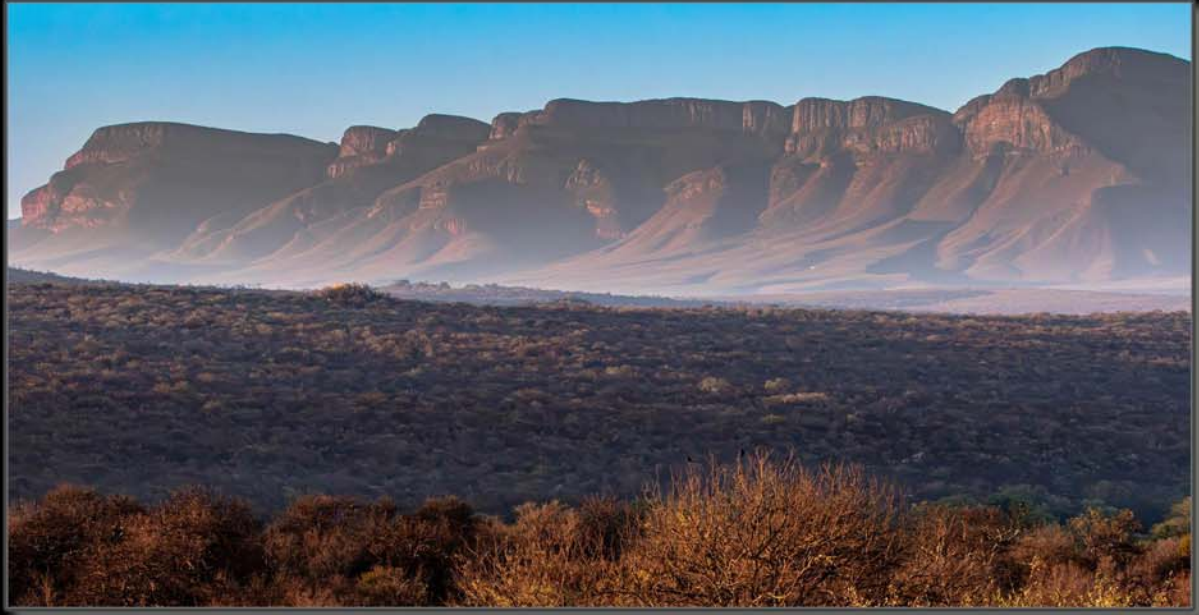


PERSPECTIVE

AMBER CAMERA CLUB

FEBRUARY 2026



HOEDSPRUIT MORNING
BY
CHARLES HENDERSEN



CHAIRMAN'S CHATTER

You will be aware that I believe that the only way to have regular, well planned outings is to have a **dedicated Outings Organizer**.

That has not happened so I am resorting to **Plan B**. Matt Jackson recommended at the AGM that we should have one club member per month who organizes an outing.

Below is the current situation:

1. At the November committee planning meeting, it was decided that on **21 February 2026** we would have a **splash outing**. Luke and Ash, Jenny Kruger's son and daughter-in-law would kindly repeat their throwing water at each sequence with some modifications.
2. Matt Jackson and Brian Groenewald will investigate the suitability of the **Tweefontein Game Farm** as a potential outing and will report back shortly.
3. Margaret Parker has already given us the details of a potential outing to the **Tala Game reserve** outside Pietermaritzburg.
4. Dave Mullin who is an experienced **Lightroom user** has kindly volunteered to give a couple of Saturday afternoon presentations on this popular Adobe program.
5. I am investigating with Andy Rice buying a **second hand "splash system"**. If it is reasonably priced and we get it, Andy would learn how to operate it and we could then have a workshop using it. Pictures of splashes seem to do very well at club evenings and in Salons.
6. The club will be buying a **Spyder**. This will be used not only to calibrate the club's equipment but we would also arrange a meeting to calibrate members' computers.
7. I hope to arrange with Jenny Kilshaw, morning meetings, details to be decided.

I have become peripherally involved with the organizing of the Splash Outing and have already become painfully aware that outings do not just organize themselves. It takes time and effort.

Here's hoping that the club will soon have a dedicated outings organizer!

Happy snapping
Mark Preston-Whyte



ABOUT THE CLUB

Amber Camera Club was established in 2011 by a group of passionate photographers. It has grown from strength to strength in the time it has been running thanks to a hard-working committee.

We welcome photographers of all ages and all levels to join our club in the hopes of helping them grow and creating an environment for likeminded people to meet and socialize.

