

The Bellows

Official newsletter of the Tygerberg Photographic Society



Website: tygerphoto.co.za
Email: info@tygerphoto.co.za



Proud member of the
**Photographic
Society of South Africa**

In this issue

ROB'S RAMBLINGS

Page 3

CHAIRMAN CHATTER

Page 4

LAST MONTH'S WINNERS

Pages 5-8

TPS NEWS & INFORMATION

Pages 9-11

THIS MONTH'S SET SUBJECT

Page 12

OTHER NEWS AND INFORMATION

Pages 13-14

SPECIAL IMAGES

Pages 15-18

COVER IMAGE by Bennie Vivier entitled "Swift tern with harbour wall backdrop".

A special thank you to our sponsor, Orms, for their continued support. Their Bellville branch is located at 27 Willie Van Schoor Dr, Bo Oakdale, telephone 021 910 1380.

ORMS
EVERYTHING PHOTOGRAPHIC

Rob's Ramblings

Hello everyone,

I trust everyone is well and has recovered from the last Competition night bloodbath! Details of the results of the evening, plus a short extract from the PSSA Salon Rules and Guidelines, can be found on page 9. I think the main positive for members is that we were exposed to how judges score images for acceptance purposes, and it does explain to some extent why images that might fare well on Club night do not do well in salons.

On the subject of competition night, this month we have "High Key" as our Set Subject. Details and examples can be found on page 12. For our newer members, I would like to just remind them that when the Set Subjects are decided upon at the beginning of the year, there will usually be a selection which features common subjects, e.g. landscapes, portraits, etc., and then some - like High Key, where members get exposed to different techniques and genres. These latter subjects are there to expose you to different types of photography and new techniques. So some of them can be quite daunting, but I would urge you to treat them as worthwhile challenges - you won't be disappointed, as the learning will stand you in good stead as you move along your photographic journey.

And then this month there is something different, especially for our members who take part in International salons, though it's also applicable to salons in general, and monthly club competitions. Our local PSSA Director and Chair of the PSSA Archives, Trudi du Toit, sent me a link to the FIAP newsletter website (<https://www.fiap.net/en/fiap-news>). FIAP stands for Fédération Internationale de l'Art Photographique, or, in English, International Federation of Photographic Art. Their February 2025 Newsletter contains a number of superb images, in particular nature images, for anyone who may be interested. There is also a report on the PSSA 70th Anniversary Travelling Exhibition, and some fantastic photos from South African (and other) Youth photographers. It's well worth a look, but be prepared for a long stay as the newsletter is just a touch longer than my one!

On the negative side, the newsletter contains a very disturbing report on the problems the organisation experienced when requesting RAW files from competition entrants. Quite disgusting, actually. I have copied the particular article and you can read it on page 14. I trust there were no TPS photographers involved! Never forget - when the definitions call for "No manipulation allowed", it means "No manipulation allowed".

On the personal positive side, your editor had one of his images featured in an article in the FIAP newsletter. Remember the image I played with and was eventually selected for use by the PSSA when promoting the Travelling Exhibition? Well, it's on Page 67 of their newsletter! Amazing what an hour or so of tongue in cheek fun manipulation can achieve! International print exposure nogal!

Till next month...

Rob

PS Q: "What's the difference between a large pepperoni pizza and a photographer"

A: "A large pepperoni pizza can feed a family of four!"

Chairman Chatter

Hi there Tygertogs

Thank you to every one of you for settling your membership fees. Every member renewed their membership, with no-one resigning or moving away (the first time in over 8 years since we started keeping records), resulting in our membership numbers remaining the same as last year at 50 members.

Thank you for your loyalty to TPS.

We enjoyed some more outings in February with a visit to Canal Walk for the annual Chinese festival and then later in the month an outing to World of Birds in Hout Bay.

The change over to the 15 point system from 30 has gone very smoothly although as can be seen from Rob's comments later on, judges seem a little reluctant to award a 12 for an image unless it is really worthy of a gold (especially for our 3 star photographers).

