

e FLASH



MARCH 2025

[WWW.PRETORIAPHOTOGRAPHIC.CO.ZA](http://WWW.PRETORIAPHOTOGRAPHIC.CO.ZA)



Polished by the wind  
Pine Pienaar

Rusted Ring  
Linda Martin



Eye to eye  
George Stevens



**PRETORIA PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY**

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

**Photo-Vault-Online Entries**

[www.photovaultonline.com](http://www.photovaultonline.com)

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ORGANISATION	WEB-SITE LINK
Steve's Digicams (Reviews)	<a href="http://www.steves-digicams.com">www.steves-digicams.com</a>
Digital photography review	<a href="http://www.dpreview.com">www.dpreview.com</a>
Photoanswers (Practical Photography)	<a href="http://www.photoanswers.co.uk">www.photoanswers.co.uk</a>



PPS is affiliated with PSSA

# FLASH

INDEX	page
WHAT'S HAPPENING	3
PROMOTIONS	3
END OF YEAR CATEGORIES	4
SET SUBJECTS 2025	5
ENTRIES FOR CLUB COMPETITONS	5
RULES FOR OUTINGS AND INNINGS	5
SERVICE TO THE CLUB	5
NATIONAL SALON DATES	6
SALON ACCEPTANCES	7
OUTDOOR PHOTO ADVERTISEMENT	8
PRESIDENT'S PAGE: Thelma v.d. Schyff POINT AND SHOOT DAYS..... OH, POINT AND SHOOT DAYS	9
PHOTOGRAPHS: Winners February 2025	13
ARTICLES: Camera Bag Essentials - Found by Linda Martin	22
PPS BIRTHDAY LIST	28

## NEW MEMBERS

Pine Pienaar our Vice President is the contact for answers on new membership and the workings of the Pretoria Photographic Society. Contact Pine at [pienaar459@gmail.com](mailto:pienaar459@gmail.com)  
As per usual, the annual subscription fees are reduced by half for members who join after March.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

<b>4 March 2025</b> <b>Hybrid meeting</b>	Photo Café Meeting@ NG Church Lynwood Sussex Avenue 18H30
<b>18 March 2025</b> <b>Hybrid meeting</b>	Formal Meeting @ NG Church Lynwood Sussex Avenue 18H30
<b>Judges:</b> February 2025	John Tapuch Chantelle J. van Rensburg Johan Steyn (AFO)

## PROMOTIONS

Boshoff Steenekamp 3\* to 4\*

CONGRATULATIONS!!!!!!

PLEASE REMEMBER when you receive a promotion to update the Star Level on PhotovaultOnline before your next entry. These levels should just be a single digit: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.

### KNOWING YOUR STATUS IN STAR RATING

Photovault can now generate this information. Please verify your rating to ensure that Photovault is correct. Please contact Sonja de Klerk at [sonsdeklerk@gmail.com](mailto:sonsdeklerk@gmail.com)

## END OF YEAR CATEGORIES 2025

The competition categories for the Junior and Senior streams are:

Landscapes	Outdoors scenes, seascapes, urban/cityscapes.
Visual Art Photography	Achieving an artistic effect through application of creative techniques.
Nature	Living, natural organisms (undomesticated) in their natural habitats. Plants and animals included. <b>Excluded:</b> Scenic/ landscapes/ cityscapes. <b><i>Images may not be manipulated and must conform to the PSSA Ethical Guidelines</i></b>
Macro and Floral	Includes both <b>Macro</b> (Close-up pictures of any subjects) and <b>Floral</b> (Flowers in their natural state or under controlled conditions)
Photojournalism	Newsworthy, story-telling pictures including sport. <b><i>Images may not be manipulated</i></b>
Portraits	Includes both Animal and Human portraits.
Pictorial	Open category. It includes Architecture.
Monochrome	In this category the subject is totally open. Colour images will be disqualified.
Best of the Year	All category winners will compete automatically
Most Versatile Author	Entrants shall submit a panel of five (5) images each selected from five (5) different categories.
Most Golds and COM's	The member who achieved the most Gold and COM awards in monthly competitions, as recorded in the results of the competitions
Article for e-flash	Most articles written for the e-Flash