There is a meeting every month - on the 3rd Tuesday of the month in the evening at the Amber Valley Auditorium at 6:30pm. Everyone and anyone are welcome to join. We also host an outing on the Saturday following the meeting to practice some photography.

If you would like to find out more information – please contact us on ambercameraclub@gmail.com or contact one of our dedicated committee members, details, of which, are below.

Chairperson: Mark Preston-Whyte 082 564 0729

Secretary: Sue Grills 073 571 4971

Competition Steward: Jenny Kruger 082 871 1782

Treasurer: Biddy Jung 072 259 3809

Membership: Helga Holst 076 816 6454

Editor: Rose Douglas 076 402 6020

Tea: Gill Ainslie 083 789 2642/Penny Shaw 082 564 3144

E-mail: ambercameraclub@gmail.com



The Amber Camera Club is proudly affiliated with the

**Photographic
Society of South Africa**

www.pssa.co.za

WELCOME

We would like to extend a warm welcome to
2 new members this month.
Anita Baert and Este Blundell.

MEMBERS WEBSITES/VLOGS/ BLOGS/UTUBE CHANNELS

Mark Preston-Whyte: www.markpw6.wixsite.com/website-copy

Rose Douglas: U-Tube channel — Rose Douglas Explore Africa

IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR OWN SITE LISTED, PLEASE SEND YOUR DETAILS TO THE EDITOR.

