# PERSPECTIVE

## AMBER CAMERA CLUB

SEPTEMBER 2024



Water Droplets
By
ToniLe Roux



## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



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 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

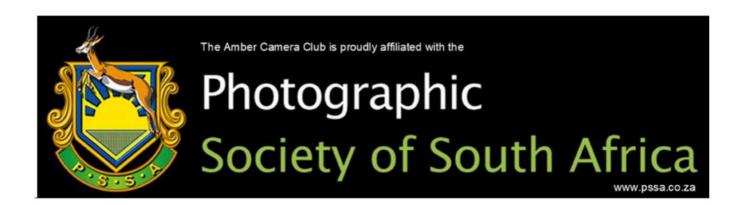
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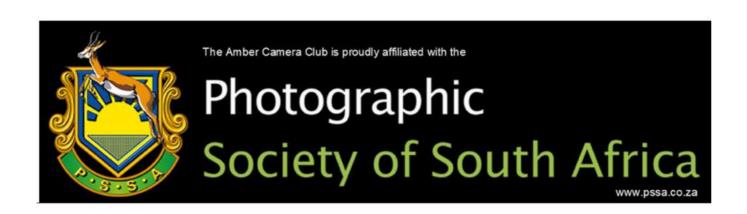
## WELCOME

# A very warm welcome to our new members this month:-

## Michelle Nelson Mike Whitbread

### **PROMOTIONS**

Congratulations to
Julie Johnston 1-2 star
and
Brian Groenewald 1-2 star



## SALON RESULTS

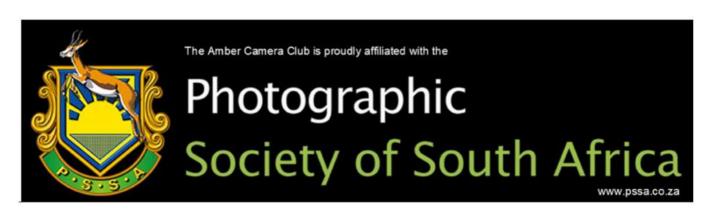
Congratulations to Mark Preston-Whyte for achieving his LPSSA Mono.
He has also been awarded his LPSSA (Vers)
Very well done Mark.

## FSTOP SALON

Well done, and congratulations to Shirley Swingler on your medal for runner up in the Mono category.

Congratulations to the following members on their acceptances in the FStop salon.

Shirley Swingler
Chris Swingler
Robert Forrester
Nicole Forrester
Mark Preston Whyte



## AUGUST CLUB COMPETITION

#### This month's JUDGE

Geoff Feldon (Set Subject)
Jenny Kruger (Monthly Competition)

Judges Choice Junior Flying High by Nicole Forrester



Judges Choice Senior
Walking home in the mist by Mark Preston Whyte



## AUGUST CLUB COMPETITION

### **SET SUBJECT - SOFT FOCUS**

Judges Choice Junior Thoughts by Ashley Wheeler



Judges Choice Senior Water Droplets by ToniLe Roux



## 2024 CLUB COMPETITIONS

### SET SUBJECTS

JANUARY - CELLPHONE PHOTOGRAPHY
FEBRUARY - MINIMALISM
MARCH - EGGS
APRIL - SPLASH OF RED
MAY - HIGH KEY/LOW KEY
JUNE - BOOKS
JULY - FEATHERS
AUGUST - SOFT FOCUS

## 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





Traditionally, a still life is a collection of inanimate objects arranged as the subject of a <u>composition</u>. Nowadays, a still life can be anything from your latest Instagram latte art to a vase of tulips styled like a Dutch Golden Age painting.

Creating a beautiful and successful still life image is an impressive feat, but just as painting a bowl of fruit is a good introduction for new painters, still life photography is a wonderful training ground for new photographers. It gives you an opportunity to experiment with light, materials, textures and subjects in a controlled setting. Whatever your creative vision and artistic goals, still life is a great place to start.

#### What makes successful still life photography.

Still life photography encompasses everything that is an inanimate subject in front of a camera. But a successful still life? That's a little harder to classify. It all comes down to intent and context. Is your message conveyed? Is your composition strong and does it guide the viewer's eye through the image? Does your still life convey a narrative? It's by asking these deeper questions that we can understand whether a photograph is successful.