SET SUBJECTS 2025		
MONTH	SET SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION
JANUARY	Rust	Own interpretation
FEBRUARY	Tattoos	Own interpretation
MARCH	Self-portrait telling us something of interest about you	
APRIL	Slow shutter speed	Own interpretation
MAY	Still life with something old/vintage	
JUNE	Emotions (Life, death, joy, anger)	
JULY	Creative – portray the title of a song from the 70's/80's	
AUGUST	Seasons	Own interpretation
SEPTEMBER	Abstract nature with rocks/sand patterns	
OCTOBER	Product photography for a commercial	

MONTHLY ENTRIES FOR CLUB COMPETITIONS:	
<p><b>Dear PPS club members</b> When entering your photos for the formal evenings, could you please remember the following: Only members who have judged the previous month are allowed to enter more images.</p> <p>You are allowed <b>one entry</b> in the <b>SET SUBJECT</b></p>	<p>and <b>four entries</b> in either of the following categories:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>VISUAL ART</b></li> <li>2. <b>NATURE OR PJ</b> according to PSSA rules</li> <li>3. <b>OPEN</b> – Manipulation allowed</li> </ol>

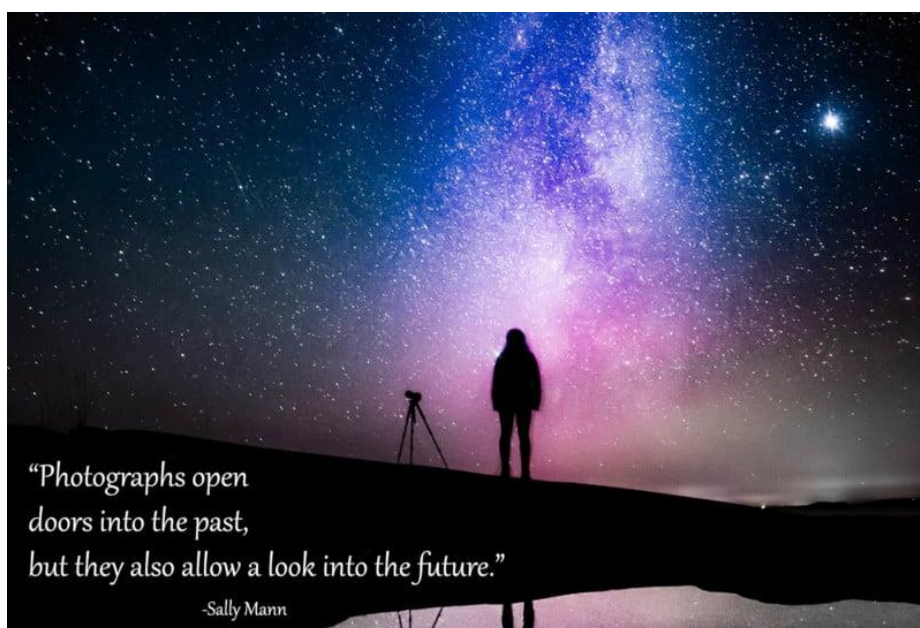
SERVICE TO THE CLUB:	
<p>You can serve the club by providing two or more of the services listed below throughout the year. Remember you must provide <b>regular</b> service to the club for it to qualify.</p>	
<p><b>List of services:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Judging at the monthly competitions.</li> <li>• Writing articles for the e-Flash.</li> <li>• Writing tutorials for the e-Flash.</li> <li>• Assisting with / hosting outings.</li> <li>• Assisting with / hosting workshops.</li> <li>• Assisting with / hosting tutorials.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing snacks and refreshments for informal meetings.</li> <li>• Organising a speaker or speaking yourself for either the informal or formal meetings.</li> <li>• Photographing the year-end function.</li> <li>• Organising the end of year function.</li> </ul>



