





PRETORIA PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

www.pretoriaphotographic.co.za

Photo-Vault-Online Entries

www.photovaultonline.com

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Refreshments	Diana van de Wiel	eswdiana@gmail.com	083 527 8237

ORGANISATION	WEB-SITE LINK
Steve's Digicams (Reviews)	www.steves-digicams.com
Digital photography review	www.dpreview.com
Photoanswers (Practical Photography)	www.photoanswers.co.uk



PPS is affiliated with PSSA

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NEW MEMBERS

Pine Pienaar our Vice President is the contact for answers on new membership and the workings of the Pretoria Photographic Society. Contact Pine at pienaar459@gmail.com

As per usual, the annual subscription fees are reduced by half for members who join after March.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

1 July 2025 Hybrid meeting	Photo Café Meeting@ NG Church Lynwood Sussex Avenue 18H30
15 July 2025 Hybrid meeting	Formal Meeting @ NG Church Lynwood Sussex Avenue 18H30
Judges: June 2025	Christo Crous (AFO) Santie van Eck Thelma van der Schyff

PROMOTIONS

PLEASE REMEMBER when you receive a promotion to update the Star Level on PhotovaultOnline before your next entry. These levels should just be a single digit: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.

KNOWING YOUR STATUS IN STAR RATING

Photovault can now generate this information. Please verify your rating to ensure that Photovault is correct. Please contact Sonja de Klerk at sonsdeklerk@gmail.com

END OF YEAR CATEGORIES 2025

The competition categories for the Junior and Senior streams are:

Landscapes	Outdoors scenes, seascapes, urban/cityscapes.
Visual Art Photography	Achieving an artistic effect through application of creative techniques.
Nature	Living, natural organisms (undomesticated) in their natural habitats. Plants and animals included. Excluded: Scenic/ landscapes/ cityscapes. <i>Images may not be manipulated and must conform to the PSSA Ethical Guidelines</i>
Macro and Floral	Includes both Macro (Close-up pictures of any subjects) and Floral (Flowers in their natural state or under controlled conditions)
Photojournalism	Newsworthy, story-telling pictures including sport. <i>Images may not be manipulated</i>
Portraits	Includes both Animal and Human portraits.
Pictorial	Open category. It includes Architecture.
Monochrome	In this category the subject is totally open. Colour images will be disqualified.
Best of the Year	All category winners will compete automatically
Most Versatile Author	Entrants shall submit a panel of five (5) images each selected from five (5) different categories.
Most Golds and COM's	The member who achieved the most Gold and COM awards in monthly competitions, as recorded in the results of the competitions
Article for e-flash	Most articles written for the e-Flash

SET SUBJECTS 2025		
MONTH	SET SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION
JANUARY	Rust	Own interpretation
FEBRUARY	Tattoos	Own interpretation
MARCH	Self-portrait telling us something of interest about you	
APRIL	Slow shutter speed	Own interpretation
MAY	Still life with something old/vintage	
JUNE	Emotions (Life, death, joy, anger)	
JULY	Creative – portray the title of a song from the 70's/80's	
AUGUST	Seasons	Own interpretation
SEPTEMBER	Abstract nature with rocks/sand patterns	
OCTOBER	Product photography for a commercial	

MONTHLY ENTRIES FOR CLUB COMPETITIONS:	
Dear PPS club members When entering your photos for the formal evenings, could you please remember the following: Only members who have judged the previous month are allowed to enter more images. You are allowed one entry in the SET SUBJECT	and four entries in either of the following categories: 1. VISUAL ART 2. NATURE OR PJ according to PSSA rules 3. OPEN – Manipulation allowed

SERVICE TO THE CLUB:	
You can serve the club by providing two or more of the services listed below throughout the year. Remember you must provide regular service to the club for it to qualify.	
List of services: - Judging at the monthly competitions. - Writing articles for the e-Flash. - Writing tutorials for the e-Flash. - Assisting with / hosting outings. - Assisting with / hosting workshops. - Assisting with / hosting tutorials.	- Providing snacks and refreshments for informal meetings. - Organising a speaker or speaking yourself for either the informal or formal meetings. - Photographing the year-end function. - Organising the end of year function.