On another interesting note, I decided to analyse our members across the star grading levels, and it's quite revealing, with 28% of our members (14 out of 50) sitting on 3 stars, with 3 of these 14 members only needing a few salon acceptances to move up to 4 star.

If anyone needs help with ensuring salon acceptances, please do not hesitate to contact us for guidance and assistance with your entries.

The highest category is our 1 star members at 20% (10 out of 50) with 2 members who will probably move up to 2 star after our next club competition, provided they submit images, of course.

John and Elaine have some more exiting outings planned for March, so watch out for the dates and what has been planned. We look forward to you joining us and meeting up afterwards for tea/coffee or a light meal/snack.

For our image review this month, I intend to use a different approach, and will invite some of you to discuss and talk about your recent images, what inspired you and what you wanted to tell the viewer. I am sure this will encourage many of you with the recognition you will receive for your hard work.

At our February club competition, 17 members attended in person, including our Judge, André Stipp, with 12 members joining us via zoom.

A reminder that besides WhatsApp, all club information, dates, set subjects, events, past winners, etc. are posted on our website, www.tygerphoto.co.za and on Facebook.

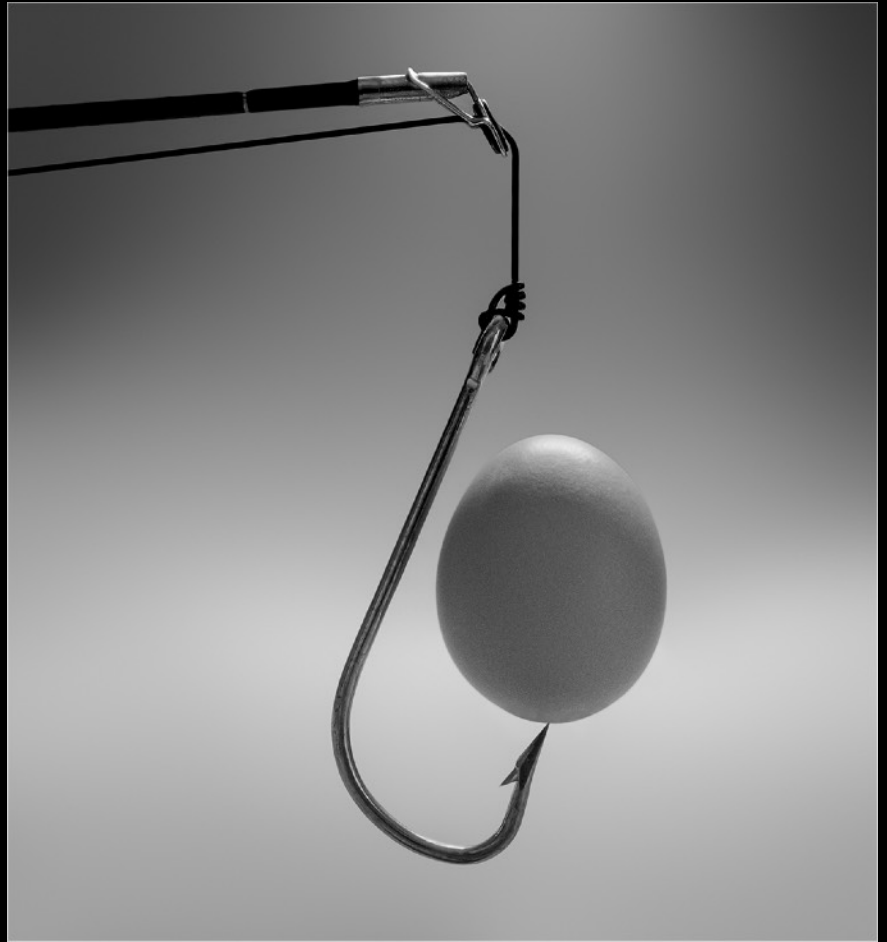
Congratulations to all our February competition winners, all photographs and details can be found on the following pages.

