



# SNAPSHOT

Newsletter of the Hermanus Photographic Society  
February 2023

## A decade of gender balance...

### ... as Carina succeeds David as our club president

The election of Carina de Klerk as our club president brings the number of Western Cape clubs run by women to eight, maybe nine, out of about a dozen.

But for us the battle of the sexes was settled long ago. In fact, we have had men and women taking turns regularly to take the lead over the last ten years.

The mostly male trend was broken eight years ago when Thea Erasmus succeeded Mike Sander. She served for two years, which set a pattern followed by Charles Naudé, Elizma Fourie, and David Wilson, who preceded Carina.

The latest succession was decided at a lively annual general meeting on Wednesday 1 February, where all

five members of the outgoing committee eventually agreed to stay on for another year when Sheron Pretorius and René Pretorius accepted nomination to join the committee, enabling a wider spreading of duties.



*Carina de Klerk, our new club president*

The other four members staying on are David, Phil Sturgess, Daniel Reddie and Kobus Botes. The committee will have two married couples – Carina and Phil, and Sheron and René.

Carina, with a degree in communications, and working in that industry, joined her first photographic club, in Johannesburg, about 20 years ago. She met Phil at a photographic workshop in 2005, while he was president of the Johannesburg Photographic Society.



*"The winter cabin" - one of Carina's most awarded images*

The couple moved to Hermanus at the end of 2018. Both of them served on our club committee for the last two years, Carina as secretary and Phil as treasurer. Both of them advanced to the level of Master photographer through awards for their excellent photography.

In an interview with Trudi du Toit for the Western Cape Photographic Forum website, Carina said challenges for the new committee included gaining more active club members, and bringing the club more in line with the ways photography is evolving.

"The risk remains the sustainability of the club," she said. "It probably boils down to finding a balance between the needs of the old guard while attracting and retaining new photographers."

She looks forward to benefiting from the experience of the two new committee members, Sheron and René, especially in the field of technology.



*Moustached Karoo Prinia - another awarded image by Carina*

■ The other Western Cape clubs headed by women are Cape Town (Jacoba van Zyl), Creation (Jane Bursey), Helderberg (Nettie Warncke), Kleinmond (René Wright), Paarl (Leney Stipp), Swartland (Ciszanne Crous) and Worcester (Lin Adshade). Adding the new Western Cape based online club Ignite (Lynne Kruger-Haye) would bring the total to nine.

## Things to crow, and some to cry, about

Our club had something to crow about, but sadly also something to cry about. That more or less sums up the report by our outgoing president, David Wilson, at the annual general meeting on Wednesday 1 February 2023.

Last year was our club's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and many of our activities were geared to that, David said. Perhaps the most successful of all our events was "the exceptional FynArts exhibition that saw some 500 visitors attend over the four days".

That was not only because of the high quality of the printed photographs, but "the whole exhibition was so well run that other clubs have since been asking our advice on how it should be done".

"On the other hand the year had its sad point too", he said, referring to the unexpected and untimely death of "one of our most dedicated members, our immediate past president, Elizma Fourie", on Friday 4 November 2022, at the age of 57.

David also mentioned our success in the Cwm Rhondda Battle, organized by the Rhondda Camera Club in the Welsh Rhondda Valley, where we made a solid comeback last year. We ended 4<sup>th</sup> out of 25 clubs, mainly from Britain, after being trounced into 21<sup>st</sup> out of 26 the previous year.

During the year we made a start to organize the attendance of events as a club, where we could interact with and learn from one another.

Basically it was another year of recovery from the negative effects of Covid, while facing the other challenge of ever increasing power cuts. Attendance of our monthly meetings and other activities were under pressure, as was our committee, where the workload on too few members became hardly bearable.

"Hopefully we will be able to increase the committee membership this year to reduce individual workloads," David said in his finishing remarks.



*David Wilson, outgoing club president, at the opening of our most successful FynArts print exhibition in a pop-up gallery at the Hermanus station building in June last year.*



## Our region shines in club competitions

Our club in particular, and the Western Cape region in general, are very well placed after seven of the twelve months of the monthly club competitions of the Photographic Society of South Africa (PSSA).

Based on the total scores over the five months, our regional clubs occupy five of the top ten places nationally in both the senior and the junior competition. (See the tables below.)



*"Wet wet wet" by Charles Naudé, our club's February entry for the senior competition of the PSSA*

Just over a hundred clubs in South Africa are affiliated to the PSSA, and about 60 of them take part in each of the two competitions.

Our club is joint 5<sup>th</sup> in the national senior competition, and joint 2<sup>nd</sup> among the Western Cape clubs – together with Cape Town in both cases. In the junior competition we are 7<sup>th</sup> nationally and 4<sup>th</sup> regionally.

The senior competition is for 4-Star photographers and above, and the junior for up to 3-Star.



