

# PERSPECTIVE

AMBER CAMERA CLUB

MARCH 2024



HOUSE IN ISOLATION  
BY DAVID MULLIN



# FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Firstly, I would like to thank all of the members that phoned and whatsapped their praises for the magazine. I truly appreciate every single comment and have taken note of their inputs.

As we all know our club has a very diverse array of members. Some young members with little, or no knowledge who are like sponges wanting to absorb as much knowledge as they can, some older who have a good amount of knowledge but think they know it all and some very much older who have been there and done that and unfortunately keep forgetting everything, especially when the next meeting is and the name of the person they are sitting next to.

Well, times and technology have changed drastically in the past 5, 10 and even 20 years and we can all keep on learning.

So, for fear of upsetting some folk I am going to be sparing a few pages every month for the ones amongst us that are open to reviving their minds and memories as well as possibly relearning some basic fundamentals.

If there is any subject matter you want to know more about, or need to relearn, please drop me an email to [ambercameraclub@gmail.co.za](mailto:ambercameraclub@gmail.co.za); and I will do my utmost to answer your query and if I don't know I will research until I can find a suitable answer to publish.

Next month's meeting promises to be very interesting. We have Bridgid Wickham from Pmb Camera Club talking to us on "Composite Photography". This will be most informative and something exciting for us all to try.

**Happy Snapping,**

*Rose*



# ABOUT THE CLUB

Amber Camera Club was established in 2011 by a group of passionate photographers. It has grown from strength to strength in the time it has been running thanks to a hard-working committee.

We welcome photographers of all ages and all levels to join our club in the hopes of helping them grow and creating an environment for likeminded people to meet and socialize.

There is a meeting every month - on the 3rd Tuesday of the month in the evening at the Amber Valley Auditorium at 6:30pm. Everyone and anyone are welcome to join. We also host an outing on the Saturday following the meeting to practice some photography.

If you would like to find out more information – please contact us on [ambercameraclub@gmail.com](mailto:ambercameraclub@gmail.com) or contact one of our dedicated committee members, details, of which, are below.

Chairperson: Jenny Kruger 082 871 1782

Competition Steward: Alex Gargan 076 836 7605

Secretary: Sue Grills 073 571 4971

Treasurer: Penny Shaw 082 564 3144

Membership: Diane Hampson 082 342 0242

Editor: Rose Douglas 076 402 6020

Gill Ainslie 083 789 2642

Rochelle Bennett 071 876 7159

E-mail: [ambercameraclub@gmail.com](mailto:ambercameraclub@gmail.com)



The Amber Camera Club is proudly affiliated with the

Photographic  
Society of South Africa

[www.pssa.co.za](http://www.pssa.co.za)

# WELCOME

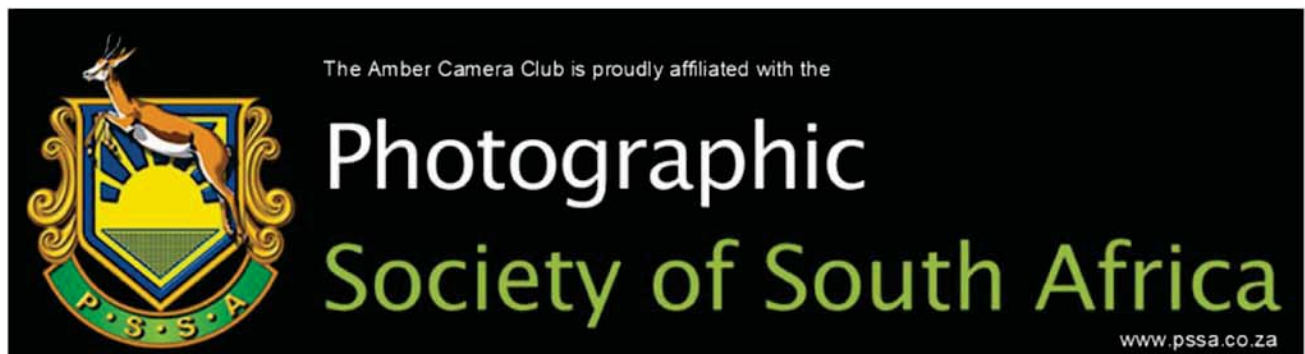
We would like to extend a warm welcome to the following new members.

