

# CONGRESS PROGRAMME

*The Cape Photographers' 3-in-1 event : De Rust 2014*



*Tuesday 29 April - Saturday 3 May*

## 16th ANNUAL CAPE PHOTOGRAPHERS CONGRESS

9th  
PSSA AUDIO VISUAL CONVENTION

PORT ELIZABETH CAMERA CLUB  
INTERNATIONAL AUDIO VISUAL  
FESTIVAL AWARDS



*De Rust*  
Klein Karoo

*NG CHURCH HALL. Long Street. DE RUST*



Map Courtesy of Oudtshoorn Tourism



## History of Cape Photographers

Photography and photographers in different areas are vastly different and it had long been felt that PSSA (the governing body of non-professional photography in South Africa) was dominated by styles and ideas from the strong Gauteng area. While there were many photographers from the Cape their voice was seldom heard and when it was, it was only that of individuals and as such bore little or no weight. It was decided then to follow the example of regions such as the Free State and Natal and to form a group of "Cape Photographers" so that when necessary we could put forward an opinion based on all our views which would bear far more weight than that of a few individuals.

And so the Cape Photographers was born in Calitzdorp in March 1999. Acknowledgement must be given to Bridgette Pacy-Tootell and the late Ozzie Radford for arranging the founding congress. In addition to the united voice it was also intended that the Cape Photographers should get together from time to time and offer workshops, exhibitions etc. to promote

photography in the Cape. An annual "Cape Photographers" congress would be held in a different small town each year where an interchange of ideas could take place.

While the Cape Photographers was introduced to give photographers from all regions of the Cape a voice, it is an independently run organisation and members do not have to belong to either a club or PSSA (Photographic Society of South Africa). The main event on the programme is the annual congress, which is held in a different town each year and hosted by a club or group of photographers. Wherever possible a small town with photographic potential is chosen.

Jill Sneesby was elected as the first Chairperson in 1999 and Roel van Oudheusden was elected as Treasurer.

In 2010 the committee was restructured and is now made up of a Chairman (the chairperson of the forthcoming congress), a Vice Chairman (the chairperson of the immediate past congress), a Treasurer and the respective PSSA regional directors of the region.

## **Past Congresses hosted by CAPE PHOTOGRAPHERS and their Convenors:**

- 1999 - Calitzdorp - Bridgette Pacey-Tootell and Ozzie Radford
- 2000 - Sedgfield - Roel van Oudheusden
- 2001 - De Rust - Ute Alexander
- 2002 - Swellendam - Pierre van den Berg
- 2002 - Graaff-Reinet - PSSA National Congress - Jill Sneesby
- 2003 - Natures Valley - Elaine Whitcher
- 2004 - Hogsback - Terry Smit (included the PSSA AV Convention - Thomas Niemeyer)
- 2005 - De Doorns - David Ireland
- 2006 - Calitzdorp - Neels Beyers (included the PSSA AV Convention - Thomas Niemeyer)
- 2006 - Velddrift - PSSA National & Wildlife Convention - Jill Sneesby
- 2007 - De Doorns - Jill Sneesby (included the PSSA AV Convention - Thomas Niemeyer)
- 2008 - Nieu Bethesda - Elaine Whitcher
- 2009 - Hermanus - PSSA National Congress - Ronnie Hazell
- 2009 - Tsitsikamma - Tillie Nel
- 2010 - Struisbaai - Neels Beyers
- 2011 - Addo - Jill Sneesby
- 2012 - Langebaan combined with PSSA National Congress - Johan Kloppers
- 2013 - Barkly East - Frank Smith
- 2014 - De Rust - Paul Rixom (includes the PSSA AV Convention)





## De Rust

The name of this town literally means "The Rest" and is an indication of how it came about. In the early 19th century one Petrus Johannes Meiring found a pass through the Swartberg Mountains (Meiringspoort), and travellers, before tackling the daunting route, used to outspan at a favourite spot near a mountain spring. In 1900 this outspan, which was situated on Meiring's farm, was proclaimed a town and retained its traditional name of De Rust. It is a serene, little Victorian village scarcely touched by the passage of time and as yet undiscovered by rapacious developers. Considered to be the gateway between the Klein Karoo and the Great Karoo, De Rust has a typical Karoo atmosphere steeped in history, hospitality and time, time for well-being and time for community. This slow pace of life and clean fresh air has an appeal to those who seldom have time to quiet their minds. Its people breed ostriches and grow olives, fruit, and grapes from which wines are made. De Rust boasts quite a few historical buildings, of which the Dutch Reformed Church is but one.

### ***The Legend of the Mermaid (Meermin van Meiringspoort)***

During the Meiringspoort floods of 1996 the 'legend of the mermaid' was revived. So much damage was caused by water that not only houses were flooded, but crocodiles, ostriches, cattle, trees and chunks of tarmac were washed down river. And as the story goes, during this turmoil, the Mermaid was washed out to sea. She was caught in the net of fishermen and brought to the C.P. Nel Museum in Oudtshoorn for recuperation. It was announced on Suid-Kaap Radio that she was held in a 'revival tank' in the stone tower of the Museum. People phoned and came in droves from as far afield as Zimbabwe and Namibia to see this unusual creature. They wanted to know 'waar is die water antie?' But they eventually felt disappointed; they could all see that she was a shopwindow mannequin dressed up as a mermaid (thanks to the Museum staff).

But, the radio station insisted that there are mermaids in the area, because the Khoisan rock paintings (13 000 - 15 000 years old) show creatures with fishtails. A local clairvoyant made contact with her at the time and found out that her name is Eporia. While the frenzy about Eporia continued, water spirits were 'seen' elsewhere - in Vanrhynsdorp, Macassar and the Eastern Cape. And the famous bronze Mermaid of Copenhagen was, for the second time since 1913, decapitated!

The mermaid legend sparked the imagination of people of the Klein Karoo. In 1998 during the Klein Karoo Nasionale Kunstefees Antoinette Pienaar, a well-known cabaret artist from Beaufort West, acted in the play, Eporia. Artists started painting her, potters glorified her on their ceramics and television programmes used the theme in their scripts. And Calitzdorp used her on the labels of their portwines. Eporia, the mermaid, has since been returned to the river, but her 'replica' can still be seen in the clock tower of the C.P. Nel Museum.

From: Meiringspoort - A Scenic Gorge through the Swartberg Range by Helena Marincowitz

Information provided by the C.P. Nel Museum and De Rust Tourism Bureau

Extract from Congress 2001 article by Ute Alexander



*De Rust*  
Klein Karoo

## GUEST LECTURERS:



### **Howard Bagshaw ARPS MPAGB**

Howard has been a keen photographer all his life. He worked in education, teaching science and technology and latterly

advising and training teachers. It was only when he retired around 8 years ago that he found that he had sufficient time to make Audio Visual 'sequences'. He feels that he has gained enormously by belonging to photography and AV groups such as Wilmslow AV group and the Royal Photographic Society. He and Carole have enjoyed the friendship and support of other AV workers from around the world, not least from those in South Africa. Encouraged by AV friends, he entered local, national and international AV competitions and has been fortunate to gain a number of medals and awards for his sequences including the gold medal at the RPS AV International. He has also gained his Associate distinction from the RPS and the Masters award from the Photographic Alliance of GB in AV. He is currently chairman of the Staffordshire AV group and vice-chairman of the RPS AV Group. He regularly lectures around the UK and occasionally further afield. He has judged many AV competitions and will be chairman of the judges at this year's RPS International AV Championships.

