

NEWSLETTER: April 2022

Picture of the Month

Senior



The King
Des Kleiniebst

Des told us about the image –

"I shot this White King Protea in my studio against a black velvet background, on my Canon 5DsR camera with 70 – 200 mm lens @ 70mm. 6 Second Exposure @f32, ISO 50.

Lit with 2 Westcott IceLight2s, one on each side of the Protea, each diffused through a translucent acrylic sheet to soften the lights.

I shot it over a number of days as it opened up.

The biggest challenge for me was getting a pleasant composition of the leaves , some of them have been carefully pinned into place to fill in the gaps.

Finding the perfect plant is very rare, they are very fragile and get damaged very easily, Colin & Adelle from Proteus Farm in Sedgfield let me know that they had picked this one."

Picture of the Month

Junior



Young Gull having an oct snack- Andre Venter

Andre wrote

"This photo was taken during low tide at Brenton-on-Sea at the big rock. I saw a bit of a commotion at the rocks and darted down, and managed to find a spot, (A wet spot I might add) where I could lie down flat to get as low as possible when photographing the gull. I managed to get a few good shots of it feeding and dragging the Octo around.

Camera : Canon EOS R6 Lens : Sigma 150 – 600 (Photograph Taken at 420mm) f/9,0 ISO (Auto) but shot taken at ISO 500"

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PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA



Message from the Chair - May 2022

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Warm welcome

We would like to wish new member Elaine Forrest a warm welcome and a long, happy and stimulating time with us. We look forward to seeing you and getting to know you, at our club functions.

Weekend away: October 2022

This weekend away is going ahead. Please see further details hereunder.

Projector apology

We would like to tender our apologies to members who submitted images on for our club night on 18th May. We were anxious about the unplanned, unscheduled and lengthy power outage so opted to forego checking of the PSSA test images, before judging commenced. That turned out to be a mistake as the projector calibration was off. It was our mistake and it won't happen again. Please accept our apologies.

Looking Up Competition

Sadly we have had to postpone our Competition evening, originally scheduled to 26th May. This was partly due to a low turnout, in turn due to Covid concerns and then trumped by load shedding when we attempted a zoom evening. We will let you know, in due course, what the alternate arrangements are.

New committee

Our club year is drawing to a close and it is time for us all to contemplate who should serve on our committee next year. We need an injection of new, preferably younger members, to generate fresh ideas and keep our affairs on a sound and sustainable footing. If you are willing to serve, please let me or Carol know. We would love to hear from you.

If not, please nominate someone who you think will make a positive contribution to our club.

Enjoy the Newsletter.

Hope to see you soon.

Doug Emanuel and Carol Phillips

"It is an illusion that photos are made with the camera... they are made with the eye, heart, and head."

-Henri Cartier-Bresson

May 2022

High Scoring Images



Lemaire Channel – Anne Hrabar



Rocky Sunrise – Des Kleineibst



Nice catch – Willem de Voogt



Lighting the way – Willie Dagleish



Pearl Spotted Owlet – Willem de Voogt



Monochrome Horse – Terence Clarke



Gert with Pipe – Cathy Birkett



Fenced in -



Remains of summer – Pam Brighton



Garlic cloves – Carol Phillips



Textures of Nam – Sharon Long



Raining Rainbow – Sharon Long



Fashion Queen – Lorraine Cloete



Brenton Rocks – Andre Venter

SALON ACCEPTANCES

MAY 2022

5th NELSPRUIT DIGITAL SALON

Peter	1	
Willem	1	
Doug	2	Category runner up medal Congratulations Doug!

Plettenberg Bay & Knysna Photo Spectacular

Carol won 2nd Place in this competition with a beautiful image of a Plett sunrise.

Congratulations Carol!

Editor's choice

Judging – a thankless task

I found this on the Vernon Photography Club website and it resonated with me.

As an enthusiastic photographer for many years, but new to the club and to the PSSA methodology, having my images judged came as a bit of a shock.

I'm sure this is not a unique experience.

However, I found the comments made were constructive and beneficial. Over the years I had become sloppy and had forgotten the fundamentals. After reworking some images I plucked up the courage to enter them in salons only to find an even tougher school!

However, being objective with my own work has really helped.

I now find myself in the position of having to evaluate other club members work knowing full well that I will probably hurt someone's feelings during the evening. However, every fellow judge that I have dealt with has been honest and it has been an honour to benefit from their experience.

Why do we put ourselves out there?