Andy Rice  
Matt Jackson  
Brian Groenewald

# PROMOTIONS

Biddy Jung  
1 star to 2 star  
Alexander Hopkins  
2 star to 3 star  
Charles Henderson  
2 star to 3 star  
Ashley Wheeler  
2 star to 3 star  
Shirley Swingler  
Master Gold to Master Platinum

Congratulations to you all, especially to Shirley, who is the first ACC member to attain Master Platinum Status.



# **FEBRUARY CLUB COMPETITION**

**This month's JUDGES**

**Set Subject: Des Van Tonder - Pmb Camera Club  
Monthly Images - Conrad Kelsey - Westville Camera Club**

## **Best Junior**

**Sub Adult Beared Vulture landing amongst Cape by  
Matt Jackson**



## **Best Senior**

**House in Isolation by  
David Mullin**



# FEBRUARY CLUB COMPETITION

SET SUBJECT - Minimalism

## Best Junior

Lonesome Baby by Charles Henderson



## Best Senior

Keeping It Simple by Diane Hampson



# 2024 CLUB COMPETITIONS

## SET SUBJECTS

JANUARY - CELLPHONE PHOTOGRAPHY

FEBRUARY - MINIMALISM

**MARCH - EGGS - closes 1st March**

APRIL - SPLASH OF RED - closes 1st April

MAY - HIGH KEY/LOW KEY - closes 1st May

JUNE - BOOKS - closes 1st June

JULY - FEATHERS - closes 1st July

AUGUST - SOFT FOCUS - closes 1st August

SEPTEMBER - STILL LIFE - closes 1st September

OCTOBER - BOVINE PORTRAIT - closes 1st October

At least 1 of your 4 entries should be entered in our Set Subject for this month, the balance may be entered in this category or across any of the remaining 5 categories on PhotoVault. If you are unable to enter anything in the set subject, you forfeit that image and enter only 3 in other categories.

NOTE: Remember to size correctly: at least one of the image dimensions must be exactly 1920px wide or 1080px high and sized up to 2Mb



# EGGS

The content of the hard-shelled reproductive body produced by a bird, considered as food.

While the primary role of the egg obviously is to reproduce the species, most eggs laid by domestic fowl, except those specifically set aside for hatching, are not fertilized but are sold mainly for human consumption. Eggs produced in quantity come from chickens, ducks, geese, turkeys, guinea fowl, pigeons, pheasants, and quail.

**But Eggs, in Photography is a totally different ball-game.**

## Mastering Egg Photography: Tips, Techniques, and Inspiration

First and foremost, the appeal of egg photography lies in the aesthetics. The simple, oval shape of the egg lends itself beautifully to minimalist compositions. The unblemished white of a shell, in contrast with the rich yolk inside, offers an array of opportunities for artistic representation.

- **Monochromatic Magic:** The white shell of the egg provides a wonderful opportunity to experiment with monochrome photography. Play with different shades and tones of white to bring out the egg's curves and edges.
- **Yolk Contrast:** The vibrant yellow of the yolk creates a stark and captivating contrast when paired with the eggshell's white. This contrast can be enhanced with the right use of lighting and backgrounds.

When it comes to "Egg Photography," it's not just the subject that matters, but also the tools you use to capture it. Your equipment can significantly influence the quality of your images and your overall experience as a photographer.

### **Lighting Equipment**

Good lighting is crucial in egg photography. You may rely on natural light, but having some lighting equipment can give you greater control:

- **Reflectors:** Reflectors can help to manipulate natural light, bouncing it back onto your subject to reduce shadows.
- **Artificial Lights:** Equipment such as soft boxes or LED panels can provide constant and adjustable light, offering you full control over your lighting conditions.

### **Tripod**

A sturdy tripod is important to keep your camera steady, especially for close-up shots or when shooting in lower light conditions.

### **Techniques for Captivating Egg Photography**

When it comes to "Egg Photography," applying the right techniques can be the difference between a good shot and a great one. Let's crack into some of these techniques to make your egg photos truly stand out.

### **The Magic of Lighting**

Lighting is a critical aspect in all types of photography, and egg photography is no exception. Here's how you can manipulate light to enhance your egg photography:





# EGGS

- **Backlighting:** Backlighting an egg can create a mesmerizing glow around it, highlighting its shape and contours. This technique can also highlight the translucency of the yolk in a cracked egg.
- **Side Lighting:** Side lighting can accentuate the texture and form of an egg, creating dramatic shadows and depth.

