

# PRINCE ALBERT CONGRESS 2018



## Cape Photographers

*3-in-1 event - Sunday 18 March - Thursday 22 March*

*43 Church Street, Prince Albert*

# THE SHOWROOM

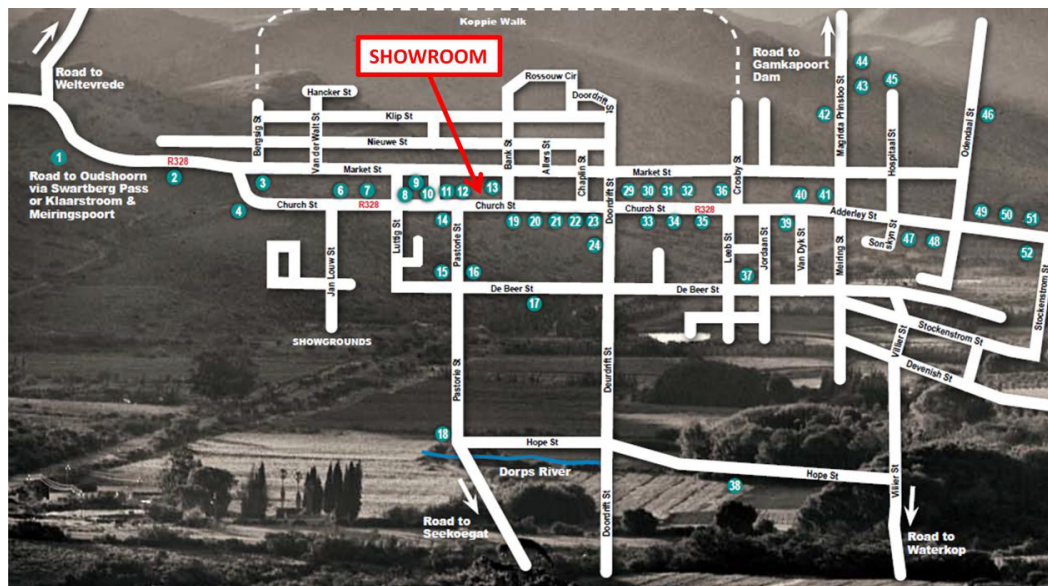
A world class venue in the heart of the Karoo

20TH REGIONAL  
CAPE PHOTOGRAPHERS' CONGRESS

11TH NATIONAL  
PSSA AUDIO VISUAL CONVENTION

3RD PECC INTERNATIONAL  
AUDIO VISUAL FESTIVAL

# THE SHOWROOM



## KEY FOR PRINCE ALBERT MAP

- |                                |   |                      |
|--------------------------------|---|----------------------|
| 1. Albert's Mill               | 23. Prince Albert Country Store           | 42. Striking Metal   |
| 2. Dennehof bicycle hire       | 24. Karoo Kombuis                         | 43. Villa Kruger     |
| 3. The Olive Branch Restaurant | 25. Karoo Looms                           | 44. Avoova           |
| 4. Gay's Dairy                 | 26. Prince Albert Gallery & Gallery Café  | 45. Hospital         |
| 5. Lah-di-dah Farmstall        | 27. Rooikamp                              | 46. Odendal Stadium  |
| 6. Lazy Lizard                 | 28. Handmade-Karoo-Hand-gemaak            | 47. Home Hardware    |
| 7. Tennis Courts               | 29. Prince of Africa                      | 48. Supermarket      |
| 8. Watershed Complex           | 30. Victoria Room & Coffee Shop           | 49. Badisa           |
| 9. Prince Albert Library       | 31. Chic Karoo                            | 50. Naaldwerk Projek |
| 10. Bank                       | 32. Swartberg Arms                        | 51. Thusong Centre   |
| 11. Prince Albert Municipality | 33. Gordon's Drinkstore                   | 52. Petrol           |
| 12. DR Church                  | 34. SoetKaroo                             |                      |
| 13. St John's Anglican Church  | 35. @66 Restaurant                        |                      |
| 14. Post Office                | 36. Mix Artisan Bistro & Fine Art Gallery |                      |
| 15. Huis Kweekvallei           | 37. Janet Dirksen Art                     |                      |
| 16. Hoërskool Zwartberg        | 38. Prince Albert Olives                  |                      |
| 17. Jans Rautenbach Schouburg  | 39. Renu-Karoo Nursery                    |                      |
| 18. The Bush Pub               | 40. Police                                |                      |
| 19. African Relish             | 41. Karoo Kaleidoscope                    |                      |
| 20. Fransie Pienaar Museum     |   |                      |
| 21. Prince Albert Tourism      |   |                      |
| 22. Café Photo Albert          |   |                      |

# CONGRESS PROGRAMME

## Day 1: Sunday 18 March 2018

THE SHOWROOM, Church street, Price Albert

- 16:00: Registration at THE SHOWROOM
- 18:30: Welcoming finger supper at THE SHOWROOM
- 19:30: PSSA AV Honours

## Day 2: Monday 19 March 2018

Photo opportunity

- 08:30 Refreshments
- 08:50 Notices
- 09:00 Martin Barber - Composites - my way
- 10:00 Jill Sneesby - Tunnel vision
- 11:00 Refreshments
- 11:30 Chris Daly - My Photographic Journey - From Darkroom to Drone
- 12:45 Lunch
- 14:00 Gita Claassen Travel Photographer based in Prince Albert
- 14:30 PECC International - AV Festival finalists
- 16:00 Photo Opportunity
- 18:30 Supper

## Day 3: Tuesday 20 March 2018

Photo opportunity

- 08:30 Refreshments
- 08:50 Notices
- 09:00 Willem Daffue - The end of Africa's game
- 10:00 Chris Daly - Alternatives to well known editing software
- 11:00 Refreshments
- 11:30 PECC Intl PDI & Print Salon Results
- 12:45 Lunch
- 14:00 Willem Oets - AV related
- 15:00 PSSA AV Forum
- 16:00 Photo Opportunity
- 18:30 Supper

## Day 4: Wednesday 21 March 2018

Photo opportunity

- 08:30 Refreshments
- 08:50 Notices
- 09:00 Willem Oets - General photography
- 10:00 Salvilio Meyer - Importance of narrative in photography in the digital age.
- 11:00 Refreshments
- 11:30 Cape Photographers AGM followed by 4th PSSA Intl Salon Results
- 12:45 Lunch
- 14:00 Martin Barber - PS Workshop
- 15:00 Wayne Webb - Animation
- 16:00 Photo opportunity
- 18:30 Supper

## Day 5: Thursday 22 March 2018

Photo opportunity

- 08:30 Refreshments
- 08:50 Notices
- 09:00 Willem Daffue - Last chance to see
- 10:00 Adri - My approach to...
- 11:00 Refreshments
- 11:30 Jill Sneesby - AV Honours - what judges want
- 12:45 Lunch
- 14:00 Daleen Engelbrecht - "Doe Ray Me"
- 15:00 Koos Roets - film maker
- 16:00 Photo Opportunity
- 18:30 Farewell Supper

### \*Supper arrangements:

Everything happens at The Showroom except lunch and supper from Monday to Thursday; that will be at the NG Church hall, a short distance away #12 on the map.