#### Still life photography ideas.

When it comes to still life photography, nothing is moving and you're in complete control. It's a fantastic challenge for your compositional skills because it's entirely about form and a pleasing arrangement of forms within the frame. The image needs to be well balanced and have an interesting geometric play. Everything that you're doing in the frame is guiding the viewer's eye.

**Composition.** First, play with your composition and test different layouts and arrangements of your objects. Consider composition styles like the rule of thirds when composing your still life image. Tweak and adjust your layout as you go to refine your composition skills and identify what makes a photo pleasing.

**Subject and materials.** Compose your photo with diverse textures and materials. It doesn't matter whether it's a handful of random objects from your home or a curated collection of sterling silver candlesticks. Explore how





shadows and light reflect off of various surfaces and see how it affects your final composition.

**Different lighting.** Experiment with different lighting, both in the studio and in natural light. Avoid shooting with the traditional overhead lights in your home, as light colours will mix and produce odd and unintentional shadows. Different light sources can subtly change the mood and atmosphere of an image.

**Camera angle.** Try moving your camera as well and see how the composition changes. Shoot both with a tripod and with your camera in your hand. You might just find an even better angle of your subject than the one you had in mind. When shooting handheld, make sure your <u>shutter speed</u> is fast enough to avoid camera shake.

**Focus and depth of field.** Experiment with depth of field. Consider focal length and try using a prime lens or a zoom lens to mix things up. Focusing on one small point rather than having the entire frame in focus can change your composition dramatically. Many cameras are designed to focus on the human face, so try using manual focus instead.

**Add motion.** While traditionally a still life is just that, "still," you can add elements of motion to your still life photography. Reach your hand into the shot and move something mid-photo. Or slow down your shutter speed and catch motion blur with a spinning ballerina musical box. It's up to you.

Still life photography isn't just for beginners. It's also a place for pros to test new ideas or hone their craft.

Still life has been mostly about experimentation and trying new things, because you never quite know how certain light is going to reflect off of a marble versus a rose. Keep testing and continue to improve your skills by getting more experience.





#### Still Life Photography Equipment

Another benefit of still life photography is it doesn't take much to get started. If you're going to try it out for the first time, your studio can be just a table by a window.

Since the arrangement of objects is an important part of still life shots, you can begin experimenting with arrangements using your existing equipment. There's no need for a top-of-the-line camera for that!

But when you want to start capturing professional-looking still life photos, that's where the need for some new gear may come in. The most important of which is lighting equipment.

Lighting is of particular importance in still life photography. When your subject is an ordinary object, lighting is one of the best ways you can create a mood or add interest to your photos.

#### **Light Reflectors**

Light reflectors are one of the most affordable and easiest ways to start taking better photos. A simple light reflector will let your start manipulating the natural light in your scene, without the need for additional lighting equipment. Whether you are trying to soften some shadows, better illuminate the subject, or highlight the textures in your composition, light reflectors can help. If you are seeking a DIY solution, you can easily make your own reflectors using tinfoil and cardboard.

#### **Speedlights and Strobes**

A speedlight or strobe is the next piece of equipment you'll want to look into. By having an off-camera flash or strobe to light the scene, you won't have to rely on natural light from a window. Instead, you'll have more freedom to light your subject from any angle. In addition, a powerful light source like a speedlight or strobe will give your photos a more professional look and let you create interesting effects such as low-key photography.





#### Softboxes

Softboxes are another important piece of lighting equipment. Whether you choose a speedlight or strobe, you should consider picking up a softbox for shots where you want to avoid harsh shadows. Softboxes can diffuse the light from your flash or strobe into a soft and even light.

They also greatly reduce spill light and help with directing your light in exactly the way you want.

#### Lenses for Still Life Photography

You don't need a wide assortment of expensive lenses for still life photography, but it's good to have a couple of quality lenses to choose from. One thing to keep in mind is you probably won't need any wide angle lenses. That's because in still life photography, the subjects usually don't take up much space. So, if you're shooting with too wide of a view, you're going to capture a lot of unnecessary space that you'll probably want to crop out.

