

The Bellows

Official newsletter of the Tygerberg Photographic Society



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

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COVER IMAGE by Desmond Labuschagne entitled "The tall giraffe".

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

Hi everyone,

And so we come to the final Bellows for 2025! My thanks to everyone who took the trouble to comment on the newsletters during the year, and especially to those who made comments on errors or made suggestions to improve them.

Please see the announcement from the PSSA regarding closing dates for Honours applications on page 15. I thought it might be worth repeating something I said way back in the November 2024 edition. This is especially important for our junior members, who are submitting more and more quality images each month. I quote:

"Soon after I joined almost 11 years ago now, I received some advice from one of our former members, a delightful gentleman and master photographer, Clifford Wyeth, and I thought I would pass it on. He was very keen for members to get the satisfaction of having PSSA Honours listed behind their names. He told me that I should start a folder for all the images that I really liked and that also scored really well, with the view of at some stage making an application for the LPSSA (Licentiate of the Photographic Society of South Africa).

To apply for this honour, one needs 10 photos, and they need to come together as a harmonious presentation, as the images are judged individually as well as the by the look of the panel as a whole. You will find that as you add to your collection of images, so you will also discard some of the ones that you afterwards feel are just not up to standard, or don't fit the panel. But it's a great feeling receiving the email saying your application was successful, and it's really worth the effort. If you are interested, you can find all the information [here](#)."

For the first time in many years, my wife Jacqui and I attended the Annual Awards function, mainly because it was held during the day this year, and also because it was held a little earlier in November than normal. Anyway, it was a real treat, and seeing old friends was just so special! Our thanks to everyone for making it such a memorable event.

This month we have a new addition in the Special Images section. In the recent Western Cape Print Circuit, Johan van Wyk received various medals, and Nicol du Toit presented them to him at the Awards function. Johan has been kind enough to write a short commentary on each of the images, and the commentaries can be found below each of the images. Thanks Johan!

As we enter a short break before 2026 starts in earnest, the time is now to start thinking about your goals and targets for the new year. The sooner you set those goals and start tracking your progress, the more chance you will have of achieving them! A small tip - make an entry in your diary on the 1st of each month to look at the list of Set Subjects for the year. You never know when an opportunity might present itself for an entry later in the year, and this is a great way to keep focused on the year as a whole.

And then finally - my very best wishes to each and every one of you for the upcoming festive season, and for the new year. Please take care of yourselves and your families, and enjoy!

Till next time,
Rob.

Chairman Chatter

Hi there Tygertogs

And just like that, we come to the end of another successful year. From a steady membership base, we have seen our members improving their skills steadily over the year, with both our senior and junior photographers improving their standings in the PSSA Interclub competition. Some of our junior members improved their star grading, moving quickly through from a 1 star to 3 star, and some of our 3 star members became seniors by moving to 4 star. Well done to each and every one of you, you can be very proud of yourselves.

This past month saw us combine our L&S with CTPS in Pinelands, enjoying a superb presentation by GB Jordaan on sports photography. It was great seeing some of our members attend in person and via the zoom link.

Our final outing of the year was for some street photography, enjoying the Observatory open day on Saturday 29th November, and some more familiar faces were there on the day.

Our annual awards lunch proved to be a huge success, judging from the many compliments that have flowed in.

Congratulations to all the star winners in each star category for this past year, as well as our POTY – Bennie Vivier. You can read more about the awards luncheon further on in the Bellows.

We thank our sponsors for the generous prizes for our awards, from **ORMS**, R500 to each star winner and R1, 000 for the POTY, from **Richard Jones**, a Sea-Fari to one of these winners via lucky draw, which was won by Rob Minter (5 star winner), and from **Waterfront Charters**, a sunset cruise, which by lucky draw from all those present, was won by Francois du Bois.

Our November club competition set subject was The Colour **Orange** and was judged by Nerissa Naidoo.

Congratulations to all our November competition winners, which can be viewed on the following pages.

