

The Bellows

Official newsletter of the Tygerberg Photographic Society



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Proud member of the
**Photographic
Society of South Africa**

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COVER IMAGE by Francois du Bois entitled "Malachite takeoff"

A special thank you to our sponsor, Orms, for their continued support. Their Bellville branch is located at 27 Willie Van Schoor Dr, Bo Oakdale, telephone 021 910 1380.

ORMS
EVERYTHING PHOTOGRAPHIC

Rob's Ramblings

Hi everyone,

If you read nothing else today, please make sure you read this:

There are just 2 weeks to submit your photos for April!

The Set Subject for the month, PANNING, is not an easy one. It's easy enough to just take a panning shot, but to get one that is interesting and fulfils more than just the basic requirements is a lot more difficult! For example - is the subject sharp?; is there a feeling of speed or movement?; is the subject interesting or unusual?; is the composition appropriate?; does the image tell a story?, etc., etc. A great challenge - good luck and happy shooting!

This edition of features something new - comments from the authors of winning images. It's meant to educate and enlighten members who might think "how did he/she get that shot?", "where that was taken - would love to go there myself?", etc., etc.

The comments I received on the March winning images have been great and full of tips, from Brian's comments on preparing for the shot in advance, to Bennie's on the importance of knowing something about the behaviour of the subject you want to shoot, to Erik's on his knowledge about the requirements for astrophotography, and to Gustav's on how one can use existing items around the home creatively. To all of you, my thanks for making the effort to respond to my request, and for sharing your knowledge with the rest of our members. I have specifically omitted details such as camera settings (unless educational), as these most probably would change depending on circumstance prevailing at the time of shooting.

I will be asking/reminding members with winning images to send me these comments each month. Obviously if there is anything you would prefer not to share, or believe the information would not be of any benefit to the members, then there is no need to respond.

At the end of last month, the PSSA sent out an email detailing the results of an audit of a recent salon featuring a total of 5,828 entries. The result of the audit was that 862 images, or 14.69%, were disqualified. 24 of the total of 862 disqualifications breached the rules of "no manipulation", or "must be the photographer's own work". 838 images were disqualified as no RAW file was submitted for either the image or a component of an image!

So if you do enter salons, please ensure beforehand that you are in possession of the raw files for each entry submitted. Remember that virtually every salon has a condition of entry similar to this one:

The entrant accepts without exception and with no objection the following terms:

- *that PSSA can investigate the submitted images to establish if these adhere to PSSA regulations and definitions even if the entrant is not a member of PSSA.*
- *Failure to Provide these will result in referral to the PSSA Salon Committee and inclusion on the transgression list.*

Till next time,
Rob.

Chairman Chatter

Hi there Tygertogs

Thank you to those of you who have renewed their membership fees. We have now come to the end of the 3 month grace period for payment of subs. 3 members have resigned, 2 of which have not participated in club competitions for some time, while 4 have not responded to my attempts for them to renew their fees. Our current member list shows 44 members, which includes 4 honorary members, 2 social members, and 2 scholars.

John and Elaine have planned an outing to Stellenbosch on Sunday morning the 19th April, so please diarise this date and join us for what promises to be an exciting walk about in this historic town. See also page 12.

Our March club competition was well attended with 12 members joining in person, plus 1 guest, whilst 12 members joined us via Zoom, including our judge, Bruna Mentrup. Overall we had 84 images, with 36 in set subject and 48 in open category.

A reminder to ensure that your images have the EXIF data stored when you export and that you comply with the permissible dates for the set subject.

We have applied for and been awarded our 10th National PSSA Digital and Print Salon with a closing date of the 29th August 2026.

The WCPF mini congress in Tulbagh is progressing well, with quite a few entries received.

TPS will be hosting an exhibition in the first weekend in July, which will include a competition for scholars from the Northern Suburbs. We have already started receiving some scholar entries, which bodes well for the exhibition. By promoting TPS in the Northern Suburbs, we hope to attract some more members, as well as some scholars. Details to follow in April.

Congratulations to our March competition winners, all photographs and details can be found on the following pages.