Besides that, here are a couple of other tips for choosing still life photography lenses.

Close up and macro lenses will help you get creative with the perspective in your still lifes. By offering low minimum-focus distances, they'll let you get as close to your subject as you want, which results in more interesting compositions.

Telephoto lenses are a great choice for still life photography. For one, the narrow angle of view offered by telephoto lenses will help you properly fill the frame with your subject. Secondly, the extremely shallow depth of field will let you create a very specific point of focus, such as focusing on a particular part of your subject.

For example, let's say you're shooting a classic still life of a bouquet of flowers in a vase. With a telephoto lens, you could choose a particular flower as the focal point and have other flowers out of focus. In this way, a telephoto lens gives you more options to experiment with your still life compositions and achieve interesting effects.





#### Tips from professionals.

Before you start your foray into the world of still life photography, consider these tips from industry professionals:

- 1. Don't waste time. If you spend an hour or two taking one still life photo and it's good enough to move on, then you should usually listen to yourself in that moment. Because a lot of people could get to 80 per cent within that first hour and get something that they're happy with but that's not perfect. Then a lot of people will spend the next four hours working on that extra 20 per cent just to make it perfect. No photographer will ever be truly perfect, but through practice and experimentation, you can improve your skills and get better all the time.
- **2. Fuel your creativity.** Challenge your compositional skills. If you need inspiration, go back to looking at other work. Go dig through magazines. Inspiration is all around us, so don't forget to use the resources at your disposal to explore new still life ideas.
- **3. Get the right tools.** One thing that totally changes still life photography is shooting objects on a velvet background. Not crushed velvet, but real black, blue or red velvet. What that material does is it absorbs light, so you can put your still life subject in direct sunlight, but you won't see the shadows on the velvet. Keep experimenting; you might find unexpected tricks that can elevate your still life photography.

Still life photography encompasses many styles — whether it's a classic subject shot in a studio and reminiscent of Renaissance still life paintings or a grainy image of an abandoned shoe found on the footpath. Be intentional with your choices and still life can be a breeding ground for beautiful photographs and creative ideas. All that's left is for you to get started.