### **Howard's lectures:**

#### **Wednesday 30 April at 10h00 "Why AV?"**

There are occasions when a single photograph can best capture the moment. However, there are times when the essence of a place, an event, or a story can be better portrayed through a panel of images, a book or an Audio Visual show. Using some of my sequences I will attempt to show where AV can work and how the right combination of visual and audio can enhance both.

#### **Thursday 1 May at 10h00 "The A in AV"**

Most people start making AVs as already-competent photographers, wanting a way of showing off their best images. For some the sound-track is given little thought, or may be considered a 'black art'. In this workshop I will look at some straightforward ways of improving soundtracks, looking at music selection, recording, narration and the editing of a soundtrack.

#### **Friday 2 May at 10h00 "Story telling in AV"**

As humans, we love well told stories, whether hearing them on our parent's knee, or in a blockbuster film. There are techniques in telling a story, many of which can be used to enhance the experience of an AV. This talk will look at some principles of narrative, script writing and narration.

#### **Saturday 3 May at 10h00 "AV, some possible futures"**

AV is older than photography, with its roots in the magic lantern shows of the 18th century. As each new technology has emerged, AV has embraced and used many of them. I will look at some ways in which the medium may develop. What, for example is the potential of animation and video, how can we use smart phones, iPads and other mobile technologies to develop and present our work?



### **Paul Bruins**

I am a Cape Town based professional photographer, whose interest in photography was sparked off at an early age while completing a school project to build a

pin-hole camera and to develop and print the results in a home-made darkroom. Although I studied and qualified as a civil engineer in the early 1980s, I never went far without a camera of some sort. From cheap disposables, to 35mm SLRs and then to medium format, I have experimented with a large range of equipment and styles. While I do have a considerable amount of studio experience

shooting portraits, still-life and close-up macro images, my love of nature and the outdoors saw me moving towards and specialising in architectural and fine-art landscape photography.

For the past ten years, I have taken great pleasure in exploring and photographing every corner of my home town and province. For me there is no better feeling than discovering another beautiful location, waking up and getting out before the first light of dawn, and then being ready and in position to capture a compelling composition in the best possible light. The thrill of pressing the camera's shutter when all the conditions are absolutely perfect is something that is very difficult for me to describe in words. These are the moments that make me feel completely alive.

When it comes to photography, I am a perfectionist. I am extremely critical of my own images, and am always acutely aware when I have captured a scene in a less-than-perfect way. My personal goal is to continue to improve my techniques with every photograph I take, and I will return to the same location again and again, until I am completely certain that all the elements have worked in my favour, and that I have produced an image that cannot be improved upon.

My primary motivation for photographing beautiful landscapes is to share my emotions, experiences, locations and techniques with other like-minded photographers. This passion for finding and capturing the most picturesque locations and for sharing my photographic experiences has prompted me to organise and host a number of photographic exhibitions, workshops and tours, both locally and internationally. My images have won numerous competitions and awards and have been published on calendars, in magazines and as book covers. I continue to sell my work through fine-art photography web-sites and as stock images to international libraries like Getty Images.

My favourite quote is one from Art Buchwald – "The best things in life aren't things".

## **Paul's lectures:**

### **Tuesday 29 April at 9h30:**

Composition guide for landscape photography – Everything that you need to know to allow you to capture the strongest possible compositions in your landscape photographs.

### **Thursday 1 May at 9h00:**

How to capture the perfect panorama – all the key points and pitfalls that must be considered when composing, capturing and stitching multi-image panoramas.



## **Antonie Carstens FPSSA ARPS**

Joined Paarl  
Photographic Society in  
1968 and PSSA in 1970.  
Professional  
photographer for the  
Department of

Agriculture Technical Services from 1972 to 1980.  
National Service as photographer in the Air Force  
June 1972 to July 1973. Joined Helderberg  
Photographic Society in 1973 and still active,  
currently serving on the committee. Professional  
Photographer for the University of Stellenbosch  
from 1980 to 1998. Joined Cape Town  
Photographic Society in 1990 and still active.  
Currently Head of Reprographic and Digital  
Service Section of the National Library of South  
Africa. Current study project for Master's Degree  
with research title: Digitisation of Photographic  
Collections in the Western Cape.

## **PSSA Honours:**

Associateships: Monochrome prints; Documentary  
and Literary; Audio Visual; Visual Art; Service.  
Fellowship: Audio Visual; Three categories.

## **Other awards:**

2 x PSSA service medal; PSSA President's Award.  
PSSA Director 1992-2005  
Royal Photographic Society: Associateship awarded  
in 1980.

I strive to work for PSSA in a manner that will improve the standard of photography and efficiency of the society. I firmly believe that teamwork within the society is the only way for success.

### **Antenie's lecture: 'PSSA Archives'**

**Tuesday 29 April at 14h00:**

Some aspects that will be addressed with the presentation.

- What is the PSSA archive?
- Why an archive for PSSA?
- What should be in the archive?
- Photographic collections which are digitised or currently being digitised.
- Reference to recent project to establish if photographic collections are being digitised according to best practices
- Reference to recent PSSA survey about digital preservation of our images.



### **Chris Daly FPSSA AFIAP**

My interest in photography started at the age of fifteen when I watched a friend's father developing prints in a darkroom. The bug bit and I was soon

developing my own prints in a converted closet under the stairs with home made developing tank, enlarger and print dryer. After leaving school, I packed up the darkroom and for many years reverted to the "happy snap" jumbo print mode.

It was only in 2000 that I became seriously interested in photography again when I bought my first digital compact camera. In January 2004 I joined the George Camera Club and started to submit photos for my club star grading, starting as a One Star worker. During that year I also joined the PSSA and entered my first National Salon and later entered the International Salon scene in order to qualify for my FIAP honours. I am now a recognised Judge in both Digital Photography and Audio

Visual for PSSA Salons and serve as a judge on the PSSA Honours Panel. I have run various workshops for photographers in the Western Cape.

In 2007 I received my APSSA in Digital Photography and in October 2008, after gaining honours in both Audio Visual and Published works, I was awarded my APSSA Versatility. In February 2011 I was awarded my Fellowship in the Photographic Society of South Africa (FPSSA) and in October of that year gained my AFIAP (Artiste FIAP) in the International Federation of Photographic Art.

### **Chris' lectures:**

**Thursday 1 May at 14h00:**

Lightroom 5 and Nik Plug-ins

A general overview of some of the key features of Lightroom 5. Demonstration of the workflow I use to get maximum benefit from Lightroom 5 raw converter. Brief overview of the Nik Plugin Collection and some examples of how I use Nik Color Efex, Nik Vivesa and Nik Silver Efex B & W converter.

**Saturday 3 May at 9h00:**

Movies and stills in Audio Visuals

The tools and techniques for combining Movies and Stills to help tell the story in Audiovisuals.



### **Peter Ginn**

24 years after the record-breaking success of his last big book, The Complete Book of Southern African Birds, Peter Ginn has done it again. Four years in the making, The Ultimate

Companion for Birding in Southern Africa takes bird books as we know them to a whole new level with his incredible insight, specialist bird knowledge and exceptional photography.

An Associate of the Royal Photographic Society and the Photographic Society of Southern Africa, Peter pioneered the use of photographs to illustrate bird



books in the 1970s, and has already put together more than 10 iconic bird books for the southern African region, each one building on the success of the previous one.