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 stronger Gauteng area. While there were many photographers in the Cape provinces, 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 on 21 March 1999. Acknowledgement must be given to Bridgette Pacey-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 provinces.

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.

### ***The 2017 Management Committee is therefore:***

Chairman – Paul Rixom (Prince Albert 2018)

Ex-officio – Terry Smit (2017 congress chair Hogsback)

Roel van Oudheusden - Treasurer

Nicol du Toit - PSSA regional director, Western Cape

Charmaine Joubert – PSSA regional director, Eastern Cape



## Die Letterhuis Studio – Prince Albert

Die Letterhuis Studio and Calligrapher Heleen de Haas

In nat ink letters word ons harte blootgelê. In vaardige letterpatrone word ons Afrika en Westerse herkoms se samesmelting verkap. Letters laat woorde lewe – dis 'n soms ernstige en soms speelse weergawe van ons gisters, die neerpen van vandag vir môre se môres. As kalligraaf is my grootste vreugde om te sien hoe letterlyne 'praat, om ander te laat deel in die letterliefde, om saam met ander kunstenaars te werk en saam ons passies op dieselfde kunstwerk uit te leef – pure vreugde!

Calligraphy is a lifestyle – it is dipping your pen into your heart, it is taking letters out of books and frames into everyday life, it is disciplined freedom. Doing pen dances with pens made out of Cola cans and pointed brushes, making the ink sing, thrills me. Reflecting my African and Western heritage in letter patterns and interpreting emotions with lines, good design, teaching, to leave beautifully written blessings in unexpected places for strangers – these are the things that bring me joy calligraphically.

Heleen de Haas is a South African calligrapher and letter artist who has been teaching since 1984.

Her work has been published internationally and has been exhibited both in Europe and nationally. Her portfolio also includes citations for the late President Nelson Mandela and Govan Mbeki.

Heleen presents 2 to 5 day calligraphy and related art workshops both nationally and in the Karoo at Die Letterhuis Studio on their farm Aswater close to Prince Albert.

Om kalligrafie te doen is 'n leefwyse van binne mooi deel... Soms skryf ons in 'n leesbare styl om ander se mooi uit te beeld-ander kere dans ons pen in letterpatrone. Die kursus is ontwerp vir beginners en nie-beginners. Ons eksperimenteer, ontdek weer ons eie kreatiwiteit, raak bewus van wat gebeur in ons as ons skryf, vors na hoe ander letterliefhebbers lank voor ons hul letters gevorm het, leer in klip kap en haal net vir 'n kort rukkie stadiger asem in die Godsmooi Karoo.

The courses are aimed at beginners and non-beginners alike and you are invited to enjoy the beautiful and varied world of letters in different forms and materials-at times studying historical manuscripts, carving into stone, drawing the light of the swallow, doing pointed brush dances and just for a short while, live life slower in the beautiful Karoo.

Visitors to the area are most welcome to come and visit the studio on open days, view the original calligraphic art by international calligraphers, browse through the library, have a look at Die Letterhuis – which is an installation in its own right, the walks, the stone routes or the land art.

Students wishing to stay in the Old Bloemendal Opstal with us will be most welcome and can do so at sharing student rates which include a light brunch and supper. Please enquire about rates.

Alternatively, if they are available, Die Ou Waenhuis and Die Letterhuis on the farm also offers accommodation. The Letterhuis Studio offers a variety of courses throughout

the year, but you are also welcome to just visit the farm come... spend time in nature

Karel and Heleen de Haas invite you to enjoy the many varied activities on our farm: Land art installations, hand lettered stone carving, birdwatching, fishing, short river walks, a prayer walk, a calligraphy gallery, a pop-up tea room on open days, view the much painted and photographed historical Letterhuis, for those interested in interior decorating, a 'Living with Letters' tour, attend a calligraphy course, an artist retreat, do boutique camping, enjoy luxury accommodation or view our small herbarium. You are welcome to enjoy the quiet surrounds on your own or, should you wish, we would gladly guide you.

'Tee innie bos'. Throughout the year R50 per person. Anytime between 10:00 and 16:00 Kindly book. Visitors are welcome to come and enjoy good coffee and tea together with a delicious treat of your choice on the farm at Die Letterhuis next to the river, amongst the land art installations and tall Poplar tree. Kindly book your tea basket in advance by phoning or sending us a whatsapp or an email.

Artist & photography retreats. Throughout the year. R440pppn Meals are available on request.

Artists, writers and photographers are welcome to bring their materials and equipment and enjoy being creative on the farm in beautiful surrounds

Boutique Camping: A Family affair. Throughout the year. Few things surpass camping together as a family. At Malalapa at Die Letterhuis alongside the riverbank, you can cop out of rushed city living by getting into your car with only a sleeping bag and a suitcase and spend a night (or more) waking up to birdsong and eating under a star studded Karoo sky. If you are equipped you can bring your own gear and camp next to your private bathroom; alternatively, we can supply everything you need-from tents to bedding and lovely meals to braai on the fire ( we can cater for you too). Kindly e-mail for the different price structures

Catch & release Bass fishing. Throughout the year R50 pp donation. Bring your fishing gear and relax next to our big dam, the beautiful Swartberg mountains and huge variety of birdsongs. Please book.

Bird watching. Throughout the year. R50 pp donation. Please book beforehand

Heleen de Haas  
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Phone – 083 3255 757

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(<http://letterhuis.wix.com/letterhuis>)

The farm Aswater lies 35 km from Prince Albert on the R407 towards Klaarstroom.

Prince Albert Tourism  
Address: 42 Church Street  
Phone: +27 23 5411 366  
Email: [tourism@princealbert.org.za](mailto:tourism@princealbert.org.za) (mailto:tourism@princealbert.org.za)  
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## **Klaarstroom**

<http://princealbert.org.za/klaarstroom/> 1/5

Gateway to Meiringspoort - a hamlet in the district of Prince Albert

Klaarstroom is a picturesque, peaceful, authentic Victorian, working farm village situated at the foot of the Swartberg Mountains. The village is positioned at the Great Karoo entrance to Meiringspoort, a spectacular gorge through the Swartberg mountain range which links the Great Karoo and the Little Karoo (Klein Karoo).