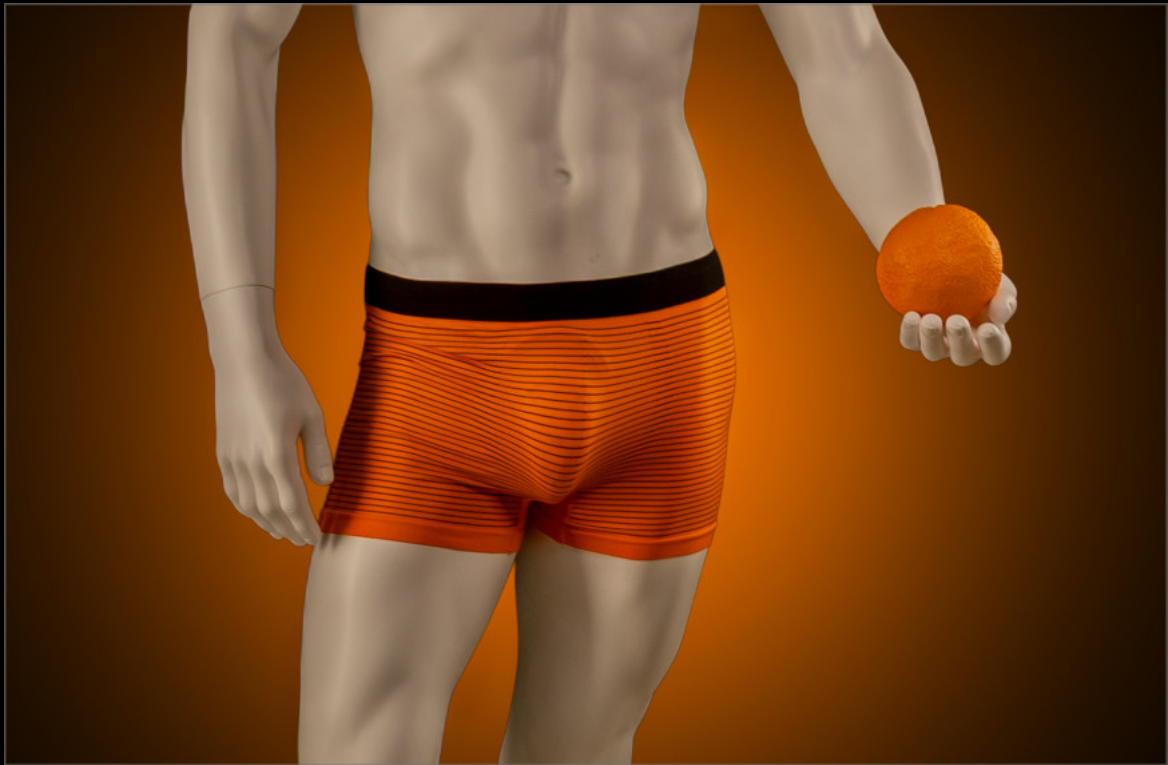
A reminder that besides WhatsApp, all club information, dates, set subjects, events, past winners etc. is posted on our website, <https://tygerphoto.co.za> and on Facebook.

Until 2026, be safe and have a wonderful Christmas with your family and loved ones.

God Bless

Michael

November 2025 Competition Winners



SENIOR WINNER SET SUBJECT

Juicy gossip by David Barnes



JUNIOR WINNER SET SUBJECT

Surrounded by warmth by Michele Golan

November 2025 Competition Winners (cont.)



SENIOR WINNER OPEN

Turning over a new leaf
by
David Barnes



JUNIOR WINNER OPEN
Preparation *by* Brian Moffatt

November 2025 Competition Winners (cont.)



SENIOR RUNNER UP SET SUBJECT

Dewdrops by Josie Norfolk



JUNIOR RUNNER UP SET SUBJECT

The magic carrot by Gustav Nel

November 2025 Competition Winners (cont.)



SENIOR RUNNER UP OPEN

Ancient map on rusted water pipe by *Rob Minter*



JUNIOR RUNNER UP OPEN

Woody woodpecker by *Annelize van der Berg*

General TPS news and information

November 2025 competition

Last month:

- **68** images were entered in the Set Subject category. The highest score on the night was 14 (David Barnes). The average score was 10.8, and the most common score was 10.

A full list of the Set Subject scores can be found on our website by clicking [here](#).

- **41** images were entered in the Open category. The winning score was 14, (David Barnes and Brian Moffatt). The average score was 11.0, and the most common score was also 11.

A full list of the Open scores can be found on our website by clicking [here](#).

