

# The Bellows

Official newsletter of the Tygerberg Photographic Society



Website: [tygerphoto.co.za](http://tygerphoto.co.za)  
Email: [info@tygerphoto.co.za](mailto:info@tygerphoto.co.za)



*Proud member of the*

**Photographic**  
Society of South Africa

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*COVER IMAGE by Bennie Vivier entitled  
"Young snake eagle harassed by a Drongo".*

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EVERYTHING PHOTOGRAPHIC

# Rob's Ramblings

Hi everyone,

This bumper edition of The Bellows has, without any doubt, been my favourite of all the editions I've had the honour to produce so far. Why?

Firstly - a milestone that seemed an impossibility, has finally been achieved! After last month's competition, Bennie Vivier became our first-ever Grand Master! Over the years, he has been an incredible member and servant of our club, so Bennie - from us all - our sincere congratulations! This edition is dedicated to you.

Bennie's story and photos dominate this edition. The cover features one of his images from last month's competition, there are two simply magnificent Runner-up photos from the competition on pages 7 and 8, a summary of Bennie's involvement with TPS take up pages 9 and 10, and a selection of six of his personal photographs follow on pages 11 to 13. Bennie also has a [website](#), where you can view a larger selection of images. It's really worth a visit!

The second reason this edition is my favourite is because of all the wonderful photographs I am able to share with everyone. Evelyn Gibson, our judge for last month, really enjoyed the submissions, and a number of COMs were awarded on the night. This means that the number of "Special images" in the section at the end of the newsletter is the highest of all editions so far! And as my personal belief is that a photography club's newsletter should be dominated by as many photos as possible, this month takes the cake. So - thanks Evelyn, and congratulations to my fellow togs!

Even taking into account all the images that you see this month, it could have featured even more, but unfortunately I was unable to get copies of some member photos that won major awards. Hopefully these will be shared in a later edition.

Our competition last month was Street photography, and the subject initiated a great deal of questions and discussion. Simple questions like "Does a photo taken on a beach qualify?" came up, and looking back, I think we might have got the answer wrong at the time. For me, on competition night, Evelyn clarified some of that thinking by making a distinction between "Street photography", which simply put is candid photos featuring people taken in the street, and other candid photography featuring people taken e.g. inside a building, inside a shopping centre, at a beach, etc., which would qualify as "Photo journalism" rather than "Street photography". It makes sense, and is something to bear in mind for future competitions.

Finally, it was also a great month for member Star advancements, with a total of four members moving up the ladder. The details can be found on page 14. Congratulations to all of you!

Till next month,  
Rob.

# Chairman Chatter

Hi there Tygertogs

Welcome to warmer months, with Spring officially here. A great opportunity for some macro subjects, especially if you joined us at Vergelegen recently. After that we have our final set subject of the year - The colour **Orange**. **Let's see something different and creative.**

Our last L&S (Education) evening turned out to be very interesting, with Claudia presenting a legal view on the pros and cons of street photography. All I can add is, be aware of what is allowed, get consent where consent is needed, and enjoy your photography.

I continue to encourage all our members to revisit the House rules from time to time, even if just to refresh your memory about images and competition criteria.

A reminder that our AGM will be held before our October club competition on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October, more to follow closer to the time.

We are busy with preparing the invites for our annual awards event on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> November at 12 noon, at the Royal Cape Yacht Club. We have a fantastic prize, which has been sponsored, so watch this space.

Our September competition set subject was Street Photography and was judged by Evelyn Gibson.

Congratulations to all our September competition winners, a task which was not easy, considering all the high scores that were achieved, but more details later on the following pages.

A reminder that besides WhatsApp, all club information, dates, set subjects, events, past winners, etc., is posted on our website, [www.tygerphoto.co.za](http://www.tygerphoto.co.za) and on Facebook.