In 1984 Peter started organising photographic tours for groups, mainly from overseas, during the school holidays. In 1991 he and Liz created "Peter Ginn Birding Safaris" and moved into planning and guiding of tours full time. The emphasis is on being able to observe and photograph nature in the field.

Peter's knowledge of the habits of wildlife and his photographic skills have been particularly important in enabling his clients to get outstanding photographs of all the larger mammals, including the big five, as well as many of the larger bird species. These tours have encompassed Zimbabwe, Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Madagascar. Although originally conceived as a birding safari company, his skill at organising and leading tours has resulted in many more general Natural History tours than birding tours. Specialist Photographic tours became particularly important in the late 1990s as serious photographers require the skills of a local photographic guide who can help them to build up a portfolio of game photographs from Africa.

In 2004 Peter and Liz moved to George in South Africa where tours have continued on a much reduced scale because of Liz's cancer. However, the reduction in tours has resulted in more time to work in schools with over 2000 pupils being talked to during National Bird Week.

Peter has a wide knowledge of southern African birds, their identification and habits, having seen over 790 species in their natural habitats in the sub-continent. He has photographed over 450 bird species. Working in National Parks and reserves throughout southern Africa, he has also photographed all the big cats and most of the big game including many of the antelope of southern Africa.



### **Geoff McIlleron**

Geoff qualified as a Chemical Engineer in 1960 and later added a post graduate diploma to his qualifications. He has spent much of his life working in the process

industries both overseas and locally mainly on the technical side.

However from his boyhood days he has found great satisfaction in pursuing his twin interests in natural history and photography – both interests melded synergistically for Geoff. Initially his natural history interests were focused on birds and later broadened to the wider spectrum of the natural world. His holidays and week-ends were often consumed in following these interests.

Geoff has co-authored and co-edited a number of books on birds. Many hundreds of his photographs have been used to illustrate a wide variety of books and magazines both locally and abroad. These publications have been mainly on birds but also other topics of natural history.

In his retirement Geoff has been able to commit the bulk of his time to his hobbies and has been a trustee of the Nature's Valley Trust for past 10 years. He has also run photography instruction groups in the Plettenberg Bay area.

With over 35 years' experience co-authoring a number of popular bird books, Geoff McIlleron has teamed up again with Peter Ginn for the second time since the resounding success of their book, *The Complete Book of Southern African Birds*. Honorary President of the Plettenberg Bay branch of BirdLife South Africa and a member of the Photographic Society of South Africa, Geoff's life-long love of the natural world and dedication to its photography has seen him put together a personal collection of photographs covering well over 600 southern African bird species.

## Geoff's and Peter's lecture: Tuesday 29 April at 10h30:

The Ultimate Companion for Birding in Southern Africa, the most powerfully visual bird book ever for southern Africa. Two volumes with over 1400 photographs of birds covering all 960 species recorded. They will give the background to some of the images and how the book came together.



### Part 1: How the book came about, by Peter Ginn

The 'Ultimate Companion for Birding in Southern Africa' is the culmination of a history of bird books by Peter. He will follow that trail and tell us how this book got off the ground when he managed to get a sponsor on board. The key features that set this book apart from other bird books will be presented.

### Part 2: The photographs, by Geoff McIlleron

Geoff will provide insights into the process of assembling and editing the visual material for this book with its more than 1400 photographs. We wanted pictures that conveyed a new and dynamic perspective on southern African bird life that would stimulate interest and excitement about our remarkable birds. How did we go about it? Sourcing and selecting pictures; balancing conflict between photographic excellence and birder's interests; how did we edit the pictures; some of the headaches; handling the constraints imposed by page layout; matching printed colours with what's on our monitors.

We hope that this will stimulate interest in the book and provide some pointers to others who may be interested in producing books.

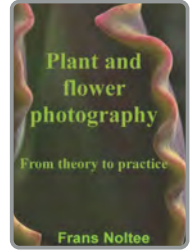


### Frans Noltee

I was born and bred in the Netherlands and worked for many years in State Nature Conservation before establishing a cactus and succulent

nursery. Travelled extensively in Africa and Arabia and lectured on those experiences in several Western European countries.

In 2001 I took early retirement to move to South Africa with my wife Liesbeth and have since then published a CD: "Succulent plants of the Little Karoo" and the e-book: "Plant and flower photography; from theory to practice".



Last year I started a well-received blog on succulents and plant photography: [enjoysucculents.wordpress.com](http://enjoysucculents.wordpress.com)

### Frans's lecture:

Tuesday 29 April at 11h30:

Aspects of plant photography



### Willem Oets

Willem is a fine art photographer. He started photography in 1991 after he was introduced to photography as a creative medium. He became known for his landscape

and abstract work, as well as his award-winning audio-visual presentations. In 2009 he made a major paradigm shift by adding the human figure to his desert landscapes. This initiated the move towards his present style of expressive photography. His new body of work explores the sensuality of light while focusing on expression and emotion.

Willem runs a fine art printing studio for photographers and artists and presents photography workshops in his Durban studio.

"If I can respond to my subject, I can capture it's essence - this applies equally to a landscape, an abstract or a person."

**Willem's lectures:**  
**Wednesday 30 April at 9h00**

Portraiture

**Friday 2 May at 11h30**

Audio Visual



**Paul Rixom**  
**LPSSA(vers)**

I started taking photographs with an old bellows Zeiss Ikon camera (8 exposures on a 120 film) which was given to me in my early teens. I

took this to Durham University (UK) in 1966 and by means of the dark room there I used it to illustrate my geological field reports. I can still remember the smell of the developer and the thrill of the image slowly coming up under the dark room light.

I went from university to Zambia in 1969 to work on the copper exploration programme and quickly brought a Pentax Spotmatic which I used mainly with slide film. Later on, when I was based in town, I joined my first Camera Club in Kitwe on the Zambian Copperbelt. I also continued with black and white as well, converting part of the garage of my mine-owned house into a dark room. While in Zambia I did quite a lot of wedding work in colour print. As there was no reliable colour processing facilities in the country the film was processed in the UK which took at least six weeks after the wedding and sometimes only arrived just in time for the christening! All my slide film work, including big overseas trips, also went to Kodak UK and even then it was often several months between pushing the shutter and seeing the resulting image. It was around this time that I started dabbling with travelogue-type audio-visuals with multiple slide projectors and reel to reel tape recorders which needed a truck to transport the equipment. In 1978 I obtained an Associateship from the Royal Photographic Society in pictorial slides but elected not to continue payment of membership fees in the late 80s.

Moving down to South Africa in 1988 to join what became Anglo Platinum as a Mineralogist, I joined the Johannesburg Photographic Society and later the Sandton Camera Club. It was interesting that by 2005 the Sandton Camera club was still essentially slides and prints but had a small breakaway clandestine group called 'the digital group' and they met behind closed doors at an undisclosed location.

I was still only a film worker when I retired and moved down to Wilderness in late 2005. I joined the George Camera Club in early 2006 and went along to my first evening clutching three slides for the monthly judging. They held my slides up to the light and said "we have not looked at these things for two years, but we could if you had brought your own slide projector!" This was the push that I needed to go digital and the rest, as they say, is history. I also enjoy putting together audio-visuals with either my own images or archival images which I use when dealing with historical or recent news events.