Nerissa Naidoo was our judge for the month. It was a mammoth task judging 109 images in total, but she did us proud, with every image receiving a good assessment, accompanied by comments on how it could be improved. Thank you very much Nerissa!

STAR ADVANCEMENTS



Dorian Newby advanced from **2-star to 3-star**

Keep reaching for the stars!

Membership

Total membership remains unchanged at 50.

Learn and Share

Instead of our normal L&S evening, we were invited by the Cape Town Photographic Society to join them for a presentation on Sport Photography, presented by GB Jordaan. Lots of laughter and beautiful images! Thank you CTPS for the invitation!

Outings



The outing this month gave members the opportunity to participate at their leisure. The session involved attending the Streettopia annual event in Observatory, remembering that Street Photography is one of our Set Subjects for 2026. Those who attended thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

General TPS news and information (cont.)

2025 Awards Function

Our Annual Awards Function was again held at the Royal Cape Yacht Club, but this year featured a lunch, rather than an evening dinner. The change to a daytime event meant that we had a record number of 40 people attending, and it certainly looked as if everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Photographer of the year

Winner: Bennie Vivier
Runner up: David Barnes

Star Category results:

Cat	Winner	Runner up	Winner score	Runner up score
1-Star	Annelize van der Berg Charlotte van der berg	Gustav Nel	481	471
2-Star	Lerothodi Leeu	Tamlyn Goodwin	421	363
3-Star	Claudia Lothering	John Read	533	496
4-Star	Johan Greef	N/a	344	N/a
5-Star	Rob Minter	Pieter Swart	592	539
Master	Bennie Vivier	David Barnes	634	599

Long Service Awards

5 years Ben ter Huurne
10 years David Barnes
15 years Martin Kleingeld

Salon Medal Awards

Johan van Wyk

General TPS news and information (cont.)

2025 Awards Function (cont.)

Special Service Award - Marleen la Grange

To someone who has been a long standing member of TPS, who has unselfishly contributed a lot to TPS, always operating in the background, offering support in many ways, from opening up on occasions, providing the tea and coffee at our club competition nights, and sometimes providing a lovely spoil with something extra.

Marleen - a well-deserved recognition for all you have done and continue to do for TPS.

Lucky draws (reminder: you had to be there to be eligible for the draws!)



There were two lucky draws on the day. The first was organised by David Barnes, who arranged for a beautiful sunset cruise voucher from Waterfront Charters. **Francois du Bois** was the lucky winner.



Richard and Alta Jones

The second was for the magnificent "Sea-Fari", a sailing trip for two persons in False bay, lasting 4 to 5 hours, very kindly sponsored by Richard Jones. All the winners of the various star categories were eligible, and your editor, **Rob Minter**, was the lucky winner!



Sea-Fari Cruise voucher

General TPS news and information (cont.)

2025 Awards Function (cont.)



Our resident official photographer on the day was one of the Committee members, John Read. Thanks John for a superb job - and working while the rest of us were simply enjoying proceedings! John is seen here with the Club's secretary, Claudia Lothering, who also did a star job helping with the organising of the event, and with the handing over of the awards Here are some more images from the day.



POTY 2025 - Bennie Vivier



POTY Runner up 2025
David Barnes



Marleen la Grange



Our Chairman, Michael West, and Claudia



Johan van Wyk and Nicol du Toit



The neglected official photographer's wife,
Elaine Read



Trudi and Nicol du Toit



Marietjie and Johan Kloppers

January 2026 Set Subject

Portraits

DEFINITIONS

A likeness, personality and mood of a living subject, human or animal, where the subject is dominant in the image. Portraiture is not restricted to head and shoulders and may include just a part of the face, a back view or even a full length study. Portrait photography is the art of capturing the personality and mood of the subject through carefully considering composition, lighting, and pose, where the subject is dominant in the image.

MANIPULATION IS ALLOWED

Closing date for Photovault: Friday 23 January 2026
Competition night: Wednesday 28 January 2026

Judge

The judge will be announced during January 2026.

“IT’S ONE THING TO MAKE A PICTURE OF
WHAT A PERSON LOOKS LIKE, IT’S ANOTHER
THING TO MAKE A PORTRAIT OF WHO THEY
ARE.”

