



HPS Newsletter - December, 2024

1954 to 2024
70 YEARS

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/helderbergphoto/

Member of PSSA: <http://www.pssa.co.za>

United Church: 28 Bright Street, Somerset West, 7130

Meeting: Second Tuesday of Each Month @ 19h15

YEAR END GALA ISSUE

HPS CELEBRATES ITS 70TH ANNIVERSARY



Images of Gala Evening - Thanks To
Wessel and Marelize



Somerset Mall 021 852 6737





FROM THE CHAIR

I cannot believe how fast this year has flown by – is it because I am getting older? All of a sudden the 70th Anniversary of the Club landed in our laps, and if it hadn't been for massive help from our members, it would have been a sorry spectacle indeed. If I was to write down names of those who were involved, I would surely miss someone out, so THANK YOU TO EVERYONE who managed to come. The eats and drinks seemed to be to everyone's liking, although it was such a warm evening we could have had loads more cold water!!!

There were 13 entrants in the Special Projects exercise – wonderful interpretations of a chosen subject – I think we could do this again next year...

The highlight of the evening were the Audio Visuals which were made by Irmel, showing members and their escapades over the years. Lots of fun trying to recognise even present day members!

Our first Outing will take place at the Stellenbosch Botanical Garden on Friday 10th January – the Garden opens at 8.00am – but be there by 9.00am for the early light – bring water and a hat!

Our first Club Meeting will take place on Tuesday 14th January – I hope many of you will enter your images on 'The Beach' via Photo Vault. Stephen Roodt has already set up our Photo Vault submissions page for 2025 ... due date for images is 10th January.



I wish all our members and their families a Blessed Christmas, and a smooth slide into the New Year.

Keep those cameras handy!

Cheers,

Nettie

FROM THE CHAIR (CONTINUED)

Message From Freeman Patterson

Thank you very much for this letter, NETTIE.

As I read the names of people whom you expect to be at the 10 Dec. meeting or are in the club, but won't be able to attend, I immediately thought of each of them sharing this experience or that with me. Please give my congratulations and warmest good wishes to everybody attending on the 10th and to others, such as Paddy, Kina, and Wicus.

I hope to see many of you next August at the PSSA convention, when I'll be making two presentations – one on the Flora and Ecology of Namaqualand. I've been there for the bloom both this year and last and both years it was "over the moon." Of course I don't run up to Namaqualand for just a week end, but explore all the back roads and can judge where to go or when to return. My shortest visit ever in flower season was two weeks. Although Annelise LeRoux and her accompanying photographer, Zelda, will have photographed more species than I, I'm sure that I have more photographs of Namaqualand in bloom than anyone else. Last year was my 46th visit to Namaqualand, more than 30 visits having been during the spring bloom.

Nettie, thank you again. It was very kind of you to write me.

Sincerely, FREEMAN

Message From Nicol du Toit

Dear Nettie and Peter,

Thank you for forwarding your November newsletter to us. We are just a concerned that Peter's insert about the 2025 PSSA Struisbaai congress would discourage members from further interest in the congress and that they would therefore miss out on the opportunity of attending some fantastic lectures, outings and photo opportunities – including two lectures by your Honorary Life Member Freeman Patterson. We'll appreciate it very much if you could please place a correction, perhaps something as below?

The 2025 PSSA National Congress in Struisbaai 11-15 August 2025

I am not sure where the misunderstanding arose that 2025 PSSA National Congress was going to be a Cape Photographers' Congress, as reported in the Helderberg newsletters. Nicol and Trudi du Toit have been planning this national congress since the end of 2023 on behalf of the Cape Town Photographic Society (CTPS), who'll host it to celebrate their 135th anniversary in 2025. It was never going to be a Cape Photographers' congress (which would have had cost implications for PSSA and the hosts, CTPS).

FROM THE CHAIR (CONTINUED)

The editorial from your newsletter of November 2024 below is therefore incorrect:

In the July 2024 HPS Newsletter, it was stated that a Cape Photographers Congress was planned to be held in Struisbaai in August 2025. Since then, it has been decided that this will be the annual PSSA Congress, rather than a combined congress (has cost implications for loyal Cape Photographers who are not PSSA Members).

You also state: Unfortunately, the dates conflict with the HPS Competition Meeting of that month.

