



SNAPSHOT

Newsletter of the Hermanus Photographic Society
February 2020

Visibility grows in another good year

Chairman's report highlights achievements, challenges

Our club's successful hosting of the Western Cape Interclub Photographic Competition, our opportunities to grow as photographers, and our achievements in various competitions were highlighted by Elizma Fourie in her chairman's report at our annual general meeting on Wednesday 5 February.

But, as always, there are also challenges for the new year.

"2019 was another good year for our club. We had good opportunities to stimulate our growth as photographers. We did well in a variety of competitions.

Visibility

"Our club's visibility was boosted last year by several club and individual activities and achievements.

"Club activities included our fourth FynArts Print Exhibition in June; participation in the monthly First Friday Art Walk; participation in the Western Cape Interclub Photographic competition in October; and participation in the monthly



Preparations for our December First Friday exhibition

senior and junior club competition organized by the Photographic Society of South Africa (PSSA).

"Our club was the top Western Cape club for 2019. We were first in the Junior, Senior and combined categories. Nationally we ended up in the 13th place in the senior category, and 6th in the junior category.

Individual activities included entering for national and international salons.

"And we achieved a good flow of news, information and photos in the two local newspapers.

Interclub 2019

"Hermanus was the host to a very successful Interclub 2019. Most of the committee's time and effort during the year went into this event.

"We managed to make a profit for our club out of this, mainly due to donations from wineries and Hermanus club

members. We only received praise and no criticism from the rest of the Western Cape.

"Several Western Cape photographic club members said it was the best Interclub they had ever experienced.

Monthly activities

"Over the last three to four years we seem to have stabilised at about 50 members.

"Eleven members were promoted to a higher star rating through the monthly evaluations and salon points – one to Magister level, two to Five-star level, four to Four-star, and four to Two-star.

Other regular activities were the outings, many of them with a theme linked to that of the set subject of the subsequent monthly meeting.

Training opportunities

"We had two short sessions during club meetings – one on double exposure in Photoshop and in camera, and the other an introduction to curves in Photoshop.

"We also had an interactive session on layers in Photoshop.



Our club members hosting the Interclub

AV Interest Group

"The good news was that Elizma Fourie came joint second overall in the audio-visual category of the Impala Trophy for 2019.

"The bad news is that there was a downturn in the AV interest group, to such an extent that meetings were cancelled towards the end of the year.

Sustainability

"Subscriptions have been slow in coming in, and fewer than last year. Quite a few people have cancelled – mainly members who were not active last year.



Impala Trophy 2nd overall: Elizma Fourie's AV

"To increase our income we continued to ask participating members to contribute to the cost of events such as Interclub, training courses, and through a voluntary tea contribution.

"Due to promotions in star grading, we need more One- to Three-star members to participate in the club activities.

General

"We bought a new projector in June 2019. Thanks to members for contributions over the years to tea, workshops and fees, and the previous committee for making sure the funds accumulated so that we could afford one.

"We moved over to Photo Vault Online from August 2019 for our monthly submissions for evaluation.

"In November 2019, we voted and changed the rules and regulations for promotions to fit in with modern times and Photo Vault scoring.

Acknowledgements

"Thank you to the following people:

"For acting as lead judges and for their invaluable feedback, Mike Sander, Ronnie Hazell, Treurnicht du Toit, Phil Sturgess, Nicol du Toit, Charles Naudé, Deon Kuhn, Cathy Bruce and Hansie Oosthuizen.

"The committee for fulfilling their different portfolios.

"Every member who attended our meetings, took part in our activities, lent a hand, came up with suggestions, and in any other way contributed to our good year."

Elizma Fourie

New committee for 2020

Two new members were unanimously elected at the annual general meeting on Wednesday 5 February to serve on the club committee for 2020. They are Danie Morkel and Hestie das Neves.

