering from a bout of 'flu, so have not yet decided on our outing for March. With Easter falling in late March and being the school holidays, I may decide to leave it for early April, but once we decide at our monthly Committee meeting, I will confirm via WhatsApp and email.

I have received a short bio from Louis Jones, a new member who recently joined us. Enjoy his bio later in The Bellows.

A huge thanks to Rob Minter for his commitment to taking over and editing our monthly magazine, and the work that goes into it. I look forward to some interesting articles from which I am sure we will all benefit.

Until next time, cheers and keep on snapping.

Michael

February 2024 Winners

Set Subject - Story Telling/Street Photography



RUNNER-UP: *Waiting* by Michael West

WINNER: *Where to from here* by Coert Venter



RUNNER-UP: *Waiting* by Michael West

Open

**WINNER
and
JUDGE'S CHOICE SENIOR**

Sinner
by
David Barnes



RUNNER-UP

Going to Neverland
by
David Barnes

Open (cont.)



JUDGE'S CHOICE - JUNIOR: *Captive by John Read*

Well done everyone!



General TPS News and Information

February Competition:

- 45 images were entered in the Set Subject category. The winning score was 28, with the average score being 21.7, and 22 being the most common score. A full list of the Set Subject scores can be found by clicking [here](#).
- 32 images were entered in the Open category. The winning score was also 28, with the average score being 24.6, and 23 being the most common score. A full list of the Open scores can be found by clicking [here](#).

Member Advancements:



Derrick Smit from 4-star to 5-star!



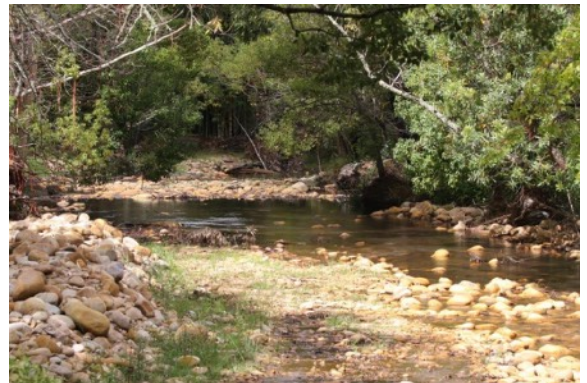
Learn and Share Outing

Macro, Vergelegen Estate, Sunday 25 February 2024

Ed's note: My thanks to Pete Retief for the information and the images showing just some of the beauty of Vergelegen, and to Marleen la Grange for the group photo and the wandering Tygertogs photo.

Ten togs in total attended the group outing, 6 from TPS, and 4 from Tafelberg Photographic. After an introductory talk by John Read on Macro photography, the group split up and went in search of subjects to photograph.

A lovely morning was finished off with lunch at Lourensford Wine Estate.



From left: Elaine Read, Adriaan van Zyl (TAF) Marleen la Grange, Mariana Visser (TAF), Pete Retief, Juliane van Dyk TAF), John Reid, Chris Leerkamp, Francois du Bois, Karen van Zyl (TAF)



General TPS News and Information (cont.)

Learn and Share March 2024

IMPORTANT NOTICE!

Please note that our Learn and Share evening has been changed from the 12th to the 19th of March

New Members

Louis Jones (in his own words)

Since childhood I have always been interested in photography and around 1970, I became a happy snapper, and always had one or other type of camera. In my forties my first decent camera was a Pentax. I started taking better photos until it was stolen, and my career and family needed all my attention.

When cell phones came on the scene with cameras, I started taking photos and realised that my interest in the hobby became more serious. In 2019 I bought an entry level Canon, and at the end of the year I joined Boksburg Camera Club. Currently I am member of Durbanville Photography Club and recently joined Tygerberg Photographic Society. I find it fascinating to watch the work of other and better photographers than myself because I have learned from that. I use a Canon R7 with my favourite lenses being 10:18, 18:150, 100:400 and 150:600mm. I learned by experimenting with editing in Photoshop and Lightroom.

My favourite subject was, and still is, birds. In Gauteng there is an abundance of opportunities, but when I moved down to Cape Town in 2021, it was not the same. Therefor I am still trying to establish what my real genre is and dabble around trying out various topics. From time to time, I enter Salons and have achieved some acceptances.

Ed's note: Section 3.12 of our House Rules reads as follows;

GRADING:

- All new members will be deemed to be 1 Star, unless they can prove that they should be in a more advanced grade by the submission of a panel of 10 prints/images to the committee.*

Louis accordingly submitted a panel of 10 images, and he joins us with a 3-star rating. Here are just two from the panel he submitted:

General TPS News and Information (cont.)



Random notes from the March Committee meeting:

- When it comes to images that have been judged, all members are encouraged to listen to the suggested ways to improve the image, and then test those suggestions. Quite often they will find that they prefer the way they first presented the image. We mustn't forget that the comments made by judges are just their opinion, and while they are only trying to help members, they might not see the true message that we are trying to convey with our image. In the majority of cases the comments are valid, but in the end it's your image, so go with what you like best. It's quite possible that a different judge will see the image differently if the image is entered into a salon.
- Because of Easter and other complications, next month's Committee meeting has been moved to April 9.

Other News and Information

From the Photographic Society of South Africa:

- A reminder of a survey request sent via email earlier:

All photographers are asked to participate, whether you are a PSSA member or not.