SUBS 2026

Members - R320.00

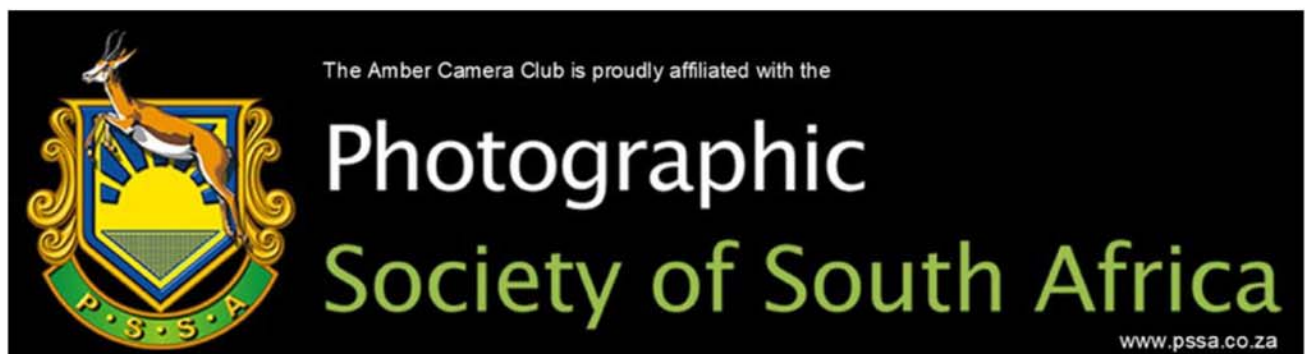
Country Members - R160.00

Under 18s - R160.00

Bank details: Amber Camera Club

Std Bank SA Code: 058325

Account number: 257753575



JANUARY CLUB COMPETITION

This month's JUDGES

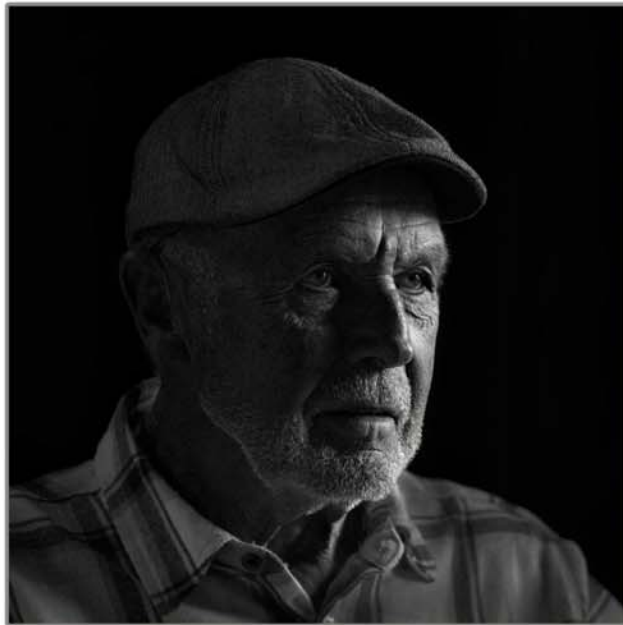
Alan Nixon - Ballito CC

Brian Williams - Ballito CC

Rung Button - Ballito CC

Judges Choice Junior

**THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST
BY BRIAN GROENEWALD**



Judges Choice Senior

BEE EATER CATCH BY SHIRLEY SWINGLER



JANUARY CLUB COMPETITION

SET SUBJECT - MOUNTAINS

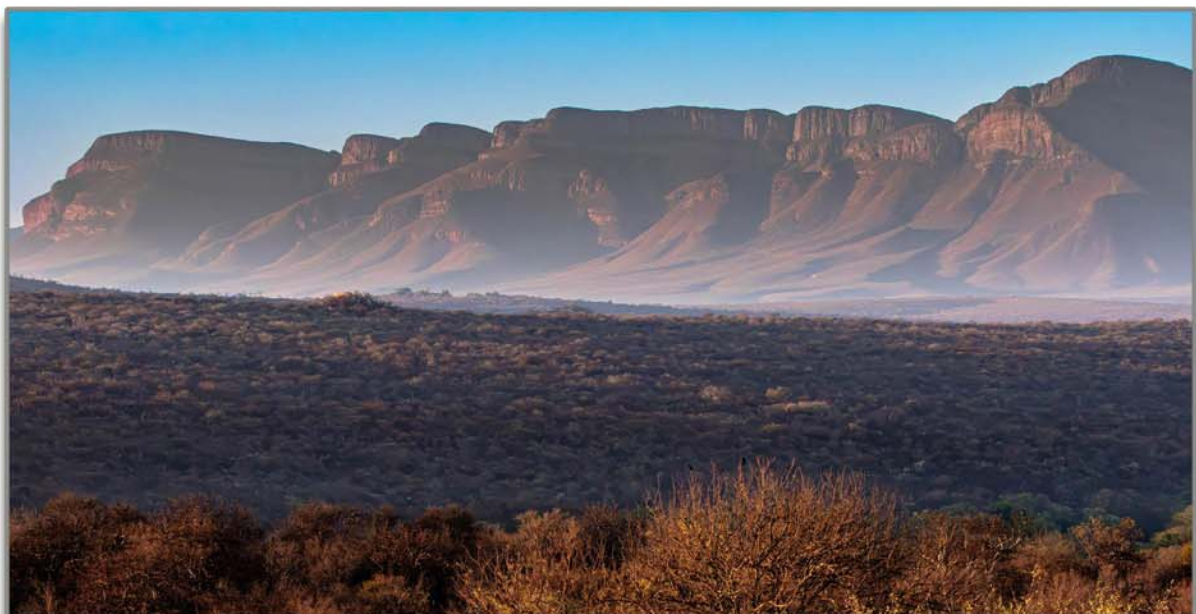
Judges Choice Junior

DRAKENSBERG C BY GAYE NOTHNAGEL



Judges Choice Senior

HOEDSPRUIT MORNING BY CHARLES HENDERSEN



2026 CLUB COMPETITIONS

SET SUBJECTS

JANUARY - MOUNTAINS closed 1st January

FEBRUARY - HANDS closes 1st February

MARCH - MINIMALISTIC closes 1st March

**APRIL - THROUGH THE WINDOW (KZN INTERCLUB SS)
closes 1st April**

MAY - RIM LIGHTING closes 1st May

JUNE - ARCHITECTURE closes 1st June

JULY - WINDOW LIGHT closes 1st July

AUGUST - POETRY IN MOTION closes 1st August

SEPTEMBER - SHADOWS (MONO) closes 1st September

OCTOBER - MOODS & EMOTIONS closes 1st October

JANUARY 27- MISTY LANDSCAPE

At least 1 of your 4 entries should be entered in our Set Subject for this month, the balance may be entered in this category or across any of the remaining 5 categories on PhotoVault. If you are unable to enter anything in the set subject, you forfeit that image and enter only 3 in other categories.

NOTE: Remember to size correctly: at least one of the image dimensions must be exactly 1920px wide or 1080px high and sized up to 2Mb



MIDLANDS MEANDER CATEGORIES

The Midlands Meander Association, (MMA), Photo themes for 2026.

The important change from this year is that there is no longer a photo theme for a particular month. Rather, there are 6 general themes which you can take at any time of the year. This means that it does not matter if you miss a particular monthly theme. You will still be limited to 3 photos per month but hopefully there will be more photos going to MMA and less frustrated photographers.