This is what the author wrote -

- Evaluators constantly strive to encourage photographers to take more, and better photographs and to have FUN doing it!
- The purpose of giving evaluations is to offer one's detailed impression of a photograph and offer advice. An evaluation is not to simply say an image is “nice” or “I like it” or “it doesn't work”.
- An evaluation is NOT a criticism. Evaluating is not designed to find something wrong. It is designed to first see something right, and then see things that may be improved upon. Evaluators are required to give useful, thoughtful, honest and appropriate assessments.
- An evaluator sets aside considerations of mere technique and composition and to also evaluate on insight, emotional content, impact, story telling, message, experimentation, etc...
- Evaluators avoid the “easy approach” by only evaluating the technical/composition aspects. Ignoring other aspects of the image is unacceptable, a disservice to the maker.
- All images are evaluated appropriately and not “torn apart” - especially over minor details. Evaluators will spend much time looking at numerous images and all deserve the same attention.
- When an evaluator does not see anything in the image that may be improved upon, he or she will say so and comment as to why.

One of their members said that - _

“The evaluators give their evaluations on the images in order to offer encouragement and advice to the makers as well as to help those viewing the evaluations.

The evaluations are given from the evaluator's own perspective, impressions, and opinions of the image.

Perhaps we don't always agree with a particular evaluation but we need to remember that we can always learn from another person's point of view and opinion, especially from someone experienced.

You learn little if the feedback is all praise and I can state from experience that I have learned many things about my own images by listening to a thoughtful evaluation of them.

Even when I may not necessarily be in total agreement, usually when I think about what has been said, they have made valid points.

The evaluator's job is not at all easy and we always need to hear their views with open minds and appreciation."

(VPC member April 2021)

"A good evaluator commends successful insights and content in a photograph and also indicates how weaknesses might be improved."

"Most of all, evaluations are done in a way that is helpful with the goal of encouraging and helping photographers reach a higher level."

We are fortunate to have Anne Hrabar in control of our judges.

Not only has she to convince other members to take the responsibility of judging our monthly submissions but she drives our judges education program.

All interested members are welcome to attend the sessions even if they have no desire to be active judges.

There is a lot to be gained by understanding the scoring system and the approach adopted by the PSSA in evaluating an image.

Weekend Away

21-23 October 2022 (Alternatively 28-30 October)

This weekend away is going ahead and a sub-committee has been formed to plan and execute the outing. The dates are as mentioned above. If the weather is inclement on 21-23 October, we will postpone to the following weekend. The photo opportunities are mostly very weather dependent. Nothing is finalised and nothing is compulsory, but we will be organising along the following lines;

Friday PM.

Arrival and check in, followed by a workshop on astro-photography (Milky way and star trails), This will be followed by a sunset shoot and a star trail practical, both in the same location. A picnic dinner is necessary as there'll be insufficient time to commute back and forwards to town.

Saturday AM

Sunrise shoot followed by breakfast.

Visit to the morning market for a compulsory pancake.

Hopefully a talk by a local photographer.

Photo walk around town or surrounds— own route

Saturday Afternoon

Siesta

Post processing of star trails

Possible portrait shoot with local township models.

Optional sunset shoot

Dinner or picnic dinner

Shooting the milky way

Sunday;

Sunrise shoot and walk, above the town.

Breakfast at B&B/Hotel

Check-out

More post processing as needed

Leave for home

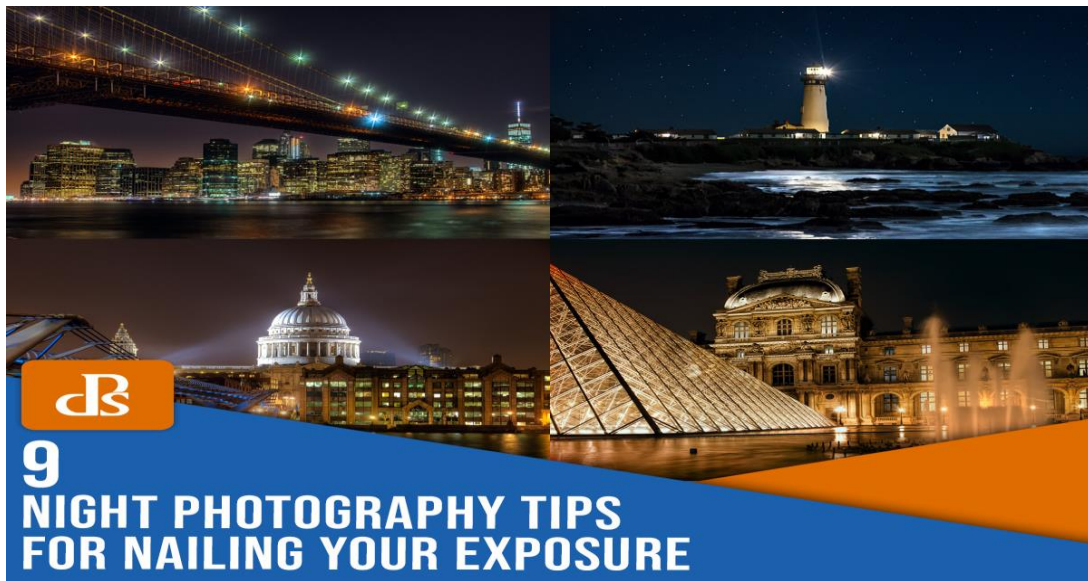
More info will be provided for all confirmed participants