## Composition is Key

Composition can dramatically alter the mood and message of your egg photography. Experiment with these tips:

- **Playing with Shadows:** An egg's shape casts interesting shadows. Use these shadows to create depth and interest in your composition.
- **Negative Space:** Utilize the negative space around your egg to focus the viewer's attention and emphasize the simplicity and elegance of the egg.

## Harnessing Natural Elements

Taking your egg photography outdoors allows you to incorporate natural elements into your shots:

- **Natural Light:** Natural light can infuse a soft glow into your egg photos. Early morning and late afternoon sunlight is particularly appealing.
- **Nature as Backdrop:** The natural textures and colours of outdoor settings can make for a stunning backdrop in your egg photography.

## Prop Styling in Egg Photography

In the realm of "Egg Photography," using props is a fantastic way to add depth, interest, and context to your images. Whether it's a rustic wooden table, a vintage egg carton, or an antique spoon, the right prop can elevate your egg photography from ordinary to extraordinary.

### Egg Holders and Stands

Egg holders and stands are one of the simplest yet most effective props in egg photography. From simple wooden egg cups to ornate silver holders, the choices are plentiful:

- **Egg Cups:** Simple and elegant, egg cups can add a nice touch to your egg photography. They're available in various materials such as ceramic, wood, or metal.
- **Nests and Baskets:** To create a natural, rustic feel, use nests or small woven baskets as your egg holders.

### Fabrics and Surfaces

The surface on which your egg rests or the fabric draped around it can dramatically change the mood and tone of your photographs:

- **Natural Textures:** Use surfaces with natural textures like a wooden table or a stone countertop to contrast the smoothness of the egg.
- **Fabrics:** Fabrics like burlap or linen can add a rustic feel, while silk or velvet can lend a touch of elegance.



# EGGS

## Kitchen Utensils

Incorporating kitchen utensils into your egg photography can help contextualize your images:

- **Spoons:** Antique or unique spoons can be an interesting addition to your egg photos.
- **Cookware:** A skillet with a single, perfectly fried egg can make for an enticing image.

## Food and Ingredients

Pairing eggs with other food items or ingredients can create a more dynamic and appealing composition:

- **Fresh Herbs:** Sprigs of fresh herbs like rosemary or thyme can add a pop of colour and hint at the culinary potential of the eggs.
- **Bread and Pastries:** Freshly baked bread or pastries paired with eggs can evoke the idea of a warm, comforting breakfast.

Remember, the best props for egg photography are the ones that enhance your image without detracting from the main subject: the egg. Experiment with different props, play around with their placement, and most importantly, have fun with it!

# SALON CALENDAR 2024

We encourage all Junior members to enter the FREE PSSA up and coming salon closing on the 8th June 2024.

OTRCC 3rd National Digital Salon	06/01/2024
PSSA National AV Salon 2024	13/01/2024
11th MIROC Digital Circuit 2024	15/01/2024
Bloemfontein CC Salon 2024	20/01/2024
Ermelo Fotoklub 4th National Digital Salon	03/02/2024
12th AFO National Digital Salon 2024	10/02/2024
7th Boksburg National Digital Salon - POI	24/02/2024
6de Brandpunt Fotoklub Nasionale Digitale Salon	09/03/2024
2nd Swartland International Salon	16/03/2024
PECC International Audio Visual Festival 2024	31/03/2024
PSSA International Salon of Photography 2024	13/04/2024
1st Cape Photographers National Print Circuit Salon 2024	20/04/2024
1ST IPC PDI Salon	20/04/2024
7th Edenvale National Digital Salon - PDI	04/05/2024
Kroonstad Fotoklub Life in Monochrome PDI Salon	18/05/2024
2nd Amber AV International Salon	31/05/2024
8th MFCC DPI Salon 2024	01/06/2024
PSSA 25th Up and Coming	08/06/2024
TAF 13th Print and PDI Salon	15/06/2024
1st FSTOP Kempton Park PDI Salon	29/06/2024

# PSSA CONGRESS 2024

The PSSA Congress this year is to be held in  
Parys, Free State, South Africa.

The dates are 30th September to the 4th October.  
The host hotel is the Woodlands Country Lodge, Parys,  
110km south of Johannesburg.

The link to the UTube presentation  
has been sent out to members  
by email.