Michael

March 2026 Competition Winners

WINNER SET SUBJECT SENIOR

Milky Way Quiver Tree
by
Erik Seket



WINNER SET SUBJECT JUNIOR

Pieces of me
by
Gustav Nel

March 2026 Competition Winners



WINNER OPEN SENIOR
Efficient hunter by Bennie Vivier



WINNER OPEN JUNIOR
Tired by Charlotte van der Berg

March 2026 Competition Winners



RUNNER UP SET SUBJECT and JUDGE'S CHOICE SENIOR
Heading for the light *by Rob Minter*

RUNNER UP SET SUBJECT
and
JUDGE'S CHOICE JUNIOR

Heerres Daddy
by
Gustav Nel



March 2026 Competition Winners



RUNNER UP OPEN SENIOR

Cossack Energy
by
David Barnes



RUNNER UP OPEN JUNIOR

Content by *Brian Moffatt*

March 2026 Competition Winners



JUDGE'S CHOICE JUNIOR
Sunset splendour by Alida Heine

Author comments on winning images

Gustav Nel:

"Pieces of me" (page 5). Done using a laundry basket and flash.

"Heeerres Daddy" (page 7). Taken in our kitchen with me wearing my wife's nightgown and my daughters hat. I was barefoot and shirtless, and sweating like a pig wearing that thick gown on a warm evening. My daughter used a camping flashlight with a red gel to cast my shadow on the wall, and the knife was a garden saw tool as I needed something big and dramatic.

Bennie Vivier:

"Efficient hunter" (page 6). I took the image of the dropwing dragonfly in my son's garden. I saw it going back to the same spot after leaving to catch it's tiny prey. The photo had to be taken immediately on landing, as this dragonfly lowers its wings in less than a second. It was not possible to get the dragonfly completely in focus unless it was photographed from the side, due to the very small depth of field. I had to take many photos to get one where the focus, lighting, and position of the wings were correct, and it was a bonus that it had its prey in its mouth.

March 2026 Competition Winners

Author comments on winning images

Rob Minter:

"Heading for the light (page 7). I saw the opportunity for this shot when visiting a friend who is in the assisted living section at our retirement village. The different shadows caused by the doorways looked interesting and there was obviously an opportunity for a silhouette as well. My wife kindly did the modelling for me. The image was exposed for the light at the doorway, and enhanced using Lightroom and Photoshop.

Erik Seket:

"Milky Way Quiver Tree" (page 5). Taken at Mesosaurus Fossil Camp, approx. 40 kms. north-east of Keetmanshoop, Namibia on the C17 road towards Koës. Taken 21h30 on a photo trip organised by Venture KJ which is run by Kyle Goetsch and Jon Kerrin – the same Kyle Goetsch who will be assisting us at the Western Cape Forum Congress in Tulbagh in September.

Important to note that you need dark skies, which is what you get a lot of in Namibia, and taken when there is no moonlight.

Settings: ISO 6400, 20 sec. exposure at f2.8

Focus was done by having another person shine a light on the Quiver tree.

Obviously you need to fix your camera on a tripod, and what I find useful is the Leofoto MPU100 L-bracket which allows you attach your camera landscape or portrait on top of your tripod. So the camera does not hang on the side of the ball head, which could easily tilt your tripod over.

Brian Moffatt:

"Content" (page 8). The photo started with me evaluating my constraints:

- 400 mm lens meant I needed to get close to the birds*
- Needing an area where the birds are close led me to finding geese and goslings at a pond next to the road*
- Next was to consider when the light would be appropriate for the background, which meant it would have to be in the afternoon*

Keeping low on the ground and finding an appropriate background I then waited for the goose to enter the area and frame.

The focal point of the eye and head gets a slight increase in exposure and sharpness with the background getting negative sharpening and increasing the contrast in the photo, leading your eye to the bird's head and eye.

Final cropping of the photo took a while to get the proportions correct.

General TPS news and information

March 2026 competition

Last month:

- **36** images were entered in the Set Subject category. 1 image was disqualified as it was not taken in the specified date range. One member scored a perfect 15 (Erik Seket). The average score was 12.3, and the most common score awarded was 13.