**Paul's lecture:**

**Friday 2 May at 9h00:**

My presentation on the scenery and geology of the Swartberg area will link the photography of the magnificent scenery with the underlying geology. It will cover such interesting topics as glaciers at Prince Albert, why the Swartberg was originally as high as the Himalayas, the breakup of Gondwana and the fault that goes through the northern part of De Rust which gives rise to hot springs and the earthquake at Tulbagh in 1969.



**Koos Roets**

Film director Koos Roets has been a formidable figure in South Africa's film industry for 51 years and he still has the energy, passion and drive of which younger filmmakers

dream. Recently, just after completing Faan se Trein, a film based on Afrikaans dramatist Pieter Fourie's

stage play with the same title, Roets immediately started filming a new TV series for kykNET, Pandjieswinkel, written by dramatist PG du Plessis. During his career Koos Roets has been involved in more than 150 productions as director of photography, director, scriptwriter or producer and his name has featured 35 times among the nominees of various awards of which he has won a total of 33.

### **Koos's lecture:**

**Saturday 3 May at 11h30:**

Koos will talk about the local film industry and specifically feature the immediate area of De Rust and Klaarstroom in film making.

"Kootjie Emmer" (1977), "Paljas" (1998) and most recently "Faan se trein" (2013) are some of his films which were filmed in this area.



### **Jill Sneesby**

**B.A., Hon MPSSA, MPSSA, FPSSA(Dux), MFIAP, ESFIAP**

Jill is partner in the successful J & B Photographers, based in Port Elizabeth, South

Africa, which is acknowledged internationally for passion and skill in the world of nature and photography. Jill is currently in her second term as President of the Photographic Society of South Africa having been the first female to hold this position. She is a member of the Honours Committee and is PSSA Overseas representative for the CPA and is the FIAP Liaison Officer.

She is much sought after at home and overseas as both lecturer and judge. Jill has judged in Austria, China, India, Abu Dhabi & Dubai and has lectured in the UK, Austria, USA, Canada, China, India & Qatar and will be a guest presenter at this years PSA Conference. Jill has won numerous awards for her work having won the overall Impala trophy in slides

once, the Nature Impala Trophy in slides five times and the Impala Trophy for Audio Visual three times. She is a multiple award winner in the Wildlife Photographer of the Year Competition in the UK, the Windland Smith Rice International Awards in the USA, the AGFA Award and the Fuji Getaway Awards in South Africa as well as the winner of a Toyota Landcruiser in the first Africa Photographic Awards.

### **Jill's lecture:**

**Saturday 3 May at 14h00:**

Honours feedback

What the judges are looking for in digital and AV applications.



### **Manus van Dyk**

**FPSSA ARPS APPSA**

Manus van Dyk is a leading wildlife photographer for the past 12 years; used to live in Nelspruit but now resides in Somerset West, South Africa. Over and

above contributing to several Stock Image Libraries throughout the world, he is one of South Africa's leading photographic instructors.

In 2005 he saw an opportunity to teach people how to use their new Digital SLR, as well as teaching those that have already grasped the Basics of Photography to move towards utilizing the more advanced techniques. He started the "EOS Roadshow" that concentrated on training people how to use their Canon EOS DSLR to its fullest potential. In 2010 on request of Canon SA and Canon Europe, he had to drop the trade name EOS and changed his company name to DSLR Training. He also runs The Ultimate Digital Course for Wildlife Photographers in the world renowned Sabi Sands Private Game Reserve in South Africa. He holds the following honours, APSSA vers., ARPS (United Kingdom), APPSA (Professional Photographers of South Africa) and FPSSA, and was the first photographer to achieve an APSSA and FPSSA in digital photography in South Africa.



In 2012 he moved his focus from only doing wildlife photography to photographing sport. He currently photographs all major sport events throughout South Africa for Gallo/Getty images.

### **Manus' lecture:**

**Tuesday 29 April at 14h30:**

Low light photography

**Tuesday 29 April at 20h00:**

(weather permitting, alternatively Tuesday 30 April at 20h00) Guiding Star trails photography



### **Adri van Oudheusden FPSSA**

My passion for audio visual really began with cinè. After Freeman Patterson's first visit to South Africa, I got hooked on slide Audio-Visuals.

These were not "mere slideshows", as many people of the digital age would like to refer to. These "slideshows" were more exciting, satisfying and creative than digital audio visuals today. Almost all the techniques that are available in digital today, could be (and were) achieved then (it only took longer)! My first APSSA was achieved in slide audio visuals. I have entered and judged several National and International Competitions and Salons and lectured and presented workshops at several Congresses. As the PECC and PSSA AV chairperson I hope to encourage more members to explore the audio visual medium. Thinking "out-of-the-box" is second nature to me. This entails exploring new and outrageous ideas and often finding myself in places in my head I have never dreamed of. My family maintains that it would be very difficult, if one could, to live inside my brain!

### **Adri's lecture:**

**Wednesday 30 April at 11h30:**

Creative Enhancement for Audio-Visual - With examples, I will demonstrate some methods I have employed to develop and transform my Audio

Visuals into works that communicate my inner experiences, visions and sometimes outrageous ideas.



### **Barrie Wilkins**

**Hon MPSSA,  
FPSSA(Dux), Hon FRPS,  
Hon PSA, MFIAP, FPSA,  
ESFIAP,**

has been honoured internationally for his photographic expertise as

well as service to photography. Barrie is a past President of the Photographic Society of South Africa and is Chairman of the Honours Division of (PSSA) and PSSA overseas representative for the Royal Photographic Society of Great Britain as well as the Photographic Society of America. Barrie has recently been elected to the Board of the Photographic Society of America as the International Relationships Vice President. He is a multiple award winner in many prestigious National and International Photographic Competitions including the Wildlife Photographer of the Year Competition in the UK, the Windland Smith Rice International Awards in the USA, and the AGFA Awards in South Africa. In the days of slides Barrie won the Impala Trophy 9 times in succession.

Barrie is a sought after lecturer, presenter and judge both at home and abroad - some of the highlights include lecturing at the Natural History Museum in London, UK; the 1st International Wildlife Convention in the Kruger National Park, South Africa; the 75th Anniversary Convention of the Photographic Society of America in West Yellowstone, USA. In 2014 he will be once again lecturing at the International Wildlife Convention in the Kruger National Park as well as at the PSA Convention in Albuquerque. In 2012 & 2013 he was a part of the international judging panel for the HIPA awards in Dubai and this year he will be travelling to Shanghai to judge their 12th International Photographic Art Exhibition.



Barrie's work is published and exhibited widely and he is a partner in the successful photographic business J&B Photographers.

### **Barrie's lectures:**

**Friday 2 May at 14h00:**

Seeing in Black and White

**Friday 2 May at 15h00:**

Anecdotal Ethics, or how they cheated but were found out...



### **Roger Young**

Roger Young was born in Johannesburg in 1948, with the doors wide open. Chose art to be his life experience. Painter, sculptor, woodcarver and photographer. Took

chances on motorcycles, the ponies, his best friends and love. Prefers to be in the right place at the right time. Watches his back, the road at most times, his manners especially, but not always his language. Thinks that in some situations he should have been given a second chance. Carries a picture of his dog in his wallet. Is down to earth, not lower. Has some regrets, but loves life, despite all the adversity.

Can see himself and the human race in true perspective relative to the stars and infinity. Wishes those wearing clothes of false ideals and destructive attitudes would undress and respect the planet. Thinks the uncertainty of life is its true adventure, takes it in both hands and says "Thank You!"

