

Newsletter of the Hermanus Photographic Society
February 2024

Reflecting on a year of growth

More members, greater participation, higher quality



"Portree reflections" by Phil Sturgess, our club's February set subject image of the month (with the topic "Reflections"). It is also overall image of the month, and our entry for the PSSA senior monthly club competition. It was the third time in four months that this happened, demonstrating the increasing quality of our set subject entries.

"Reflecting on 2023 it has certainly been a good year," Carina de Klerk said in her president's report at our club's annual general meeting on Wednesday 7 February.

The numbers were there to prove that it was a year of growth in membership, in participation in our regular activities, and in the quality of our photography.

“We gained 15 new members during 2023, while (only) seven members did not renew their subscriptions,” Carina said. “The growth in junior members especially is encouraging as this is the lifeblood of any club.”

Our club has bounced back from a period of decline and dwindling membership brought on by the impact of Covid, she said. “The strong growth in members and images submitted monthly was underscored by many positive interactions at the club.

“The number of image submissions increased significantly to 564 (from 457 in 2022) while maintaining a very high standard. In particular, the average number of golds and merits for the past two years was 66% (compared to about 55% during the previous two years).”

Providing a list of the monthly set-subject topics well in advance added to the number and quality of entries in this competition, Carina said. A total of 127 set subject images were entered in 2023 compared with 101 in 2022.

This story just got better and better

“Impulsive impala” (right) by Judy Armstrong was not only our junior image of the month in December, it was also overall image of the month.

This story becomes better. As our December entry in the PSSA junior monthly club competition (for members up to 3-Star level) the image was given third highest score of 37/45. But the image was not recognised as second runner-up for the month because traditionally there is only one winner and two runners-up in December and January combined.



It is some consolation though that 37 for our entry was not surpassed in the previous two years of the junior competition.

But that is still not the end of the story. It gets even better. The December score of 37, plus a 36 for our January

entry, also by Judy, pushed our total score in the junior competition from 17th place to 4th nationally, and from 6th to 2nd among Western Cape clubs.

As for the senior competitions, our December and January scores were good enough to let us move from 17th to 7th nationally, and from 3rd to 2nd regionally.

So we have reached the national top ten in both competitions.



"Walking like a boss" by Judy Armstrong, our club's entry in the February junior competition.



"Equine beauty" by Hestie das Neves, set subject of the month, and our club entry in the January senior competition, where it was awarded 33/45.



"Kogelbaai blues" by Carina de Klerk, our club entry in the December senior competition. It was given a score of (34/45).



"After the splash" by Judy Armstrong, our January junior club entry (36/45).

It was a starry, starry night

Our club's senior and junior photographers of the year were announced at our meeting on 7 February; two of our senior members have advanced to a higher Master level; and a relative newcomer was elected to our club committee at the same meeting.

- The senior photographer of the year 2023 is **Phil Sturgess**, and the junior **Judy Armstrong**. The titles are based on their achievements in club evaluations during our club year.



*Phil Sturgess, club senior
photographer of 2023*



*Judy Armstrong, club junior
photographer of 2023*

The senior runners-up are Carina de Klerk, Charles Naudé, Daniel Reddie and Luke Horsten. The junior runners-up are Anita Joubert, Henry Pieters, Fielies de Kock and Ingrid Grundlingh.

- The two senior members who have advanced from Magister Bronze to Silver level are **Carina de Klerk** and **Hestie das Neves**.

Another nine advancements were announced during 2023, those of René Pretorius (1- to 2-Star), Sheron Pretorius (3- to 4-Star), Mari Botes (3- to 4-Star), Judy Armstrong (1- to 2-Star and later 2- to 3-Star), Phil Sturgess (Master Silver to Master Gold), Anita Joubert (1- to 2-Star), Henry Pieters (2- to 3-Star) and Ingrid Grundlingh (3- to 4-Star).

After all these advancements we now have 16 senior photographers, consisting of seven on 4-Star level, three 5-Star, two Master Bronze, three Master Silver and one Master Gold; and 13 junior photographers, consisting of three 1-Star, four 2-Star and six 3-Star.

- Finally, our newly elected committee member is **Natasha Louw**, who joined our club only last year. She replaces Kobus Botes, who served on the committee for five years, and is taking a break to do some traveling with his wife, Mari.

Salon results – December and January

The results of the first salon of 2024, that of On the Rocks camera club, were still unavailable. The salon year runs from July 2023 to June 2024.

Sasol Highfield national salon

Charles Naudé – 6 images accepted for exhibition

David Wilson – 4 acceptances

Bloemfontein national salon

Charles Naudé – 2 images accepted for exhibition

David Wilson – 1 acceptance

International salons

David Wilson – 1 bronze medal, 2 certificates of merit, 1 FIAP ribbon, 1

honourable mention and 48 more acceptances by various salons



"Canary Wharf and the moon" by David Wilson – certificate of merit in the Knowledge Bowl salon

Forthcoming events

Our March monthly meeting of 2024 will be in the Hermanus Dutch Reformed Church Hall on Wednesday the 6th at **18:00**. Members may enter up to three images of their choice, and one on the set subject, "Shadows as art" / "Skaduwees as kuns", all for evaluation.

Images will be evaluated by an internal panel, comprising Phil Sturgess, David Wilson and Charles Naudé.

All submissions must be done via Photo Vault Online, and by Wednesday 28 February. All scores will count for advancement.

The set subjects for the next three months of 2024 are:

April – Using perspective / Die gebruik van perspektief

May – A monochrome street scene / 'n Eenkleurige straattoneel

June – A sliver of light / 'n Strepie lig

The First Friday Art Walk in Hermanus is 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.

Forthcoming salons

March 9 – Brandpunt national digital salon

March 16 – Swartland international digital salon

March 21 – PE international audio-visual festival

April 13 – PSSA international digital salon

- Full annual report and more information on club activities can be found on our club website (hermanusphoto.co.za);
- Brochures and more information on salon participation on the PSSA website (pssa.co.za).

Committee

Carina de Klerk – Chair/president

083 631 5743 (hermanusphoto@gmail.com)

Phil Sturgess – Treasurer, membership and judge co-ordinator

083 272 2022 (hermanusphoto@gmail.com)

Judy Armstrong – Photo Vault administrator

(hermanusphoto@gmail.com)

Daniel Reddie

084 642 0038 (hermanusphoto@gmail.com)

David Wilson

064 745 3552 (hermanusphoto@gmail.com)

Natasha Louw – Social/events/outings

082 896 5827 (hermanusphoto@gmail.com)

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

Snapshot

Editor: Charles Naudé

083 309 1857 (cmnaude@gmail.com)

Fluit-fluit, my storie is uit