The old inner village is conveniently and quietly situated behind sheltering koppies, just 500m off the N12. This makes Klaarstroom a convenient stopover en route from the north of the country to the Garden Route and Southern Cape coast. It is also halfway between Cape Town and the malaria-free game-farms and reserves that have the Big Five in the Eastern Cape, offering guests the ideal opportunity to enjoy the traditional charms and big skies of a Karoo stopover on their way to a safari adventure.

Klaarstroom also serves as a stopover for cyclists, hikers, adventurers and 4x4 enthusiasts from the Cape Town area who wish to get a close and early start before exploring Baviaanskloof (just 90km from Klaarstroom along a good gravel road, and 110km on tar).

Klaarstroom is a hub from which to explore the tourist heartland of the Klein Karoo: Oudtshoorn, with its annual bustling Klein Karoo Nasionale Kunstefees, is 60km to the South-West. To the North and the East of Klaarstroom you can explore the tranquility of the vast plains of the Great Karoo. Prince Albert is 50km to the East, Beaufort West and the Karoo National Park, 120km to the North. All are convenient day-trip outings from the central, safe base of Klaarstroom.

Next time you are driving along the road towards Meiringspoort, turn into Klaarstroom and soak up its unique "platteland" (rural) charm.

### **Klaarstroom's history**

Klaarstroom, meaning "clear stream", was established in the mid-19th century. It presented the first opportunity to farmers from deep in the Great Karoo, en route to the small port of Mossel Bay, to wash their precious cargo of wool in the clear mountain streams. A wool-washing facility was soon established. Time, technology, the railroad and modern highways passed Klaarstroom by with the wool-washing facility having long since disappeared.

Today the tiny inner village is hidden away from the nearby highway. It remains an historical snapshot of a Southern African Victorian village: there are three church buildings (the Anglican one still in regular use with a standing congregation), a Victorian police station, a General Dealer Store, a hotel/bar/restaurant, an authentic old world guest house and excellent examples of restored Victorian homesteads.

The Anglican Church cemetery has two South African War/Anglo-Boer War graves – each with its own story.

In Denys Reitz's Anglo-Boer War memoir, 'Commando', the author relates how, having been informed that General Smuts had crossed the Swartberg into the district

of Oudtshoorn, his commando makes its way towards the mountain range. Klaarstroom's connections to the South African War seem very vivid on a crisp night under moonlight and stars when you can almost still hear the hooves of Denys Reitz's commando clattering down the road into town: "After this we went more carefully, and sunrise found us leading our horses up the street of a tiny village standing at the bottom of the pass. Dogs began to bark, and windows to open, and we saw soldiers running to a large building, so we mounted and rode hastily out. This "tiny village" is Klaarstroom and the large building is the police station which still stands today.

### **Meiringspoort**

Since the start of the settlement of Klaarstroom at the entrance to Meiringspoort, its history and development have been inextricably linked with Meiringspoort itself. This meandering route takes you through a stupendous gorge of massive twisted rock formations. The exceptionally good tarred road winds for 21kms through the Swartberg mountain range, past towering rock faces, taking you on a journey through an area of outstanding natural beauty. Geologically, the poort exhibits superb examples of the Cape Fold Belt, so much so that some geologists refer to this area, at the core of the fold belt, as the Cape Thrust Belt. In *Geological Journeys*, authors, Nick Norman and Gavin Whitfield advise: "Try to pass through Meiringspoort in the middle of the day when the sunlight best reveals the magnificent folding, truly one of the most impressive and accessible sights of South African geology."

As a result of the different soil types on the various rock-faces, the visitor passes through four identified veld types: Karoo-veld, renosterveld, mountain fynbos and spekboom veld with numerous geophyte species. The wild geranium, *Pelargonium Zonale*, the biological 'grandmother' of subsequent Geranium hybrids throughout the world, was first sourced here in 1689 and is commonplace in the gorge. Meiringspoort is home to a variety of wild animals including the Klipspringer (small buck), the rarely seen Cape Mountain Leopard, the Baboon and Jackal as well as multiple species of birds. 10km into the poort is the Great Waterfall, which is accessible from a viewing site. Throughout the poort you will find attractive and well-maintained, safe picnic sites with braai and ablution facilities.

The road crosses the river 25 times by way of drifts (causeways across the river). Each drift has a name and its own story, revealing the rich history of the roadway.

Using Klaarstroom as a base gives you the opportunity to truly soak up the majesty and beauty of Meiringspoort as its personality changes through the shifting light of the day and the seasons.

### **Klaarstroom in the movies**

Klaarstroom has featured in many films. The town and surrounds have a magical light appreciated by both still photographers and movie makers alike. The authenticity of the built environments lends itself to a nostalgic, vintage setting. The exceptional beauty of the natural surroundings is truly breathtaking. The town is the central setting in the filming of "Kootjie Emmer" and "Faan se Trein" and has featured in "Pappalap", "Paljas" and "Die Hoener met die Rooi Skoene" to name a few.

## **Things to do**

In Klaarstroom you can ...

...relax – very intensively

...enjoy time away from the realities of the modern world  
...experience old-fashioned hospitality

...find out about the history of this special little place (walking tour map available free of charge at the Klaarstroom Guest House)

...capture great photo-memories in evocative vintage surroundings surrounded by natural beauty

... cycle, walk and run quiet gravel roads and informal routes

... enjoy motoring and motor-biking drives – a circular route from Klaarstroom, through Meiringspoort to De Rust, along the Oude Muragie Road and on to the Congo Caves, the Swartberg Pass, Prince Albert and back to Klaarstroom along the Prince Albert and Klaarstroom valleys, makes an excellent day trip

... explore the gravel roads deeper into the Karoo

... run the annual Meiringspoort Half Marathon, held in Spring

... and the Fernskloof Trail Run in Winter

... indulge in wine tasting and purchases at Domein Doornkraal and Mons Ruber towards Oudtshoorn and at Fernskloof and Reiersvlei wine estates and visit Kredouw Olives in the direction of Prince Albert.

The Klaarstroom Guest House lends itself to family gatherings – imagine celebrating a special birthday or anniversary here, away from it all, with close friends and family.

## **The Klaarstroom Valley**

The Kredouw Pass separates the Prince Albert Valley (also known as “Die Gang”) and the Klaarstroom Valley. As you meander your way East along the R407 towards Klaarstroom, you see the countryside unfold as a series of hills. To your left the “Droëklowe”, the dry gullies leading to the great plains of the Great Karoo, are ranged inland; to your right the mighty Swartberg mountains and the foothills undulate.