In photography tries continuously to find that thin window which seldom opens, but allows a picture to fall between reality and the copy, distilling in the image a presence of its own, to stand as a new experience, as something foreign to both. He has worked as a stills, wedding and events photographer. He has exhibited photographs at the Cape Town Triennial and various joint and solo exhibitions. He now has a Gallery, 48km outside

Oudtshoorn, in Kruisrivier. From here he offers photographic workshops of 3-7 days.

### **Roger's lecture:**

**Thursday 1 May at 11h30**

Images from a 21st Century Hunter Gatherer

## **De Rust Photo Rally - Tuesday 29th and Wednesday 30th April 2014**

Welcome to the De Rust Photo Rally. This is really a fun event involving a short walk (about 1.5 km) through the village.

For the competition you will have to enter a panel of pictures in order of the points to be visited. There are two competitions - **Best Photo On The Rally** and **Best Photo of the Set Subject**. These will be judged by a small panel of distinguished photographers and the results will be announced before the end of the congress.

### **YOUR ENTRY:**

You are required to enter nine photos, one of each subject, including number 9 which is the set subject. Please name each image with the number on your name tag and the image number. Example: 24-1 and so on to 24-9. You must hand your entry in to Roel, on a flash drive (marked with your name or number), before 18:30 on Wednesday 30th April.

The objective is to have everybody competing on the same level if that is at all possible.

Therefore:

- DO everything you want to do IN CAMERA
- SHOOT in JPG
- NO post processing other than selecting and renaming your images.
- NO resizing is required.
- ONLY JPG can be submitted

### **THE ROUTE:**

The road in front of the Church is Long Street. Turn right (East) along Long Street till it intersects Steytler Street then turn left (downhill) to where

Steytler Street joins the main road, which is Schoeman Street, just above the bridge over the river. Then all of your subjects, apart from the last, will be either side of the main road, Schoeman Street, going up the hill towards Oudtshoorn.

#### THE CLUES:

1. Take a photo of Langenhoven's pet purple pachyderm which is found here in its place.
  2. These humble creatures feature in nativity scenes, here they have found a sanctuary as well as providing a means of local transport. Photograph them.
  3. Possibly the smallest self-catering establishment in the village named after a soft sticky sweet or a geranium. Photograph the building.
  4. Find the sign that is a warning to an intoxicated Liewe Heksie. Photograph it.
  5. Are you a chicken fancier? Because overlooking
- the main road is a magnificent example of a macho male fowl. Photograph it.
  6. Photograph the fine Victorian building that was the home of the Robertson family.
  7. Remember the good old/bad old days of South African censorship like the stars in the Scope Magazine? Well, further up the road there is a skaam kudu sporting such a star. Photograph it with humour.
  8. You may need this drankwinkel having walked up the hill. This one bears the old name for the Klein Karoo, but importantly there are the lower portions of the female figure on display. Photograph these in the best possible taste!
  9. **SET SUBJECT.** Return to the main religious nucleus of the village where you can find food for your soul and body, and photograph it from any angle you wish.

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## **EVENING PROGRAMME:**

### ***Tuesday***

Provided the weather is amenable, Manus van Dyk will guide us for night photography and star trails.  
Details will be announced.

### ***Wednesday***

Royal Photographic Society:

The 2013 International Images for Screen Exhibition presents a gallery of all 424 digital images selected for the exhibition from photographers worldwide (129 – In Camera, 112 – Altered reality, 183 – Nature).

### ***Thursday***

Results of the De Rust Tourism photo competition will be announced.  
Our guest lecturers will also be judging your photo rally entries.  
Showtime, or show and ask; anyone to participate.

### ***Friday***

Port Elizabeth Camera Club International Audio Visual Festival Awards Presentation. AVs from around the world which gained FIAP and PSSA medals, ribbons and selected acceptances will be shown.

### ***Saturday***

Farewell dinner



**Roel van Oudheusden**

Developed a keen interest in photography after his dad who had never belonged to any camera club but did his own black and white film processing and printing.

Roel's first camera was his dad's twin lens 6 x 6 Lionflex and his first published images were the school sports page in the school's newspaper in 1968!

He joined the Shutterbugs Camera Club (now Vanderbijlpark Fotografiese Vereniging) after they had exhibited at a local hobby fair. This was also where he later met Adri and they are one of the few couples in PSSA where both spouses are active in photography. Roel appears to be a better teacher than photographer when judged by Adri's achievements; matters do develop from the darkroom...

Years later the club got involved with photo hunts, PSSA and hosted their first national salon in 1975 which included Slide Series (entries were predominantly travelogues). The term Diaporama then became popular but has since been replaced by Audio-Visual.

The Silverton congress in 1980 was Roel and Adri's first congress. Freeman Patterson (Canada) was the key speaker and this had big influence on their photography.

Roel and Adri were both founding members of CERPS (Combined East Rand Photographic Societies) in 1980 in preparation of the 1982 PSSA national congress as representatives of Alberton Camera Club. Later they joined the Edenvale Photographic Club. This was the first of many congresses and salons which they have helped to organise.

In 1995 they moved to Port Elizabeth and joined Port Elizabeth Camera Club. The immigration to PE was made easier since they already knew a few of the PECC members from the various PSSA congresses or from names in a salon catalogue.

Roel was elected treasurer when Cape Photographers was established in 1999 and he is still doing this job. In 2011 he was elected PSSA Regional Director for the Eastern Cape.

**Facilitator for:**

**AV Forum, Thursday 1 May at 15h00 and Cape Photographers AGM** which follows immediately after the Forum

**CAPE PHOTOGRAPHERS Management Committee:****Paul Rixom**

Chairman - De Rust 2014  
and  
PSSA Director Garden Route

**Johan Kloppers**

PSSA Director Western Cape

**Roel van Oudheusden**

Treasurer  
and  
PSSA Director Eastern Cape

**Ex-officio - Frank Smith**

Chairman - Barkly East  
Congress 2013

## **The Meiringspoort/Swartberg Pass Circular Route (approx. 160 km) See map on page 23.**

Compiled by Paul Rixom

This circular route can be done from De Rust in either direction, but the guide that follows describes the route in an anti-clockwise direction from De Rust via Meiringspoort then Prince Albert and the Swartberg Pass. The return leg using the Swartberg Pass and the Rust en Vrede road is mainly gravel.

### **Meiringspoort**

Going north out of De Rust on the N12 you enter the incredible scenic spectacle of Meiringspoort. The pass is named after the above mentioned Petrus Johannes Meiring, the farmer who lived south of the pass on De Rust farm and who campaigned tirelessly for the construction of a wagon route to link Great Karoo farmers to new southern markets. Adam de Smidt, Thomas Bain's brother in law, was put in charge of upgrading the existing bridle path in 1856 and completed the task two years later. Early doubts about the route were justified for in 1859, 1861, 1875 and 1885 severe floods forced the closure of the road for periods up to a month. While Thomas Bain was building the Swartberg Pass in 1866 he was asked to assist in the reconstruction of the road. He re-directed the road to a higher line and reduced on the number of crossings of the Groot River. Meiringspoort has been upgraded many times and the road was tarred and upgraded for modern traffic in 1971.

However, the floods of 1996 were particularly bad, destroying many of the concrete causeways and much of the road. Full restoration took three years and the 25 low water crossings over the river are now designed to allow floods to pass over them. The South African National Roads Agency Ltd (SANRAL) have constructed several excellent paved parking areas, braai facilities, toilets and an information centre as part of the upgrade.

