



FEATURE OF THE MONTH WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

All great things started small once

By Elizabeth Nicholson

As with all things, the Eden Photographic Society, had a small beginning and started from the inspiration of one man being passionate about photography. I do of course, refer to Alwyn Roets, being the founding member of EPS.

Some emotion was stirred when reading a letter composed by Alwyn dated 7 January 2004, stating his own, and Diane's intended resignation from the George Camera Club. They served there for over ten years. Surely deep tracks were laid down in the success of the GCC as well.

Scanning through the first Chairman's report, Jacques was proud and boasted that the club has grown to 19 registered members. Tongue in cheek, I must say that I'm relieved that our numbers has more than doubled since then.

"We did not have any outings this year, since the Society is still very new, but this should definitely change from 2005"

- Jacques Cronje APSSA



Eden Photographic Society

Leading by example

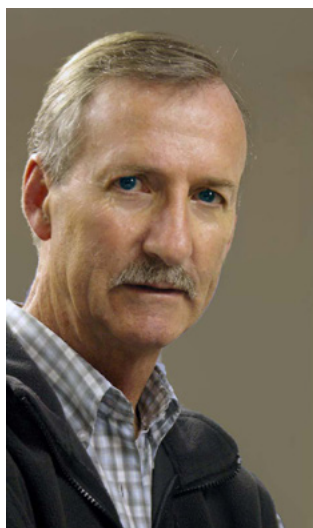
"Some emotion was stirred when reading a letter composed by **Alwyn(Roets)** dated 7 January 2004, stating his own, and Diane's intended resignation from the George Camera Club. They served there for over ten years," reported **Elizabeth Nicholson** in the February 2017 issue of *Photizo*, the official newsletter of the Eden Photographic Society (EPS). With the help of **Jacques Cronje** APSSA, Alwyn called a Founders Meeting for the Eden Photographic Society (EPS) on the same day. The founding committee consisted of **Jacques Cronje** as chairperson, **Amelia Cronje** as secretary, **Alwyn Roets** as treasurer and **Tracy Saunders** as the promotions co-ordinator.

The *Photizo* newsletter was founded almost the same time as EPS, reports editor Elizabeth Nicholson. "It was not clear who drafted the first copy and in which formats it were distributed. No record of it could be obtained. Interesting to note that both English and Afrikaans were the official languages of the club at its inception, and club meetings were held each third Wednesday of the month," continues Elizabeth.

The *Mossel Bay Advertiser* publicised the founding of the club with an article on 16 January 2004. "The article was accompanied by a photo entitled *Herbertsdale Farm* taken by Jacques (Cronje)," wrote Elizabeth. In subsequent years, the various activities of the club were often featured in this community newspaper.

By the end of 2004, Eden Photographic Society (EPS) had 19 registered members. At the first Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 16 November 2004, a new committee was elected with **Alwyn Roets** as chairperson and promotional co-ordinator, **Jacques Cronje** as vice chairperson, editor and registrar, **Amelia Cronje** as secretary and **Diane Roets** as treasurer. **Herman and Annette Bosman** were appointed as the organisers of the hall and refreshments. **Bonnee van der Walt** was appointed as the print co-ordinator, with **Marthinus and Sienie Koekemoer** as slide coordinators.

Alwyn (below) sadly passed away in 2015. Read a tribute to him [here](#). His wife Diane served as EPS committee member and secretary for many years.





Danie Pretorius, a club stalwart who contributed to the growth of the club in many ways, among them by inspiring young photographers with his constructive comments as a judge, sadly passed away from cancer in 2024. He was 66 years old. Earlier in the year the club presented him with a scroll (left), commemorating his huge contribution to the club. On the scroll chairperson Elizabeth Nicholson described his contribution to photography as memorable, as attested by the many medals and awards he earned with his excellent photographs .

“Had there been a medal for humour and the ability to make everybody laugh, for artistry, creativity and original thought, it would have been awarded to him,” the club told the regional newspaper Mosselbaai Nuus.

“At one stage Danie was one of the most brilliant Garden Route photographers and featured quite high on the Impala Trophy Log,” says Elizabeth.

Kolie Visser is another founding member of EPS who is an exceptional photographer. He turned 80 in 2024 and is no longer actively involved in taking photographs. He owns a Fotofirst branch in Mossel Bay and an iconic photograph he took is Featured in many local businesses because it captures the essence of the town so well.

Brian Taylor and Joan Taylor are another iconic couple who have been dedicated EPS members for many years. They still regularly enter their images in monthly competitions, despite Brian (89) being constrained to mainly taking photos in his house and garden due to mobility issues. They are both 5-star members and used to actively enter salons, where they earned many acceptances.

In 2022 the club found new meeting premises at the Diaz Hotel in Mossel Bay.

EPS members are keen to learn as much as possible to improve their photography. Numerous workshops and outings are organised throughout the year on various topics, with workshops often conducted by senior club members (see below and the next page). A few examples are a Light Trail Workshop by Elizabeth Nicholson, a Macro/Close Up



Workshops clockwise from the top: Car light trail workshop, Light paint workshop, ICM workshop, Moon photography workshop (last two).



From top left: the architectural information session by Michael de Nyssen, the Macro workshop, the Star Trail workshop by Pierre Jordaan and the Multiple Exposure workshop. Below: the 2022 JAP session.



Workshop by Johan Steyn, Multiple exposure, Light Painting and Moon photography workshop by Johan van Aarde, a Star Trail workshop by Pierre Jordaan, an architectural information session by Michael De Nysschen, to name a few. At the end of September 2022 EPS club members attended the first regional Judging Accreditation Program (session), conducted by Paul Rixon (see above). Five club members subsequently attended the national PSSA JAP programme in 2023 and received accreditation as national judges.

Club members are also enthusiastic congress goers, where they not only enjoy the socialising, but also the learning opportunities offered by the expert speakers (see below). In Greyton club members created their own branding.





*Elizabeth Nicholson with her image **The Square Leaf**, which was selected for the PSSA 70th Anniversary Travelling Exhibition.*



'Baobab with milky way' by Mariana Erasmus was selected for the PSSA 70th Anniversary Travelling Exhibition.



Liana Hoffman with her image 'Bushman' that is exhibited.

All images of the exhibition hosted by Eden Photographic Society.

In 2022 and 2024 Eden was the top performing Garden Route club in the PSSA Premier Club Competition, based on the points members earn in the Impala Trophy competition during the year. In 2023 EPS was the runner-up in the Garden Route.

Eden Photographic Society (EPS) successfully hosted PSSA salons in 2020 and in 2022.

In September 2024 EPS launched the PSSA 70th Anniversary Travelling Exhibition by offering to host the first exhibition of 70 prints by 70 photographers as part of the Mossel Bay Music and Arts Festival. See and read more [here](#). Images by three club members were among the 70 prints selected for the exhibition from the 850 images entered by more than 200 PSSA members. They are *Milky way with baobab* by Mariana Erasmus, *Bushman* by Liana Hoffman and *The Square Leaf* by chairperson Elizabeth Nicholson (see above). The exhibition not only generated interest in the club and attracted new members, but also fostered closer bonds between clubs in the region.

In February 2025 the club celebrated its 21st anniversary with a festive meeting, where Garden Route Regional Director Paul Rixom and PSSA PRO Evelyn Gibson unveiled the club's new logo. See [here](#).