If you are lucky you will see the herd of wild horses or the springbuck at the top of the Kredouw but all along the route there are scenes of interest if you know to look out for them. These farms are small riparian (river-based) tracts of land, many of which were originally twinned with a much larger Karoo plains farm in order to supply lucerne as feed for the flocks. This means that there are many picturesque, historic and interesting homesteads along the route.

The Vrisch Gewagd farm offers upmarket accommodation in either of two farmhouses. On the Bloemendal-Aswater farm you can enjoy a guided or solitary walk along an inspirational route that has been laid out by calligraphy artist Heleen de Haas where she melds nature and art into what she describes as a series of “God-whispers”. Accommodation is also offered in the stylish, creative “Letterhuis” cottage. Just further along, on the next

Bloemendal farm, Frans and Marie Gerber have put together a delightfully intriguing collection of historic everyday farm and household items in their quirky farm museum which the public are welcome to visit.

On the neighbouring farm, Scheepersrus, you can stay in the charming self-catering accommodation offered by the Vorster family. Here you also hear echoes of the South African/Boer War as you can see the old hollow pear tree in which eight captured British soldiers’ Martini Henry rifle barrels were bent by the Boers. Just next door at Remhoogte lies the lonely, unmarked grave of Johannes Klue, the Boer Rebel, who died in February 1901.

The beautiful Tortoiseback Vegan Haven is guarded by an arresting row of ancient cypress sentinels. Here you can experience a working permaculture garden and stay on as a guest or even to work and learn under the guidance of owner, Brett Bard. A little further on you can see the breeding ostriches of Avondrust farms, one of the largest ostrich farms in the wider Oudtshoorn district, in their natural veld environment. If you are lucky, you might even see one of the males doing his flamboyant mating dance as you motor past.

At the T-junction where the R407 meets the N12, you can continue on along the valley by turning right towards the charming village of Klaarstroom and Meiringspoort. On your right just before the junction you will see one of the oldest houses in the district at Avondrust, affectionately known to the locals as Kluesplaas, named for the Klue family who have farmed the land here for generations. This is a working ostrich, lucerne and seed farm which stretches all the way to Klaarstroom village. Accommodation is offered in two charming self-catering guest cottages offered by Michelle Klue at Avondrust Farmstays.

From here it is a short distance to the village of Klaarstroom. As you leave the valley through Meiringspoort, you’d be forgiven for thinking that, like any magical destination, you are leaving the valley through a secret and mystical passage.

Prince Albert Tourism

Address: 42 Church Street

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## THE PRESENTERS

### Salvelio Meyer

Salvelio was born in a town called Livingstone in Zambia. When he was seven his parents moved to South Africa and this is where he spent his growing up years. With a South African father and Spanish mother, his life has been deeply immersed in both cultures.

After matric, Salvelio studied Fine Arts first at Wits (University of the Witwatersrand) and then at the University of Salamanca in Spain, where he lived for several years.

It was during his very active student life in Castile that he discovered a consuming passion for photography. While working in London he met someone who happened to mention that the then Port Elizabeth Technikon had one of the best photography schools in South Africa. A few months later he packed his bags and headed for the Eastern Cape.

For the past 30 years Salvelio has worked in various photographic fields, including freelancing for the Herald, Burger, Weekend Post and Evening Post, as well as for national magazines such as House & Leisure. He lectured in photography part time at what is now the Nelson Mandela University and assisted the renowned Mexican photographer Pedro Meyer, considered by many to be the father of digital photography, while shooting for 'A Day in the Life of Africa' on digital cameras for the very first time.

Salvelio's fine art photography has been published internationally in magazines such as PhotoArt in Poland and Foto in Spain, and on the pioneering digital photography website ZoneZero. Local publications include Camera & Image, the South African Journal of Photography and Insig. In addition he has participated in numerous exhibitions in South Africa and Spain.



Another career highlight was being one of only two South African photographers commissioned to spend five days documenting US talkshow host Oprah Winfrey's visit to South Africa in 2006, when she opened her girls' school at Henley-on-Klip.

From a commercial point of view Salvelio decided about 10 years ago to venture into video, specializing in wedding videography. He has diverse artistic interests and much of his free time is spent on fine art photography, cooking, traveling and enjoying the finer things in life.

He is married to features editor Louise Liebenberg and divides his time between Port Elizabeth and the Karoo town of Prince Albert.

*My job is to capture life as it happens around me in a passionate and sincere way...*



Salvelio wants people to understand that, for him, life is far more complex and exciting than a nine-to-five job.

"My job is to capture life as it happens around me in a passionate and sincere way," he says.

### Willem Oets FPSSA



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 focussing on expression and emotion.

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



## Martin Barber



My love for photography started at a young age when I was given my first camera for Christmas. Later this moved to me developing my own black and white photos in a make shift darkroom with an enlarger station in our bathroom.

Digital photography changed everything for me and digital editing with Adobe Photoshop became my new darkroom.

I have worked for many years with Adobe products such as Bridge, Lightroom and Photoshop.

With my interest in creative photography I needed to study aspects of photo editing using these products as far back as Photoshop CS2 up to the latest Adobe Creative Cloud.

I now give lectures and classes in photo editing techniques all the way up to high end editing in Photoshop.

I enjoy all aspects of photography and see myself as a creative photographer and enjoy fine art, portraiture, altered reality, composite and monochrome.

I joined the Alberton Camera Club in 2009 and worked my way up to Grand Master, the highest level in our club and served on the committee for 7 years.

I have been fortunate to have been awarded many acceptances, certificates of merit and over 50 Salon medals and numerous other awards on local and international salons.

He won the PSSA Impala Trophy in 2017 in Colour Open and Monochrome.

Martin has a PSSA Associateship in Colour and Monochrome and a Fellowship in Colour.

## Wayne Webb - APSSA



Creativity is my passion.

My skills, creativity and passion for what I do are all reflected in the work that I produce.

Webb Photography & Advertising is a place where I get to use my skills as a photographer, combined with a Graphic Design B-Tech degree and eleven years industry experience to provide my clients with the best service, quality and turn-around time.

I am committed to continually improving my skills. As a member of the Photographic Society of South Africa (PSSA) and Queenstown Camera Club, I participate and attend regular workshops, international competitions and meetings. This keeps me in touch with the latest global trends, techniques and styles.

I am fortunate enough to be able to earn a living from what started as a hobby and developed over the years, so I can truly say I love my job, but unfortunately due to work constraints I have not had the freedom to put as much time as I would like into my personal work over the past two years.