The congress will start on Monday 11 August (registration and opening), followed by four full days of exceptional speakers, exciting outings, workshops and photo-opportunities, ending with the Honours Awards Banquet on the evening of 15 August. Among the highlights will be two presentations by Helderberg Photographic Society's Honorary Member, Freeman Patterson, from Canada. In between there will be plenty of opportunities for photoshoots, socialising and enjoying the company of photographers who share your passion.

The Congress Programme and information will soon be posted on the PSSA website. We would like to urge Helderberg members to try and attend at least a day or two of the congress that will not clash with your competition meeting. We promise you, you won't regret it! We'd love to welcome you there!

Unfortunately, we shall no longer be able to attend your 70th Anniversary Celebrations on the 10th. We wish you best of luck with the event.

Kind regards

Trudi and Nicol du Toit

Sincere apologies from the HPS Newsletter Editor for the abovementioned misunderstandings! [Editor]

Important Announcements

The HPS Annual General Meeting will take place at the first meeting of the New Year. This will be held on Tuesday 14 January, 2025.

This AGM is important, in that many changes are envisaged. Please do make an effort to attend.

FUTURE SET SUBJECTS

2025 Set Subjects List

MONTH (2025)	DATE	MEETING	SET SUBJECT
January	14/1/2025	Competition	The Beach
February	4/2/2025	B&W	The Progress of Time
February	11/2/2025	Competition	The Progress of Time
March	11/3/2025	Competition	Street Photography
April	1/4/2025	B&W	Macro
April	8/4/2025	Competition	Macro
May	13/5/2025	Competition	A South African Landscape
June	3/6/2025	B&W	Abstract
June	10/6/2025	Competition	Abstract
July	8/7/2025	Competition	Humour
August	5/8/2025	B&W	Creatures
August	12/8/2025	Competition	Creatures
September	9/9/2025	Competition	Movement
October	7/10/2025	B&W	Bokeh
October	14/10/2025	Competition	Bokeh
November	11/11/2025	Competition	A Colour, or Colours
December	2/12/2025	B&W	Light and Shade
December	9/12/2025	GALA evening	

The Set Subject for January, 2025, (The Beach) was discussed in the HPS Newsletter of December 2024.

FUTURE SET SUBJECTS (CONTINUED)

Set Subject for February - The Progress of Time

As usual these days, I put the question to ChatGPT. Unfortunately, it came up with a multi-image project approach, which largely envisaged taking multiple images at different life stages. So, I further clarified the question, and below is the outcome.

- Q.** Our camera club has a set-subject titled "The progress of time". What ideas can you provide as an approach to this photographic topic in a single image?
- A.** "The Progress of Time" is a rich and evocative theme with many creative possibilities. Here are some conceptual and practical approaches you could consider for your photograph:

Natural Elements and Change

Erosion of Landscapes: Photograph a cliff face or rocky coastline showing the effects of erosion, symbolizing the slow but inevitable passage of time.

Weathered Trees: Capture a twisted, weather-beaten tree that has clearly endured the elements for years. Contrast it with a young sapling nearby.

Seasonal Change: Use a location with deciduous trees and shoot during autumn when leaves are falling. You can also stage this by collecting leaves in various stages of decay.

Dried Riverbeds: A parched riverbed can powerfully symbolize the impact of time on the environment.

People and Ageing

Portrait of Generations: Take a portrait of three generations (child, parent, grandparent) in one frame. Position them in a way that reflects the passage of life.

Hands of Time: A close-up of hands — a child's smooth hand touching the wrinkled hand of an elder — offers a powerful symbol of time's passage.

Personal Belongings: Photograph a collection of personal items from different life stages (baby shoes, school bag, wedding ring, walking cane).

Man-Made Structures and Decay

Ruins and Abandonment: Abandoned buildings, factories, or rusted vehicles left to decay convey the slow march of time.

Old vs. New Architecture: Capture a juxtaposition of old heritage buildings with modern skyscrapers looming behind.

FUTURE SET SUBJECTS (CONTINUED)

Fading Signage: Find a shop sign, advertising billboard, or mural that has faded with age, symbolizing how time leaves its mark.

Conceptual and Symbolic Ideas

Timepieces: Use clocks, watches, or even a sun-dial to represent time. A broken clock, or one showing a specific "meaningful" time, adds depth.

Shadows and Sunlight: Create a timelapse-like effect by capturing the shifting position of shadows. This could be done in-camera or staged with artificial light.

Hourglass Metaphor: An hourglass with sand running out is a classic but effective representation. A creative twist would be to position it in an unexpected context (like on a beach, surrounded by waves).

