



Hermanus Photographic Society founders Dinkie Marais (left) with his wife Lettie, and Kees van de Coolwijk, with his wife Marleen, are still Honorary Life members.

Hermanus Photographic Society

Where competitions are informal

In 1996 **Dinkie Marais**, a photographic club veteran and PSSA director of more than 20 years, retired to his home-town, Hermanus, with his wife, Lettie. He had worked in towns in the old Transvaal, now Northern Gauteng and Mpumalanga, for nearly four decades. There was no photographic club in Hermanus and former PSSA president Roy Johannesson invited him to join his club, the Cape Town Photographic Society. After attending a few meetings in Cape Town, Dinkie found the travelling across the mountain and late hours too tiresome and expensive.

The owner of the Hermanus Fotofirst photographic business, **Kees van de Coolwijk**, said that a few people in Hermanus might be interested in forming a photographic club and suggested that Dinkie, with his experience, should set the ball rolling. Following Kees' suggestion, Dinkie contacted **John Annandale**, a prominent Hermanus resident, and another photographer, **Beryl Larkman**, who were indeed keen to start a club.

Following an article Dinkie wrote for the *Hermanus Times*, a meeting was held in the old library hall on 23 April 1997. The 19 people present agreed to form a club and elected Dinkie, John and Beryl to form a club committee. Not all of the members present at the first meeting joined the club, but by the end of the year the club had 21 members. Dinkie and Kees and his wife Marleen are still Honorary Life members of the club.

At the first meeting those present decided the name for the club should be Walker Bay Photographic Society, as some members also came from surrounding towns like from Gansbaai, Stanford and Bot River. They held their first competition meeting in May 1997 and in October 1997, the first visiting judge, Wikus Leeuwner, was invited to judge the monthly competition. Eventually, the outlying members drifted away and at the 1998 AGM the name Hermanus Photographic Society was officially adopted.

Dinkie Marais was president for the first four years and under his leadership Hermanus hosted the National Wildlife Photography Congress. **Max Leipoldt** was president when Hermanus hosted their first Interclub competition – in those years the hosting club was responsible for the competition as well as awards evening. In 2009, when **Ronnie Hazel** was president, the society hosted a successful PSSA National Congress.

Hermanus Photographic Society presidents

April 1997 - February 2001	Dinkie Marais	June 2010 - February 2015	Mike Sander
February 2001-February 2004	Max Leipoldt	February 2015 - February 2017	Thea Erasmus
February 2004 - February 2006	Roy Marriott	February 2017- February 2019	Charles Naude
February 2006 - February 2008	Faith Botha	February 2019 - February 2021	Elizma Fourie
February 2008 - February 2010	Ronnie Hazel	February 2021 - February 2023	David Wilson
February 2010 - June 2010	Ian Meyer	February 2023 to date	Carina de Klerk



Dinkie Marais (left) had been actively involved in photographic clubs in what was then the Transvaal province since 1962, until he retired to Hermanus, in 1996. He was a president and member of clubs in Rustenburg, Nelspruit and Middelburg for 34 years and two of these clubs, Rustenburg and Middelburg, awarded him Honorary Life Membership. Among his contributions were the hosting of the PSSA National Congresses by Rustenburg Photographic Society in 1978 and in Middelburg in 1986. For many years Dinkie's hat, adorned with the badges of numerous clubs he collected over time, was a feature of the congress photos.

Dinkie joined PSSA in 1970 and was elected a PSSA director in 1976. He remained a Board member until the early 2020's, even after he retired to Hermanus. He was awarded PSSA Honorary Life Membership, SPSSA (APSSA for Service) and a President's Award for his services to the society. In 1986 he was presented with the *Louis Marais Memorial Plaque for the PSSA Friendship Award*. His photographic prowess in colour slides earned him APSSA Honours. It is therefore understandable that Dinkie was so keen to start a photographic club when he realised there was no club in Hermanus after retiring there in January 1996.



Elizma Fourie, who served as Hermanus club president from 2019 to 2021, sadly passed away after a brief illness in 2022. She is mourned by many club members across the Western Cape region, who enjoyed her energy and humour when she was co-opted to serve on the Western Cape Photographic Forum (WCPF) as webmaster and Facebook administrator. Elizma was also a valuable member of the committee that organised the successful 2022 PSSA Greyton Congress. She became ill during congress in August and passed away the day before the accreditation ceremony for the Western Cape JAP group. Despite completing the final exam from her hospital bed, she received the highest score in the class from the adjudicators. Elizma was awarded LPSSA Honours for a colour panel in 2021. [Click here](#) to read the tributes to Elizma after she passed away.



