



SNAPSHOT

Newsletter of the Hermanus Photographic Society
April 2017

View from the chair

Getting out of the comfort zone

The monthly Set Subject has always been somewhat problematic, despite various attempts to use it to its full potential.

The Set Subject should encourage members to get out of their comfort zone, and take some fresh photographs in a category that they may not be used to.

Or, if the Set Subject falls within their favourite category, to be creative and interpret it in another way, coming up with something completely different.

For example, if the Set Subject is "Local birds", as it was for the April meeting, the birds need not be feathered. They could be lying on the beach or sitting in a restaurant.

The point is that members should not just go through their old photographs to find something that more or less fits the topic.

Furthermore, taking part in the Set Subject should give members the opportunity to discuss these more experimental, creative images that they have produced out of their comfort zone.

In an attempt over the last two years to encourage members to make more of the Set Subject, it has been linked to an outing or workshop on the same topic during the previous month.



This will now be taken a step further, by having a presentation at the monthly meeting – whenever feasible – on a topic related to the Set Subject for the following monthly meeting.

As an example of this procedure, we had a presentation on macro photography by Elizma Fourie at the April meeting. It will be followed by a workshop on the same topic, led by her, on 13 April. And then the Set Subject for the May meeting will be “Close-up”, which can be macro photography, but is also open for wider, creative interpretation.

Members present at the April meeting indicated by a clear majority that they prefer voting for and discussing the Set Subject images, rather than having them evaluated formally.

So, let's all get out of our comfort zones.

Charles Naudé

Reaching for the stars

One member was promoted from two to three stars, while another two gained a bagful of salon acceptances during the last month.

Ingrid Grundling, needing only one gold award to reach the 10 required for promotion, did well to be awarded three golds at the March meeting.

Promotion does not necessarily make life easier. As a three-star photographer she will now need 25 golds, and 100 points instead of 40, for promotion to the next level.

But with three stars comes the opportunity to advance with salon points as well. Two salon points would reduce the required golds to 15 and the ordinary points to 60.

So, there is an incentive for members to join achievers like Treurnicht du Toit in entering images for salons.

His latest successes are 16 images accepted for exhibition at three international salons,



"Tour guide" by Robert Johnson, which was awarded a certificate of merit by the PSSA Salon.

including one in Donegal and one in Southampton, and nine at three South African salons, including the PSSA National Digital Salon of Photography and the Krugersdorp Camera Club National Digital Salon.

Robert Johnson, a relatively new but experienced member, was awarded a certificate of merit by the PSSA Salon for his image "Tour guide", while another six of his images were accepted for exhibition by that salon and the Krugersdorp Salon.

Two new members join the Club

Two new members have joined the Club, while about six guests attended the April monthly meeting. The Club was also honoured to have Dinkie Marais, the founding chairman, present at the meeting. The new members are Magriet Hugo and Marion Zeegers.

Activities for April and May

A camera course in two modules, entitled "Know your camera functions", is presented by Mike Sander this month. The first module was on Thursday 6 April, and the second will be on Thursday 20 April.

A macro workshop will be led by Elizma Fourie in Hermanus on Thursday 13 April from 09:00. If you are interested, please contact René Dewar at rdewar@telkomsa.net by Monday 10 April.

Bring your own camera, and any or all of the following: a tripod, a flash, a macro or prime lens, interesting objects, a small mat or blanket to lie on outside, and a small stool or crate.

The May meeting will be in the Dutch Reformed Church Hall, as usual, on Wednesday the 3rd at 19:00. Members may enter up to three images of their choice for evaluation, and one image on the Set Subject of "Close-up" for discussion.

The set subject for June will be "The wheels of time". It will be preceded by a presentation on photographing graphic lines and curves at the April meeting, and an outing to the old car graveyard at the Wijnland Auto Museum in Joostenbergvlakte.

FynArts 2017, here we come

Hermanus Photographic Society members will exhibit their finest prints as part of the FynArts 2017 festival in June, after the success of last year's exhibition.

The title of the exhibition, "Moments", was chosen to enable all Society members to participate, irrespective of their preferred categories.

The deadline for submitting entries is noon on Monday 8 May. Members may enter up to three images, previously evaluated or not, that were taken during the preceding 12 months. Entries, in digital format, must be emailed to cmnaude@gmail.com.

Each entrant will be responsible for having his or her selected images printed and mounted. Prints must be no bigger than A3 and no smaller than A4. The bigger, the better, within these limits.

As last year, participating members will share the costs of the exhibition payable to FynArts, and all members will be asked to volunteer to do a stint as host for the exhibition, in the Hermanus Dutch Reformed Church Hall from 9-18 June.

All selected images will automatically be considered for the Print section of the Western Cape Interclub competition in November this year.

Audio-visual interest group

By Deon Kühn

The AV Interest Group ran a half-day basic course on the use of Pictures to Exe software for the construction of AVs, on Saturday 25 March. Some time was also spent on the preparation and editing of music using the Audacity package.

Seven participants were present, including one from the Helderberg Photographic Society, Paddy Howes of Franschhoek.

The next meeting of the group will be on Wednesday 12 April at 19h00 in the Prayer Room in the Annexe of the Dutch Reformed Church. The main topic of the evening will be the drawing up and use of a script when planning an AV.

In addition participants in the basic course will show their first efforts, and some AV's from experienced workers will be shown for discussion.

For more information contact Deon Kühn at gjkuhn@netactive.co.za or Thea Erasmus at baytree@netactive.co.za

Hints to capture local birds

By René Dewar

Seven Club members and two guests met at the Fernkloof Nature Reserve for a workshop on bird photography, at 07:00 on a cloudy morning with light rain in March.

Gavin Turner, who led the outing, addressed us on preferable camera settings for various situations, points to take into consideration when taking a bird photo, as well as the post-processing of the images.

We proceeded to wander around the beautiful nature reserve in search of birds. We managed to spot a few, but unfortunately, due to

some wind and a lack of sunshine, the birds were seeking shelter elsewhere.

Despite the weather and the scarcity of birds, we all left having learnt a lot about the challenges of bird photography, and were inspired to improve on our skills.

As birds are generally social creatures, we made a point of practising our social skills, with much bantering and discussions amongst ourselves. And we ended with an increased respect for a good bird photograph.



Kosie Smit gets some attention from Gavin Turner at the bird photography workshop. Image by Diane Steenkamp.

Aus Namibia workshop

The 2017 Aus workshop by Wicus Leeuwner and JJ van Heerden will be presented at Klein-Aus Vista, a lodge in a private nature reserve on the edge of the escarpment overlooking the Namib-Naukluft and Sperrgebiet National Parks, from 21 to 27 May.

The workshop will include photographing wild horses, wildlife (birds and mammals), the ghost town of Kolmanskop, the rugged shoreline of Lüderitz, and some night photography.

Club members qualify for a 5% discount on the costs of R15,550 per person sharing, and R16,820 for a single room.

More information can be found on the website

<http://www.photoworkshops-sa.co.za>

Committee

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

Fluit-fluit, my storie is uit.