Nature's Life Cycles

Flower to Seed: Capture the stages of a flower's life — from bud to bloom to withering petal — in one frame using depth of field or multiple exposures.

Animal Maturity: Photograph an insect's life cycle (e.g., caterpillar to butterfly) or document the life stages of an animal (chicks, fledglings, adult birds).

The Concept of Movement and Time-Lapse in a Single Frame

Long Exposure Trails: Show movement to symbolize time, like star trails, car light trails, or people walking through a space while one person stays still.

Multiple Exposures in One Image: Create a composite of the same person moving through different actions (like walking down a path).

Blurred Motion: Use intentional camera movement (ICM) or slow shutter speeds to capture the "flow" of time in an abstract way.

Artistic and Abstract Approaches

Fragments of Time: Use creative in-camera multiple exposures to merge images that represent different "moments" of time within a single frame.

Time Collage: Assemble parts of a scene with noticeable time differences, such as people in different positions, clouds moving, or waves crashing.

Distorted Reflections: Use reflective surfaces like cracked glass or rippling water to distort an image, symbolizing the fluid and unpredictable nature of time.

These ideas can be adapted to suit your photography style, perhaps by focusing on natural elements, weathering, or shadow movement. Enjoy yourself!

AUDIO VISUALS



Irmel provided us with some history from the HPS past. At the time, slides were the order of the day! [Editor]

Dr Marie Coetzee, medical Doctor in the Navy, has been our HPS Newsletter editor for many years. Some extracts from the HPS Newsletter April 1993:

Audio Visual Presentations - Getting started

A-Vs are extensively used in the entertainment, educational and commercial fields. Basically, it is any combination of sound and visual images.

It also occurs in the natural world. When you listen to the sounds of the ocean and at the same time look at the ever-moving ocean you are enjoying the most magnificent A-V of them all and... it is all for free! Keep this thought in mind when you are putting an A-V together and you won't go far wrong. Let it flow in your mind to capture the thoughts and feelings of the theme you have chosen.

An A-V is very much like a visual essay, it should tell a story or convey a message. It needs some sort of introduction then a build-up which will serve as the main content and an end which doesn't leave you hanging in the air.

The most important part in the production of an A-V is the choice of the theme and the music. A question that is often asked is which comes first, the music or the images. The order varies in individuals, but it can also vary in the same person. I have been living with a piece of music in my mind for more than a year and still don't know what I am going to do with it. At other times I search and search for the perfect piece of music and it never seems to turn up. Sometimes it miraculously just works right from the beginning.

I have always enjoyed putting short series of slides together. Anything from 5 to 20 slides will do and I have found that it has been a very good way to practise. It is like starting in a small way and gaining confidence to gradually continue to more intricate sequences. You learn to match up images. You start to think about comparing the different degrees of saturation (exposure) or the hues. You will automatically start mixing and matching, changing around and just generally playing around with the order. You will also start doing this when you are out photographing, you will think as you work. How will this picture follow on? Will this one be a good start? How can I end my little story? From small beginnings....

Anyone who is interested and would like to get to know more about creating AVs, you are more than welcome to contact a member of the AV group or myself, join us for an outing, meeting or workshop.

*As Marie mentioned in another article: **Just get started!***

Irmel 0823729824 irmel@avcreations.co.za

OUTINGS

Outing to Stellenbosch Botanical Gardens

To start off the year, we will be having an outing to the Stellenbosch Botanical Garden on Friday 10th January ... The Garden opens at 8.00am. In order to catch that early morning light I would recommend arriving there by 9.00am at the latest.

The idea is to photograph the lotus flowers in the pond ... lovely macro potential there.

Plus, reflections, plants and flowers.

The new restaurant will be given a try out!

Hope to see you on the 10th December !!!

Best regards,

Nettie

15 November, 2024



Images above from Stellenbosch Botanical Garden by Editor.



EDITOR'S COMMENT

Start Using Photoshop

One thing a few HPS members have asked in the past is, if it's possible for me to give a beginner's course on Photoshop. The answer is NO! I am not a good teacher; and I don't have enough time to devote to doing the task properly. So, that started me thinking about alternatives.

As you folks know by now, I am a great fan of the Blake Rudis teachings on Photoshop techniques, and photographic artwork. Blake is a good teacher, and he provides many useful free videos on his site - [F64 Academy](#). Blake also offers a course "Master Photoshop in 30 Days", which is available to those who subscribe to his F64 Elite Members Group. While it is unlikely that anyone can become a master in 30 Days, I imagine it could quite well be a good starting place. However, I don't know this for sure, since I have never looked at the course.