I have been fortunate enough to spend time and gain skills from a few of our well known photographers in the Eastern Cape. Three that were most influential for me are, Marlene Neumann who was my lecturer while studying, as well the late Barry Wilkins and Pine Pienaar.

My love for documentary photography combined with audio visuals is my personal passion and I try as often as possible to feed my soul by getting out and shooting.

## 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.

## Daleen Engelbrecht



After our retirement, we moved from Johannesburg to George. It was then that Schalk and I decided to take up photography as a hobby. We joined the George Camera Club in 2010 and became members of the PSSA at the same time. Since then, I started making AVs and started participating in salons in 2014. Paul Rixom and Chris Daly were a real inspiration, but after we were at Willem Oets' workshop in Namibia, I decided to concentrate more on it.

For the past two years I have been the Public Relations Officer for George Camera Club and the "encourager" of our 8-member AV group, which includes Luana Laubscher and Mary Hunter from the Knysna Camera Club. Together we shot a short film which we entered on the Jozi short film festival – Even if it does not get anywhere, at least it was an incentive for everyone to do their best.

Last December I put together eight AVs (more photo harmony types) with the best photos of the George Camera Club members in each category. It was shown at a Fancourt music concert and was well received.

In 2013, I got to know Jans Rautenbach, the Afrikaans filmmaker, and he inspired me to tell stories by means of photos and in recent times even more by means of video. We were going to do a workshop with him but he unfortunately passed away since.

Schalk and I also belong to an informal short film group - that's where my passion really lies. We have already attended workshops by Koos Roets, the filmmaker/cameraman/director. It is of course a great learning curve - I work on it very hard and enjoy it immensely.

## Jill Sneesby Hon MPSSA, MPSSA, FPSSA (Dux), ESFIAP, MFIAP, AV-FPSSA



Jill's passions are photography, wildlife, photography, travel, photography – wherever she goes her camera goes too. She is fortunate in that her photography has taken her to many wonderful places where she has lectured and judged and of course photographed.



Photography became part of my life in 1972 when I joined the Shutterbugs Camera Club in Vanderbijlpark. It was after Freeman Patterson's first visit to South Africa that audio visual took precedence, opening up more possibilities and more challenges.

AV allows me to enjoy new ways of expressing myself and photographing what is not immediately perceived. More and more I am breaking the rules of storytelling, and making AVs that appeal to the intuition and intellect, with a philosophical and social conscience.

By way of examples, I intend to show the audience what touches me and why.

## **Koos Roets**



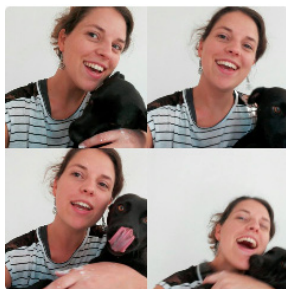
Koos Roets (1943-) is an award - winning South African film director and cinematographer. Roets began his career in the film industry in 1962 as an assistant cameraman for Jamie Uys. Later he begins to conduct the direction of films and works in both South Africa and Australia. He has received or nominated several awards, including: 4 Artes awards, 2 Report Oscars, 3 ATKV awards, 4 Star Tonight Awards and the Stephen Farrell Lifetime Achievement Award for outstanding cinematography.

## **Willem Daffue -**



He has a passion for the interesting world around us and the art to capture this on film.

## **Gita Claassen - Travel Photographer - Based in Prince Albert, WEstern Cape, South Africa**



I've always been very fascinated with light and colour, particularly the scientific side of it - how it works and acts, and that something so technical can be used to create something beautiful. It's what keeps me going. I could never get bored with the infinite possibilities from just three things: light, composition, and the choices make.

My mild childhood interest in photography evolved into a fiery passion and by 2008 I was doing photography full time. In 2014 I completed a Travel Photojournalism course through MatadorU. I am also involved as co-admin of the Facebook community, and curator of the Instagram feed of SA Women Photographers, a unique movement founded by Grethe Rosseaux, empowering and giving voice to women in the South African photography industry. Another pet project of mine is The Lightroom Classroom, the aim of which is to provide online support and inspiration to users of Adobe Photoshop Lightroom, specifically in, but not limited to, South Africa.

## **OTHER:**

There will be software demonstrations, workshops and outings and plenty opportunity to photograph or conversations with fellow delegates.



# 2018 PSSA Congress

30 Sept - 5 Oct in Port Elizabeth



<https://pecameraclub.co.za>



PSSA Congress 2018 - hosted by the - Port Elizabeth Camera Club

## THE PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA

As the Internationally recognised Society, PSSA actively embraces the future in its service to all photographers. Our mission is to bring together all those interested in photography, to promote the highest possible standards and to embrace the future of photography whilst continually supporting the present.

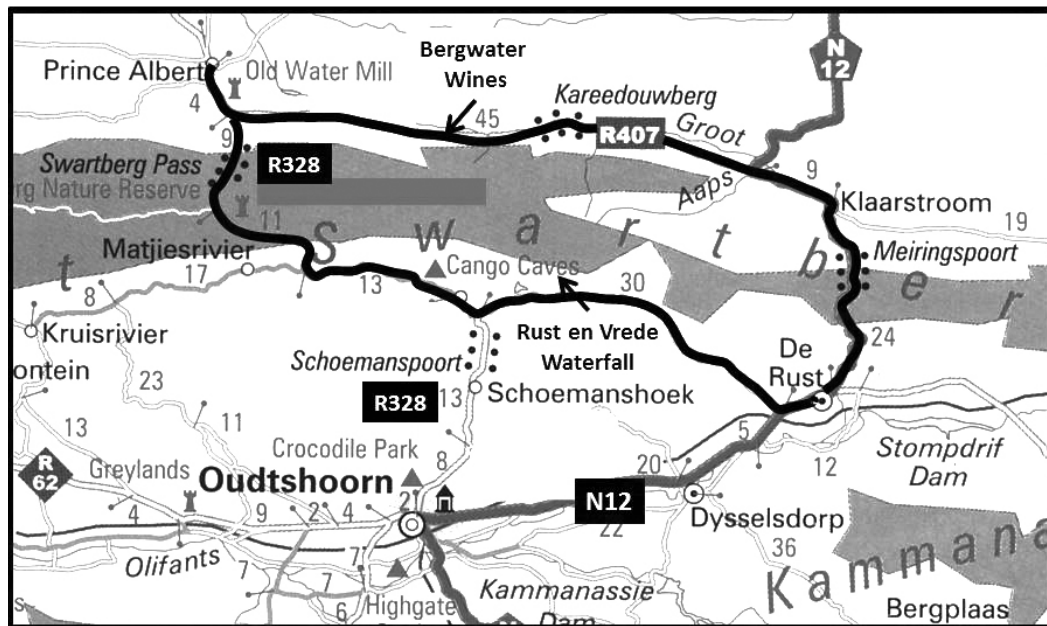
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The Photographic Society of South Africa  
(Incorporated Association not for gain)  
Reg. No. 54/01845/08







This approximately 160 km circular route can be done from Prince Albert in either direction, but this guide follows the route in an anti-clockwise direction from Prince Albert over the Swartberg Pass then past the Cango Caves and the Rust en Vrede waterfall to De Rust. From De Rust the route continues through Meiringspoort and Claarstroom and then via the R407 over the Kareedouw Pass returning to Prince Albert. To appreciate this circular route it is really a day trip from Prince Albert, taking lunch in one of the restaurants in De Rust.