PAUL CAPONIGRO

Ed’s note:

The above quote is courtesy of Light Stalking. Their Facebook page can be found [here](#).

January 2026 Set Subject (cont.)

Some tips from Google's Artificial Intelligence:

A good human portrait photo is characterized by **strong lighting, compelling composition**, and a focus on capturing the subject's **expression and individuality**. Key elements include sharp focus on the eyes, a well-chosen background that complements rather than distracts, and poses that feel natural or intentional to tell a story. For example, a classic headshot uses controlled lighting and a simple background to focus on a formal expression, while a candid street portrait might use interesting, natural light and a busier background to capture an unposed, authentic moment. [↗](#)

Key characteristics and examples

Characteristic ↗	Description	Example
Lighting	Good lighting sculpts the subject, sets the mood, and can be harsh or soft depending on the desired effect.	A classic portrait might use soft, diffused light to create a flattering and gentle look, while a dramatic portrait could use a single hard light source to create strong shadows and a more intense mood.
Composition	This involves how the subject is framed in the shot, often using rules like the rule of thirds to create balance and guide the viewer's eye.	Placing the subject slightly off-center can create a more dynamic and balanced image than a perfectly centered shot.
Focus on Eyes	In portraits, the eyes are often the sharpest point of focus, as they are crucial for connecting with the viewer.	A photographer ensures the eyes are in sharp focus, even if the background is slightly blurred (shallow depth of field), to draw the viewer's attention directly to the subject's gaze.
Expression and Emotion	A great portrait conveys the subject's personality, emotions, or story through their facial expression and body language.	A photo of a smiling person looking directly at the camera conveys happiness and confidence, while a pensive expression in a dimly lit setting can suggest thoughtfulness or melancholy.
Background	The background should either be simple and non-distracting or intentionally chosen to add context and tell a story without overpowering the subject.	A headshot might have a plain studio background to keep the focus entirely on the person, while a portrait of an artist in their studio could have art supplies in the background to provide context about their work.
Posing and Direction	Posing can be natural or staged, but it should feel appropriate for the subject and the overall mood.	A formal posed portrait might have a subject sitting upright with hands folded, while a candid portrait captures a more spontaneous moment, perhaps mid-laugh or mid-stride.
Authenticity	A strong portrait captures the essence or "vitality" of the subject, revealing something intimate or unique about them.	A great portrait goes beyond just what someone looks like to show their character, their environment, or a significant aspect of their identity.

Other news and information

From the Photographic Society of South Africa (PSSA)

All extracts from the PSSA Monthly Newsletter by Bridgid Wickham

PSSA Honours - Now open on Photovault

Closing date: 25th January 2026 

Members are reminded that application in any of the Applied categories and AV must be done directly with the Honours division.

We remind all applicants that they can request support from one of the judges on the panel when preparing their panel.

Honours Judging will take place on the following dates in 2026:

Feb	July
13,14,15	10, 11, 12
Martin Barber	Martin Barber
Johan Botha	Johan Brits
Margie Botha	Rob Heffer
Rob Heffer	Dirk Heyns
Dirk Heyns	Laetitia Kenny
Laetitia Kenny	Koot Marais
Koot Marais	Alta Oosthuizen
Alta Oosthuizen	Francois Roux
Francois Roux	Jill Sneesby
Nico Smit	Kim Stevens
Jill Sneesby	Malie van der Vyfer
Mietsie Visser	Francois van der Watt

You will see the two sessions differ. This is due to two reasons: the availability of the judges at the specific dates and the judges are also alternated from time to time.



A full list of the winners each month can be found by going to the PSSA website and following the “Competitions and Results”, and then the “Monthly Club Competitions” links. **If seeing beautiful images inspires you, then this should be a monthly visit!**

This month it appears that our newsletter is bulging. We bring you regional; national and international photographic news as well as the foundations to begin the preparation for 2026.

I often hear the words “we did not know” from our members. This newsletter, [the website](#) and [the e-Image](#) are the current tools we use to keep all of you updated. We also create links in the newsletter wherever possible to help you navigate to the relevant pages on the website. In time to come we will be adding other platforms of communication as well.

Use this quieter period of our year to peruse these current tools and platforms to facilitate your photographic journey. Enjoy the read!