Michael

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**THE QUESTION IS NOT WHAT YOU LOOK AT,  
BUT WHAT YOU SEE**

*Quote from the American naturalist, essayist, poet, and philosopher - Henry David Thoreau*



## September 2025 Competition Winners



### SET SUBJECT SENIOR WINNER

*Sitting at the end of his journey by Neels Beyers*



### SET SUBJECT JUNIOR WINNER

*Hey Bra by Louis Jones*

## September 2025 Competition Winners (cont.)



OPEN SENIOR WINNER AND JUDGE'S CHOICE

*The Chosen One by David Barnes*



OPEN JUNIOR WINNER

*Eyes of eternity by Claudia Lotharing*



## September 2025 Competition Winners (cont.)



### SET SUBJECT SENIOR RUNNER UP

Waiting for the promised better days *by Bennie Vivier*



### SET SUBJECT JUNIOR RUNNER UP

Casual encounter *by Louis jones*



## September 2025 Competition Winners (cont.)



OPEN SENIOR WINNER

Living the pipe dream *by Bennie Vivier*



OPEN JUNIOR RUNNER UP

Only dragon flies for lunch *by Louis Jones*



## Bennie Vivier



### My Journey with Tygerberg Photographic Society

The following is on my portfolio website and this is exactly how I feel about photography:

*Photography, for me, is more than a hobby; it is a passion and a way of life.*

*Each time I look through the lens, I discover something new about the world around me – and about myself.*

*What I love most is how photography deepens my appreciation for the beauty in everyday moments, from the smallest detail in nature to the vastness of a landscape.*

*My passion for the natural world inspires everything I do, and I strive to reflect that wonder through every image I take.*

I enjoy almost every genre of photography—except photographing people. Wildlife (especially animals and birds) and macro photography remain my greatest passions.



Our family holidays have always revolved around nature, particularly national parks. That is where I find the most joy with my camera, especially in places such as the Kgalagadi. I love capturing the late afternoon light with dust drifting against the sun—some of my favourite images were taken in those magical conditions.

In the past two years, one of the challenges I have set myself is to photograph as many of the bird species, in the estate where I stay, as possible. I quickly realised it is not an easy task—and too often I find myself without my camera at just the wrong moment!

I joined Tygerberg Photographic Society in the early 1990s, and it remains a privilege to be a member. From the very beginning, TPS has been both a motivation and a goal for me—to keep my photography alive and to continue learning. That still holds true today: every time I take a photograph, I learn something new, and the monthly set subjects provide a fresh challenge.

## General TPS news and information (cont.)

### Bennie Vivier - My Journey with Tygerberg Photographic Society (cont.)

I also served on the TPS committee for several years, starting as treasurer. During this time, I initiated the change from managing our scoring and membership records on a large spreadsheet to using Photovault and the TOP system. This was a major project, and my portfolio evolved from treasurer to overseeing administration and entries. TPS became the first club in the Western Cape to adopt these systems, and we later helped other clubs make the transition.

For a number of years, I was solely responsible for:

- Photovault club administration – setting up and maintaining club grading and advancement rules
- Photovault event administration
- Registering new members
- Maintaining members' salon acceptance records
- Configuring and maintaining the TOP system
- Tracking points during club competitions
- Processing competition results and progress reports
- Creating and maintaining the TPS website

Eventually, I realised it was not in the best interest of TPS for one person to handle all of these responsibilities. I therefore stepped down from the committee so others could take over and ensure continuity. To assist with the transition, I compiled short manuals covering all the tasks and did a proper handover to other members. I still enjoy assisting with these systems when needed.

Over the years, I also managed the administration of seven of the nine National Salons presented by TPS, with the most recent being the 2024 Salon.

Being part of TPS has been a significant part of my photographic journey, and I remain grateful for the opportunities it has given me to learn, grow, and contribute.

*Ed's notes:*

*. My thanks to Christa, Bennie's wife, for the three photos of him*

*. The next few pages include a small selection of some of Bennie's favourite images*



## General TPS news and information (cont.)



Sun and dust

Pangolin Photo Safari 2021 Competition Runner up



Golden jump

FIAP Nature Biennial 2018 in Oman - Bronze Medal

## General TPS news and information (cont.)



Kgalagadi ostrich



Alone



## General TPS news and information (cont.)



Playing in the dust



Tulip macro

# General TPS news and information (cont.)

## September 2025 competition

Last month:

- **55** images were entered in the Set Subject category. The highest score on the night was 14 (there were 7 members who were awarded this score, and you can view the images either in the Winning Images or in the Special Images sections in the newsletter). The average score was 12.4, and the most common score was 13. A full list of the Set Subject scores can be found on our website by clicking [here](#).
- **43** images were entered in the Open category. One image was disqualified for having been used before. The winning score was 14, ((there were 12 members who were awarded this score, and you can view the images either in the Winning Images or in the Special Images sections in the newsletter). The average score was 12,6, and the most common score was 13. A full list of the Open scores can be found on our website by clicking [here](#).