There is a wide range of possible pictures so have fun.

We are excited to continue our annual partnership with you — it has become a highlight on the Midlands Meander calendar, and we are so grateful for the enthusiasm, creativity and incredible images you produce each year.

forward, the Midlands Meander Association would love to supply our own themes to help guide the creative direction and encourage images that best showcase the natural beauty, people and spirit of our region. These photographs will continue to be used across our marketing platforms, including social media, web and print — helping us promote the Midlands Meander in a fresh, authentic and visually compelling way. We hope these new themes will inspire even more participation and spark fun, exciting photographic exploration of the Meander.

Thank you for your ongoing support and for bringing our region to life through your lenses.

Here are 5 strong, marketing-ready photography themes that celebrate natural beauty, people, culture, and the spirit of the Midlands Meander — while keeping it fun and engaging for the photographers:

Please can the submitted photographs be 1MB or higher.

Please state your name and where the photograph was taken.

1. “Wild Midlands” Showcase the raw, untamed beauty of the region — wildlife, rivers, forests, morning mist, birds and small details found in nature.

2. “Hands at Work” Celebrate the makers and artisans: potters, leatherworkers, brewers, bakers, weavers, woodworkers, farmers — real hands doing real Midland’s work.

3. “People of the Meander” Portraits or candid moments of locals, visitors, artists, farmers, families and workers — storytelling through faces and interactions. Please try and get the name of person and place of work. We can then do the home work and find the story to go with the photo.

4. “Colour Burst Midlands” Capture vibrant colour in the Midlands: wildflowers, art, market scenes, stained glass, bright produce, painted buildings, sunrises/sunsets, Autumn or spring colours.

5. “Farm to Table” Show the Midlands’ food identity: local farmers, fresh produce, chefs in kitchens, bakery scenes, harvests, markets, breads, dairy, herbs.

And lastly the Bonus...

6. “The Story of a Day on the Meander” A narrative theme: from sunrise to sunset, capturing a sequence or single moment that represents a full Mid lands experience. This in particular will be showcased on social media... We look forward to another wonderful year of collaboration and creativity!

SALON CALENDAR 2025/2026

Calendar for year ending June 2026

No	Club	Salon Name	Closing Date
1	Amber Camera Club	Amber Camera Club 2nd International AV Salon	2025/07/01
2	Witzenberg Photographic Society	5th Witzenberg Photographic Society Digital Print Salon 2025	2025/07/05
3	Edenvale Photographic Club	9th Danube Summer Circuit 2025	2025/07/15
4	Edenvale Photographic Club	8th Edenvale National Digital Salon, 75th Anniversary	2025/07/19
5	National Photographic Club (NPC)	30th Birthday Celebration Salon NPC	2025/08/02
6	PSSA Up and Coming	28th PSSA UP and COMING National Salon 2025	2025/08/09
7	Sandton Photographic Society	Sandton 10th National Digital Salon	2025/08/16
8	Durban Camera Club	3rd Durban Camera Club Digital Salon	2025/08/30
9	PSSA Salon	6th PSSA YOUTH National Salon 2025	2025/09/06
10	Witzenberg PS, CTPS, Swartland FK	Western Cape Print Circuit (Three Regions)	2025/09/06
11	Bloemfontein Camera Club	Bloemfontein CC Salon 2025	2025/09/13
12	Camera Club of Johannesburg	Camera Club of Johannesburg 90th Anniversary	2025/09/27
13	Kroonstad Fotoklub	2nd Kroonstad Fotoklub Life in Monochrome PDI Salon	2025/10/11
14	Rustenburg Photographic Society	7th Rustenburg National Digital Salon	2025/10/25
15	F Stop Photographic Society	2nd F Stop	2025/11/08
16	Vanderbijlparkse Fotografiese Vereniging	7th Vanderbijlparkse Fotografiese Vereniging National Digital Salon	2025/11/15
17	Brandpunt Fotoklub	7de Brandpunt Fotoklub Nasionale Salon	2026/01/10
18	Bethal Fotografieklub	5th Bethal PDI Salon	2026/01/17
19	Swartland Fotografieklub	10th Swartland PDI and Print Salon	2026/01/31
20	Highway Camera Club	2nd Highway Salon	2026/02/07
21	Ermelo Fotoklub	Ermelo Fotoklub 5th National Digital Salon	2026/02/21
22	AFO Fotografieklub	14th National AFO Salon 2026	2026/03/07
23	PSSA Up and Coming	29th PSSA UP and COMING National Salon 2025	2026/03/14
24	South African Visual Arts Society (SAVAS)	SAVAS 4th Digital Salon 2025	2026/03/21
25	PSSA Salon	PSSA International Salon of Photography 2026	2026/03/28
26	Worcester Fotografieklub	Worcester FK 2de Nasionale Salon	2026/04/04
27	Boksburg Camera Club	8th Boksburg National Digital Salon - PDI	2026/04/11
28	Hibiscus Coast Photographic Society	7th HCPS National Digital Salon	2026/04/18
29	Tafelberg Fotografie Klub	TAF Klub Print & PDI Salon 2026	2026/05/02
30	Kosmos Fotografie Klub	4th Kosmos Fotografie Klub Salon	2026/05/16
31	Magalies Foto Fun Club	10 th MFFC DPI Salon	2026/05/30
32	Scottburgh Camera Club	SCC 1ST NATIONAL DIGITAL SALON	2026/06/13
33	Northern Gauteng Region	3rd SANParks Honorary Rangers Pretoria Region PDI Salon 2025	2026/06/27