NATIONAL SALON DATES	2024/2025
PSSA National Salon of Photography	8 March 2025
8 <sup>th</sup> Bosveld Fotografieklub Salon	15 March 2025
1 <sup>st</sup> Hillcrest Camera Club Digital Salon	22 March 2025
7 <sup>th</sup> Paarl National Salon	5 April 2025
9 <sup>th</sup> MFFC PDI Salon	19 April 2025
SSCC 8 <sup>th</sup> National Salon	3 May 2025
PECC National Salon	17 May 2025
3 <sup>rd</sup> Kriel Foto Klub Salon	31 May 2025
1 <sup>st</sup> Ballito Photo Club Salon	7 June 2025
TAF 14 <sup>th</sup> Print & PDI Salon	14 June 2025
PSSA 27 <sup>th</sup> UP & Coming Salon	21 June 2025
Visit <a href="http://www.pssa.co.za">www.pssa.co.za</a> for more information and entry forms.	

All salon results administered by Photovault are registered automatically by the system. Please ensure correctness of your details in Photovault regularly. Those salons, not using Photovault still need to be captured manually. Contact Sonja de Klerk if there are any discrepancies, at [ppsannouncements@gmail.com](mailto:ppsannouncements@gmail.com)

We would like to motivate all members to take part in the PSSA salon and international scene where possible. Advancement from 3-star and 4-star require a few salon acceptances. The salon acceptances that are used to calculate promotions have a cut-off date 14 days before the meeting, to allow the competition secretary to update files. Acceptances after this date will be considered the next month.



**SALON ACCEPTANCES**

**Western Cape Photo Forum PDI & Print Salon**

**Giuseppe Carbonatto**

Morning Glory  
Perfect formation  
Dunes  
Inquisitive



Vulture



A renovators dream

**Lloyd Munday**

Canoes at Dawn

**Casper van Eck**

Misty Rays

**Sonja De Klerk**

In a rainbow  
Pear opera  
Spill the beans



Certificate of Merit Say aaa

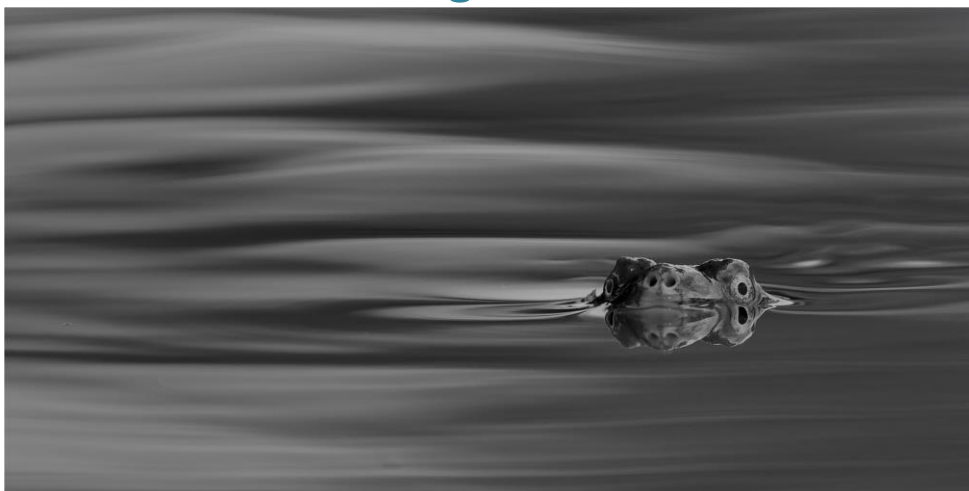
**Santie van Eck**

Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque  
Simplicity  
Lets Pray  
The Beauty of the Dragon  
Dubai City of Distinction