They replace René Dewar, Deon Steenkamp and Diane Steenkamp. That brings the committee back to seven members. The number was increased last year to strengthen the committee for organizing and hosting the Western Cape Interclub Photographic Competition.

The remaining five members, duly and unanimously re-elected, are Elizma Fourie, Cathy Bruce-Wright, Daniel Reddie, David Wilson and Kobus Botes.

Hermanus jumps into PSSA top ten

Our club has jumped into the national top ten of the senior section of the monthly competition for all 102 clubs affiliated to the Photographic Society of South Africa (PSSA).

We have also moved up to 2nd place in the Western Cape.

The good news do not end there. The Western Cape is suddenly dominating the national top ten positions, with four clubs in the senior section (for Four-star members and higher), and three in the junior section (up to Three-star members).

The announcement of the results for December and January took the competition over the halfway mark – seven months out of twelve completed, with five remaining.

The competition lasts from July 2019 to June 2020.

Nationally we have jumped nine places, from joint 17th in November to 8th in January. In the Western Cape we progressed from joint 3rd to 2nd, behind Cape Town. In the previous competition we ended 13th nationally, but 1st in the Western Cape.

Senior Competition up to January			
Club	Score	W Cape	Nat
Cape Town	242	1	4
Hermanus	222	2	8
Creative	221	3	9
Worcester	220	4	10
Paarl	174	5	29
Swartland	163	6	38
Helderberg	137	7	44
Fish Hoek	132	8	45
Tafelberg	125	9	49

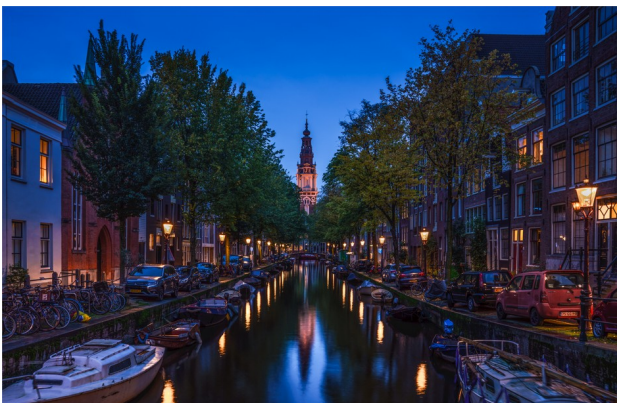
That could have been regarded as a case of “When the cat’s away the mice will play”, because the mighty Cape Town did not participate then.

Our 2nd place is not safe, because we have been running neck and neck with two or three other clubs since the beginning of the competition. After the January results, Creative and Worcester are still right behind us, in the Western Cape and nationally.

In the junior section, we are struggling after doing so well in the previous competition. The main reason is that we lost a number of competent juniors through promotion, while gaining only a few new juniors. It became so bad that we had no junior entries for December and January.



Our club’s December senior entry, “Life is Hard” by Elizma Fourie (left), got a score of 28/45, and our January senior entry, “Art of Farming” by Charles Naudé, 27/45.



Our club’s February senior entry, “Uniquely Amsterdam” by Hestie das Neves (left), and junior entry, “Fighting Stallions” by Mari Botes.

Scoring trophies and other awards

Hestie das Neves (right) with her trophy for the most club and salon evaluation points gained in the Five-star category during the year. With her is Elizma Fourie, winner in the Four-star category, who presented the trophies after her chairman's report at the annual general meeting on Wednesday 5 February.

The other recipients were Treurnicht du Toit (Magister), David Wilson (Three-star), Ansie du Toit (Two-star) and Taylum Meyer (One-star).