As you drive north through Meiringspoort you can see Herrieklip on your left. This is where the

Afrikaans poet C.J. Langehoven chiselled the name of his imaginary pet elephant 'Herrie' into the rock in 1929. He was also a campaigner for official recognition of the Afrikaans language and he finally achieved his goal when it became an official language in 1925. He wrote the words of the Afrikaans portion of the South African National Anthem and many believe that Meiringspoort was the inspiration for the lines "Over everlasting mountains, where the echoing crags resound". His former home in Oudtshoorn, Arbeitsgenot, is now a museum and is preserved as it was at the time of his death in 1932.

The main information centre on the right is worth a visit with displays covering the history, natural history and geology of Meiringspoort. A short walk up a path from the information centre will take you to the 60 metre high perennial Great Waterfall. It plunges into a deep pool which for many years was believed to be the bottomless home of a mermaid. However, in 1987, divers established the depth at 9 metres and although you are unlikely to see a mermaid you probably will see the younger generation leaping from high ledges on the rocks into the pool.

### **Klaarstroom**

As we leave Meiringspoort we see the hamlet of Klaarstroom and if we take the signposted left turn (33° 20.14'S, 22° 32.45'E) we will be able to drive through the little settlement. The permit for a farm called 'Klaare Stroom' was issued in 1763 but the settlement was only established in 1860 and named after the clear streams flowing north from the Swartberg. The little village soon prospered as a stopover for farmers travelling from the Karoo, via Meiringspoort, to Mossel Bay and a hotel was built in 1868. The farmers would wash their cargos of wool in the clear mountain streams. The first wool washery in South Africa was opened here in 1874 by Percy Alport, a Canadian, who also had business interests in Prince Albert and Beaufort West. The village consists of a single street with about a dozen buildings in typical Victorian style. The police station was built in 1897 and housed the circuit

court. At the back were stables as police patrolled the area on horseback up till the 1950s.

The Anglican church of the Good Shepherd was built in 1880 and the small Dutch Reform church in 1926. Behind the Anglican church are the Anglo-Boer War graves of Corporal Boyd of the Imperial Yeomanry and Trooper Hirschford of Brabant's Horse who were killed in action on 2nd February 1901 in a skirmish near Klaarstroom. It is a quite place now with electricity only connected as recently as 1996. Situated in the middle of the village is the charming Klaarstroom Guest House.

### **Die Gang (the Passage) - between Klaarstroom and Prince Albert.**

Driving through Klaarstroom and past the township, we rejoin the N12 going north (33°19.55'S, 22°31.89'E) and after about 6km take the R407 left to Prince Albert (33°18.41'S, 22°28.78'E). This road runs west along a valley with the Swartberg Mountains to the south and the Witteberg Mountains to the north and was called Die Gang or the Passage.

It is an interesting and little-known fact that South Africa's first natural essential oils were extracted in this valley. In 1894 a Dane called Frederick Nielsen built a little plant on a farm in the valley where he extracted essential and volatile oils from blossoms and citrus rinds. He also cultivated aniseed, peppermint and fennel, which were snapped up by buyers in Cape Town, as formerly, all such products had been imported from Europe. However, he married a widow who had no time for his work and he simply vanished never to be heard of again.

Further west, after crossing over the Kareedouw Pass, we descend into the beautiful Prince Albert valley and discover Bergwater Wines. The estate is owned by two brothers, Heimie and Stephan Schoeman. The winemaker is Jacques Kruger, who joined Bergwater Wines in January 2013 after starting his winemaking career at a well-known wine producer in Stellenbosch in 1981. During 2002 the official status 'Wine of Origin Prince Albert Valley' was announced by the Wine and Spirits

Board. The wines have won various medals and awards and were also served in the Business Class of KLM Royal Dutch Airlines as well as the Royal wedding of Prince Albert of Monaco. The cultivars include: Merlot, Shiraz, Cabernet Sauvignon and Sauvignon Blanc.

A moderate climate prevails throughout the growing season, with a southerly wind cooling down the valley at night. This sharp drop in temperatures enables the grapes to preserve the rich aromas naturally embodied during the sunny days. The average annual rainfall is only 200mm with a result the vineyards are irrigated with quality spring mountain water good enough to bottle or drink. From the planting of the first vineyards in 1999, the owners aimed to farm in harmony with nature and to minimize all impacts on the natural environment. Vineyards were only planted according to the availability of irrigation water. After harvest, in winter, dorper sheep graze between the vineyards to eliminate the weeds instead of the farmers spraying chemicals.

As we approach Prince Albert we pass through the Oukloofberg cliffs. Green lichens grow on the cool south facing rock faces. Lichens are formed by a symbiotic association between fungi and algae and grow in exposed localities where few other plants would survive. They have no roots, stems or leaves to trap water and survive predominantly from moisture in the air. The fungus contains the thallus, or main structure, which houses the algae and attaches the lichen to the rocks. The fungus dominates the entrapped algae to benefit nutritionally from the algae's photosynthesis. Lichens are permeable, allowing the effortless passage of fluids through their surfaces. When exposed to moist air, they promptly absorb water and photosynthesise for as long as they are moist. As we drive past the old water mill (1850) we enter the town of Prince Albert.



## Prince Albert

In 1703, Matthys de Beer, a Swedish agriculturist and wagonmaker of Dutch origin and the forebear of all De Beer families in southern Africa, landed in Cape Town. He married Hilletjie Smit two years later and settled in Stellenbosch. His sons, Zacharias, Mattys and Johannes came to the harsh Roggeveld Karoo in 1757 where they farmed with cattle and horses, but when Dutch East India Company loan farms became available in 1762 they all moved to the present Prince Albert area. The farm Kweekvallei was granted to Zacharias which, with the help of a strong perennial spring coming out of the Swartberg, he transformed from a barren wilderness into a fertile productive unit. The farm stayed in the De Beer family till the late 1790s when Zacharias' eldest son Samuel sold the farm to the Bothma brothers.

The community living in the lee of the Swartberg decided to break away from the distant Beaufort West congregation and, after negotiations with the Bothmas, a church and a parsonage were completed and the first minister appointed by 1844. The town elders applied to the British monarchy to name the town after the husband of Queen Victoria and this was granted in 1846. By 1879 a new railway line had been completed as far as Prince Albert Road station (44 km away on the present N1) and the opening of Thomas Bain's Swartberg Pass in 1887 created further economic potential for the town's inhabitants.

The Town acquired municipal status in 1902 and its rich architectural heritage reflects its social history. Building styles range from the modest Karoo cottage (now called 'Karoostyle') to high Victorian and even Georgian buildings, impressive in their refinement and detail. The older grand houses are situated on De Beer street (east of the main Church street), towards the Dorps River, on extensive plots with large water reservoirs. Also don't miss the 'smallest house in town', which is a tiny thatch building on De Beer street which is used as an office for a thatching company. After having lunch at one of the many good restaurants of Prince Albert, we

drive back east along the R407, and after about 4km we turn right (33°15.69'S, 22°02.88'E) on to the sand road (R328) leading to the Swartberg Pass.