## 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 Hillejtje 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. Leaving Prince Albert, we drive back east along the R407, pass the old water mill and after about 4 km we turn right (33015.69'S, 22002.88'E) on to the sand road (R328) leading to the Swartberg Pass. Just before we enter the pass we can see on the right a covered water channel transporting water from the Dorps River to the water works just outside the town. It is this perennial stream that allowed the establishment of the farm Kweekvallei in 1762 which ultimately became Prince Albert.

## 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 about R24 million. The present day road is very much as originally constructed and traverses land owned and administered by Cape Nature.

In April 2017 a massive flood came down the Dorps River which washed away all of Bain's road and dry stone walls, which had stood for 130 years, between Tweede Water and the northern entrance to the pass. If you look at local photographer's Louis Botha April image in his 2018 calendar you can see the huge extent of the damage. The Department of Transport and Public Works estimated that the pass would only be open in March 2018 at a cost of R10 million. However, thanks to the hard work of all the crews involved the Pass was reopened in mid November 2017. The interesting thing is that the teams have reconstructed modern dry stone walls, in the Bain's style, to support the road so that the section blends in with the character of the rest of the pass.

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 cicillatum*) 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 ziz-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 130 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 39 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 (33020.37'S, 22002.31'E), a little further down the road at 'Fontejntjie' 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 basic self-catering accommodation provided by Cape Nature.

Soon several hair pin bends take you up to Die Top at an elevation of 1585 metres, about the same as the summit of Cradock Peak above George. 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 (33022.27'S, 22010.59'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 to De Rust. However, a short way through Schoemanspoort, a road appears to the left (33025.64'S, 22015.10'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 farmac 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 (33024.63'S, 22020.29'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 (33027.61'S, 22026.24'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 (33030.19'S, 22030.08'E).

## **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 a farmer, 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 for well-being and time for community. This slow pace of life and clean fresh air has an appeal to those who live in cities and 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 and it was at the church hall in April 2014 that the 16th annual Cape Photographers Congress was held.

## **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, Arbeidsgenot, 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 Meringspoort. 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 Meringspoort we see the hamlet of Klaarstroom and if we take the signposted left turn (33020.14'S, 22032.45'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 and also the hotel. The acclaimed South African film photographer and director, Koos Roets, lives close by, and will be presenting on the last day of the congress. The village is often used as a film set for locally produced films, for all you need to do is to scatter straw and sawdust on the tarmac road and you are taken back in time.

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

Driving through Klaarstroom and past the township, we rejoin the N12 going north (33019.55'S, 22031.89'E) and after about 6km take the R407 left to Prince Albert (33018.41'S, 22028.78'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 Karedouw Pass, we descend into the beautiful Prince Albert valley and see Kredouw Olive Estate on the right where extra virgin olive oil and table olives are produced. Pecan nuts, almonds, apples, cherries and figs are also grown and sold in the farm shop. Further down the road to the left the large buildings of what was Bergwater Wines are seen. Sadly wine production stopped in 2017, the vines have been largely removed and the extensive farm now produces seed onions and carrots.

As we return to 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. Lichens only grown in clean, non-polluted air, such is found in the Karoo.

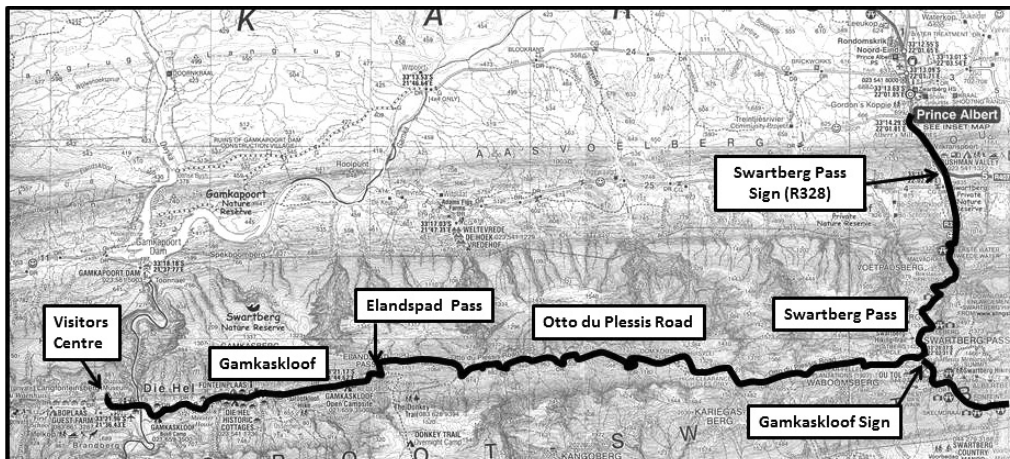
Returning to Prince Albert completes the Swartberg Pass/Meiringspoort circular route. In only about 160 km we have been able to marvel at the immense tectonic forces which have given rise to the Swartberg mountains and we have also touched on the history of the settlements and stories about the people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

During the Anglo-Boer War (1899 – 1902) Rudyard Kipling was stationed at a British blockhouse, guarding a railway bridge near Antjieskraal 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. However, in the first three verses of the poem he describes the sunset on the distant Swartberg Mountains near Prince Albert.

*"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 Prince Albert we can capture photographically some of these colours in the sunset on the magnificent Swartberg Mountains.

## Gamkaskloof (Die Hell) - Researched and Compiled by Paul Rixom



The distance from Prince Albert to the visitors centre in Gamkaskloof is about 70 km one way, but because of the nature of the spectacular sand road this journey should be considered as a full day trip, or even better, spend a night or two in one of the beautifully restored cottages run by Cape Nature or private owners. Although four wheel drive is not essential a fairly strong vehicle with good ground clearance is recommended.