*Evelyn Gibson* was our judge for the month.



### STAR ADVANCEMENTS

👏👏👏 **CONGRATULATIONS!** 👏👏👏

to **Louis Jones** who advanced from **3-star to 4-star**  
and **Alf Moffatt**, who advanced from **2-star to 3-star**  
and **Kobus Mouton**, who advanced from **3-star to 4-star**  
and **Bennie Vivier**, who advanced from **Master to Grand Master**

*Keep reaching for the stars!*

## Membership

Total membership remains unchanged at 50.

## Learn and Share

The L&S evening featured a presentation by Claudia Lothering on the implications that the POPI and Copyright Acts have on Street Photography. Claudia, our thanks for a most informative and comprehensive insight. Afterwards, some of us decided not to enter certain photographs into the monthly competition to ensure we did not infringe on the law.

## Outings

Vergelegen was the venue for the outing last month. Sadly, John and Elaine did not attend due to a Johannesburg commitment. Michael, however, did a star job taking over and managing the meet. Coffee and a good chat followed afterwards.



# This month's set subject

## Macro/Close up

### DEFINITIONS

This is extreme close-up photography where the subject is usually very small, where the size of the subject in the image is greater than actual life size

### MANIPULATION IS NOT ALLOWED

**Closing date for Photovault: Friday 17 October**  
**Competition night: Wednesday 22 October**

**\*\*\*\*\* NB: Very early date for submissions \*\*\*\*\***  
**\*\*\*\*\* NB: AGM before competition. 18h30 Start \*\*\*\*\***

## Judge

Our judge for the month is Natasha Bird. Natasha holds LPSSA and DPSSA honours. Her image below, entitled "Lighting the pipe", won 1st Runner Up slot in the PSSA July 2025 Senior Club Competition.



## Other news and information

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

*With thanks to Bridgid Wickham. Extracts from her PSSA October 2025 newsletter.*

*Ed's note:*

*Brigid is the new Public Relations Officer for the PSSA. I'm sure you will all join me in wishing her a long, happy, and productive stay!*

### Four Nations Results

**4 Nations  
International  
Photographic  
Challenge 2025**  
hosted by the  
Photographic Society  
of New Zealand

**CONGRATULATIONS**



**Click here for the results**



**Gold Award - Anton la Grange**



**Gold Award - Laetitia Kenny**

Congratulations to all who had their images selected for Team PSSA. We were narrowly beaten into 2nd place overall by CAPA (Canadian Association for Photographic Art) and were in fact placed 2nd in each of the categories.

Special Congratulations to Laetitia Kenny who was placed 1st in the Mono category and to Anton le Grange who was placed 1st in the Our Country Category. Congratulations also to Ursula Baumann for receiving an Honourable Mention in the Colour Category.

You can click on the above banner or [click here](#) to see all the results.