## The Swartberg Pass

The Swartberg Pass between Prince Albert and Oudtshoorn is regarded as one of the most spectacular and best known passes in South Africa. The pass is the creation of that remarkable road builder Thomas Charles Bain (1830 – 1893). This is the last of the seventeen passes built by Bain in the Cape and is considered to be his masterpiece. Originally the routes through Meiringspoort and Seweweekspoort were the only links between the coast and the Great Karoo. Meiringspoort was constructed by Thomas Bain's brother in law, Adam de Smidt, in 1858, but these routes were very often closed by flooding and rock falls. In 1879 Bain was commissioned to plan a new route over the Swartberg which was approved by the Government in 1880. Bain started construction in 1883 with about 220 convicts and work was completed in 1887 at a total cost of £14,500, which in today's money is nearly £1 million or R17,2 million. The present day road is very much as originally constructed and falls in land owned and administered by Cape Nature.

At Eerstewater the draught animals could be outspanned and watered before the long tiring journey over the Swartberg. Bain's first convict base camp was situated here and the remains are still visible on slightly raised ground to the right of the road. Amazing contortions of the Table Mountain sandstone are seen here and at Tweedewater where the Dorps River is crossed and further on at Malvadraai many geraniums (*Pelargonium ciliatum*) are seen close to the road. On the right are the remains of Blikstasie 'the jail' where the convicts were confined at night. Then, to your left, the famous Bain zig-zag road climbs up the apparently impossible slope of the mountainside. It is amazing to think that when Bain did his initial surveys of the pass, on foot, without modern instruments, he must have looked at this mountainside and came to the conclusion that his

road could traverse it. The dry-stone walls climb like parts of a giant snake up the steep slope. His packed dry-stone technique for building the retaining walls uses no cement yet has held these huge rocks in place for over 120 years, using the principles of friction and cohesion. The longest wall on the southern side of the pass stretches for 2.4 kilometres and the highest reaches 13 metres. He learned the technique from his road-building father, Andrew Geddes Bain, and trained his men to trim the stones into wedges and then lay them down, narrow end on top of wider end, with the wall sloping inward to the mountain. As the retaining wall was raised, rock fill was used between the wall and the mountain, and when the road was laid the pressure of the total weight simply increased the rigidity of the wall.

From the top of the zig-zags a gentle climb takes you to the Teeberg viewpoint around which the honey tea bush can be found. From this vantage point we can look ahead at the Otto du Plessis road going to Gamkaskloof (Die Hell) which branches off the main road in a westerly direction. Gamkaskloof is about 50 km away but the journey takes about 2 hours. Below, and back to the north, a great gorge opens up and we have a glimpse of the road at Malvadraai (geranium bend) which we negotiated earlier many hundreds of metres below.

Past the Gamkaskloof turning (33°20.37'S, 22°02.31'E), a little further down the road at 'Fonteintjie' the date 1884 can be seen near the top of the dry stone walling on the left side of the road. Further on to the left is the site of the original tollhouse where now only the old foundations remain. This was also the position of the road-builders camp, where a roof caved in after a heavy snowfall one winter, killing many of the convict labourers inside. It is worth remembering that snow can fall on the Swartberg in any month of the year and Bain himself was caught out in a snow storm one Christmas. It was here that the official opening of the pass in 1888 and the centenary celebrations of 1988 took place. Further on several restored buildings can be seen to the right representing a

cafe and overnight accommodation which occasionally operate under a private concession granted by Cape Nature.

Soon several hair pin bends take you up to Die Top at an elevation of 1585 metres. It is almost always windy here and on a clear day you can see, to the north-east, the Nuweveld Mountains, above the Karoo National Park near Beaufort West, over 120 km away. To the south and below lies the beautiful cultivated valley of Matjiesrivier. For the birders, look out for the Cape Rockjumper which is often seen here. As we descend the Table Mountain sandstone dips steeply away to the south and klipspringers can sometimes be seen standing tip-toe on the outcrops.

On the impressive high dry-stone walling on the right of the road at Boegoekloof (Buchu Kloof) the date 1886 can be seen carved into a rock near the water culvert. Various species of medicinal buchu grow here and the plant was usually put in brandy or vinegar and the extract used as medicine for stomach and many other ailments. Halfway down this descent, the ruins of the Hotelletjie are seen. After the completion of the pass a postal service was instituted between Oudtshoorn and Prince Albert and to offer overnight accommodation, a modest hotel, was erected here. Some old maps refer to this inn as the Victoria Hotel. Further down at the ruins of Stalletjie the mail coach horses were rested, watered and fed.

By the time the gravel road gives way to tarmac you have completed the approximately 20 km traverse of probably the most spectacular mountain pass in South Africa which still stands today as a magnificent monument to the work of that brilliant engineer and road builder Thomas Charles Bain.

### **South of the Swartberg**

There is now a scenic drive eastwards along the R328. Before the left turn off to the world famous Cango Caves (33°22.27'S, 22°10.59'E), discovered in 1780 by the farmer Jacobus van Zyl, another limestone cave can be seen to the left above the

Grobbelaars River on private farm land. This is Boomplaas Cave and is a very important site for South African archaeologists as the deposits found there represent human occupation from 1,500 to 70,000 years ago.

After beautiful views of farms nestling in the southern slopes of the Swartberg the road enters the scenic Schoemanspoort, carved out by the Grobbelaars River. If you continue with the R328 it will take you south past the settlement of Schoemanshoek, Buffelsdrift Game Lodge and Cango Wildlife Ranch into the town of Oudtshoorn, where you turn left on the N12 north-east back to De Rust. However, a short way through Schoemanspoort, a road appears to the left (33°25.64'S, 22°15.10'E) indicating Cango Mountain Resort and Rust en Vrede waterfall.

**This is a beautiful, highly recommended, 34 km sand back road, running along the southern flanks of the Swartberg and ultimately coming out on the N12 just south of De Rust.**

The road starts as tarmac but becomes gravel as it passes the Cango Mountain Resort where magnificent views of the Koos Raubenheimer Dam, an important water source for Oudtshoorn, can be seen on the left, cradled in the foothills of the Swartberg. The gravel road continues through farmland till a sign to the left (33°24.63'S, 22°20.29'E) indicates the entry to the Rust en Vrede waterfall. Danie Nel, of Rust en Vrede farm, was persuaded to sell his water rights to the Oudtshoorn Municipality and a pipeline was completed in 1900. The waterfall, adjacent land and 35 km pipeline is still managed by the Municipality who sometimes closes the approach road, but if the gates are open the 6 km return detour to the waterfall is really worth it.

There is a small charge that has to be paid and then the drive takes you to a small car park close to the southern slopes of the main Swartberg. From there a short walk along a specially constructed walkway takes you into a cool shaded gorge where at the end

the beautiful Rust en Verde waterfall tumbles down from the heights above into a deep pool. Being in a steep narrow valley on the southern slopes of the Swartberg, the waterfall is mainly in shade, even in summer. The Groot River has luxuriant vegetation along its banks and as you walk back look out for the two manhole covers over the pipeline near the weir, that are both cast with the words "Oudtshoorn Municipality 1901".

Return to the main gravel road and turn left in an easterly direction. The road can be a little muddy after rain, but the farmers generally keep it in good condition as it is the road that services most of the farms in the area. The shapely peak of Spitskop (2,039 metres) is visible to the immediate north and later you will see the turning to Oudemuragie Guest Farm to the left (33°27.61'S, 22°26.24'E). Oudemuragie offers very reasonable self catering accommodation in a series of lovely cottages set in the foothills of the mountains. Soon the Red Hills will appear on your right and you will join the N12 just 4km south of De Rust (33°30.19'S, 22°30.08'E). Returning to De Rust completes the Meiringspoort/Swartberg Pass circular route.