Michael

February 2025 Competition Winners

WINNER
SET SUBJECT SENIOR

A balanced meal
by
Rob Minter



WINNER
SET SUBJECT JUNIOR

Nothing in life is
straightforward

by
Monique Jones

February 2025 Competition Winners (cont.)



WINNER OPEN AND JUDGE'S CHOICE SENIOR
Disappearing sun by Pieter Swart

WINNER OPEN JUNIOR

Shake it out
by
Louis Jones



February 2025 Competition Winners (cont.)

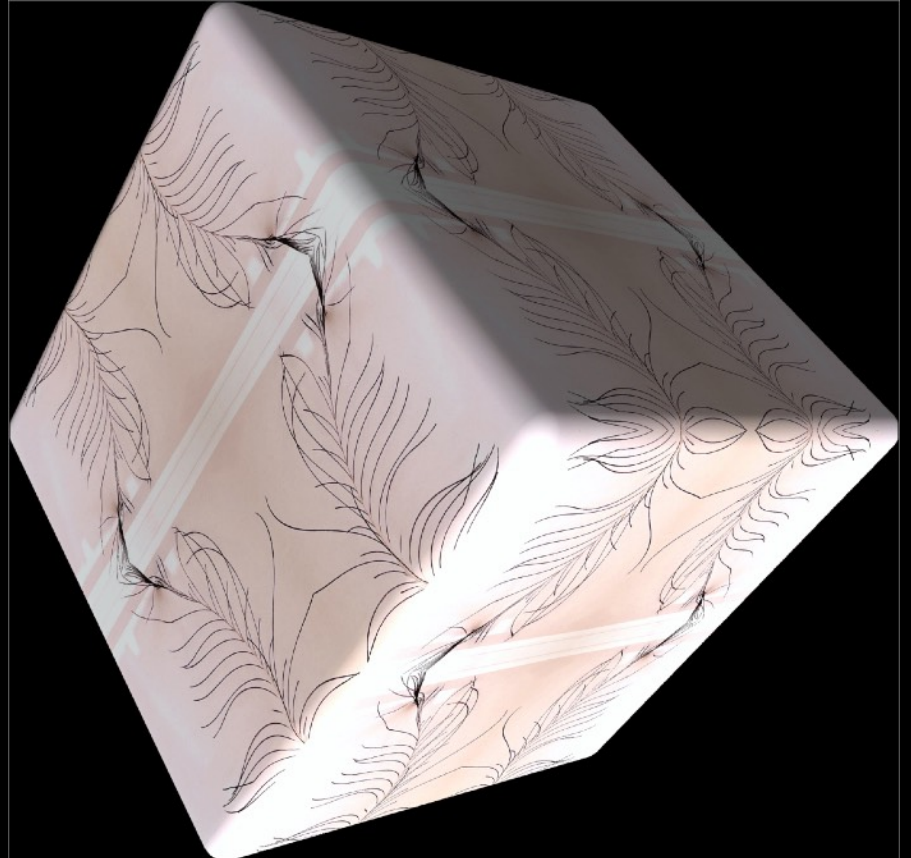


RUNNER-UP SET SUBJECT SENIOR

Dragon River Langebaan by *David Barnes*

RUNNER-UP
SET SUBJECT JUNIOR

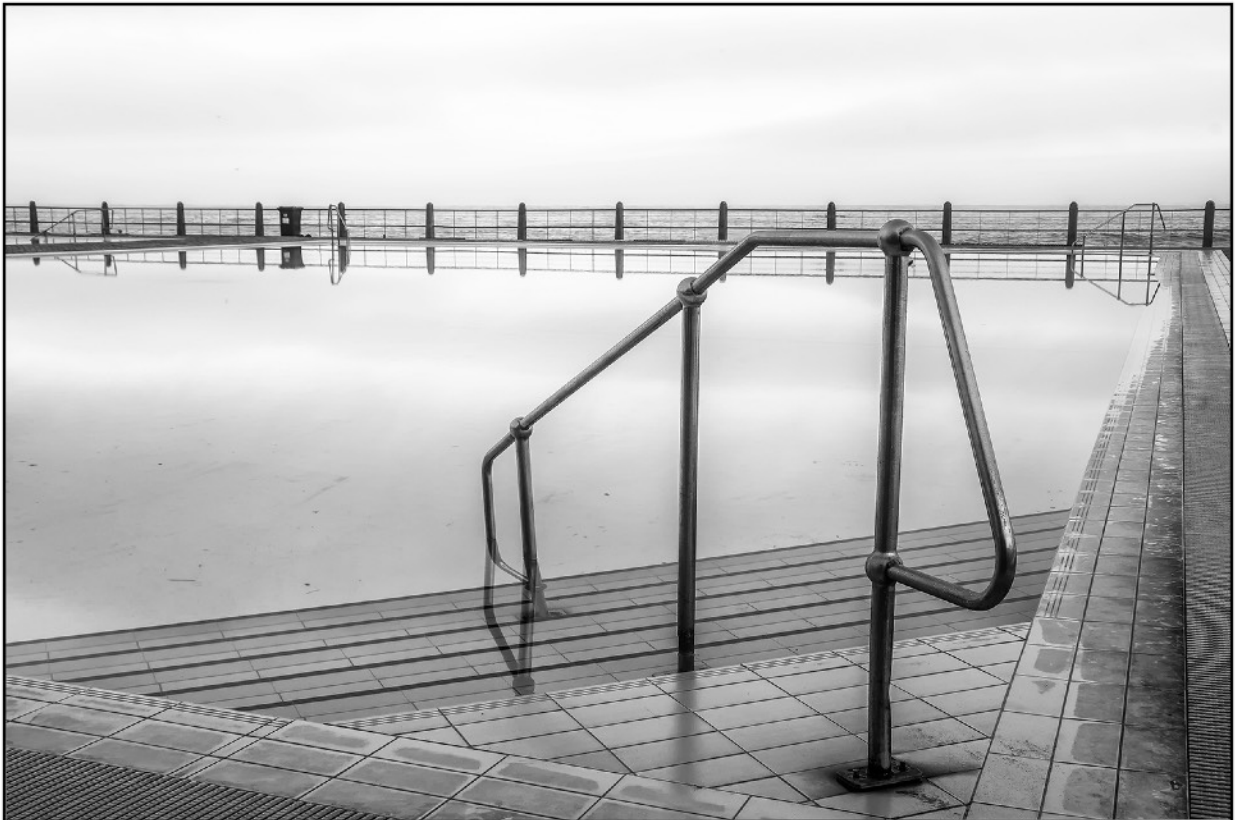
Peacock feather gift box
by
Alta Jones



February 2025 Competition Winners (cont.)



RUNNER-UP OPEN SENIOR
Going sideways by *PieterSwart*



RUNNER-UP OPEN AND JUDGE'S CHOICE JUNIOR
Swimming pool by *Dorian Newby*

General TPS news and information

February 2025 competition

Last month:

- **57** images were entered in the Set Subject category. The winning score was 14 (Rob Minter - winner senior), with the average score being 9.6, and 8 being the most common score. Only 3 images received a score of 12 or more! A full list of the Set Subject scores can be found on our website by clicking [here](#).

- **34** images were entered in the Open category. The winning score was 13 (Pieter Swart - winner and judge's choice senior, and Louis Jones - winner junior), with the average score being 10.1, and 10 being the most common score. Members did a bit better in the Open section, where 7 scored 12 or more). A full list of the Open scores can be found on our website by clicking [here](#).

Our judge for the month was André Stipp.

Ed's note:

I know there were a number of disappointed members last month, with the number of "Golds" awarded being on the low side. André said he judged the images based on Salon judging rules, so I thought it only fair to our members who might not be familiar with salon judging, to expand on what these are. An extract from the guidelines reads as follows:

Salon judging is different to normal club judging, where the emphasis is on evaluating and teaching. The salon judges need to select the best quartile from all the entries and then the award winners from that selection.

The PSSA guideline is to have an acceptance percentage between 20 and 25% (but preferably to the higher end) for PDIs and between 25 and 35% for prints.