A full list of the Set Subject scores can be found on our website by clicking [here](#).

- **48** images were entered in the Open category. Four members scored a perfect 15 (David Barnes, Rob Minter, Charlotte van der Berg, and Bennie Vivier). The average score was 12.0, and the most common score was 13.

A full list of the Open scores can be found on our website by clicking [here](#).

There were 15 images awarded Certificates of Merit! Those not shown either on the cover or in the winning images section, can be found in the special images collection at the end of the newsletter.

Bruna Mentrup was our judge for the month. As can be seen from the average and mean scores above, scoring was on the generous side, though many useful comments and suggestions for improvement were received.

STAR ADVANCEMENTS

 **CONGRATULATIONS!** 

Alida Heine advanced from **3-star to 4-star**

Keep reaching for the stars!

Membership

Total membership has dropped, unfortunately, and now stands at 44. Michael has covered the member movements in his Chatter on page 4.

General TPS news and information

Learn and Share

A reminder that our Learn and Share for April is on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, i.e. 14 April, NOT the 3rd Tuesday, as would normally be the case.

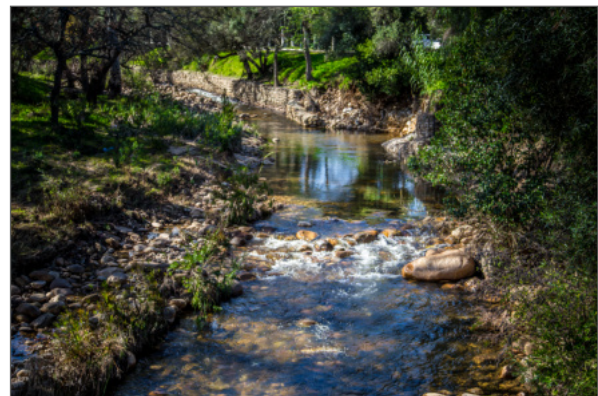
I will be doing a short presentation on the importance of borders around images, with examples, and will demonstrate how to use Photoshop to automate the processing of images to get them ready for submission to Photovault - probably 10 minutes long. Questions and discussion afterwards.

Our meeting in March covered a lot of questions, with a number of images being discussed. These discussions are incredibly useful and informative, and seriously, not to be missed if you are interested in improving your photography and image presentation skills.

Outings

There were no formal outings during last month, with our next get-together planned for Sunday, 19 April. More details will follow later via Email and WhatsApp, but it involves an early morning walk in the beautiful town of Stellenbosch.

Just a few teasers from previous walks to whet the appetite:



March 2026 Set Subject

Panning

DEFINITIONS

Panning is a technique that captures the sense of motion by smoothly tracking a moving subject with your camera while using a slower shutter speed, keeping the subject in sharp focus, while the background blurs into directional streaks.

MANIPULATION IS NOT ALLOWED

Closing date for Photovault: Friday 17 April 2026
Competition night: Wednesday 22 April 2026

Judge

Our judge for April is Dr Leon Pelsler, from the Sasol Highveld Photography Club. He holds APSSA, LPSSA(Vers), EPSSA(CIs), and AFIAP honours.

You can view his beautiful and varied APSSA panel [here](#).

Set subject examples *(All photos courtesy of David Barnes - thanks David!)*

Allowed:



Not allowed:

(Image has been manipulated)



Other news and information

From the *Photographic Society of South Africa (PSSA)*

PSSA Monthly Competition Winners - March 2026

Club Competition Senior Winner

Willie Labuschagne from Magalies Foto Fun Club is our March winner!



Willie's comments:

The photo was taken between Kij Kij and Melkvei during our Kgalagadi visit October 2025. It was a very special trip because there were an abundance of raptors and birds of prey after the good rains.

Camera model: Nikon Z9
Lens model: Nikkor Z 180-600mm
ISO: 250
Aperture: 6.3
Shutter Speed: 1/2500

Club Competition Junior Winner

Alan Bryce from F-Stop Photographic Society is our March winner!