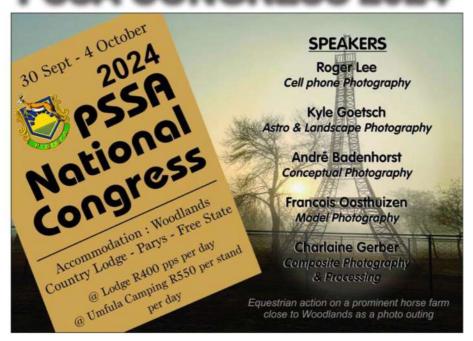
## SALON CALENDAR 2024/25

#### Calendar for year ending June 2025

| No         | Club                                | Salon Name  | Closing<br>Date |
|------------|-------------------------------------|---|-----------------|
| ALCOHOL: U | Nelspruit Photographic Society      | Nelspruit Salon   | 06/07/2024      |
|            | Edenvale Photographic Club          | 8th Danube Summer Circuit 2024                          |                 |
| 1000       | Benoni Camera Club                  |   | 15/07/2024      |
|            |                                     | 3rd Benoni Camera Club Digital Salon                    | 20/07/2024      |
|            | Witzenberg Photographic Society     | 4th Witzenberg Photographic Society National Salon 2024 | 03/08/2024      |
|            | Durban Camera Club                  | 2nd Durban Camera Club DigitalSalon                     | 17/08/2024      |
| 6          | PSSA Youth                          | 5th PSSA YOUTH National Salon 2024                      | 24/08/2024      |
| 7          | Centurion Camera Club               | 8th Centurion Camera Club Digital Salon                 | 31/08/2024      |
| 276        | AV Makers South Africa              | AV Makers National AV Salon 2024                        | 08/09/2024      |
| _          | Randburg Photo Club                 | 6th Randburg National Digital Salon                     | 14/09/2024      |
|            | Hibiscus Coast Photographic Society | 6th HCPS National Digital Salon -2025                   | 28/09/2024      |
| 11         | Tygerberq Photographic Society      | 9tn Tygerberg Digital Salon                             | 12/10/2024      |
| 12         | PSSA Up and Coming                  | PSSA 26th Up and Coming                                 | 19/10/2024      |
| 13         | Krugersdorp Kamera Klub Camera Club | Krugersdorp Camera Club 19th National Digital Salon     | 26/10/2024      |
| 14         | Springs Photographic Club           | 3rd SPC National Digital Salon                          | 09/11/2024      |
| 15         | Bethal Camera Club                  | 4th Bethal National Salon                               | 11/01/2025      |
| 16         | Western Cape Photographic Forum     | WCPF Salon for Projected Images                         | 25/01/2025      |
| 17         | AFO Fotografieklub                  | 13th National AFO salon 2A25                            | 08/02/2025      |
| 18         | Amber Camera Club                   | ACC 3rd Digital Salon                                   | 22/02/2025      |
| 19         | PSSA International Salon            | PSSA National Salon of Photography 2025                 | 08/03/2025      |
| 20         | Bosveld Fotografieklub              | 8th Bosveld Fotografieklub Salon                        | 15/03/2025      |
| 21         | Hillcrest Camera Club               | 1ST Hillcrest Camera Club Digital Salon                 | 22/03/2025      |
| 22         | Paarl Photographic Club             | 7th Paarl National Salon of Photography                 | 05/04/2025      |
| 23         | Magalies Foto Fun Club              | 9th MFFC DPI Salon 2025                                 | 19/04/2025      |
| 24         | Southern Suburbs Camera Club        | SSCC 8th National PDI Salon                             | 03/05/2025      |
| 25         | Port Elizabeth Camera Club          | PECC National Salon                                     | 17/05/2025      |
| 26         | Kriel Foto Club                     | 3rd Kriel Foto Club Salon                               | 31/05/2025      |
| 27         | Ballito Photo Club                  | 1ST Ballito Photo Club National Salon                   | 07/06/2025      |
| 28         | Tafelberg Fotografie Klub           | TAF 14th Print & PDI Salon                              | 14/06/2025      |
|            | PSSA Up and Coming                  | PSSA 27th Up and Coming                                 | 21/06/2025      |



## PSSA CONGRESS 2024



#### **PSSA National Congress 2024**

|                  |               | There might   | be minor changes to the | programme     |                |                |
|------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| Time             | Monday 30th   | Tuesday 1st   | Wednesday 2nd           | Thursday 3rd  | Friday 4th     | Saturday 5th   |
| Sunrise          | 05h50 @ 93.7' | 05h49 @ 94.2' | 05h48 @ 94.6'           | 05h47 @ 95.0' | 05h46 @ 95.5'  | 05h45 @ 95.9'  |
| Moonrise         | 04h39 @ 77.8' | 05h07 @ 84.3' | 05h34 @ 90.7'           | 06h01 @ 97.2' | 06h29 @ 103.3' | 06h59 @ 109.0' |
| Wa(n/x)ning Cres | 7.3%          | 3.1%          | New Moon                | 0.0%          | 1.2%           | 4.1%           |