SALON STANDARD JUDGING JUDGE IMAGES AS FOLLOWS	POINTS
Strong candidate to win an award	15
Certificate of Merit	14
Certificate of Merit	13
Salon standard (definite acceptance)	12
Lower-end salon standard but still an acceptance	11
Unsure if it is salon standard	10
Definitely not salon standard	9
Technical and obvious problems	8
Disqualification	6

General TPS news and information (cont.)



STAR ADVANCEMENTS

👏👏👏👏 **CONGRATULATIONS!** 👏👏👏👏

to **Tamlyn Goodwin and Gustav Nel**, both of whom advanced from **1-star to 2-star!**

Keep reaching for the stars!

New members

No new members this month. Total membership remains at 50. Thanks to everyone for their prompt payment of renewal fees.

Learn and Share

Our L&S evening last month took the form of an image review. We were again surprised by the poor attendance from junior members. Folks - this is an opportunity to learn from some of our senior members exactly what judges look for in an image. Included in the participants last month were three members who hold JAP qualifications, and one who completed the JAP course, so it's not an evening of waffle. One junior member who attended really got some good advice and inspiration, and from his feedback afterwards gained a lot from attending.

The L&S evening this month will be held on Tuesday 18 March, and will again be an image review. The ball is in your court.

Outings

Our thanks to John and Elaine Read for organising the outing to the World of Birds Wildlife Sanctuary and Monkey Park in Hout Bay last month. 7 members in total took part.

The day started with coffee, and then a walk-around which presented plenty of opportunities to take photos of, amongst other subjects, birds housed in more than 100 spacious landscaped walk-through aviaries. The photo opportunities included close-ups of the birds - as John put it "Through the lens - a world of feathers! 😊

The participants were also allowed to enter the monkey enclosure and take fun photos of these playful animals.

After the very pleasant walk-around, the group met at Hout Bay harbour and were joined by Francois du Bois for a fish and chips lunch. The harbour presented togs with even more photo opportunities.

A small selection of images taken on the day can be found on the next page.

General TPS news and information (cont.)



*I don't quite know how I fit into all this,
but that owl looks appetising!*



*I'm trying to sleep but am keeping one eye
open for that sneaky feline!*



Always available to give you a smile!

This month's set subject

High key

DEFINITION

High-key photography is a lighting technique that creates bright, evenly lit images with minimal shadows. It typically involves using a lot of light to fill the scene, which results in a clean, soft, and airy aesthetic.

The overall image will have very few, if any, dark tones, giving it a light and uplifting feel. This style is commonly used in portrait photography, product photography, and commercial advertising to evoke a sense of positivity and clarity.

High-key lighting is achieved by using soft, diffused light sources and ensuring the background is also well-lit.

MANIPULATION IS ALLOWED

Closing date for Photovault: Friday 21 March

Competition night: Wednesday 26 March

Some examples



Judge

Our judge for this month is Kirk West. He holds FPSSA honours, and is a member of the Port Elizabeth Camera Club.

Other news and information

From the Photographic Society of South Africa ([PSSA](#)):

PSSA's National Salon



If you have not already entered our [PSSA National Salon](#) which is free for all paid-up PSSA members, PLEASE DO SO ASAP as the closing date is the 8th March 2025.

Cost for non-PSSA members is R14.00 per image for each category entered.

As always, challenging categories.
GOOD LUCK TO ALL!

PSSA's previous Congress at Parys

Chris Nel sent out a WHATSAPP requesting images of last year's congress of the models and the venues that we were allowed to take photos of. If you have not already done so, please contact [Chris Nel](#), the Regional director for this Region - THANK YOU.

PSSA's Facebook Page

Thank you again to all those who participate on our FB page and it has been great recently to see the majority complying with the challenges. You can advertise on our FB page but obviously there is a fee in this regard but please contact me for further info if you wish to do this - evelyn@webbiz.co.za.



Articles taken from Evelyn Gibson's March 2025 newsletter - thanks Evelyn!

Other news and information (cont.)