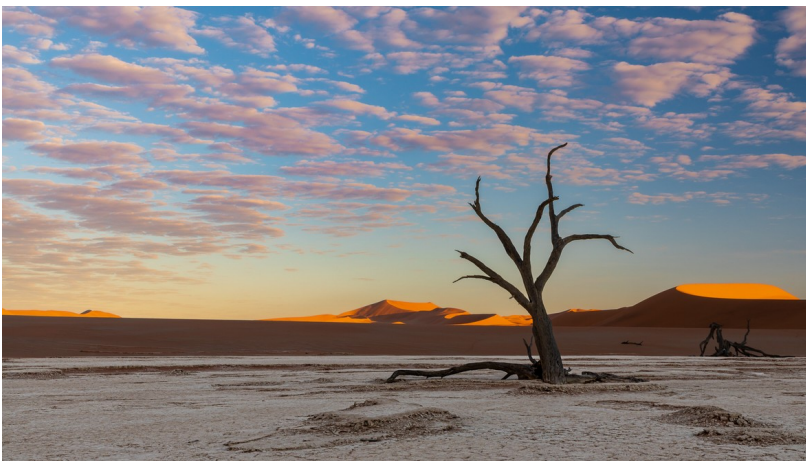
*"Home stretch" by René Pretorius, our junior entry for February*

Counting the accumulated scores of clubs is not part of the competitions. First prize goes to the single image judged to be the best, and not to the best performing club throughout the year – which runs from July to June the following year.

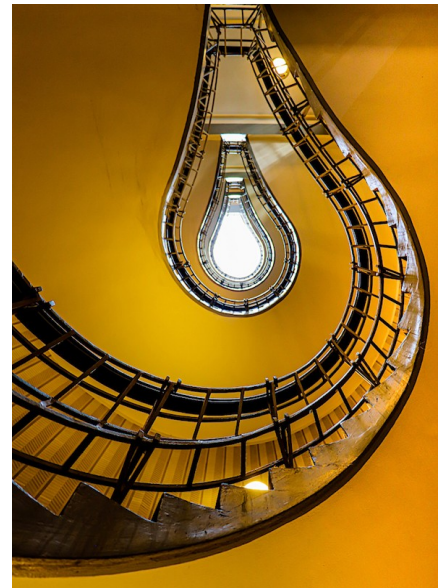
But we regard the clubs' total scores as useful information to indicate the quality of our photography compared with that of other clubs.

Seniors after seven months			
Club	Score	W Cape	National
Creative	247	1	2
Cape Town	241	2	5
Hermanus	241	2	5
Fish Hoek	239	4	7
Swartland	233	5	10
Tygerberg	206	6	22
Helderberg	160	7	39
Witzenberg	159	8	40
Tafelberg	138	9	44
Paarl	132	10	48

Juniors after seven months			
Club	Score	W Cape	National
Cape Town	239	1	3
Fish Hoek	234	2	5
Swartland	231	3	6
Hermanus	228	4	7
Creative	215	5	10
Tygerberg	183	6	24
Witzenberg	166	7	27
C Hofmeyr	157	8	34
WC Photog	157	8	34
Tafelberg	142	10	38



Our club's entries for January: "Dead Vlei" by Phil Sturgess (senior, above), which was awarded 37/45, and "Spiral staircase" by Mari Botes (junior, right, 31/45)



Our club's entries for December: "Brothers" by Carina de Klerk (senior, above, 37/45), and "Berries and pancakes" by Mari Botes (junior, right, 36/45)





## Salon results

Another two quiet months for our club members on the national salon front.

### **Centurion club national salon**

David Wilson – 3 images accepted for exhibition

Charles Naudé – 1 acceptance

### **Bethal club national salon**

David Wilson – 1 acceptance

Charles Naudé – 1 acceptance

### **International salons**

David Wilson – 2 Gold medals, 1 FIAP ribbon and 8 more awards from various salons during December and January

## Forthcoming events

**Our March monthly meeting** will be in the Hermanus Dutch Reformed Church Hall on Wednesday the 1<sup>st</sup> at 19:00. Members may enter up to three images of their choice, and one on the Set Subject, "A printable local image" / "'n Drukbare plaaslike foto", all for evaluation. All submissions must be via Photo Vault Online, and all scores will count for promotion.

### **The set subjects for the following six months are**

April – Trees and leaves / Bome en blare

May – Planes, trains, automobiles (and ships?)/ Vliegtuie, voertuie, treine (en skepe?)

June – Creative shutter speed / Kreatiewe sluiterspoed

July – Still life / Stillewe

August – Your favourite book, film, poem or music as a photo / Jou gunsteling- boek, -rolprent, -gedig of -musiek as 'n foto

September – Any photo to be taken in July only / Enige foto wat net in Julie geneem mag word

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

Brandpunt 25 February

Southern Suburbs 4 March

Rustenburg 11 March

PSSA Up and coming (free and open to all junior photographers) 25 March

PSSA national 8 April

**FynArts print exhibition** – from 9 to 18 June at a venue to be confirmed in Hermanus.

**Cwm Rhondda** – 19 November. We have again been invited to submit four images (one per photographer) to this competition comprising 26 clubs from around the world.

**The First Friday Art Walk** from 17:00 to 20:00 on the first Friday of the month. Our club print exhibition which forms part of this, is at Hermanus FotoFirst.

**Art in the Park** at the Hermanus Country Market venue, Fairways Avenue, on the first Sunday of every month.

## Committee

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Sheron Pretorius

René Pretorius

Ex officio: Crighton Klassen – Training and development

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

## Snapshot

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