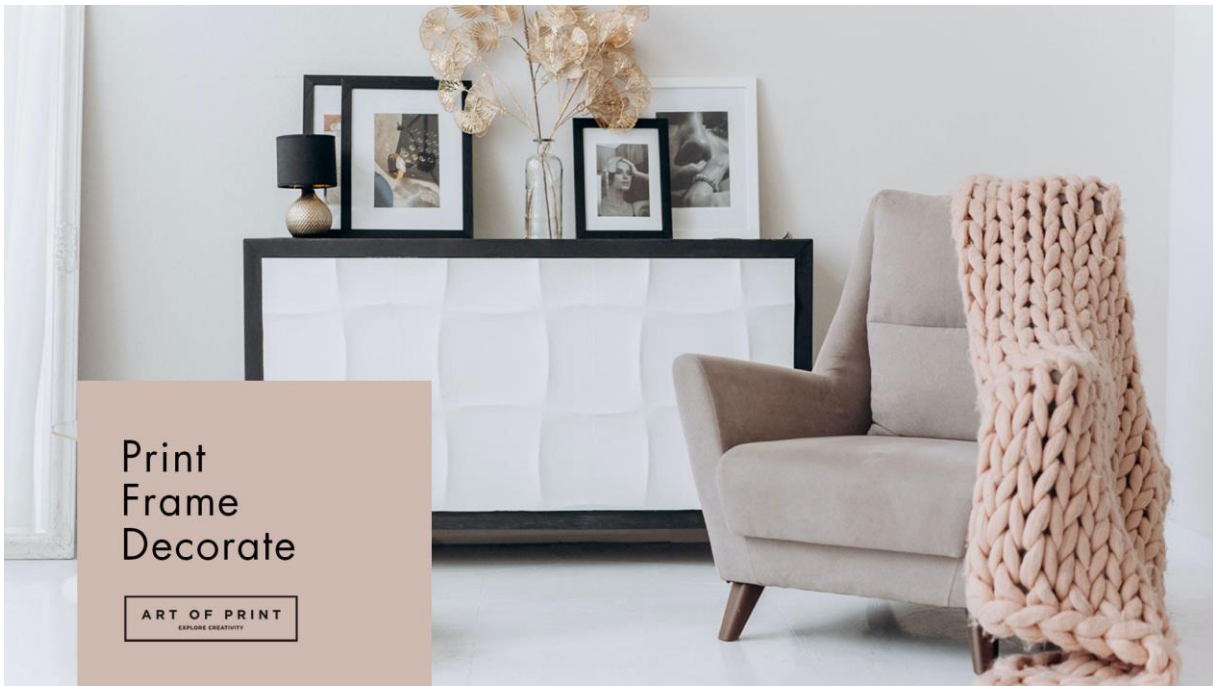


How small we are

Senior winner PPS Monthly competition – Giuseppe Carbonatto with Scanning the surface



# Outdoor Photo:



Contact Nr: (012) 348 3693/[www.outdoorphoto.co.za](http://www.outdoorphoto.co.za)



# President's Page - Thelma van der Schyff

## POINT AND SHOOT DAYS..... OH, POINT AND SHOOT DAYS

Hello, all my enthusiastic fellow photographers.

I am going down memory lane for a bit.

I remember my first camera in the year nineteen something and a half.

It was a Kodak Instamatic with a pop-up flash holder in which I inserted my tiny flash bulb. It could only be used once then it went into the dust bin. Later I upgraded to another Kodak taking a flash cube – four bulbs on the four sides! I would buy them from a camera shop in Arcadia Centre run by a Japanese guy.

I am astonished today when I look at those photos in my album and see the small size and funny colour in developing.

Jump into the future with a giant leap and see the progress. The camera in your hand has evolved from an instrument recording what is in front of it, to another major mean machine that you can manipulate and set up to give results that boggle the mind. Ok, not me personally, as I am still on a steep learning curve. I am talking about the accomplished artist-photographers who have everything mastered.

Today we can freeze water showing drops of water crisp and clear. Also, we can use slow shutter speed to give us milky water in a waterfall, or water as smooth as a mirror.