March 2026 SS - MINIMALISTIC

Minimalist photography is a form of photography that is distinguished by extreme simplicity. It focuses solely on the smallest number of objects, and it's normally composed in a clean, clinical way with very little differences in the colours and tones of the image. Generally, most minimalist photos have one subject, which also works as the focal point. There should be no doubt about what you are supposed to look at. In the below example the boat is the subject of the photo. So, find yourself something specific to photograph.



Simplifying and removing distractions is always a good idea in your photos. Minimalist photos just take it a few steps further. Generally, there are also large portions of uncluttered and clean sections in minimalist photos. This is often referred to as negative space. Negative space is the empty space between your subjects. These large portions are of course empty and the result is to greatly emphasize the parts of the photo, which are not empty – your subject or subjects. Because most of this shot is empty, or at least monotonous you are drawn to the area of highest contrast (the trees) your brain cannot help it. That is the power of negative space.



Minimalist photos are generally comprised of simple geometric shapes such as triangles, lines, and curves and placements of your subject either centrally in your photo, in accordance with the rule of thirds, golden ratio, or something extreme as in the corners or close to the edge. The point is the lines and subjects of your photos are placed in an orderly manner. Take the below photo for example. It is easy to see the two parallel lines along the fence and this massive snow shower.





Why your Camera Club needs you in person.

Written by Sean Cameron Gunn

In our hyperconnected digital world, it's tempting to believe that a quick scroll through online forums or a virtual meeting can replace the rich experience of gathering with fellow photographers in person. Yet there's something profound—almost magical—that happens when passionate photographers come together in the same room, sharing not just images on screens, but stories, laughter, and the tangible energy of creative minds at work.

The chemistry of creative connection.

When you walk into a camera club meeting, you're not just attending an event—you're stepping into a living laboratory of creativity. The conversations that spark before the formal meeting begins, the excited whispers when someone shares a breakthrough shot, the collective "wow" when an exceptional image appears on screen—these moments create an alchemy that no digital platform can replicate. There's a reason why legendary photography collectives built their reputation through intense in-person collaborations. Human creativity thrives on proximity, on the subtle cues of body language, on the infectious enthusiasm that only physical presence can generate.

Learning beyond the lens.

Online tutorials can teach you technical skills, but they cannot teach you the art of seeing through another photographer's eyes while standing beside them. When a seasoned member explains their thought process behind a compelling composition, watching their hands gesture, seeing their eyes light up with passion, you absorb not just information but inspiration. These moments of shared discovery—when someone points out a detail you missed, or when you witness another's creative breakthrough—become the building blocks of your own artistic evolution.

The democracy of diverse perspectives.

Your camera club represents a beautiful democracy of vision. The retired teacher who captures intimate street portraits, the young engineer fascinated by architectural abstracts, the grandmother documenting family heritage—each brings a unique lens through which to view the world. In person, these perspectives don't just coexist; they collide, merge, and create something entirely new. The shy member who rarely speaks online becomes animated when discussing their favourite technique face-to-face. The club comedian whose wit lightens every gathering transform critique sessions from potentially intimidating experiences into celebrations of growth.

Building bridges, not just images.