## MEMBERS WEBSITES / BLOGS VLOGS / UTUBE CHANNELS

Paul Bartho: [www.bartho.blog](http://www.bartho.blog)

Mark Preston-Whyte: [www.markpw6.wixsite.com/website-copy](http://www.markpw6.wixsite.com/website-copy)

Clare van Daele: [www.clarevanartist.com](http://www.clarevanartist.com)

Rose Douglas: U-Tube channel — Rose Douglas Explore Africa

IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR OWN SITE LISTED, PLEASE SEND YOUR DETAILS TO THE EDITOR.



# NEWS AND VIEWS

## Cleaning Up the Grey Areas .... what you can and can't use in your photographs

It's often difficult to know what you can and can't do when creating photographs for PSSA sanctioned events such as club judging, salons, competitions, honours applications etc.

With so much material freely available on the web it stands to reason, or so you would think, that if it says, "free to use" you can do just that. But no, that is not the case and as always you need to carefully pay attention to the small print.

**By virtue of submitting an image to a PSSA sanctioned event, the photographer asserts and agrees that:**

- i) For the purposes of all PSSA sanctioned events, a photographic image is defined "as being a captured image on a light-sensitive device (e.g. film camera, digital camera, smartphone, tablet, etc...) and recorded on film or in a digital format."**
- ii) An artificial intelligence (AI) generated image is not deemed to be a photographic image because it was created from scratch by the AI system and contains no image captured by the entrant. Therefore, this type of image will not be accepted into our events.**
- iii) The final images and all elements included therein are his/her own and that no second party can claim authorship of any part of the said image.**
- iv) Use of AI features contained within a post processing application (e.g. masking, sharpening, de-noise, enlarging, etc...) are permitted provided they comply with a category's editing criteria and do not contain any elements which were not captured by the entrant (e.g. texture, sky, etc...).**

**The photographer may be called upon to supply proof of the authenticity of all the elements in the presented image(s). If the entrant cannot supply such proof, his/her entry in the event will be disqualified and sanctions may be applied.**

**There has always been the question  
– can you photograph someone else's art?**

Think of it in terms of you being the artist – how would you feel if someone photographed all or part of your photograph and used it in their composite or as a background to their pic?

You wouldn't be happy, would you?

So how is it different if you photograph a painting or other piece of art when you were not the artist?



# NEWS AND VIEWS

In the case of AI, even though you may have “designed” the image, you did not actually create the image and therefore you cannot use it. *This is as opposed to photographing your own painting – you painted it!*



A good rule of thumb is that if it is a 2D subject then you can't just photograph it – then it is just a copy of someone else's art. You also can't photograph it and use part of it in a composite. That is plagiarism!

Take for instance a picture of graffiti – on its own it is just copying someone else's art and not allowed.

The moment you add a figure into the image, when taking it, you have created your own work and therefore it is allowed.

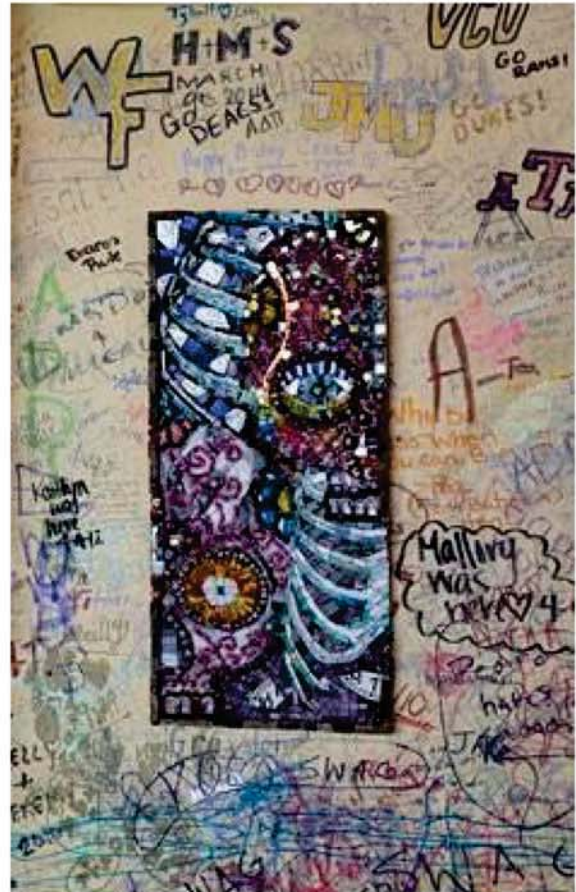
If however you took that picture (record) of the graffiti and took it home and then replaced your background in an image with that one, it also wouldn't be allowed.