Leaving Prince Albert in a southerly direction the Swartberg Pass road (R328) is a right hand turn at (33°15.69'S, 22°02.88'E). A description of the first part of this route is given in the 'Swartberg-Pass/Meringspoort Circular Route' guide in another part of this programme. About 16 km from Prince Albert the sign 'Gamkaskloof 37 km – travelling time 2 hours' is seen on the right (33°20.37'S, 22°02.31'E). For about 33 km the road continues in a westerly direction as it climbs and descends through a valley cut in the Swartberg Mountains crossing many streams which drain north through the mountains. Till finally, after a long climb, you come to the top of the Elandspad Pass and below, via a steep descent and many hairpin bends, lies Gamkaskloof forming a giant cleft stretching from east to west for about 20 km, its centre a green ribbon winding into the distance and intersecting the Gamka river further to the west. (Gamka means lion in San)

The area used to be home of the San and Koi as numerous rock paintings and artefacts have been found in the caves and overhangs of the valley. Legend has it that Gamkaskloof was 'discovered' in the early 19th century by farmers, who were looking for lost cattle and found this hidden valley by accident and stayed and cultivated various crops in the fertile environment. The first permanent settler was Peter Swanepoel, who settled in the valley in the 1830s. Later, the Marais, Cordier, Jouber, Nel and Mostert families settled in the valley, growing ultimately to a community of around 160 individuals.

The first written account of the valley comes from Deneys Reitz in his book "Commando" where he writes about his experiences in the 1899-1902 Anglo Boer War. He describes how his small commando were trying to cross the Swartberg to join General Smuts in the Great Karoo to the north when they came across this hidden valley cultivated by white farmers that wore buckskin clothes and spoke a strange outlandish Dutch. They were hospitably received by the Cordier family and were fed goat's meat and wild honey before being shown the way out of the kloof.

The residents farmed grain, vegetables, fruits, tea and tobacco, along with distilling witblits and brewing beer made from wild honey and they walked or used horses to cross the Swartberg Mountains to reach Prince Albert or Calitzdorp to sell their produce or for medical treatment. Later a school

was established, with the teacher also leading the Sunday church.

Nobody is sure where the name 'Die Hel' name came from. One popular story is that a Piet Botha (an animal inspector) visited the valley in the 1940s and used a particularly difficult route known as the 'die leer' (the ladder) into the western end of the valley. He described the experience as "hell". The residents never liked the name and preferred to refer to themselves as 'Kloovers'.

The residents had petitioned the government for many years to build a road and in the 1950s Mr. Otto du Plessis (Cape Provincial Administrator at the time) promised them an access road. In 1960 the provincial government gave Koos van Zyl a bulldozer and eight labourers and instructed him to force a road from the Swartberg Pass into Gamkaskloof which he amazingly completed by 1962. However, not long after the road was built it led to the depopulation of the community. The children attended high schools in the nearby villages and most of them did not return to the subsistence life in the valley. The elderly retired to retirement villages outside the valley and the number of residents diminished. By the 1980s most of the original inhabitants had left and only one, Annetjie Joubert (néé Mostert), and her family, would later return to Fonteinplaas.

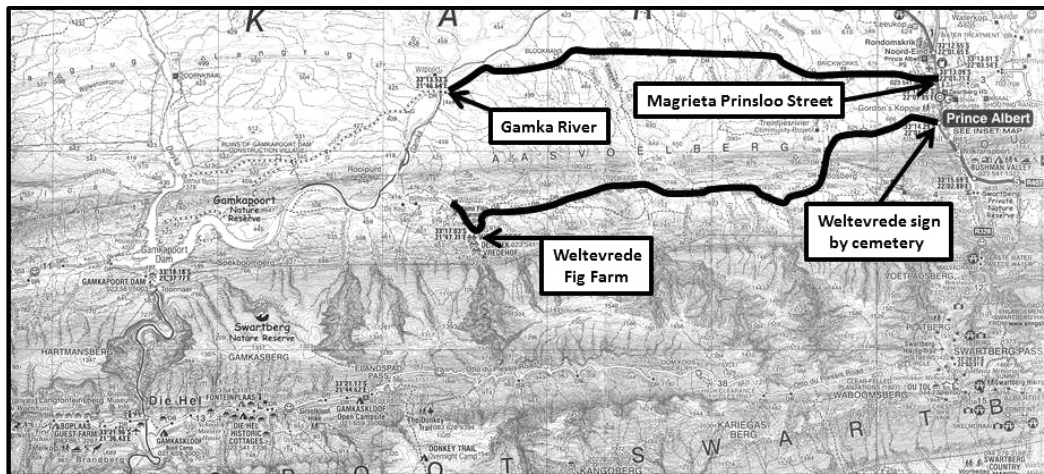
In 1997 the entire Gamkaskloof valley was declared a World Heritage Site and was included in the Swartberg Nature Reserve. Since this declaration most of the cottages in the kloof have been restored to their original design as part of a combined effort mainly by Cape Nature, private individuals, and other interested parties such as the Monument Commission, local museums and authorities. The only concession was to slightly modernise the cottages with the addition of solar power (for electric room lights only) and gas for the fridges and hot water systems. Most still have the old 'Dover' type wood stoves that were originally carried in on donkey back down into the valley.

As you descend to the bottom of Elandspad Pass, you come to the Cape Nature gate and office (33021.17'S, 21044.21'E) and pass through the camp site. You are now driving along the valley floor, crossing the stream many times and passing Annetjie Joubert's Fonteinplaas where refreshment and accommodation are available. Apart from Fonteinplaas all the restored cottages that are visible along the road belong to Cape Nature and are available for hire on a self-catering basis. A pictorial history of the families that used to live in the buildings is displayed both outside and inside the cottages. Further down the road you pass the school house and later the cottage of Lenie Marais who built the house herself and was also the local midwife. You finally cross the Gamka River that cuts through the Swartberg flowing to the south and a little way beyond that is Ou Plaas which is the Cape Nature ranger's home and visitors centre which is well worth a visit to understand the natural and human history of the valley. A short distance beyond this is the gate to Boplaas where further restored privately owned cottages are for hire.

The vegetation is quite diverse: ranging from mountain fynbos and riverine shrubs to renosterveld and Karoo-veld and an abundance of succulents. Wildlife is increasing due to rigid control by Cape Nature and private land owners. Baboons are common, but Grey Rhebuck, Klipspringer and Kudu are becoming more numerous. Small carnivores like rooikat, Cape wild cat and the river mongoose are occasionally seen and leopards have been confirmed by spoor and camera traps. Birdlife is abundant and at least 150 species have been recorded, including the Black, (or Verreux's) Eagle. A trip to this beautiful and remote valley is a journey back in time where, to some extent, you can relive the life and peace experienced by the old 'Kloovers'.