Set Subject – June

Night Photography

“The perfect set subject for winter” 😊

If you’d like to find out “how to do it” –



Follow this link –

<https://digital-photography-school.com/tips-for-getting-proper-exposure-for-night-photography/>

July	Occupations
August	Weather
September	Flowers

Next Meeting

15 June – live at the Duthie Room, Belvidere Manor, 18H00 for 18:30

2 images + 1 set subject image may be submitted

Deadline for submissions via Photovault – 4 June before 12:00 p.m.

Judges

The judges for June will be Paul Rixom and Gill Maskell

The remote judge for June is Kim Stevens professional photographer from Cape Town Photographic Society.

She has her APPSA and is JAP accredited. Her genres are Architecture, dance and performance, B&W and landscape.

Members can check out her portfolio on Limelight photography!

Social Media

Facebook

Our Facebook page gives members the opportunity to showcase images, talk about ideas, get honest feedback without fear of criticism. To join contact Carol for an invitation.

WhatsApp

Find the group on WhatsApp under KPS Creatives. There's usually interesting discussion as well as stimulating posts and links.

Online Resources

There are many options on the internet covering almost every aspect of our craft. Some are excellent, some not so good.

The following are worthwhile

Landscape photography

Christian Hoiberg - <https://www.capturelandscapes.com>

Many different articles on most aspects of landscape photography, free resources, e-books

Alister Benn - Expressive photography - <https://www.youtube.com/c/ExpressivePhotography/featured>

Landscape photographer of the year 2019. Technique, interviews, ideas

Photo Cascadia <https://www.photocascadia.com/>

A group of excellent photographers who share tips and techniques on their site

Post processing

Photoshop Colin Smith | <https://photoshopcafe.com/>

Lightroom Juilianne Kost <https://jkost.com/blog/>

Both the above have free tips and tricks to help improve your post processing skills and to add to your knowledge

Bird photography

Ari Hazeghi <http://arihazeghiphotography.com/>

An outstanding bird photographer who freely shares tips and techniques

Useful blogs and forums

Back Country Gallery Steve Perry's forum <https://bcgforums.com/>

All aspects of nature, wildlife and landscape discussed. Steve is the author of several excellent e-books

Fred Miranda <https://www.fredmiranda.com/>

An all-round forum covering all genres, competitions, critique and gear reviews. Specialist sub forums for different camera makes, landscape, wildlife, black & white, street, people, architecture etc.

John Caponigro <https://www.johnpaulcaponigro.com/blog/>

A philosophical approach to photography and life. Many practical tips and techniques

Weekly e-magazines

DP Review <https://www.dpreview.com/>

Up to date news and reviews. Weekly contests (free). Many articles of interest on all aspects

Amateur Photographer <https://www.amateurphotographer.co.uk/>

The free, abridged, version of the oldest photographic magazine. Many reviews, techniques, tips and articles on every aspect of photography

Key dates 2022

Month	Meeting date	Image submission deadline	Semi- annual Competition	Set subject
June	15	4		Night photography
July	20	9		Occupations
August	17	6		Weather
September	21	10		Flowers
October	19	8		Panorama
November	17	5	17**	Zen

****** Venue - Knysna Golf Club combined with Club Night and year end function.

National Salons

2022-06-04 VPS National Salon

2022-06-11 Southern Suburbs Camera Club National Salon

2022-06-18 PSSA 21st Up and Coming Salon

2022-06-25 1st SANParks Honorary Rangers: Boland Region Nature Only PDI Salon

Anyone may enter a Salon. To find out more on how to do so, go to the Photographic Society of South Africa's website or ask one of the senior club members.

All information relating to upcoming salons is available at -

<https://pssa.co.za/salons-mainmenu-81/salon-calendar-results-for-the-year-ending-june-2022>

PSSA Congress 2022



For more information see the following link

<https://www.pssa.co.za/2022-congress-greyton>