Just photographing an artwork, such as this mosaic is not on, no matter how creatively you do it. Unless you have added that 3rd Dimension by adding another aspect or element to the photograph you may not use it.



Including the written graffiti that was on the wall adds that 3rd Dimension, so it is OK.

Now you can see that the mosaic is a 2D piece of art but it is the inclusion of all the writing on the wall around it that has made it into something that you have seen and photographed as opposed to just a copy of someone else's artwork.



Then we come to 3 dimensional subjects such as statues, buildings etc. – you can photograph these and enter them because they have depth (the 3rd dimension) and you are adding to the image by the way you interpret the subject, what lighting you use etc. Your creativity comes to play as you are now in control. You can photograph 3D subjects and use them in your composites, be they as textures, backgrounds etc.

# NEWS AND VIEWS



An image of a 3D subject however can just be a record, and while you are within the rules you are not going to do well with it unless you do more than just take a record shot.



No matter how big or small an added element is in your photograph, it all has to be your own work when you enter it in to a PSSA, or for that matter any International Photographic Society event (such as FIAP, PSA, CAPA etc.).

There is nothing to stop you using AI or downloading a copyright free image or element and using it but just not in any of the abovementioned events. And don't forget, always read the small print.

## and for a little LAUGHTER...

*These jokes are the laugh that every photographer will need for a bit of a perk up*

**Photographers are very mean. First, they frame you, then they shoot you, then hang you on the wall.**

**If you saw a drowning person and you were to choose between saving him or capturing the moment, what aperture will you use?**

**I read fifty shades of grey to learn more about white balance**

**How many photographers does it take to change a light bulb? 50. One to change the bulb, and forty-nine to say, "I could have done that!"**

**I had to give up my career as a photographer. I kept losing focus.**

**"Your camera takes really nice pictures!" "Thanks, I taught it everything it knows!"**

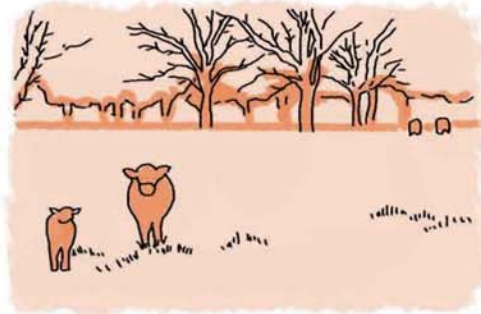
# COMPOSITION

Have you ever wondered what is meant by “Composition” in Photography. Here are a couple of tips for you to think about!!

When looking at a photograph, our eyes are naturally drawn to look at the area with the most **visual weight** first.

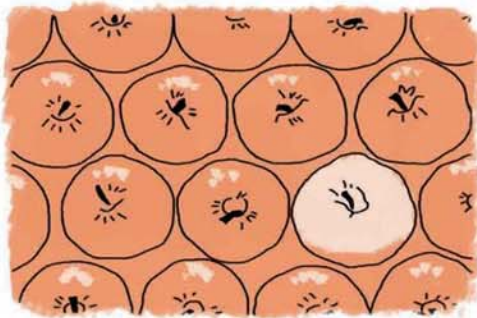
When you understand what this is, you can better influence how people look at your photos.

## Size



Your eyes will go towards a larger object before a smaller one. It appears more important because it takes up more space.

## Contrast



Our eyes are drawn to contrast, such as objects that are brighter or darker than the rest of the scene.

## Faces and Eyes



Our brains are wired to look at faces and eyes first. It's a trait that helps us feel the mood of people we encounter.

## Placement



Subjects placed away from the centre carry more weight. To counterbalance, have something on the opposite side.

