



SOME OF THE MEMBERS OF THE EARLY 1980s

Hilda Croot (Wife of the Late Tom Croot who was a foundation member), Yvette Henderson (Foundation member), Joyce Smith, Graham Croot (Foundation Member), Jessica Perritt, Gordon Smith (Foundation member), Noel Henderson (The Founder member), Marcia Wilde, and Jane Croot.

Several founding members attended the club's 21st anniversary in 2000.

Westville Camera Club's early years



Noel Henderson

The Westville Camera Club was started by **Noel Henderson** (left) in April 1979 as the Westville Cine and Coloured Slide Club. The other founding members were **Yvette Henderson, Tom and Graham Croot, Graham Smith** and one other. Read the minutes of the first AGM [here](#).

Meetings have been held at the Westville Library since the inaugural meeting, with the first AGM being held in May 1980. In 2013 the club moved to the Westville Methodist Church.

In 1982 the name was changed to the Westville Camera Club (WCC) to give the club broader appeal and no doubt a more user-friendly name. The date that the club joined the PSSA is not known, but it was certainly in the early days of the club's existence and it has always been involved in the running on congresses and salons.



WESTVILLE CAMERA CLUB BADGE

During her term of office as Chairperson, Marcia Wilde designed and introduced the club badge. After prior approval of the Natal Provincial Administration and the Westville Municipality, the design of the badge was derived from the wildebeest of Natal at the top and sections of the Westville Coat of Arms. These are the hills of Westville and the reknowned wild fig tree known as the Outspan Tree from the days of ox wagons that operated between Durban and Pietermaritzburg.

Above: The current club logo was designed in 2016.

Marcia Wilde (right) designed the first club badge in 1984 during her tenure as chairman and (see above). She incorporated elements of the Natal and Westville coat of arms. The logo was redesigned in 2016 as it was felt that it needed to be modernised, and after an internal competition, the current design by Chas Venter was chosen.

1984.

15 FEBRUARY 1984 : A.G.M. : 22 Members.

COMMITTEE: Chairman : Marcia Wilde

Vice-Chairman : Tom Croot

Secretary/Treasurer : Jessica Perritt

New Members welcomed: Brian Preen, Ian Perritt and three others.

CLUB ACHIEVEMENTS: Highway Mail/Palmiet

Competition judged in March 1984. 165 slides and 12 prints were entered and the winner was Ted Brein of Durban Camera Club with his print of the Palmiet River. The best colour slide was by Peter Brigg for his transparency of a chameleon.

Noel Henderson produced an audio visual on the Palmiet Nature reserve from all the competition slides which was shown at the prize giving where Mrs Nicky Armstrong, the Westville Mayor, presented the prizes.



Mrs Marcia Wilde : 1984 Chairman.

1989 WESTVILLE CAMERA CLUB 10 YEARS OLD.

15 FEBRUARY 1989 : ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING : Membership over 40 & Committee 7 members.

Being the 10th Anniversary of the club Noel Henderson was elected to take the Chair and Yvette Henderson as Secretary/Treasurer.



1989 Committee: Chairman : Noel Henderson Vice-Chairman: Gert van Niekerk

Secretary/Treasurer: Yvette Henderson Editor: Ken Phillips who resigned in May and Noel & Yvette Henderson took over this duty. Slide Steward: Maggie Lally

Programme Secretary: Tom Lally Other Committee members: Marcia Wilde & Reg Horne

ACTIVITIES: A special Anniversary meeting was held in April 1989 and Chairman of all local clubs were invited to attend. John & Pat Harward presented the Club with this album as an anniversary gift. Noel made a speech and indicated how the club was formed in 1979 and how it had progressed over the years. He indicated that one of its functions was to promote Audio Visual in Natal and over the past few years had organised the Natal Interclub A.V. Competition and instituted the Highway Audio Visual Salon, the first of this type in Natal. He thanked other clubs for their assistance over the years.

June 1989 Natal Interclub A.V. competition was staged.

September 1989 2nd Highway National Audio Visual Salon : 19 entries : 11 single 8 dual.

Winner was Brian Preen of Westville C.C. with "No Need for Words". Profit R146.

Mooi River outing took place with other Natal Clubs - most enjoyable day in country.

1989 Proposals: Marcia proposed that Alan Job be given PSSA Meritorious Award : As 5 years of club service had not been given at that stage, committee did not agree.

Three A.V. competitions to be staged annually - Open, Traveloge and Nature.

Decided to give shows at Highway Senior Citizens homes only as material limited.