Ed's note:

The article above also applies to TPS members. As mentioned numerous times before, all the information you may need about the club and its activities can be found by visiting our website, <https://tygerphoto.co.za>.

Other news and information (cont.)

From the Western Cape Photographic Forum (see their Blog [here](#))

Ed's note: The WCPF Blog is by far the best way to keep in touch with what is happening in the Western Cape's photography world. Why not visit [this page](#) and send in your details, or click on the "Subscribe" link at the bottom of the Blog posts to receive all new articles direct to your inbox? They are always worth the read.



WESTERN CAPE PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUBS

Tygerberg members celebrate a good year!

December 4, 2025 — 1 Comment

Trudi, thanks so much for this delightful article. It was an absolute pleasure to see you and Nicol when you joined us on the day. And thanks too for all the extra photos of and about the event and members - they all add value to those I have already included in this newsletter.



PHOTOGRAPHY SALONS

Best WC salon results ever!

December 3, 2025 — 0 Comments

In this post, Nicol breaks down WC Club standings and performances in the PSSA [Premier Club Competition](#). Cape Town Photographic Society are having an exceptional year, but we have a very long way to go before making any real impact. Maybe a Club goal or project soon?



WESTERN CAPE PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUBS

CTPS celebrates 135th birthday in style

December 3, 2025 — 1 Comment



WESTERN CAPE PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUBS

Tafelberg celebrates end of 20th year

November 30, 2025 — 1 Comment

Special images



TPS November 2025 Set Subject - 13/15
Fanta orange *by Bennie Vivier*



TPS November 2025 Open - 13/15
Simply beautiful *by Pieter Swart*

Special images (cont.)



COM 2nd Kroonstad Fotoklub Life in Monochrome PDI Salon
COM Johannesburg Camera Club 90th Anniversary Salon

Tunnel vision by *Francois du Bois*

Special images (cont.)



CTPS 135TH Anniversary Silver Medal - Runner up CTPS

Revisited 1 *by Johan van Wyk*

Johan writes:

No guessing where this image was created - the quintessential Sossusvlei shot...

Made early morning as the shadows were retreating ahead of the sunrise. I tried to improve the balance and focal point of the image by using a prominent foreground tree.

This conversion to B/W works as well as the colour version.

Nikon D810 @ 24mm. F11; 1/100sec ISO 320.

Special images (cont.)



CTPS 135TH Anniversary Bronze Medal - Best WCPC Club Entrant TAFKLUB

Green valley by Johan van Wyk

Johan writes:

The Dolomites region in the Italian/Austrian Alps should be a bucket list visit for any landscape photographer. The photo opportunities are limitless. The only “negative” perhaps being that the natural beauty is almost too perfect, and images often appear “chocolate box-like”, even without post-processing.

This image is of the church of San Giovanni; a 13th century church in the vast (and green) Val di Funes. The jagged Odle peaks of the south Tyrolean Dolomites tower over the valley, and late autumn foliage provides a pleasant warmth to the photo.

Nikon Z8 @45mm. F11; 1/100sec ISO 500.

Special images (cont.)



PSSA Silver Medal-WC Three Regions Print Circuit CTPS

Perfect reflections *by Johan van Wyk*

Johan writes:

Lago di Braies is an alpine lake at around 1500m above sea level. This is just another of the multitude of photo opportunities in the Dolomite region. During summer the lake is used extensively for recreation and the rowing boats are permanently left on the lake. During mid winter the lake freezes up.

The image was made early morning in late autumn; reflections were crisp and lighting was even because sunlight doesn't reach the lake at that time of the year - the reason for the long exposure. The warm colours contrast well with the otherwise cold tones in the photo.

Nikon Z8 @ 100mm F16; 2.5sec ISO100

Special images (cont.)



COM Print Circuit TAFKLUB

Winter flows *by Johan van Wyk*

Johan writes:

An image of the Admiral's Falls, above Simonstown. With a bit of a hike, the spot is quite reachable and only light gear (a wide angle zoom lens) is needed.

I used a medium format camera with a 30mm Prime lens, which equates to 24mm on a Fullframe sensor.

In the rainy season this is one of the more rewarding waterfalls around Table Mountain. The colours of the wet sandstone contrast well with flowing water, and lots of textures really enhance the visual experience.

Fujifilm GFX100S @ 30mm F16; 0.5sec ISO50