## Text

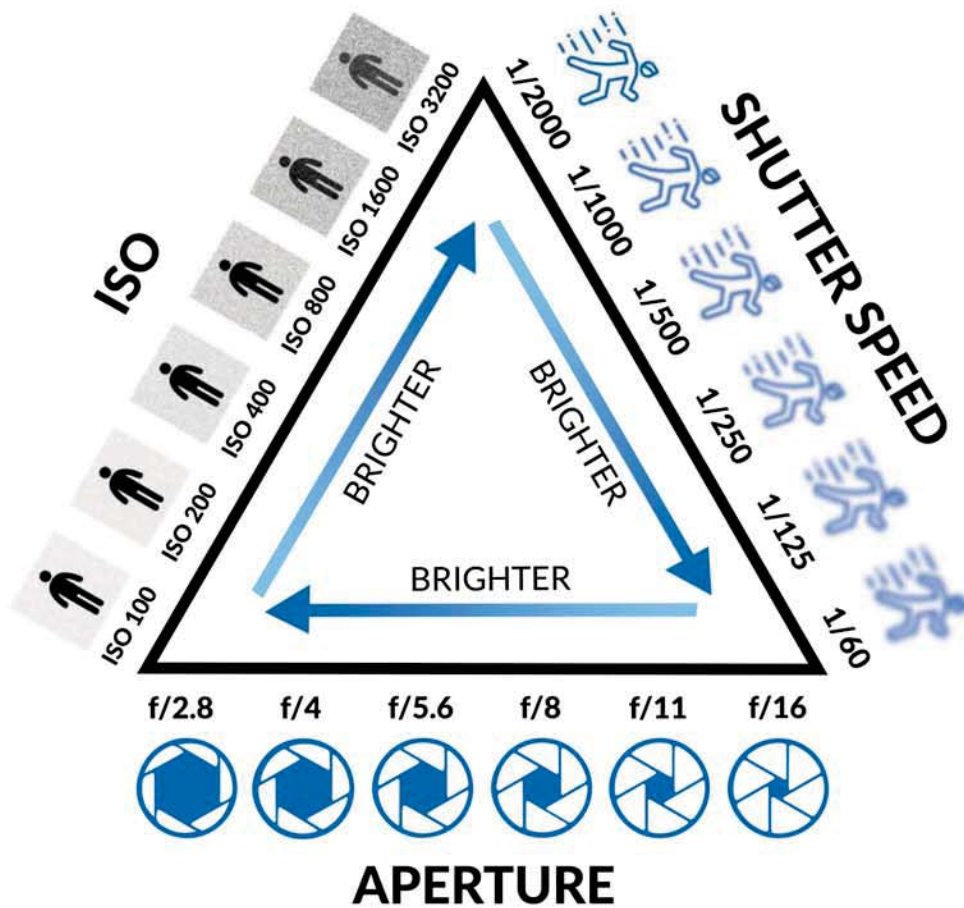


Text in scenes gives us meaning. It can either contrast or complement the environment in which it appears.



# EXPOSURE TRIANGLE

The **exposure triangle** combines the aperture, shutter speed, and ISO to create an exposure. Once a perfect exposure has been achieved, changing one setting requires an equal change to another one of the settings.



## Practical Example

A photographer is shooting a landscape scene and has found a perfect exposure with f/5.6, 1/200, ISO 100. They then decide they want to adjust the aperture by one stop to f/8. The exposure is now one stop underexposed. To maintain a perfect exposure, the shutter speed must halve to 1/100, or the ISO must double to 200.

**JANUARY MEETING**  
**LIGHT**  
**SCULPTURING WORKSHOP**



**Hello Darkness by Brian Groenewald**

**MARCH WORKSHOP**  
**SATURDAY 23RD MARCH 2.00PM**

**Rust and Decay Workshop.**

**Bring your Rusty bits, your cameras, tripods, flashes/torches if needed and let's have a fun-filled afternoon.**

**Details will be finalised at the meeting**

# PHOTO WALK

Organised Photowalks by Di Hampson  
will only be held every second month

..  
If any member or keen photographer  
wants to organise an outing to  
a particular place and would like company  
please send an email to the camera club  
and we can certainly put it out there for others to join.

## CLUB OUTING

2nd March at 2.00pm

This will be at

**DINGO SNAKES,  
PIGGLY WIGGLY**

Dingo Dinkelman is a renowned South African conservationist whose YouTube Channel has gained millions of views over the years. Talking about the holiday show, Dinkelman said: "I truly believe that education and the opportunity for children to engage with nature are our best shot at conserving our incredible animal species.

Through this interactive show, we give youngsters the chance to engage with creatures they may never have seen before, and learn something new while having a ton of fun!" Children visiting Dingo's Farm and Reptile Park will get to feed some of the farmyard animals such as goats, lambs, pigs, donkeys, cows and alpacas and check out a number of interesting reptiles including alligators, iguanas and snakes. There will also be two live shows daily, at 11am and 2pm where everyone can learn a bit about each animal.