Ghetto Buster & Mike purchased for presentation of slide competition results at club.
Westville Salon proposed for 1990 and Gert to investigate with Tom Lally.

Club Activities: Noel Henderson and Brian Preen gave many slide audio visual shows at Senior Citizen Homes in Durban and District.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CLUB.

In March 1979 Noel Henderson started the Club and on 28 May 1980 it was constituted as a club and affiliated to PSSA. Set out below are some details about the club since this date:-

YEAR	MEMBERS	COMMITTEE	CHAIRMAN	FUNDS.
1980	?	3	Noel	?
1981	14	3	Noel	R30,15
1982	17	3	Noel	R35,66
1983	+-20	3	Noel	R 9,96
1984	22	3	Marcia	R35,40
1985	23	4	Alan	R111,65
1986	20+	5	Alan	R132,97
1987	30+	6	Marcia	R170,93
1988	30+	7	Marcia	R177,54
1989	+40	7	Noel	R1425,97 Fund raising for equipment during year.
1990	43	<u>To be decided at AGM.</u>		R1924,93

AUDIO VISUAL SCENE in the Club 1991 will see the start of the Monthly Star Rating Assessments of members audio visuals. The first Assessments will be made at the March 1991 meeting and the A.V's may be made of any subject. Brian Preen will be the A.V. Steward. So please let Him know of your entries in good time.

The original objectives were noted as "... to hold periodical gatherings of members for the purpose of promoting and fostering a spirit of good fellowship whilst viewing each other's films and slides, obtaining and giving advice and instruction with the view of achieving the best results in making films and slide series." AVs also played an important role.



There are numerous members who, over the years, have contributed significantly to the running and promotion of the club but probably none more so than the founder, Noel Henderson who was still a committee member in 2001. Two other names that were prominent since the early days, are **Tom** (right) and **Maggie Lally** (left). Tom was the first APS-SA Honours member and Maggie was a chairperson of the club and Regional Director of KwaZulu-Natal. They have sadly passed away, but their contribution to the club will be forever remembered (Read a tribute to Maggie [here](#)).



Another photographer who inspired many to grow in their hobby was **Benine du Toit**.

Today the shortened motto is ... "fostering a spirit of good fellowship"..... but all the values adopted by the original committee still stand.

The competitive element of photography is encouraged, but not to the exclusion of the social and fun aspects of the club. This is what attracts people to the club, as both inexperienced and experienced photographers are welcome, and all levels and interest groups are catered for.

The history is too full of colourful characters and memorable events to do justice to it here and the current members are deeply indebted to those founder members and all who have helped keep the club going strongly over the years.



1979 - 2004

Yes! the **Westville Camera Club**

is **25 years**

Won't you share this occasion with us?

We are having a party at the
Westville Camera Club's venue on
Tuesday 11th May 2004 at 7.30 pm.

Cold drinks and snacks will be supplied,
otherwise it's BYO

RSVP Tom Lally
Before 7.5.2004



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Some club details

Number of members in 2024: 87

Committee 2024

Chairman: Geoff Feldon

Vice Chairman: Malcolm Reeves

Secretary: Belinda Brodie

Entry Steward: Conrad Kelsey

Magazine editor: Buan Stanley

Committee members:

Natascha Robinson

Jen Adam

Karen Fischer

Committee 2026

Chairman: Ben Myburgh

Vice Chairman: Conrad Kelsey

Secretary: Belinda Brodie

Treasurer: Karen Fischer

Entry Steward: Linda Scott

Magazine editor: Sean Cameron Gunn

Outings Steward: Elton John Bartlett

Workshop steward: Gert van der Linde

Membership: Karen Fischer

Webmaster: Nikita Stevenson

Achievements in recent years

Top magazine: 2024, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017. Read it [here](#).



Top website: 2021, 2019, 2018.

National interclub winners: 2018 and 2022 (Joint winners)

In 2025 club chairperson **Geoff Feldon** became PSSA President, after serving as KwaZulu-Natal Regional Director and 2nd and 1st Vice President for a number of years. Read an interview with Geoff in the Camera Club of Johannesburg magazine [here](#) and a profile published in *e-Image* of October 2025 [here](#). **Karen Fischer** was appointed PSSA Membership Secretary in 2025.



Above left: an advert for new members to join the club.

Above right: Results of the 1992 Westville Club salon.

Below are the trophy winners of 1997.



Committee members from 2000. In the back row are the chairman Gordon Smith and Joyce Smith (treasurer), Tom Lally and founder Noel Henderson. In front is Maggie Lally and Tom Croot.