Slow shutter speed is handy when you encounter low light conditions. This way you allow more light to pass through the lens, which help to illuminate darker areas. So, it will soften waves and flowing water in a landscape. I hesitate to tell you what to do with your settings. I will just give a very basic summary:

Silky smooth effect at the bottom of a waterfall:

- 1/8 to 12 seconds – to add a slight sense of movement.

- 15 to 30 seconds – to blur the water movement completely.
- 30 seconds+ – to smooth out the moving water.



Slow shutter speed can also be very effective in creating blur. However, I had to rethink slow shutter speed and admit it doesn't only apply to water.

Similarly, it can be used to blur moving objects. That can include people, cars, ferris wheels, puppies..... the scope is endless.



I am particularly interested in this ferris wheel. Up to now I have not been able to get something worthwhile. The one in Cape Town Waterfront is surrounded with buildings and trees. The wheel is always only partially visible for a camera shot. I could not resist to place a photo below of said wheel showing the challenge.



A favourite use of slow shutter speed is when doing panning.



This technique adds a great background and lets the main subject be the star. Blur is great when it captures the movement occurring in a photo. Photoshop even includes a filter called “motion blur” to recreate this effect if you missed it while taking the photograph. Find a scene that could appropriately benefit from motion blur and experiment. In the photo above, the shutter speed is just slow enough to get the movement of the carousel, but fast enough to not record movement of the kids in the foreground (1/20 second).

It requires a tripod to get the desired effect. When you left home without your tripod, be creative – look for any stable platform that can be used as a makeshift tripod. There will always be downed trees, fence posts, boulders, and even a camera bag to steady the camera in a pinch.

A favourite of mine is light trails. You show how that light moves across the frame. Light trail photography creates art from moving lights, like car headlights and rear lights, headlamps, streetlamps, streetlights and even bike lights.

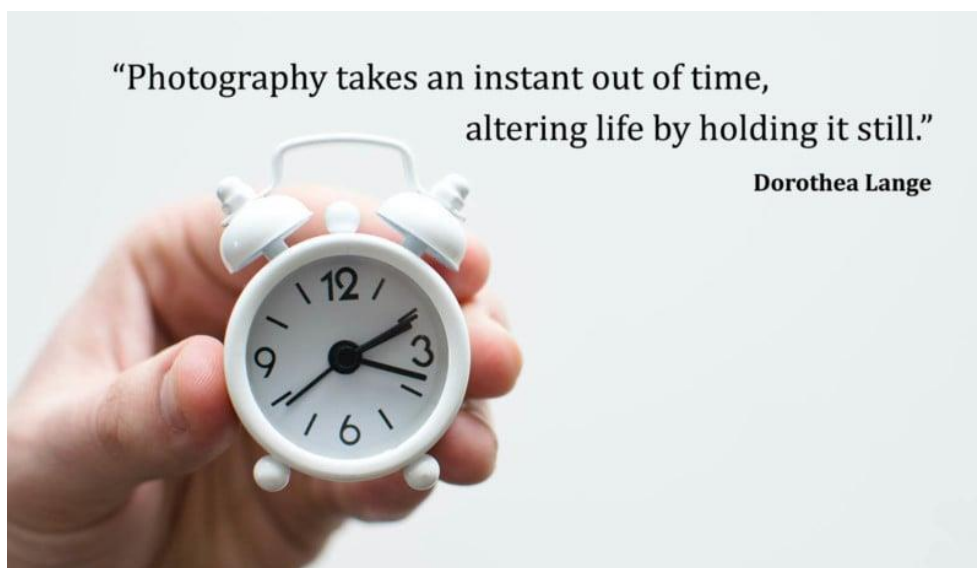
You can move a torch to create lines in the air, called light painting, but the most common depiction of light trail photography is on a highway. The headlights or rear lights of a vehicle provide beautiful flowing lines. Light trails do not exist in real life. They are an illusion, but what a wonderful illusion to create. Typical vantage points are above highway overpasses or motorways, a mountain pass, rooftops, or high floors of buildings. Consider your composition and framing as you search for the perfect angle.