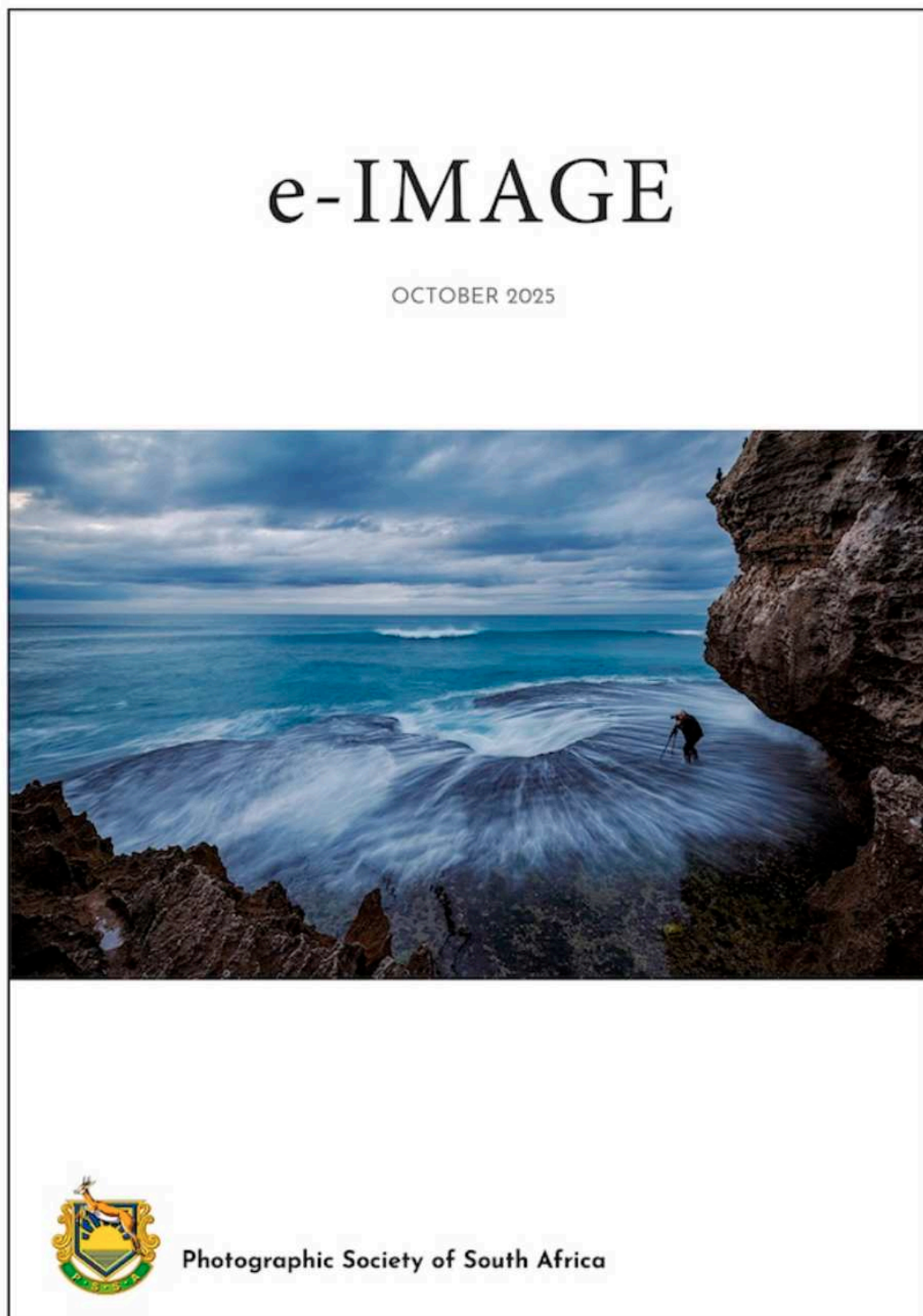


## Other news and information (cont.)

*From the Photographic Society of South Africa (PSSA) (cont.)*

### e-IMAGE October 2025

- yes you can click on it right here in the cover  
and access this edition!



*ED's note: You can access and read Brigid's full newsletter [here](#), or via the [PSSA website](#).*



## Special images



September 2025 Open Competition COM  
Pumpkin stall by Marleen la Grange



September 2025 Open Competition COM  
Rubberduck racers by Desmond Labuschagne



## Special images (Cont.)



September 2025 Open Competition COM  
Number 999 in action by *Desmond Labuschagne*



September 2025 Set Subject Competition COM  
Street life by *Desmond Labuschagne*

## Special images (Cont.)



September 2025 Set Subject Competition COM  
Smoke break by *Claudia Lotharing*



September 2025 Open Competition COM  
Robben Island in the spotlight by *Rob Minter*



## Special images (Cont.)



September 2025 Open  
Competition COM

I am King Fisher  
by  
*Alf Moffatt*



September 2025 Open Competition COM  
One drop at a time by *Brian Moffatt*



## Special images (Cont.)



September 2025 Open Competition COM  
*Patiently waiting by Brian Moffatt*



September 2025 Open Competition COM  
*Spring is on its way by Charlotte van der Berg*



## Special images (Cont.)



September 2025 Set Subject Competition COM  
*Street jive by Charlotte van der berg*



Durban Camera Club Digital Salon 2025 COM  
*Floral Artist by Johan van Wyk*