Photography can be a solitary pursuit, but it doesn't have to be a lonely one. Your physical presence at club meetings builds bridges—not just between yourself and others, but between different generations, backgrounds, and approaches to the craft. These relationships extend far beyond photography; they become the foundation for photo walks, spontaneous shooting partnerships, and lifelong friendships. The member who offers to drive you to that sunrise shoot, the one who becomes your trusted second opinion on portfolio selections—these connections form organically when hearts and minds meet in shared physical space.

Your unique contribution matters.

Every time you attend a meeting, you bring something irreplaceable: your perspective, your questions, your enthusiasm, and yes, even your doubts and struggles. The beginner who asks the "obvious" question often illuminates something the experts have forgotten. The experienced photographer who shares a hard-won lesson saves others years of trial and error. Your presence creates ripple effects you may never fully realize—the encouragement you offer, the technique you demonstrate, the fresh eyes you bring to familiar subjects.

Remember, creativity is not a solo sport. While the moment of capture may be individual, the journey of growth is collective. Your camera club isn't just waiting for you—it needs you, your voice, your vision, and the irreplaceable energy you bring simply by being there. In a world increasingly mediated by screens, choose presence.

Choose connection. Choose to be part of something larger than pixels and posts.

Your next great photograph might be just one in-person meeting away.



A LITTLE SOMETHING TO REMEMBER

Photography Etiquette – What's the Right Approach?

Whether you have a DSLR, a pocket camera, or simply use your mobile phone to take snapshots, there are some simple rules of photography etiquette that you can follow to make the shooting experience more enjoyable for you, as well as everyone else around you. Some of these tips might seem obvious, but even if you think you already know what to do, or not to do, when taking pictures, it might be worth reading just as a refresher.

Be discrete (i.e. don't be the centre of attention)

One of the most difficult things for new photographers to realize is *it's not about you*. It's about everyone else, and you just happen to be the one documenting things.

As photographers it can be tough to take a more discrete approach, but often that is exactly what we should be doing. It might sound counterintuitive, but staying out of the way can often yield the best results because we are taking other people into consideration. This goes double if you're not even the official photographer, you just happen to be in attendance with your camera. Everyone around you is trying to enjoy the experience, and couldn't care one whit about whether or not you have a camera. They just want to watch the wedding, see Timmy open his present, or experience the game-winning goal along with everyone else. From their point of view, a person with a camera who is running around frantically or blocking their field of view is an annoyance, not an asset.

Ask for permission before taking pictures

Not everyone wants their picture taken. It takes almost no time at all, and can reap incredible rewards throughout the event.

Ask for permission before sharing pics

We live in a time when almost everything is shared online, and nearly everyone has some sort of social media presence on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Flickr, Tumblr, and many others. The key word here is *almost*: not everyone is online, and not everyone wants their photos shared on social networks. Even though you might be well within your legal rights to snap pics of other people (especially in public places) and post them to your social networks, you might be inadvertently hurting some feelings, or damaging your close relationships by doing so. The solution here is simple, and only takes a few seconds – ask permission before posting. Not only is it simply a nice thing to do, it can actually help strengthen whatever bond you do have with the people in your pictures. They may have had other people post their picture online and been upset by it. Whereas, there is a very real chance that you could impress them with your honesty and candor by asking if it's okay to share their photo online.

A lot of these etiquette rules walk a fine line. It's up to you to gauge each situation and decide where the boundaries should be placed. The bottom line is that you may want to reexamine your approach to photography in some situations, and decide if a different course of action might be better for you and everyone else involved.

FOR SALE ITEMS

LowePro photo Hatchback 16L AW backpack (slate grey) with adjustable compartments. Asking price R800. Distributor price R1249

Joby Gorilla Pod tripod kit. SLR-Zoom. Never used. Asking price R300. Distributor price R699

PLEASE CONTACT: JUDY MAGNUSSEN ON
0824348886 OR 6810



LET'S NOT FORGET!!

MONTHLY MEETING - 17th February @1830

OUR SPEAKER - Rob Hart

**Rob will be talking on
Close-up/Macro Photography**

MIDLANDS MEANDER COMPETITION

**At the end of every month the categories will be
closed and sent to the MMA
and a fresh month will
open on Photovault.**

MONTHLY COMPETITION

Closing date 1st February

SET SUBJECT: Hands

MONTHLY OUTING/WORKSHOP

21st February - "SPLASH" 2.30pm

This will be held in The Lakes Tea Room

**Bring your cameras, tripods and
be prepared for an afternoon of fun.**