Over the years Hermanus was able to boast with stand-out photographers as members – for example, **Treurnicht du Toit** (left), who earned EPSSA(Mille) with more than 1 000 acceptances in PSSA recognised salons and DPSSA(Vers) in 2019. He regularly wins medals in international salons.

In 2021 **Phil Sturgess FPSSA** (below left, with his wife, Carina) was ranked 16th on the national PDI Impala Log — the best achievement of a Western Cape club member in a number of years. In 2022 he was again among the Top 20 in the 18th position. His wife, **Carina de Klerk**, was among the Top 50 entrants on the Impala log that year.

Former Hermanus president **David Wilson** and newsletter editor **Charles Naude** are also regular salon entrants. David regularly wins medals in international salons. [Click here](#) to see his international medal-winning images.



From left: Phil Sturgess and Carina de Klerk at the Hermanus Kalfiefees. David Wilson (middle) and Charles and his wife, Colleen, at the club's exhibition during the FynArts Festival.



Left: Elizma Fourie at the Oscar-themed Hermanus Interclub. Right above: Daniel Reddy exhibiting at the Art in the Park.

Growing and branching out

Like most clubs, Hermanus membership fluctuated — by the end of the first year the club had 21 paid up members, which grew to 31 in 1998. By 2000 there were 45 members, in 2006 there were 94, and in 2007 membership numbers peaked at 107, before gradually declined to stabilise around 35-40 in the early 2020s. Recently, several new members joined, including enthusiastic young people and some excellent photographers.

Even though it is considered to be one of the smaller clubs in the region, Hermanus regularly came amongst the top 5 in the region's Interclub competition — and often in the top 3, notably in 2020 when Hermanus shared second place with the much bigger Cape Town Photographic Society.

The Hermanus AV group was formed in **2017/18** by eight volunteers led by **Deon Kühn**, who later discontinued the group due to ill health. The late club president, **Elizma Fourie**, gained third place on the Impala Trophy log for AVs — with the first AV she made, *A smile to remember*, after attending one of these workshops. She had no idea what AVs were, nor did she know what salons were, but nonetheless entered her AV in the PECC International Salon, where it was accepted. The following year this AV won the runner-up medal in the CTPS National AV Salon.

At the end of **2019**, **Elizma** and her team hosted an exceptional Western Cape Interclub Awards evening. This Oscar-themed evening of style and glamour is still considered to be the most successful and enjoyable Interclub awards evening ever ... and sadly, it was the last such event to be hosted in the Western Cape. The following three years Covid regulations dictated that the Interclub awards had to be awarded in online ceremonies attended by small audiences and in 2023 clubs in the region voted to discontinue the Interclub competition.

The club had been an active participant in the Hermanus FynArts Festival held annually in **June since 2017**. Since 2020 Hermanus Photographic Society also participated in the town's First Fridays Art Walk (FFAW), and more recently, also became involved in the Hermanus Art in the Park with regular exhibitions of some members' prints at a stall. The latter events were instigated by former president David Wilson to promote the premise that photography is a form of art.



The Hermies School Club joined the 2024 Kalfiefees exhibition.
Right: The Hermanus club's 2023 Fynarts exhibition.



In February 2023 the Hermies Photo Club based at Hermanus High School was formed under leadership of a teacher, Klaradyn Stemmet. Hermanus club members have been assisting the scholars with a basic course and workshops to improve their photography. Some of the scholars' work subsequently won awards and seven of their prints were included in the Hermanus club's print exhibition during FynArts in 2023 and more were exhibited in 2024. Hermanus also requested that the school club be included in the 2023 Celebration of Photography, where work by members from 21 Western Cape clubs (including Hermanus) was exhibited at Groot Constantia wine estate for nearly three months over the festive season.

Hermanus has also been active on the international scene and has been one of the 25 international photographic clubs invited by the Welsh club Cwm Rhondda to participate in their annual November international competition, due to their contacts with former Hermanus president David Wilson. Apart from Wales and South Africa, other countries represented in 2022 were Canada, Malta, Ireland, the US, and UK.

In **2022** the club celebrated its 25th anniversary with a very successful exhibition during the FynArts Festival in the Hermanus Station Mall, showcasing nearly 50 print entries from club members. Founder Dinkie Marais was invited to attend the opening of the exhibition, which attracted some 500 visitors over four days. They encouraged visitor participation by requesting visitors to select their favourite three images.

More information

Click here to visit the Hermanus Photographic Society website: <https://hermanusphoto.co.za/>.

Click here to read more about the society in their newsletter archive: <https://hermanusphoto.co.za/archived-newsletters/>.