Dear Club Member,

In order to get a better understanding of what members of PSSA Affiliated clubs see as the benefits of PSSA and/or what they would like PSSA to do better or in addition to what is currently offered, we would be grateful if you can take a few minutes to complete the survey found [here](#).

You are very welcome to remain anonymous but your feedback will be very important to helping us provide better service to our members and clubs.

PSSA Judges Accreditation Program (JAP)

For those who might be thinking of becoming a judge for club and salon competitions, a reminder that *Applications open 1 March 2024 & close 30 April 2024. You need to hold a club rating of 4 stars or higher to participate. Full details can be found [here](#).*

The Essence of Vergelegen Photography Contest



Entries close on 31 March 2024. Click [here](#) for more information.

January 2024 Honours Applications

Congratulations to Nicol du Toit, our PSSA Regional Director, Western Cape, on the achievement of his APSSA - Colour award!

This Month's Set Subject

Macro/ Close-up

Definition:

This is extreme close-up photography where the subject is usually very small, where the size of the subject in the image is greater than actual life size.

NO MANIPULATION ALLOWED

Ed's note: Please have a look at the latest PSSA definition:

MANIPULATION

Manipulation shall constitute 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.*

The following actions are allowed and are not seen as manipulation:

- *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.*

Macro/ Close-up

The judge for our competition this month is David Wilson, from Hermanus Photographic Society.

You can view a number of his images on the following PSSA website pages,

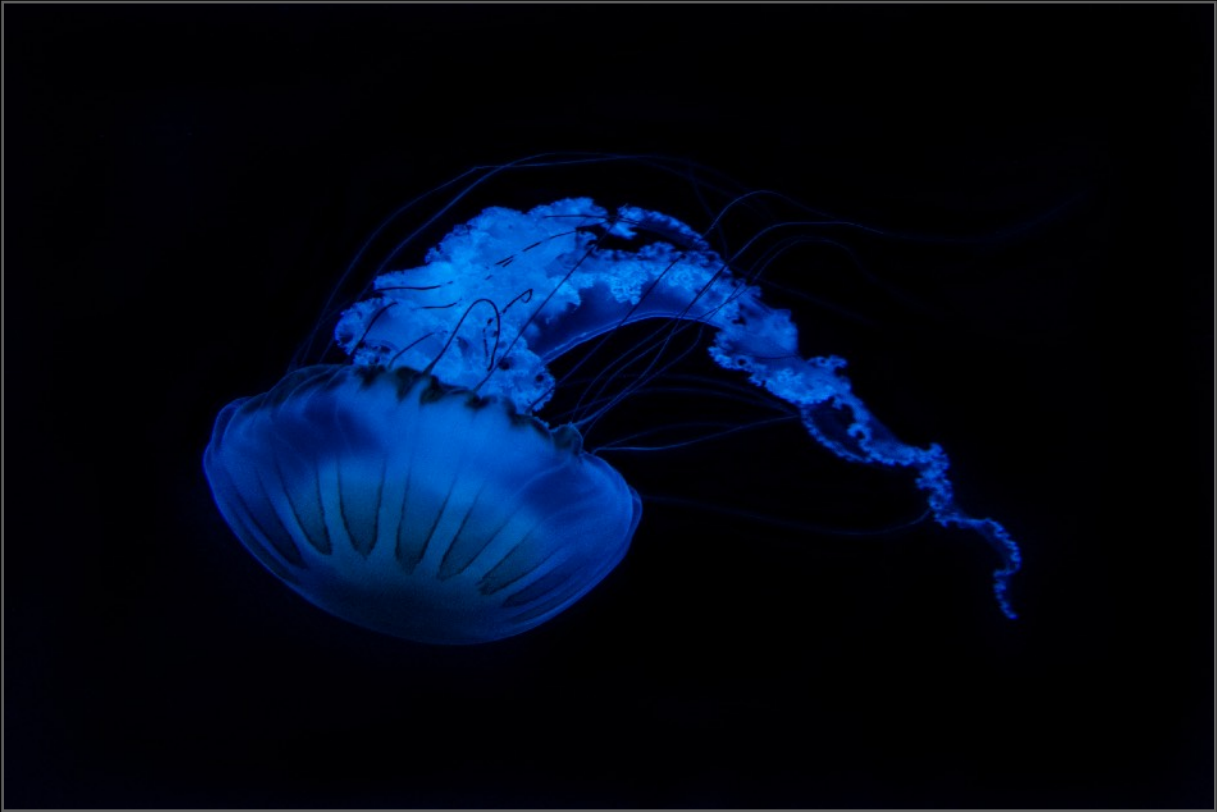
<https://pssa.co.za/2020-medal-winners/>, and

<https://pssa.co.za/2022-international-medal-winners/>

Closing date for Photovault: Friday 22 March
Competition night: Wednesday 27 March

Salon Special Images

Bloemfontein Camera Club Salon (Open Colour) Certificate of Merit



Living in deep waters *by Claudia Lothering*

Bloemfontein Camera Club Salon (Open Colour) Certificate of Merit



Beginning of dusk *by Pieter Swart*

Salon Special Images (cont.)

Ermelo Fotoklub 4th National PDI Salon Certificate of Merit



One Direction by Pieter Swart

KOTOR Circuit 2024-Montenegro Honourable mention



Tiny catch by Pieter Swart