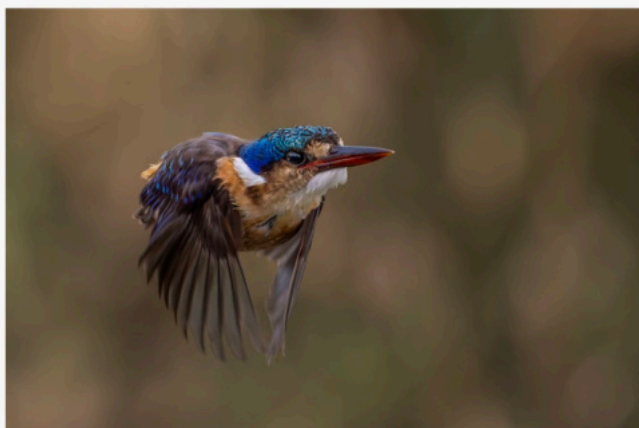


Alan's comments:

Awaiting comments

Website Competition Winner

David Woolf Stein from Sandton Photographic Society is our March winner!



David says:

I took the photo at Marievale Bird Sanctuary in Nigel at the Flamingo hide from the right hand side bench and through the window on the side. It was dark and rainy.

Camera : Canon R1
Lens: Canon RF 100 to 500 at 428 mm
ISO: 10 000
Aperture: F6.3
Shutter speed: 1/3200
Time:06:47 am

Other news and information

From the PSSA March 2026 Newsletter (with thanks to Brigid Wickham)



INSPIRED TO SUBMIT AN HONOURS PANEL?

Honours may either be applied for by submitting a panel for judging or by accumulating salon acceptances. The next panel submission closing dates

is:

25th June 2026

[Click here for more details](#)

Honours image magazines can be purchased @R250/ copy. Please contact Jill Sneesby to order



VERGELEGEN
Extraordinary by nature

PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

Call for Entries

Inviting all photographers to participate in our Black & White photography contest.



Scan the QR code or visit www.vergelegen.co.za for more information.

Entries close on 31 May 2026.

Photo by Amy Sedgwick

Ed's note: This event is not as yet well advertised, but it is specifically aimed at Black and White photography enthusiasts. Entry forms can be found [here](#).

Other news and information

From the Western Cape Photographic News (WCPF)

Click [here](#) for their Blog.

This article is of specific interest to those members interested in International competitions.

Western Cape club members assist with SA's FIAP World Cup win!

Several Western Cape (WC) club members played a role in the judging of the prestigious FIAP Nature Biennial in Cape Town in February this year. Those present were, however, sworn to secrecy about the fact that South Africa (PSSA) were the winners of the digital FIAP World Cup, until the scores had been verified by FIAP. The win can now be revealed – also that images from two TAFklub members (Arnold van Dyk and Sonja Myburgh) contributed to this victory!

A wonderful achievement!

Click [here](#) for the full article by Trudi du Toit, dd 24 March 2026.



'Got you' by Arnold van Dyk of TAFklub was included in the PSSA panel of winning images.



Sonja Myburgh's image Backlit Fighting was one of the PSSAs winning entries.

If any of you know Arnold or Sonja, I'm sure a congratulatory call would be greatly appreciated.

Special images



COM 2ND HIGHWAY PDI SALON
Colourful around the rock *by Pieter Swart*



COM 5TH FOTOKLUB SALON
End of performance BW Lighter *by Francois du Bois*

Special images



COM TPS MARCH CLUB COMPETITION

Luminescence
by Josie Norfolk



COM TPS MARCH CLUB COMPETITION
Illuminated Waterfront *by Pieter Swart*

Special images



COM TPS MARCH
CLUB COMPETITION

After the bloom
by
Bennie Vivier

COM TPS MARCH
CLUB COMPETITION

A new life emerges
by
Rob Minter



Special images



COM TPS MARCH CLUB COMPETITION
Peaceful at the river by Pieter Swart



COM TPS MARCH CLUB COMPETITION
Surprise by David barnes

Special images



COM TPS MARCH CLUB COMPETITION
Sun bathing by *Alf Moffatt*



COM TPS MARCH CLUB COMPETITION
Let's get out of here by *Louis Jones*