Photography as a hobby since 1930

Krugersdorp Camera Club



*Far left:
Former chair
D. Mego in
action.*

*Left: A club
weekend to
Lesotho in
2012.*

Krugersdorp Camera Club *Where photography is a hobby*

The Krugersdorp Camera Club was founded in 1930 and has been active ever since. Records show that the club existed as early as 1931. A photograph was entered in a competition during 1931 under the name of Mr. Cecil Coath ... winning him the first prize!

The club originally consisted of approximately five enthusiasts who met regularly in a small room behind the current E.J. Adcock's-building (see below). **Cecil Coath** was most probably the first convener and is considered to be the founder of the club. **Brannie Penny** (left) and **Alf Shear** counted among the earliest members of the club. Both played an important role in the history of the club.

Alf Shear managed the photographic section at Adcock's Pharmacy (below) and he was always able to give good advice to members on the choice of film or cameras. His slides were generally of outstanding quality and he produced several winners. This small pharmacy, founded by EJ Adcock at the end of the 19th century, became Adcock Ingram, the second-largest private pharmaceutical manufacturer in South Africa.

Brannie was club chairman for many consecutive years and later became the first lifelong Honorary President of the club. He was one of the founding members of PSSA and served as its first





Left: An outing to a rally in 2001.



Right: An outing to the 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup.

Honorary Secretary for many years and PSSA President from 1960 to 1961. He joined Krugersdorp Camera and Cine Club in 1934 and soon after became the club's secretary. He served as the club's chairperson almost continuously from 1940 to 1960 and was later awarded the club's first Honorary President title. Read more about him [here](#).

Originally, only black-and-white print workers were active in the club and the first colour print, *Viv*, was entered by M.A. Vorster in May 1974. Later, the movie and slide sections followed and in October 1984 a new section for *Slide Stories* was introduced to the monthly competitions.

The club bloomed during those early years and more than one monthly meeting had to be held in order to judge the masses of entries.

The 1960's era

During the late fifties there were quite a number of enthusiastic club members. A 16mm enthusiast was **Ken Sanders** — the man with the friendly smile — who often acted as one of the judges in the ciné section of the club.

Another keen photographer was **Harold Theunissen**. On many occasions members gathered in his study to "talk shop" or discuss slides. He was a top judge and had an incredible knowledge of cameras and always gave valuable advice to the younger members of the club.

One of the most enthusiastic members was **Jack Burrell**, who owned an electrical business in town. Many judging sessions were held at his home and Mrs. Burrell always supplied tasty refreshments. Jack produced some fantastic slides — remember, in those days cameras were not as automatic as they are today. Getting a decent exposure was quite a challenge. It was necessary to use hand-held light-meters and the film had very little latitude towards over- or under exposure.

Will Jacobs, who managed the photographic section of his father-in-law's shop, Hinks, was another photographic specialist. Will sold many a camera to club members at a small deposit and monthly repayments.

In the early years club meetings were held at the Luipaard Hotel. The manager put the lounge upstairs at the club's disposal and many pleasant evenings were spent at this venue. In June 1964 the Lecture Room of the Town Hall, Krugersdorp, became the new venue for the monthly meetings.

In December 1961 *Amateur Photography* published an article by Krugersdorp club secretary (and later chairperson) Roy Reinecke about close-up photography. Read the article [here](#).

Hosting salons and winning awards

Over the years Krugersdorp members achieved many excellent salon results and won several impressive awards.



Left: In 2012 'Camargue Horses' by Gerrie Rall was chosen as the Best Salon Open image.

Right: 'Red-billed Teal taking off' by Gerbus Vermaak was the winner of the PSSA Silver Medal in the Annual website competition for in 2020.





**90TH CELEBRATION
KRUGERSDORP CAMERA CLUB
FIFTEENTH NATIONAL DIGITAL SALON**

Presented by: **KRUGERSDORP CAMERA CLUB**

Presentation Medium: Projected Digital Images (PDI)

PSSA Approved: Patronage 'B' 2021/07



- In August 1966 a slides panel submitted by Krugersdorp Camera Club was the runner-up in the Interclub Salon organised by the Port Elizabeth Camera Club. Eighteen clubs from across the country participated in the salon by submitting a panel of ten slides. The slide Creation by Pierre Eksteen was the individual runner-up.
- In 2005 the first Krugersdorp National Digital Salon was held and in 2025 the club hosted this salon for the 19th consecutive year.
- In 2012 Krugersdorp was the winner of the Senior section of the PSSA Interclub competition and the image Camargue Horses by Gerrie Rall was chosen as the Best Salon Open image of the year.
- In 2020 the club hosted the 15th digital anniversary salon to celebrate its 90th anniversary.
- In 2020 Krugersdorp Camera Club member Gerbus Vermaak was the winner of the PSSA Silver Medal in the Annual website competition for his image Red-billed Teal taking off entered in a monthly competition.
- In 2023 Krugersdorp webmaster Jeroen Luyk received an award for the club website being the 2nd Runner Up in the PSSA annual website competition.