## Two Scenic Roads West Of Prince Albert. - Compiled by Paul Rixom



There are two scenic sand roads that go in a westerly direction out of Prince Albert.

One starts as Magrieta Prinsloo street which turns left as you drive towards the northern end of the main Church Street (33013.63'S, 22001.85'E). This good sand road goes past the lovely Karoo View Guest Cottages to your right and continues for approximately 24 kms in a westerly direction and ultimately arrives (with a section of 4x4) on the banks of the Gamka River (33013.53'S, 21046.64'E). This road originally linked Laingsburg and the northern part of Seweweekspoort, to Prince Albert but was inundated by the construction of the Garkaport Dam in the late sixties so you must return on the same road to Prince Albert. The road is recommended for sunset photography and wide Karoo vistas.

The other road is signposted as 'Weltevrede' in the southern approach to Prince Albert, next to the cemetery (33014.29'S, 22001.81'E). This good sand road runs for about 25 kms in a westerly direction through spectacular mountain scenery between the Aasvoelberg to the north and the Swartberg to the south. The rock strata of the Aasvoelberg are nearly vertical and create some amazing shaped mountains. The road passes the farms of 'Damascus', 'Vrischgewaagd' and finally the fig farm 'Weltevrede' (33017.03'S, 21047.71'E). Here figs and other preserves can be purchased in season and also the farm has three beautiful restored guest cottages situated close to a gorge coming out of the Swartberg. A little further down the road is a small labyrinth on the farm 'Witplaat'. This road is also good for sunset photography and it is also a dead end so you must return on it to Prince Albert.

# 2018 Cape Photographers Regional & PSSA National AV Congress

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	
Sunday 18 March 2018	Monday 19 March	Tuesday 20 March	Wednesday 21 March	Thursday 22 March 2018	Timeslot
?	7 - 8:30	Photo opportunity	Photo opportunity	Photo opportunity	7 - 8:30
08:30 - 08:50	Refreshments	Refreshments	Refreshments	Refreshments	08:30 - 08:50
08:50 - 09:00	Notices	Notices	Notices	Notices	08:50 - 09:00
09:00 - 10:00	Martin Barber	William Daffue	William Oels	William Daffue	09:00 - 10:00
	Composites - my way	The end of Africa's game	General photography	Last chance to see	
10:00 - 11:00	Jill Sneezy	Chris Daly	Salveto Meyer	Adri	10:00 - 11:00
	Tunnel vision	Alternatives to well known editing software	Importance of narrative in photography in the digital age.	My inspiration...	
11:00 - 11:30	Refreshments	Refreshments	Refreshments	Refreshments	11:00 - 11:30
Photo opportunity	Chris Daly	PECC intl P&L & Print	Cape Photographers AGM followed by	Jill Sneezy	
3rd PECC intl AV Salon judging	My Photographic Journey - From Darkroom to Drone	SA Salon Results	4th PSSA intl Salon Results	AV Honours - what judges want	
	11:30 - 12:30				11:30 - 12:30
12:45 - 13:45	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	12:45 - 13:45
14:00 - 14:30	Gita Craasen	William Oels	Martin Barber	Daleen Engelbrecht	14:00 - 15:00
	Travel Photographer based in Prince Albert	AV related	PS Workshop	"Doe Ray Me"	
14:30 - 16:00	PECC International AV Festival	PSSA AV Forum	Wayne Webb	Koos Roets	15:00 - 16:00
	Finalists		Animation	film maker	
Registrations	16:00 - 18:30	Photo opportunity	Photo opportunity	Photo opportunity	16:00 - 18:30
Welcoming finger supper at The Showroom	18:30 - 19:30	Supper	Supper	Farwell Supper	18:30 - 19:30
AV Honours Results	19:30 - ?	discussion/socialising	discussion/socialising	discussion/socialising	19:30 - ?
10	AV content	Everything happens at The Showroom except lunch and supper from Monday to Thursday.			
10	Digital content	that will be at the NG Church hall. Map on page 2			
17	Refreshments	ASTRO TOURS - Stargazing in Prince Albert optional excursion available on Sunday and Monday night, weather permitting @ R100pp			
8	Photo time	Speakers have been confirmed, timeslots are indicative only and subject to change.			
6	Notices				



**Paul Rixom**  
**Congress Chairman**

**Roel van Oudheusden**  
Administrator/ Treasurer

**Adri van Oudheusden**  
**PSSA AV Div Chairperson**

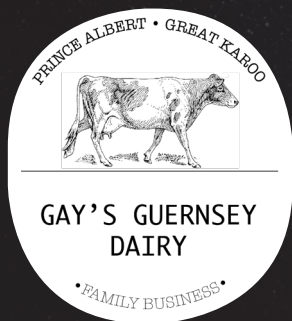
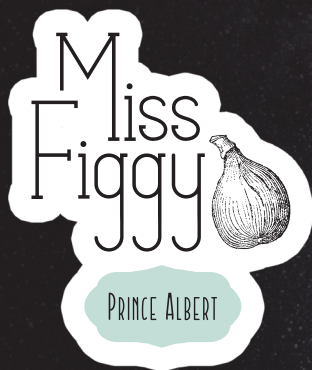


***Past Congresses hosted by CAPE PHOTOGRAPHERS and their Convenors:***

- 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
- 2003 - De Doorns – PSSA AV Convention – Thomas Niemeyer
- 2004 - Hogsback - Terry Smit (included the PSSA AV Convention - Thomas Niemeyer)
- 2005 - De Doorns - David Ireland
- 2006 - Calitzdorp – Frans Noltee (included the PSSA AV Convention - Thomas Niemeyer)
- 2006 - Veldrift - 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 - Victoria West – PSSA National AV Convention – Paul Rixom & Thomas Niemeyer
- 2012 - Langebaan combined with PSSA National Congress - Johan Kloppers
- 2013 - Barkly East - Frank Smith
- 2014 - De Rust - Paul Rixom (includes the PSSA AV Convention)
- 2015 - Swellendam – PSSA National Congress - Paul Rixom
- 2016 - Prince Albert – Paul Rixom (includes the PSSA AV Convention)
- 2017 - Hogsback – Terry Smit
- 2018 - Prince Albert – Paul Rixom (includes the PSSA AV Convention)

# WE THANK THE FOLLOWING

WHOSE CONTRIBUTION MADE THIS CONGRESS POSSIBLE



THANKS FOR JOINING US - TRAVEL SAFE