Over the past few years, Blake has been a lecturer on the annual [Photoshop Virtual Summit](#), put together by [Dave Cross](#). Since having been invited by Blake a few years back, I have viewed most of these annual events (one was aimed at video, which isn't my scene). This year was no exception.

To view the summit live sessions, one must be registered. Since the sessions take place in daytime USA, it is not an easy matter to view the live performances; but videos of the sessions may be viewed afterwards. Dave is really trying to make a business out of it, and so would like you to pay to become a VIP Member. This allows you to view the videos forever, plus you get some freebies from some of the lecturers. However, if you don't become a VIP, you can still view the videos for free, although they are only available to view for about 48 hours after each lecture. This is what I do (= cheapskate!).

While I'm about it, I also make a copy of a few lectures which interest me; where there is something serious that I might learn. I imagine that this isn't strictly legitimate, but it is really for my own personal use. Now, back to the 2024 Summit.

I probably first learnt about [Sebastian Michael's "Living the PhotoArtistic Life"](#) magazine from one of these Summits. This is an artsy-based monthly magazine, which may be downloaded for free. The images tend to be a bit over-the-top for my tastes, but I find the magazines a great source of ideas for images that I might wish to attempt. I have a local collection of all of the magazines, and now download the latest copy every month.

Watching this year's course by Sebastian Michaels, I was struck by the thought that, although the intent is to lead up to some



EDITOR'S COMMENT (CONTINUED)

really creative Photoshop work, his explanations and style of teaching probably make for a gentle and interesting introduction to Photoshop. Obviously, the whole reason for his lecture is to get you to join his paying group of student photo-artists, which you may or may not do. Anyway, I made myself a copy of his lecture this year.

Towards the end of Sebastian's lecture, he added an offer. "[Click here to Get Lifetime Access to This New Training – Totally FREE!](#)". I clicked there, and much to my surprise (not being a VIP Member), I got into the advertised short course. I registered, and went through it fairly quickly. I found it fairly interesting as a basic Photoshop course, with an underlying more serious target. I particularly liked the (1-hour-plus) free video at the conclusion of the course. (I also made a copy of that, of course!)

As far as I can see, if you open the link above, you too will be able to register for Sebastian's free introductory course, and may start working through it. If you want to set out on your Photoshop adventure, this is possibly an interesting and fun way to go.

I suggest that you go through the course at a slower pace than I did. Understand each lesson, before you move on to the next section.

The ultimate aim of Sebastian's work is, to get you to use Photoshop techniques to bring out the artist in you. There is already an artist inside you, or else you wouldn't be a member of a camera club. But art means different things to different people. I personally regard most of the work seen in "Living the Photoartistic Life" magazine as being too over-the-top for my taste. But this does not mean that I do not use the same, or similar, Photoshop methods. The difference is, how strongly one applies such methods.

At the end of the day, we each have our own tastes, and it is up to each of us to decide what suits our own artistic vision. Have Fun!

ODS & ENDS

PSSA Congress - Struisbaai

As mentioned on Pages 5 & 6 of this Newsletter, this congress will be held in Struisbaai from Monday 11 August to Friday 15 August, 2025. Also mentioned above, is that [Freeman Patterson](#) will be attending and providing two lectures.

When I first started club photography back in the late 1970's, I purchased a few books on the subject. My two favourite books were written by Freeman; and his "[Photography For The Joy Of It](#)" became my go-to source of inspiration for the decades thereafter. Although I was very interested in technical aspects at the time (lens design, film types, etc.), this book tended to concentrate on the artistic value of the image and, ultimately, this has become the most important part of my photography.

Details of the Struisbaai Congress have not yet appeared on the PSSA website, but when it does, we will be registering!

ODS & ENDS (CONTINUED)



Freeman Patterson Hon FPSSA, the globally acclaimed Canadian photographer who has made South Africa his "second home" over the past 50 years will be joining us and sharing his love of Namaqualand with us - The Flora and Ecology of Namaqualand. His second presentation will be The Vital Distinction between Art and Craft.



The impressive list of expert presenters ensures that a wide variety of topics and genres will be covered – Fallacies of Club Judging - Dance – Nature – Portraiture – Landscapes – Coastal – Food Photography ensuring that there will be something of interest for everybody.



ODS & ENDS (CONTINUED)



MERRY XMAS
&
HAPPY NEW YEAR

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