Chairpersons Since 1950

B N Penny	Jan 1950-Jan 1960
P N Sparks	Jan 1960-Jan 1961
A Verster	Jan 1961-Jan 1962
R T Reinecke	Jan 1962-Jan 1964
K Saunders	Jan 1964-Jan 1965
D Mego	Jan 1965-Jan 1966
P Eksteen	Jan 1966- Jan 1967
J Opperman	Jan 1967- Jan 1968
G Grohmann	Jan 1968-Feb 1968
J Opperman	Feb 1968-Jan 1969
B Bredenkamp	Jan 1969-Jan 1971
P Eksteen	Jan 1971-Jan 1973
AKS vd Merwe	Jan 1973-Jan 1974
P Eksteen	Jan 1974-Jan 1975
P Mulder	Jan 1975-Jan 1976
J Opperman	Jan 1969-Mar 1976
J Dingshoff	Mar 1976-Mar 1978
B J Botha	Mar 1978-Mar 1980
K Frank	Mar 1980-June 1982
T Cronje	June 1982-June 1985

W Du Plessis	June 1985-June 1987
M Coetser	June 1987-June 1989
PJ Eksteen	June 1989-June 1991
P Sparks (Jnr)	June 1991-June 1993
H van Kaam	June 1993-June 1995
C Eksteen	June 1995-June 1997
W Van ZYL	June 1997-June 2000
W Hancox	June 2000-June 2001
H van Kaam	June 2001-June 2002
W Hancox	June 2002-June 2003
W van ZYL	June 2003-June 2005
E Reinecke	June 2005-June 2007
J Luyk	June 2007-June 2009
G Nieuwoudt	June 2009-June 2012
J Croukamp	June 2012-June 2014
C Kok	June 2014-June 2015
A Sutton	June 2015-June 2017
J Strydom	June 2017-June 2019
C Ross	June 2019-June 2024
P Sparks (Jnr)	June 2024 -

Far left top: Piet Sparks taking the traditional sip from the Van Vollenhoven trophy at the 2001 AGM.



Far left below: Piet Sparks and Wally Wallis in November 1973.



Left: Piet Sparks Jnr with the club trophies to be awarded in 2022.

Several of the past chairpersons and founding members are remembered at the annual prize giving functions by the trophies that bear their names. For example:

- Studio Sparks Trophy for Prints-mono 2 star
- Doug Mego Trophy for Prints - mono Senior/ and Best of the Year Digital Travel Senior
- Andre Verster Trophy for the Digital 1 star winner
- Cecil Coath Trophy for Digital Masters Winner
- Alf Shear Trophy for the Best of the year Digital Nature senior
- Burrell Trophy for Best of the year Digital PJ and Sport Junior
- Dingshof Trophy for Best of the year Digital PJ and Sport Senior
- Cobus Eksteen Trophy for Special Set Subject
- Branny Penny Trophy for Prints - Best Landscape

Piet Sparks (senior and junior, see above) of Studio Sparks played important roles at Krugersdorp Camera Club. The photographic studio was established in 1960 by Piet Sparks (Snr), who served several terms as president of the club before his demise in October 2011. Piet Sparks (jnr), the current owner of the studio, has 30 years practical experience in photography. He completed his National Diploma at the Pretoria Technikon and has since been active and creative in his photography at Studio Sparks. He also lectures on photography on occasions. He served as chairperson of the club from June 1991 to June 1993 and was re-elected in June 2024.

Corine Ross APSSA(Vers), EPSSA, was elected the first female chairperson of Krugersdorp Camera Club in June 2019 and chaired the club for the next five years. She was elected a PSSA Director in 2020, where she is currently responsible for the salons portfolio. Her work as PSSA Salon Director earned her a PSSA Service Award in 2024. Corine joined Krugersdorp Camera Club in 2016 and was elected a committee member in 2018, with responsibility for the portfolios Salon Director, Media, PSSA Matters and Training. Before joining Krugersdorp she served on the committee of the former West Rand Photographic Club (WRPC). She regularly presents a variety of workshops and courses for all interested junior and intermediate photographers. Corine is also a member of AV Makers and have been promoting AV's at the Krugersdorp Camera Club.

More information

Visit the Krugersdorp Camera Club website at <http://www.kameraklub.co.za>.

The club Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/KameraKlub>

Contact the club at info@kameraklub.co.za