From the FIAP February 2025 newsletter:



22st FIAP Nature Biennial, Germany 2024 Confirmation of the Revised Results

By Luis Franke, MFIAP, EFIAP/d3, HonEFIAP
FIAP Director of the Biennials Service

22nd FIAP Nature Biennial
Germany 2024



DVF

In 2024 the 22nd FIAP Nature Biennial was organised in Germany. The FIAP Operational Member for Germany is the “Deutscher Verband für Fotografie” (DVF).

The judging was completed on the 6th July in the city of Filderstadt. The judges were: Romain Nero, EFIAP/d1, HonEFIAP (Luxembourg), Jef Lemmens, ESFIAP, EFIAP/d3 (Belgium) and Howard Tate, ARPS, AFIAP, HonPAGB (England). The whole process was efficiently managed by Norbert and Karin Heil.

Collections were sent by 33 countries, and we received 874 photographs in total between the two sections.

After the results and the winning images had been published, it was detected that some of these images had been manipulated and did not comply with FIAP Nature photography regulations.

The FIAP Board decided to check the images submitted by the Federations ranked in the higher places in both sections. FIAP rules provide that it can ask for the RAW or original file for any entered image to check the compliance.

I asked the people responsible for sending the entries from those Federations to send the RAW or original Jpeg file corresponding to the entered images, initially to 15 Federations per section and later extended to about another 10.

All images received were carefully checked by the Director of the Ethics Service, Pierluigi Rizzato.

Result of the check

- Some Federations refused to participate in checking
- Other Federations didn't send any RAW or original files
- 98 images among 792 had been manipulated so were not compliant with the FIAP Nature regulations
- Of the photo files sought, a total of 258 files were either not the RAW or original Jpeg or were not sent
- A lot of files that were sent did not correspond with the submitted image
- A few files had been created partially with generative fill (absolutely forbidden)
- A surprisingly high number of hard disks were declared broken, lost or stolen.

Observed non-compliant images or images for which the original files were not submitted were removed from the Biennial. The points obtained by them no longer count for the final ranking.

The final ranking of the Biennial is finally as follows:

Print section: the winner of the World Cup was Italy. The medal winning countries were Luxembourg, France and Argentina. The HM's were obtained by India, South Africa, Norway, Cyprus, Hong Kong and Spain.

Digital section: the winner of the World Cup was also Italy. The medal winning countries were Canada, Luxembourg and South Africa. The HM's were obtained by France, India, Argentina, Sweden, Ireland and Chile.

Italy obtained the Grand Prize, Nature Trophy “Odette Bretscher”.

Mrs. Odette Bretscher created this prize in 1985, at the moment of leaving the presidency of FIAP. The prize rewards the country that is best placed in the combination of the two sections of the Nature Biennial.

The three jurors of the Biennial met again in December in a zoom meeting to confirm and decide on the individual awards after some had been removed for non-compliance with the regulations or failure to provide an original camera file.

The images entered by the top three countries in each section and the photographs that won the individual awards are shown with this article. Only photos for which the original camera file was provided, and which were found compliant with the rules, are shown.

The full results are published on the FIAP website: <https://www.fiap.net/en/biennials>



Special images



CLUB GOLD MEDAL - Indian Digital Tour International Salon 2025
HONOURABLE MENTION - Miracle Image 11th International Salon
The challenge - by Pieter Swart



CLUB BRONZE MEDAL - WCPF Salon 2025
Fiery sunrise by Desmond Labuschagne

Special images (cont.)



CERTIFICATE OF MERIT - WCPF Salon 2025
Bathing in the moonlight by David Barnes



CERTIFICATE OF MERIT - WCPF Salon 2025
Trauma by David Barnes

Special images (cont.)



CERTIFICATE OF MERIT - WCPF Salon 2025
High tide by David Barnes



CERTIFICATE OF MERIT - WCPF Salon 2025
Lean on me by David Barnes

Special images (cont.)



CERTIFICATE OF MERIT - WCPF Salon 2025
Portrait of a ballerina *by Desmond Labuschagne*