



SNAPSHOT

Newsletter of the Hermanus Photographic Society
July 2016

President's report



The value of monthly challenges

Writers have to overcome writer's block, and photographers have to deal with similar challenges when the inspiration and the will to go out and take photographs are lacking.

Often technical challenges get us down, or we simply lack the desire to go out in the cold or to get up early in the morning to take photographs.

As a result we just delve into our archives hoping to find something which matches the monthly challenges the Society presents to us, and hope for the best.

The set subjects and themes are there to give you the proverbial "kick in the butt" so that you can overcome stagnation and learn new techniques. Added to this are our workshops, which provide knowledge and inspiration.

I therefore encourage you all to try and meet these challenges, if at all possible.

This month's workshop on the Nik Collection is a case in point. The lectures and presentations by Mike Sander, former Society president, are well worth attending and will definitely be of benefit to you in the future. The programmes are free to download so it is up to you to make use of them.

"A photograph is a click away. A good photograph is a thousand clicks away and a better one, a million clicks away," said Kowtham Kumar K, who is often quoted on photography and humanitarian issues.

Thea Erasmus

Our landscapes popular at FynArts



The view that greeted visitors as they entered the Society's exhibition at Hermanus FynArts in June.

Three landscapes were among the five most popular images at the Society's first exhibition of prints that formed part of FynArts.

Hundreds of visitors attended the exhibition of 50 images by about 20 photographers, in our regular meeting venue at the Dutch Reformed Church from 9 to 19 June.

Of those attending, 304 voted for their favourite image. The votes were spread widely, and many visitors made positive comments to the supervising Society members.



The most popular image of the exhibition, which got 24 out of 304 votes - "Dans met my" by Charles Naudé.

Among the comments were requests for more prints, and for more information on each image. We have also decided to improve the signage at the venue for future exhibitions.



"S-tuary scene" by Deon Kühn (14 votes)



"Pastoral scene" by Daniel Reddy (14 votes)



"Sonvangers" by Chris Neethling (13 votes)



"Fragile" by Treurnicht du Toit (13 votes)

Another one got away with a medal

Another landscape, by Treurnicht du Toit, won a medal for the second best entry in that category at the Tafelberg Fotografieklub salon in June.

Two more images by him got a certificate of merit, and six were accepted for exhibition by the Tafelberg and Rustenburg salons.

Another 22 images were accepted by two international salons - the DPW Four Country Circuit and the Balkan Dream.



"Namibskoonheid" by Treurnicht du Toit - medal winner.

Landscapes made photographer-friendly

Seven Society members and two non-members attended the workshop presented by renowned landscape photographer Paul Bruins over two days in June.

The unpredictable Hermanus weather was kind to the participants during the four practical sessions - two at dusk and two at dawn. There were some clouds and some colour in the sky.

There were enough opportunities for social interaction between practice and theory.

All agreed in the end that Paul's explanations, approaches and tips were really user-friendly and helped to make landscape photography less daunting.



Paul Bruins and his "students" at the Kleinrivier estuary in Hermanus on the last morning of his landscape photography workshop.

Ron Thomson rest in peace

Ron Thomson died unexpectedly and tragically a few days after the June meeting of the Society. Over the preceding year he had struggled with damaged hips and other health problems, but was dealing with these in his usual quiet but cheerful way.

Ron was a long-standing member of the Society and served on the committee, usually as treasurer, for many years. It started during Faith Botha's tenure as President until the club finally allowed him to withdraw at the end of 2015.

Ron was totally dependable, produced impeccable financial documents for the committee, and was



The late Ron Thomson

unfailingly cheerful. It is hard to keep smiling when completing a mundane repetitive chore year after year. But Ron always managed, and his incisive mind and sharp sense of humour enlivened our meetings and stimulated everyone.

He was the de facto representative of the less experienced and beginner photographers on the committee, and always made sure that in their enthusiasm to excel, the more advanced members' high-flying ideas were dragged down to earth and tested to ensure that they served the interests of all members, not just those focused on star ratings.

Ron will be remembered fondly by all who knew him, not least for his witty comments in the background at club meetings. He will be sorely missed.

Mike Sander

Welcome to four new members

Four more members had joined, Society President Thea Erasmus announced at the monthly meeting on Wednesday 6 July. She welcomed Alan Davidson, Richard Wilding, Chris Micklethwaite and Kim Brandt.

Next month's activities

The Society's next monthly meeting will be on Wednesday 3 August.

Gavin Turner will do a presentation on photographing birds.

Members may submit up to three images for open evaluation, and one image on the set subject of "Low-light photography".

There will be a macro workshop with The Photowalkers on Thursday 11 August.



An example of a low-light photograph by Eric Alper of Photo-net, found on the internet.

Workshops on Nik and HDR

Mike Sander will present two sets of workshops - one on using Nik software, in July, and one on the use of HDR techniques, in August.

The Nik Collection is a set of image enhancement tools and photographic filter plug-ins for Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Photoshop Elements, Adobe Lightroom and Apple's Aperture.

It was developed by Nik Software, a company established in 1995 and based in San Diego, California.

The collection was originally priced at \$500, but after Google acquired Nik in 2012, the price was dropped to \$150.

On March 24 this year Google made the entire Nik Collection a free download.

High-dynamic range imaging (HDR) is described as the fastest growing, and perhaps the trendiest new technique in photography. By combining several images with different exposures photographers can capture scenes which are beyond the dynamic range of their camera.

The trick is that HDR scenes not only can't be captured in a single image, they also can't be fully displayed or printed in their native form. That means additional processing is required to turn the photo into one which can be used. (Sources: Wikipedia and Explora)

Committee

Thea Erasmus (President) 028 312 3842 (baytree@netactive.co.za)

Gavin Turner 028 316 3348 (gavinturner@worldonline.co.za)

Kosie Smit 028 312 3622 (sela@telkomsa.net)

René Dewar 082 2255789 (rdewa@telkomsa.net)

Charles Naudé 083 309 1857 (cmnaude@gmail.com)

Luke Horsten 028 316 3750 (lukeh@iafrica.com)

All of them are available to assist you with your queries.

Fluit-fluit, my storie is uit.