



SNAPSHOT

Newsletter of the Hermanus Photographic Society
October 2016

President's report



How to remain motivated

One of the biggest challenges any photographer has to deal with, is the ability to remain motivated.

We all experience creative slumps and the need to regain our initial passion and interest from time to time.

The big question is how to pull ourselves out of the slump.

Interaction with other photographers, setting ourselves new goals, trying new techniques or equipment, are all approaches that can help.

This is where club participation can play a roll. The monthly competitions, set subjects, as well as workshops and social events, all serve as possible motivations for you as a photographer.

Reading and research also add value to your photographic journey. All you have to do is make use of them.

Take up the challenge, and you will soon be rewarded, I promise.

Happy clicking

Thea Erasmus

Focus on macro photography

Macro photography is the set subject for the Society's next monthly meeting, on Wednesday 2 November.

Members may submit one image for the set subject evaluation, and another three images of their choice for open evaluation.

The meeting, in the Dutch Reformed Church Hall, begins at 19:00. Visitors are welcome.

Some members attended a macro workshop in August, presented by Leanne Dryburgh of The Photowalkers, and arranged by René Dewar.



An example of a macro image, published by wallpaperfolder.com

Macro photography tips

The following macro tips were published by National Geographic on its website.

Macro photography is photography magnified. It is generally recognized as "macro" when you are increasing the size of an object in your picture from about half life-size, as represented on the image sensor, to five times life-size.

As a general rule you should use an f-stop no wider/larger than f/16 to get all or most



"Cape daisies" by Mandy Disher, published by Best of 2015: Top 10 Macro Photos

of the main subject in focus. If you are photographing a subject that can't be arranged more or less on the same plane, you will have to decide which parts of it you want in focus.

Using a narrow depth of field actually causes a pleasant result, since the background will appear totally out of focus, and you can usually use a natural setting to compose your picture.

While you won't have to fuss too much with what's going on behind your subject, don't forget to check for any distracting or jarring background elements. Choose a simple background so it doesn't compete with the main subject for a viewer's attention.



"Good bye" by Mustafa Öztürk, published by Best of 2015: Top 10 Macro Photos

Get creative with macro photography by shooting the subject from an unexpected angle.

Try different lighting, as well, using front lighting for deeper colour saturation and side lighting to highlight texture.

Macro photography is really successful when the image has a main point of interest and that point or subject is composed well within the frame.

A useful close-up attachment is a flat, filter-like lens that mounts to the front of your normal lens (it usually screws into the filter thread) and allows you to focus more closely.



Image by Thomas Shahan, published by School of digital Photography

You will be able to focus at closer distances, although the maximum magnification will depend on the focal length of the lens you're attaching it to.

Shooting flowers, leaves, and insects outside can be a challenge. A perfectly composed shot can be quickly ruined by just a whisper of a breeze. Stop unwanted subject motion and blur. Before you set up your shot, try planting

a stick in the ground and tether the flora to it for stability. Use the fastest shutter speed possible and use a ring flash or flash units mounted to your lens if shooting at a low aperture.

A good sturdy tripod is essential. You can either buy a tripod with legs that splay wide enough to allow a very low position, or one that has a reversible head stem that allows the camera to hang facing down under the tripod.

If shooting outdoors, macro photography is effective on bright days when you don't have to use a very slow shutter speed. A bright, overcast day works especially well, as it will also light your subject evenly.

It is usually impractical to use your camera's built-in pop-up flash for macro photography.

The length of the lens, with or without all of its macro attachments, will cause a shadow from the camera's flash.

One solution is to use an external flash. The best type of external flash will have a head that rotates and elevates.

If you find an insect or small creature that allows you to get close to it, start shooting! When making macro photographs - especially of moving subjects - be prepared. Make sure all your camera settings are correct because you may only get one shot.



"Fantastic five" by Martin Pfister, published by Best of 2015: Top 10 Macro Photos

Inter-club competition

Hermanus Photographic Society members' 12 prints and 12 digital images have been entered for the annual Western Cape Inter-club Photographic Competition, hosted by the Creative Camera Club of Cape Town.

Those wishing to attend the presentation ceremony in the CR Louw Auditorium of the Sanlam Head Office, 2 Strand Street, Bellville, on Friday evening 28 October, should contact Thea Erasmus or René Dewar for travel arrangements.

Another basketful of successes

Treurnicht du Toit collected another basketful of successes from local and international salons over the last two months.

He was awarded a silver medal by the Nelspruit Salon for his image "Statig" of an African Fish-eagle in the Nature category for birds only, and three certificates of merit – two international and one South African.

A total of 37 of his images were accepted for exhibition in international salons and 15 in South African salons.

In addition to Nelspruit, the salons involved were Photographic Society of America, Welsh International Salon, Insect International Salon, MFFC Salon, Bluff Camera Club, Adriatic Exhibition, Bundoran International Exhibition, Northern Counties International Salon, Sydney International Exhibition, and Oklahoma International Exhibition.



"On track" by Treurnicht du Toit - certificate of merit at Bundoran International Exhibition.

Workshops and outings this month

An eco catamaran sunset cruise is planned for Saturday 29 October. Depending on the weather it may be postponed. The catamaran departs from the new harbour at 16:00 and will hug the coast towards Vermont. The cost is R400 per person.

Mike Ford will present an additional Lightroom workshop module on Thursday 27 October at 17:00.

Contact René Dewar if you are interested in any of these events.

Committee

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

Fluit-fluit, my storie is uit.