Our set subject category is a little challenge that comes your way. It is of great value to take a photo specifically. The idea is not to go into your archives and find something that possibly might work on a specific topic. Be inspired and creative. Let the ideas roll over you like a freight train, or if the description does not appeal to you, let your creativity fall softly around you like fairy dust. I am looking forward to your images on slow shutter speed. So, hurry up, be quick and take a slow photo.

Till next time

Thelma





# Winning Images February 2025



*Best 1 Star:  
Taboo  
Kagiso Langa*

*Best 2 Star:  
Tattoo  
Petra Haselmaier*





*Best 3 Star:  
& Best Junior:  
Vulture rescue  
Carina Munday*

*Best 4 Star:  
Watchful Pair  
Lloyd Munday*







*Best 5 Star, COM  
Best Nature & PJ  
Best Senior:  
Scanning the surface  
Giuseppe Carbonatto*

*Best Visual Art:  
Out of the ashes  
Gerrit van Rooyen*



## Good Open & Nature:



*What is that  
Mary-Ann Costello*

*COM Nature & PJ*

*I am blue for you  
Santie van Eck*







*Best Open:  
One lily leaf  
Johan Hosten*

*COM Open:  
Dune and mountain  
Johan Hosten*





*Sleeping partner  
Sonja de Klerk*



*I am not sharing  
Sonja de Klerk*



*New born  
Giuseppe Carbonatto*





*Rust*  
*Ann Roberts*



*Steamy morning*  
*Ann Roberts*





*Incoming tide*  
*Johan Hosten*

*This is the day*  
*Santie van Eck*





## Good Set Subjects:



*Best Set Subject  
Two Tattoos  
Johan Hosten*



*Good Set Subject  
Impressive tattoos  
Karin du Toit*



*Italian  
dream machine  
Giuseppe Carbonatto*



*East Asia  
vs WW2  
Giel du Toit*

# Articles:

## Camera Bag Essentials - Found By Linda Martin

Articles of this nature always catch my attention

For one, do I possess all the so called “essentials”?

Heck do I even have a bag suitable enough to cart all the “essentials” around in?

Are these amateur, basic or Pro “essentials”?

Also, is it a major “train smash” if I am deficient in “essentials”?

Camera Bag Cheat Sheet: Top 10 Essentials



*My note on the bag, is it ideally should be padded, comfortable to wear or carry. Preferably not scream “costly camera” and be branded. Looking like a Pro while travelling does draw unwanted attention and getting into museums, historic houses and castles with a bulky bag gets the security, curators and general helpers all in a tizz. You are instructed to place said bag into a locker after they search it. You might damage artifacts if you turn and bump the bag against items. Castles and the like have very restricted stairways and doors and corridors. A double two camera carry harness was better accepted.*

## Camera Body

Your camera is your creative tool and the heart of your photography setup. Keep it protected in a padded compartment and ready to capture the world through your lens at a moment's notice.

*My note: It is something of a pain not to have the camera in your hand or easily grabbable at all times, while walking in gardens or exploring said castles and houses. Hence the harness and two bodies.*

## Camera Lenses

Versatile lenses help you adapt to any situation. A wide-angle lens is perfect for capturing sweeping landscapes and fitting more into the frame.

A prime lens delivers crisp portraits with beautiful bokeh and works well in low light. A zoom lens offers flexibility for shooting faraway subjects or switching quickly between focal lengths.

*My note: It is another pain having the camera in your hand with the wrong lens attached. There is seldom a suitable place to put your bag while changing lenses. Throngs of visitors are not very understanding if you block up the space available. Again, two bodies and each with a different lens. Depends I suppose on what you shoot and why you are in said location in the first place.*



## Extra Batteries

Nothing is worse than running out of juice mid-shoot, especially during a critical moment. Keep a fully charged spare or two on hand to ensure you never miss a shot.