Several salon awards were announced at the monthly meeting, which followed the AGM:



International Miroc Circuit

Elizma Fourie – Certificate of Merit +12 acceptances

David Wilson – 3

Merit: "Lonely" by Elizma Fourie (right)



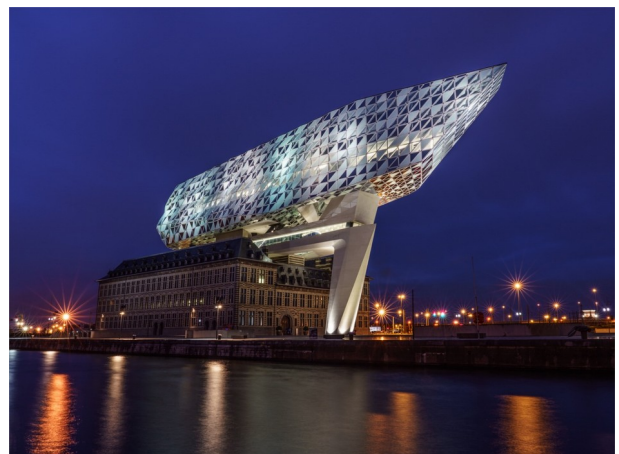
TAF Digital Salon

Hestie das Neves – 2 Merits + 1 acceptance

Elizma Fourie – Merit + 5

Charles Naudé – 6

Merit: "The Old and the New" by Hestie das Neves (right)



Forthcoming events, and general

Our March meeting will be in the Hermanus Dutch Reformed Church Hall on Wednesday the 4th at 19:00. Members may enter up to three images of their choice, and one image on the Set Subject, "Celebrating Nature" / "Vier die Natuur", all for evaluation. All submissions must be via Photo Vault Online, and all scores will count for promotion.

The set-subject image of the month will be decided by voting. The photographer of the chosen image may speak briefly on it, while the lead judge may comment on any of the set-subject images.

Our first Photography Know-how for everyone, which is planned for every third Wednesday of the month, will be "Camera Basics" on 19 February. It will be open to the public, at a small fee to cover costs.

Our monthly outing will be to Walker Bay Nature Reserve and De Kelders on Saturday 22 February, organised by Cathy Bruce (082 558 1636, catherine@lantic.net). Members, their family and friends are invited. It is a flexible outing with good photographic opportunities, and outdoor fun. More details will be emailed to members and posted on our website.

The next First Friday Art Walk will be on 6 March. Our club print exhibition which forms part of that will be at FotoFirst.

Forthcoming Salons, with closing dates (details on the PSSA website):

PSSA International Salon 15 February

Alberton Digital Salon 15 February

Western Cape Photo Forum Digital Salon 29 February

Sasol Highveld National Audio-visual Salon 7 March

Benoni National PDI Salon 14 March

PSSA National Salon 21 March

Kriel PDI Salon 28 March

A roll of dark photo background paper, with brackets for wall mounting, rod, bicycle sprocket and chain, size 2,7m x about 5m, is offered at R600 or nearest by Dinkie Marais (028 316 3545, dinkie@telkomsa.net), previous club chairman. These rolls presently sell for R1 800 to R2 500.

Committee

This is the outgoing committee. The new one will be published next month, once the new portfolios have been finalised.

Elizma Fourie – President, website

082 499 5116 (elizma@adminevolution.co.za)

Diane Steenkamp – Vice President, secretary, audio-visual

072 741 7486 (diane.steenkamp@yahoo.com)

Cathy Bruce-Wright – Finance, membership

082 558 1636 (arixoma@icloud.com)

René Dewar – Outings, workshops

082 225 5789 (rdewar@telkomsa.net)

Daniel Reddie – Marketing, equipment, audio-visual

084 642 0038 (everredi@iafrica.com)

Deon Steenkamp – Promotion points sheet, technology, audio-visual

072 741 7486 (deon.steenkamp.cem@gmail.com)

David Wilson – Exhibitions, media

064 745 3552 (david@watermarkinternational.com)

Kobus Botes – Photovault, equipment set-up, points sheet

084 941 1175 (kbotes@gmail.com)

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

Newsletter

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Fluit-fluit, my storie is uit.