In only about 160km we have been able to marvel at the immense tectonic forces which have given rise to the Swartberg mountains and we have also touched on the history of the settlements and stories about the people that give this area such a rich cultural heritage.

**Alternative Shorter Circuit (approx 80 km) from De Rust via Rust en Vrede Waterfall, Schoemanspoort and the Red Hills.**

To explore this shorter circuit simply drive the Koos Raubenheimer Dam, Rust en Vrede waterfall and Oudemuragie section, as described above, in the reverse direction. Just look for the Oudemuragie sign on the right about 4km south of De Rust on the N12, (33°30.19'S, 22°30.08'E). The Rust en Vrede waterfall turning will be on the right (33°24.63'S, 22°20.29'E).

On completion of this 34 km section turn left on the tarmac R328, (33°25.64'S, 22°15.10'E), signposted to Oudtshoorn, and drive through the scenic Schoemanspoort with the Grobbelaars River to your right. After 14km on the R328, passing the little settlement of Schoemanshoek on your right and Buffelsdrift Game Lodge on your left a sand road signposted Vergelegen appears on your left (33°32.02'S, 22°14.70'E).

This 25 km scenic sand road, comes out on the N12 south of De Rust. Initially the road runs near the southern border of the Buffelskloof Game Reserve and then passes through The Red Hills along the valley of the Congo River where often the weathering of the rocks on the steep sides of the hills gives rise to conical shapes. At the left hand turning to Vergelegen Farm (33°30.09'S, 22°21.05'E), you must bear right. These red rocks, sometimes called Enon conglomerates, were formed during the breakup of Gondwana 120 million years ago and are particularly photogenic at sunrise and sunset. In 1925 the Prince of Wales visited the area and was apparently so impressed that he insisted the rest of the royal family also come and see the famous Red Hills. Princess Elizabeth (the future queen) and her parents returned in 1947. The Prince apparently declared "I have travelled the whole wide world, but these Red Hills are the most beautiful I have ever come across."

When the N12 is reached (33°33.64'S, 22°25.13'E), turn left to De Rust and after a short distance the Domein Doornkraal padstal is seen on the left. This has become a landmark attraction for Klein Karoo wines and unique local farm produce. The wine tasting venue not only features their own excellent range of wines, including the sparkling Tickled Pink, but also stocks a total of 20 other Klein Karoo wine producers at cellar prices. Also available are light snacks, local sweets, pastries & pies from the farm, olive products & cheese from the region, various jams, chutneys, and unique products produced at the farm Doornkraal (e.g. Karoo-bossie smoked salt & pumpkin seeds, wine vinegar, quince cheese, moskonfyt, etc.).

Only 10 km up the road you have returned to De Rust which completes this 80 Km circuit which has displayed the beauty of the Swartberg Mountains and the Red Hills.

During the Anglo-Boer War (1899 – 1902) Rudyard Kipling was stationed at a British blockhouse, guarding the railway bridge over the Dwyka River at Ketting station, close to the present N1. In 1901 he wrote a poem which he called 'Bridge-guard in the Karoo' in which he describes the darkness and sounds of a Karoo night, broken by the passage of a train.

In the first three verses of the poem he describes the sunset on the distant Swartberg Mountains:

*Sudden the desert changes,  
The raw glare softens and clings,  
Till the aching Oudtshoorn ranges  
Stand up like the thrones of kings.*

*Ramparts of slaughter and peril,  
Blazing, amazing, aglow,  
Twixt the sky-line's belting beryl  
And the wine-dark flats below.*

*Royal the pageant closes,  
Lit by the last of the sun,  
Opal and ash-of-roses,  
Cinnamon, umber and dun.*

Let's hope that during our congress in De Rust we can capture photographically some of these colours in the sunset on the magnificent Swartberg Mountains.





The Meiringspoort / Swartberg Pass Circular Route (approx. 160 km)



Congress Programme De Rust 2014

program layout & design: [www.webb-photography.co.za](http://www.webb-photography.co.za)

		Day 1		Day 2		Day 3		Day 4		Day 5	
Timeslot		Tuesday 29 April 2014		Wednesday 30 April 2014		Thursday 1 May 2014		Friday 2 May 2014		Saturday 3 May 2014	
08:00 - 09:00		Registration & refreshments Joan Shaw - Tourism Welcome	?	8:30	Photo opportunity	Refreshments	Photo opportunity	Refreshments	Photo opportunity	Refreshments	Photo opportunity
			08:30 - 08:50	08:50 - 09:00	Notices	Notices	Notices	Notices	Notices	Refreshments	
09:00 - 09:15											
09:15 - 09:30		Local Background & History details to follow	09:00 - 10:00	10:00	Willem Oets Portraiture		Paul Bruins How to capture the perfect panorama		Paul Rixom Scenery and geology of the region		Chris Daly Movies and stills in Audiovisuals
09:30 - 10:30		Paul Bruins Composition guide for landscape photography	10:00 - 11:00	11:00	Howard Bagshaw "Why AV?"		Howard Bagshaw "The A in AV"		Howard Bagshaw "Story telling in AV"		Howard Bagshaw "AV, some possible futures"
10:30 - 11:30		Geoff McElleron & Peter Ginn The most spectacular bird book ever published in South Africa	11:00 - 11:30	11:30	Tea & Coffee		Tea & Coffee		Tea & Coffee		Tea & Coffee
11:30 - 12:30		Frans Noltee Aspects of plant photography	11:30 - 12:30	12:30	Adri van Oudheusden Creative Enhancement for Audio-Visual		Roger Young Images from a 21st century Hunter Gatherer		Willem Oets AV		Koos Roets Living legend of SA Film Industry
12:45 - 13:45		Lunch	12:45 - 13:45	13:45	Lunch		Lunch		Lunch		Lunch
14:00 - 14:30		Antenie Carstens PSSA Archives	14:00 - 15:00	15:00	Photo Rally		Chris Daly Lightroom 5 and Nik plug-ins		Barrie Wilkins Seeing in Black and White		Jill Sneesby Honours feedback What the judges are looking for in digital and AV
14:30 - 15:30		Manus van Dyk Low light photography	15:00 - 16:00	16:00	Photo opportunity		PSSA AV Forum followed by Cape Photographers AGM		Barrie Wilkins Anecdotal Ethics		Photo opportunity
15:30 - 18:30		Photo opportunity	16:00 - 18:30	18:30			Photo opportunity		Photo opportunity		
18:30 - 19:30		Supper	18:30 - 19:30	19:30	Supper		Supper		Supper		Supper
20:00 - 21:00		Manus van Dyk Star trails	20:00 - 21:00	21:00	Royal Photographic Society 2013 International Images for Screen Exhibition		Competitions/ Showtime		1st PECC International AV Festival Awards & Acceptances		Feedback, Social & Farewell
Ideas for Photo Opportunity:	Stargazing in the Klein Karoo	Ideas for Photo Opportunity:	Ideas for Photo Opportunity:	Rust en Vrede Falls	Meiringspoort	Red Hills	Middelplaas Road & Die Gat Guesthouse				
					Doornkraal Wine Estate	Oude Muratie road	Stompdrift Dam	Mons Ruber Wine Estate			
					Dyseldorp's 'Via Dolorosa'						
					Refer to Paul's Guide for more details						