My note: This is something of a no brainer! Either have a dedicated outside pocket to keep your batteries for fast access or keep them on your person. Wear a garment with a gazillion deep pockets. I have wrist straps on my camera if not using the double harness set up. Both restraints and my camera neck straps have battery and spare SD card pockets sewn onto them with Velcro closures. This is my own innovation, that makers of these restraints have not thought of yet. Maybe I should copyright this idea. Certainly, makes battery changes a breeze.



## Tripod

Steady shots make all the difference, especially in low light, long exposures, or when shooting timelapses. Carbon fibre tripods are an excellent choice as they are incredibly strong yet lightweight, making them easy to carry while still providing the stability needed for sharp and steady shots. They are perfect for photographers on the move who want durability without extra weight.

My note: I cannot fault this other than to point out that lugging a non-foldable non-travel version is difficult in crowds or narrow spaces. Also said carbon fibre is beautiful, but the price is not. If you can have your transport close to your shoot, great, anything works. A long walk demands an easily transportable tripod. Word of caution: said castles and historic places and museums will not allow any form of tripod. Too many big footed tourists taking selfies do not look where they walk! These places are not too happy about monopods either unless you explain to the clueless that it is a folding walking stick for the aged! I had mine temporarily confiscated in one museum.

## Lens Cleaning Kit

Dust and smudges can ruin a perfect shot, impacting image quality. A quick clean with a microfiber cloth or lens pen keeps your glass clear, sharp, and ready for pristine photos.



My note: *The beach is a case in point, sea breeze spray gets onto a lens in an instant.*

*My camera and lenses are the basic variety not the super weather sealed pricey versions so with a dash of drizzle, a wipe off is a good idea instead of the after-shoot Photoshop solution.*

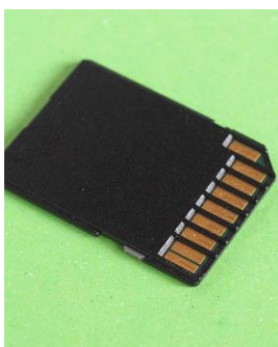


## Memory Cards

More memory means more moments captured without interruption. Always carry backups to avoid the heartbreak of a full card or the chance of card failure.

My note: *I cannot fault this either! Hence the pockets on my restraints to carry backups.*

*If I can add a suggestion, buy a decent name brand card and bigger (more storage) does not necessarily mean better. Just think how many precious shots will get corrupted or lost with a 256mb card versus a 64mb card? These cards come in little plastic boxes for a reason, protection of the contacts!*



## Filters

Polarizers reduce glare and enhance skies, making colours pop and adding depth to outdoor shots.

ND filters control light and allow for creative effects like silky water and dramatic motion blur in bright conditions.

UV filters are another essential, protecting your lens from scratches and reducing atmospheric haze in daylight. They are like sunglasses and armour for your lens, adding a professional and practical touch to your shots.

*My note: This is another minefield if all your filters are of the screw-on variety. You either need one of each in the specific diameter of your lenses or you need a set of adjustment rings to enable the use of one set of decent filters to be fitted to any lens.*

*The boffins dictate a better-quality filter so as not to degrade the lens glass. I have also tried the square holder format that can be fitted to any lens and the filters slot in. Here the holder needs a metal ring of specific diameter that is screwed onto the lens. The square pure glass filters are beautiful but one slip and they can fall so easily. Scary in the extreme. I have a set of optical plastic ones and I feel way more comfortable using these.*



## Rain Cover

Weather's unpredictable, but you can be prepared for whatever comes your way. A rain cover is an essential accessory that keeps your gear dry and safe when the clouds roll in or unexpected drizzles catch you off guard. It is lightweight and compact, so it will not take up much space in your bag but can save your equipment from potential water damage. With a rain cover, you can confidently keep shooting in less-than-ideal conditions, whether it is a sudden downpour or a misty morning, ensuring your creativity is not limited by the weather.

