

Tafelberg Fotografieklub

Founded August 2005



The members who were present at the Tafelberg Afrikaanse Fotografieklub (TAFklub) founding meeting were (front) Chantél Swiegers, Maré Jacobs. Middle: Alicia Greyling, Monica Muller, Petra Beyleveld, Mariëtte Schoeman, Teresa Lourens, Esmari Wium, Hanneke Loots. Back: Jan Swiegers, Niel Swart, Jacques Cronjé, Kenny Nagel, Abrie Marais, Neels Beyers (PSSA Regional Director for the Western Cape and guest speaker), Anton Fouché.

Tafelberg Fotografieklub (Tafklub) was founded on 20 August 2005 with 16 members. Jan Swiegers, a Sanlam employee, shared his idea of starting a photographic club with a few friends and it was received so enthusiastically, that they promptly created the club.

The first committee members were Jan Swiegers (chairperson), Alicia Greyling (secretary), Riola Swart (treasurer), and Esmari Wium and Anton Fouché as additional members.

A competition was launched to find a name and logo for the club. The initial suggestions, as recorded in the first newsletter, were “geen klub” and “Klub zonder naam” until the name suggested by Chantél Swiegers, Tafelberg Afrikaanse Fotografieklub – hence the TAFklub abbreviation often used, was adopted. The Afrikaans part of the name was eventually dropped, but the name TAFklub remains and Afrikaans is still the predominant language.

Maré Jacobs designed the first logo, which was modernised by Niel Goslett’s secretary in 2015. The current logo was adopted in 2024 (see below).

For the first nine years the club functioned as one of Sanlam’s extra-curricular clubs, but gradually more members who were non-Sanlam employees joined. When the Sanlam employee membership dropped below 50%, the club began functioning more independently and they are currently not affiliated to Sanlam.

The club is now affiliated to the PSSA (Photographic Society of South Africa) and by 2025 had grown to 68 actively participating members.

History and changes

The annual programme consists of monthly competitions with a set theme, discussion sessions, as well as workshops. Excursions took place to offer members the opportunity to take photographs together and learn from one another.

The annual year-end function became a fun-filled event as members are requested to dress up according to a theme.

The purpose of the club is to create opportunities for people interested in photography, to pursue their passion within an environment conducive to experimentation and the sharing of knowledge; to interact socially while presenting their works for evaluation and at exhibitions such as the annual exhibition in the Sanlam Art Gallery, which was a highlight for the members.



Guests admiring the Tafelberg prints exhibited at the Glen Carlou wine estate in 2024. Photo supplied.

After Covid, the club began looking for alternative venues for the exhibition and meetings. In 2024 the club also hosted a successful exhibition at the Glen Carlou wine estate, where several members sold some of their prints.

In the early years members met twice a month at Chrismar Villas in Bellville (opposite Bellville High School). During Covid the club met virtually (via Zoom) for two-and-a-half years, but since 2023 they resumed in-person meetings in the Logos Christian Church in Bellville. Because they gained so many new members during Covid who can only meet via Zoom, they decided to offer hybrid meetings.

During 2025 Paar Photographic Society closed and most of their active members opted to join TAFklub, who became the custodian of their assets until the Paarl club is resurrected.



Members of the CPM school club hard at work. Photo supplied.

Youth members

During 2019 they gained a youthful satellite club when Tafelberg took the Gr4 to 7 photographers of the Christian Private School Malmesbury (CMP) under their wing. This was facilitated by Tafelberg member and PSSA Youth Director, Phillip de Lange.

Twenty of the 63 CMP photographers joined Tafelberg Fotografieklub. Several CMP photographic club members, coordinated by Heléne de Clercq, subsequently began participating in national and international salons and youth competitions.

Senior TAFklub members, notably Mariana Visser, have subsequently been mentoring other primary school photographers from Aristea Primary on an individual basis.

Milestones achieved



The first logo (left) and the new logo (right).

At the 2024 AGM a new logo, designed by graphic designer Eldale Swart, was unanimously accepted. The winning design was selected from designs that the committee had been considering for about 18 months. The process was initiated in response to members' wishes for a modern, professionally designed, logo. In the new logo the "Afrikaans" was dropped from the club name.



Christo Giliomee was awarded a certificate as the best Western Cape salon performer in 2024 at a year-end function with a South African theme.



Chairperson Quintus Heine accepted the certificate Tafelberg earned in 2024 as the winner of the Premier Club Competition in the Western Cape, with one of the medal winner, Rains in Africa by Christo Giliomee right. They repeated their winning streak in 2025.

Club members successfully participate in salons, where several of them regularly win medals. In 2024 Tafklub former chairperson and TAFklub member Christo Giliomee reached the highest position in the PDI Impala Trophy competition of all Western Cape salon performers (as far as can be ascertained) by reaching #12 with 228 salon points, a feat he repeated the following year.

In the salon year that ended in June 2024 Tafelberg was the Western Cape winner of the PSSA Premier Club Award based on salon points earned - and this success was repeated. It also became the first Western Cape club to finish the salon year in the Top10 of the national Premier Club competition, being placed 8th – and 5th in 2025.

Tafklub hosted their first salon in 2010 and has been awarded the right to host a salon every year since then. The main reason why their applications to host a salon every year succeeded is because they are one of the few clubs to include print divisions. In 2017



Tafelberg Photography Club was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation for hosting a successful international salon in 2017. Images supplied.

the club hosted their first international salon, with Niel Goslett as salon director. It was so successful that Tafelberg club was awarded a certificate of Appreciation from PSSA.

The club participates in the monthly and annual PSSA club competitions and in 2024 the Tafelberg website was the second runner-up in the annual PSSA competition.

TAFklub chairpersons

2005-2009	Jan Swiegers
2010	Nico Ras
2011-2012	Derrick Nel
2013- 2016	Niel Goslett
2017-2018	Christo Giliomee
2019	Juan Venter
2020-2022	Mariana Visser
2023- 2024	Quintus Heine
2025-	Juliane van Dyk



Chairperson Juliane van Dyk was awarded the 2024 Photographer of the Year award by outgoing chairman Quintus Heine – and she was again the winner in 2025.

Memorable members



Quintus Heine was elected chairperson of the Western Cape Photographic Forum (WCPF) in 2025 – a regional body founded in 2018 to create a platform for Western Cape clubs to share their successes and problems and to engage in initiatives to promote photography in the region.

Read more about him [here](#).



Juan Venter sadly passed away in 2023 and club members remembered him as a caring mentor during an online memorial and in this tribute [here](#) Juan was a top photographer, who specialised in wildlife photography. He was one of the semi-finalists in the Africa Geographic Photographer of the Year competition and received special mention as runner-up in the professional category.



Neels Beyers was the PSSA Western Cape Regional Director, in which capacity he was invited as guest speaker to the founding meeting of the Tafelberg Afrikaanse Fotografieklub. He joined soon after. He is a prolific salon participant and his numerous acceptances and awards earned him EPSSA(Mille), EFIAP/s national and international salons. He also earned APSSA(Vers) in 2009 after being awarded APSSA in Colour Slides, Colour Prints and Digital.



Phillip de Lange was awarded the Golden Apple for service to photography in the Western Cape for the exemplary work he does to promote youth and scholar photography. He was, for example, instrumental in bringing the Christelike Privaatskool Malmesbury under the TAFklub wing. As the PSSA Director for Youth, he has inspired South African youngsters to compete locally and internationally, where they perform exceptionally well.

More information

Find information about meetings, outings and competition winners on the club website <https://www.tafklub.co.za/>.

Find them on Facebook here: <https://www.facebook.com/tafelberg.fotografieklub>