To find out more about Dingo Dinkelman's shows, conservation projects and adventures follow him on Facebook at @dingodinkelman, on Instagram at Dingo Dinkelman, check out his videos on YouTube at Dingo Dinkelman, or visit [www.dingowild.com](http://www.dingowild.com).

# PARTING SHOT

So you just bought your first “real” camera and it feels so awkward in your hand, doesn't it?

Here is something very basic to go through.

For all our advanced and pro photographers

I challenge you to let us know if you learn anything from this.....

## How to Hold a Camera

One of the common problems that many new digital (and film) photographers have is 'camera shake' where images seem blurry – usually because the camera was not held still enough while the shutter was depressed. This is especially common in shots taken in low light situations where the shutter is open for longer periods of time. Even the smallest movement of the camera can cause it and the only real way to eliminate it is with a tripod.

Adding to camera shake is a technique that is increasingly common with digital camera users of holding the camera at arm's length away from them as they take shots – often with one hand. While this might be a good way to frame your shot the further away from your body (a fairly stable thing) you hold a camera the more chance you have of swaying or shaking as you take your shot.

## **How to Hold a Camera**

Tripods are the best way to stop camera shake because they have three sturdy legs that keep things very still – **but if you don't have one** then another simple way to enhance the stability of the camera is to hold onto it with two hands.

While it can be tempting to shoot one handed two hands will increase your stillness (like three legs on a tripod being better than one).

Exactly how you should grip your camera will depend upon what type of digital camera you are using and varies from person to person depending upon preference. There is no real right or wrong way to do it but here's the technique that I generally use:



# PARTING SHOT

1. **Use your right hand to grip the right-hand end of the camera.** Your forefinger should sit lightly above the shutter release, your other three fingers curling around the front of the camera. Your right thumb grips onto the back of the camera. Most cameras these days have some sort of grip and even impressions for where fingers should go so this should feel natural. Use a strong grip with your right hand but don't grip it so tightly that you end up shaking the camera – squeeze the shutter don't jab at it).
2. **The positioning of your left hand** will depend upon your camera but in general it should support the weight of the camera and will either sit underneath the camera or under/around a lens if you have a DSLR.
3. **If you're shooting using the view finder** to line up your shot, you'll have the camera nice and close into your body which will add extra stability but if you're using the LCD, make sure you don't hold your camera too far away from you. Tuck your elbows into your sides and lean the camera out a little from your face (around 30cm). Alternatively use the viewfinder if it's not too small or difficult to see through (a problem on many point and shoots these days).
4. **Add extra stability by leaning against a solid object** like a wall or a tree or by sitting or kneeling down. If you have to stand and don't have anything to lean on for extra support, put your feet shoulder width apart to give yourself a steady stance. The stiller you can keep your body the stiller the camera will be.

Holding a camera in this way will allow you flexibility of being able to line up shots quickly but will also help you to hold still for the crucial moment of your shutter being open.

**Another quick bonus tip on how to hold a camera** – before you take your shot take a gentle but deep breath, hold it, then take the shot and exhale. The other method people use is the exact opposite – exhale and before inhaling again take the shot. It's amazing how much a body rises and falls simply by breathing – being conscious of it can give you an edge.

Of course, each person will have their own little techniques that they are more comfortable with and ultimately you need to find what works best for you – but in the early days of familiarizing yourself with your new digital camera it's worth considering your technique.

**One last note on how to hold a camera** – this post is about 'holding a camera' in a way that will help eliminate camera shake. It's not rocket science – but it's amazing how many people get it wrong and wonder why their images are blurry.

There are of course many other techniques for decreasing camera shake that should be used in conjunction with the way you hold it. Shutter speed, lenses with image stabilization and of course tripods can all help.



**LET'S NOT FORGET!!**

**CLUB OUTING - 2ND MARCH**

**MONTHLY MEETING - 19TH MARCH**

**MONTHLY WORKSHOP - 23RD MARCH**

**KZN INTERCLUB CHALLENGE**

**CLOSES 31ST MAY**

**RUST AND DECAY**

**KZN INTERCLUB SUBJECT 2024** - Colour or mono.

The effects of time, weather and neglect on various materials by rust and decay result in textures, patterns and colours which tell a unique visual story. Think of the beauty and intrigue that is found in deteriorating structures, objects, and more. There is no limit to what subject shows rust and decay - from urban decay to biological decay and more.

**ON PHOTOVAULT NOW.**

**MIDLANDS MEANDER COMPETITION**

**MARCH - OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES**