| ,,,,           |   |   |  | M  |  |                       |
|----------------|---|---|--|--|--|-----------------------|
| 05h30 - 09h30  | Sunrise, Landscape and Street Photography outings.  See details of photo opportunities off site: There are farms to visit as well as many other places of interest. |   |  |  |  |                       |
| 09h45 to 10h15 |   | Coffee / Tea  | Coffee / Tea Coffee / Tea Coffee / Tea                     |  |  |                       |
| 10h15 to 10h30 |   | Announcements   | Announcements  | Announcements  | Coffee / Tea Announcements                       |                       |
| 10h30 to 11h25 |   | Roger Lee. High-<br>quality cell phone<br>Photography       | Andre Badenhorst Presentation on                           | PSSA AGM   | Landscape<br>Photography<br>Kyle Goetsch         |                       |
| 11h35 to 12h30 |   | Francois Oosthuysen -<br>Model Photography<br>(Willow Hall) | Conceptual Photography                                     | Members Forum  | PSSA Presentation                                |                       |
| 12h30 to 13h30 |   | LUNCH   | LUNCH  | LUNCH  | LUNCH  |                       |
| 13h45 to       | Registration<br>from 14h00  | Astro Photography Kyle Goetsch (Willow Hall)                | Room 1: Francois<br>Oosthuysen - Model shoot<br>processing | Room 1: Kyle Goetsch -<br>Astro Processing<br>Room 2: Francois<br>Oosthuysen - Model shoot<br>processing | FREE TIME  | Free photography time |
| 15h00          |   | Room 1: Charlaine Gerber Composite Photography              | Room 2: Andre Badenhorst<br>Conceptual Processing          | Willow Hall: Charlaine<br>Gerber Composite<br>Photography.   | FREE TIME  |                       |
| 15h00 to 18h30 | 18h30   | Sunset, Landscape and Street Photography outings.           |  |  | 18h00 - 19h00<br>Honours<br>Cheese & Wine        |                       |
| 19h00          | Dinner  | Dinner  | Dinner   | Dinner   | Banquet<br>19h00 - 22h00                         |                       |
| Sunset *       | 18h10 @ 266.1'  | 18h10 @ 265.6'  | 18h11 @ 265.2'   | 18h11 @ 264.8'   | 18h12 @ 264.3'                                   | 18h12 @ 263.9'        |
| Moonset        | 16h18 @ 279.1'  | 17h10 @ 272.5'  | 18h01 @ 265.9'   | 18h52 @ 259.6'   | 19h45 @ 253.5'                                   | 20h39 @ 248.0'        |
| 20h30 +        |   | Workshop Lightroom for beginners.                           |  | Workshop Photoshop<br>for beginners.   | 22h00 Social get<br>together at the Lapa<br>with |                       |
| BER            |   | (Charlaine Gerber)  |  | (Charlaine Gerber)   | Lion Jay.  |                       |

Camera Club

## MEMBERS WEBSITES / BLOGS VLOGS / UTUBE CHANNELS

Paul Bartho: www.bartho.blog

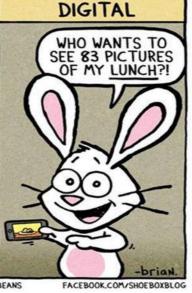
Mark Preston-Whyte: www.markpw6.wixsite.com/website-copy

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

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

# TAKING PICTURES: FILM VS DIGITAL











#### **Photographer Isn't About Photography at All**

Don't be fooled, National Geographic's new series *Photographer* isn't about analyzing images. Talk of lighting, depth of field, and good angles is minimal. Instead, it's an examination of what compels a person to do whatever it takes to get the perfect shot. They "work hard to the point of death," says fashion photographer Campbell Addy, and *Photographer* aims to illustrate why.

The docuseries, which premieres this week on National Geographic, <u>Disney+</u>, and <u>Hulu</u>, features six episodes, each one an hour-long journey into one photographer's process as they work on a particular project.

Generally, when people think of NatGeo, they imagine documentary footage of wildlife in jungles and the Australian Outback. *Photographer* has some of that traditional NatGeo style, but instead of tigers or marsupials the camera is trained on the photographers themselves. It's about watching the photographer hunt—as Krystle Wright does while chasing tornadoes—or avoid prey, like Paul Nicklen and Cristina Mittermeier do while capturing big oil rigs.

Each episode starts with a specific assignment and then goes deeper into the personal lives of the photographer. Mental health is a frequent topic. Love, too: love of family, the ocean, the thrill. Love for that exact moment when they know they got the shot. *Photographer's* mission, really, isn't to show you beautiful photos; it's to show you what it took to get them.

Insecurity also prevails. So does obsession with getting it perfect. They have a vision from the start. "Is it good enough?"

NatGeo's new show also goes deep on just how wrong a photoshoot can go. In science photographer Anand Varma's episode, he struggles with a time lapse of a hatching chick. Addy finds himself contending with his first solo exhibition. Despite this, they both emphasize they must get their client, sitting comfortably distant from the hassles—what they want.

There are so many similarities in these episodes, even though the genres of each photographer vary, from war to wildlife to celebrity portraits. These artists want perfection, and not just for their client but for their own sense of self, so they can move on to the next project in peace.