*My note: This is fun, do not forget a lightweight cheap plastic mac for yourself and a large dustbin bag for your gear bag as well. It does not help protecting the camera and lens while you get all*

*damp, and your gear bag gets sodden. In a pinch, a plastic bag with a hole for the lens and some elastic bands to keep everything tight works a treat. The ultimate is an assistant with a big umbrella to keep you and your gear dry. That small towel for the beach fog comes in useful here too!*



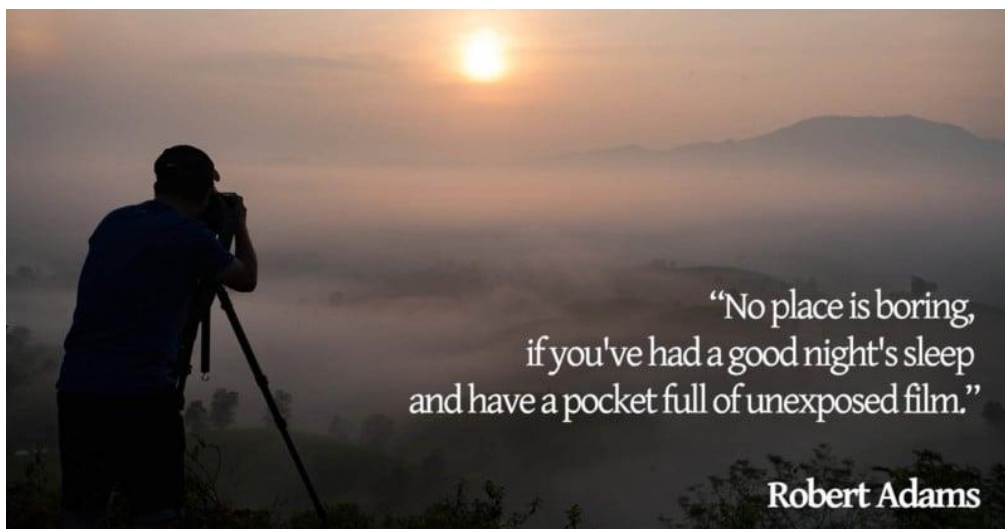
## Snacks and Water

Keeping yourself hydrated and nourished goes a long way to ensure brain creativity and comfort.

*My note:* *This is essential, low blood sugar is not good.*

*Other useful stuff would be tissues, lip balm, sun block and maybe mozzie stick. And a sunhat can shade you and be used to shade the lens if lens or sun flare is not your thing.*

*I also have a laminated sheet of crib notes if I can't quite get the shot I want. It helps with settings for maddening things like birds and fast-moving objects. As a starting point it cuts down on time wasting guesswork.*



*“No place is boring,  
if you've had a good night's sleep  
and have a pocket full of unexposed film.”*

**Robert Adams**

# PPS Birthday list:

January	February
Marianne Ver Loren van Themaat 1	
Mary-Anne Costello 4	
Gerrit van Rooyen 19	
March	April
Christelle Swart 6	Nicole Rowe 6
Fransie Stevens 21	Casper van Eck 11
Linda Martin 22	Carina Munday 24
Charles Costello 30	
May	June
Boshoff Steenekamp 16	Joan Fouché 16
Detlef Basel 23	Lloyd Munday 18
Frans Fouché 30	
Marius Coetzee 30	
July	August
Diana van de Wiel 4	Tony Roberts 6
Kagiso Langa 8	Sonja de Klerk 10
Robin Miles 9	Lee Hutton 15
Johan Ver Loren van Themaat 21	George Stevens 16
	Johan von Willich 21
	Ann Roberts 23
	Brigitte Hansen 25
	Bibi Andrews 27
	Petra Haselmaier
September	October
Chantelle J van Rensburg 24	John Tapuch 1
	Ken van Wyk 5
	Thelma van der Schyff 8
	Huan Zhongjie 12
November	December
Santie van Eck 6	Giuseppe Carbonatto 1
Johan Hosten 9	Pine Pienaar 26
Karin du Toit 11	Marlene Birkholtz 31
Giel du Toit 15	
Frans Mohr 21	

Please send your date of birth to Joan Fouché if your name is not on the list.