# Here's what photographers (and other people in the know) have to say about the importance of pictures with news

Photos can often give you an edge when a journalist is looking for a story. How do you get a great story noticed in the paper, website and across social media channels if there isn't an eye-catching photo to illustrate it?

#### Most of what we remember comes from visuals.

Ninety per cent of information transmitted to the brain is visual. Visuals are processed 60,000 times faster than text. Having a good photo or collection of images can make all the difference between a small, text-based story — which the reader could easily miss — and a longer feature, with lots of eye-catching images for maximum impact.

#### Pictures become a resource you can use for a long time.

Investing in a good image library is so worth it, irrespective of the size of the business, as once they have them, they can be used and repurposed in many ways.

#### Photographers see things other people don't.

Good photographs can be used over and over for many applications and companies should understand or at least try and understand the emphasis which a professional photographer can make by his handling of the subject and lighting. None of this can be done with a phone. Most people are not aware of what is in the frame - look at all those coats on the backs of chairs. Why is that bin in the picture? Why aren't people straightening their ties? Why is that mop bucket leaning against the window? People just don't see these things, so how can they create great photographs?

#### Photos make a first impression.

Images convey thought and emotion whilst communicating a narrative in a way which words on their own can sometimes lack. Good images are an important part of a business's arsenal and should be considered a crucial business asset in helping businesses win customers and give them a bargaining tool to use when trying to catch the eye of a news editor or collaborating with other brands and businesses.

#### Pictures say something about your brand.

Images go a long way to defining an organisation's brand and any that don't use professionals put themselves at a serious disadvantage to their competition. If your business story needs a picture, it deserves a great and appropriate one, not a quick snap by the office junior or a stock image off the web.



## NEWS AND VIEWS

#### Photos jump out you on social media.

So often you look down your FB feed and feel uninspired...then a powerful photo or image will grab your attention and make you stop and read. People love looking at photos, the easiest and best way to advertise.

#### Every great image has stories to tell.

Even when time and space conspire to restrict us to a single moment within a single frame, we strive for results that transcend these restrictions. The "truth" or "reality" of the moment in which it is taken doesn't actually matter.

#### Give it some thought!







## THE MAMBA CHALLENGE IS OPEN

2024



Full editing/creativity allowed. Colour or Mono.

All elements must be the photographers own work.

Date limitation: photos must be dated from 1 June 2024.





## ACC NORTH VS ACC SOUTH

We have been invited to enter into a competition, maybe to be every year, to be between Antrim camera Club, in Ireland and our very own Amber camera Club, South Africa.

The following is the layout for the first competition and this can be changed for future.

- a) Scapes (Colour or Mono) -Land, Sea, City, Astral, etc. Digital manipulation allowed.
- b) Street and Travel (Colour or Mono). No Digital manipulation allowed.
- c) Still Life / Tabletop (Colour or Mono). Digital manipulation allowed.
- d) Open Mono. Digital manipulation allowed.

#### Important Dates: -

#### Comp opens 1 Sept, closes 31 Dec 2024.

Club selection of images and uploading to Photovaultonline.com by mid Jan (15<sup>th</sup>).

Link to download images and score sheets sent to judges (1 SA, 1 NI). Judges scores returned to host club by 31 Jan. Judges to provide their top three images in each category for Certificates.

Scores tallied and results announced by host club in Week 1 of February. Certificates emailed to clubs by Mid Feb.

Rule for Street and Travel will be current PSA/FIAP/RPS/PSSA where DM not allowed.

The entries per category will be limited to 10 each, ie a total of 40 images over the 4 categories per club.

The maximum number of entries per any one member in a category for club selection would be limited to 2 of the 10 per category in total.



## LET'S NOT FORGET!!

#### **MONTHLY MEETING - 17TH SEPTEMBER**

# MONTHLY WORKSHOP 21ST SEPTEMBER @ 2.00pm TO BE ANNOUNCED ON WHATSAPP LATER

MIDLANDS MEANDER COMPETITION SEPTEMBER - SPRING INTO SPRING (SCENIC)

THE MAMBA CHALLENGE

**ACC NORTH VS ACC SOUTH** 