NATIONAL SALON DATES	2025
5 th Witzenberg Photographic Society Digital Print Salon	5 July 2025
9 th Danube Summer Circuit	15 July 2025
8 th Edenvale National Digital Salon	17 July 2025
NPC 30 th Birthday Celebration Salon	2 August 2025
28 th PSSA Up & Coming National Salon	9 August 2025
Sandton 10 th National digital Salon	16 August 2025
Durban Camera Club Digital Salon	30 August 2025
6 th PSSA Youth National Salon	6 September 2025
Western Cape Print Circuit	9 September 2025
Bloemfontein Camera Club Salon	13 September 2025
Camera Club of Johannesburg 90 th Anniversary	27 September 2025
2 nd Kroonstad Fotoklub life in Monochrome PDI Salon	11 October 2025
7 th Rustenburg National Digital Salon	25 October 2025
2 nd F-Stop Salon	8 November 2025
Vanderbijlparkse Fotografiese Vereniging Digital Salon	15 November 2025
Visit www.pssa.co.za for more information and entry forms.	

All salon results administered by Photovault are registered automatically by the system. Please ensure correctness of your details in Photovault regularly. Those salons, not using Photovault still need to be captured manually. Contact Sonja de Klerk if there are any discrepancies, at ppsannouncements@gmail.com

We would like to motivate all members to take part in the PSSA salon and international scene where possible. Advancement from 3-star and 4-star require a few salon acceptances. The salon acceptances that are used to calculate promotions have a cut-off date 14 days before the meeting, to allow the competition secretary to update files. Acceptances after this date will be considered the next month.



SALON ACCEPTANCES

SSCC 8th National PDI Salon

Giuseppe Carbonatto

Nothing here

Seeking out the sweetest

Raiding the klip dagga



Floats like a butterfly

Sonja de Klerk

Waiting

Doing it in style

Coriander coriander

The orange path



The sugar falls

PECC National salon

Giuseppe Carbonatto



Nothing here Certificate of Merit

Sonja de Klerk

Mm Certificate of Merit

Go away

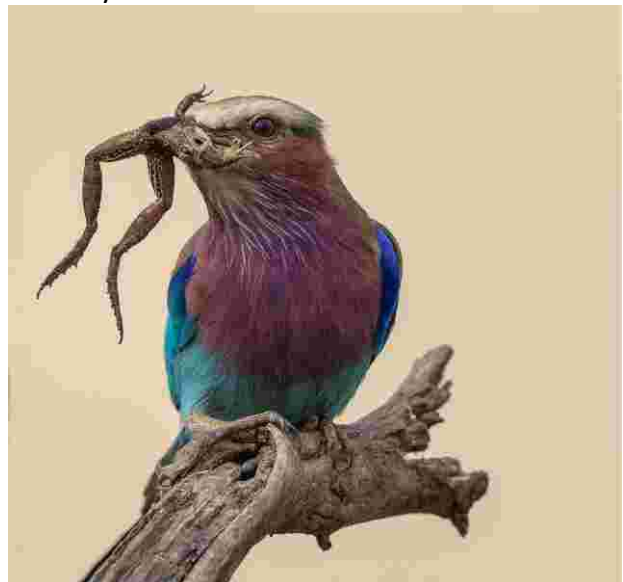
A time that hurts

International Salons

Giuseppe Carbonatto

2025 Rhino Cup International Salon

It's a try

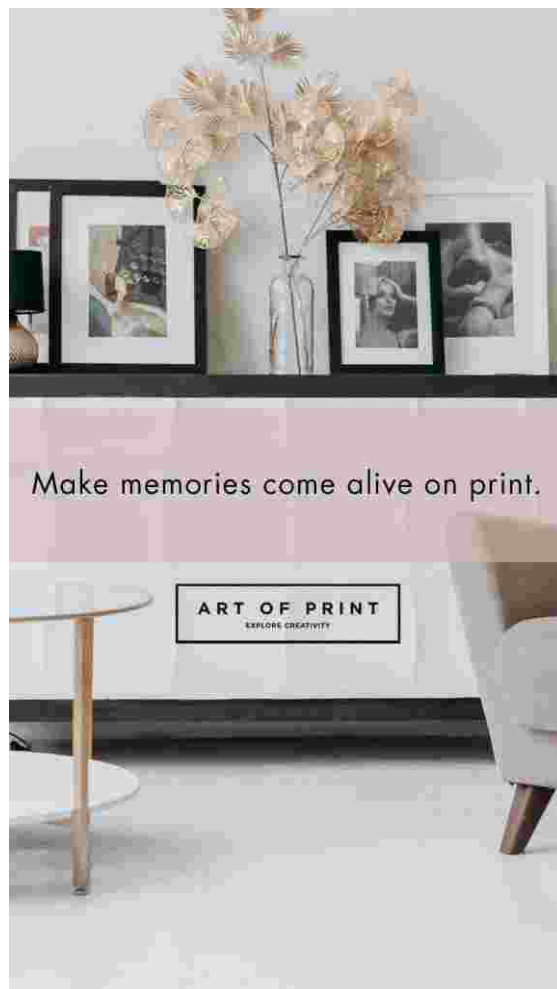
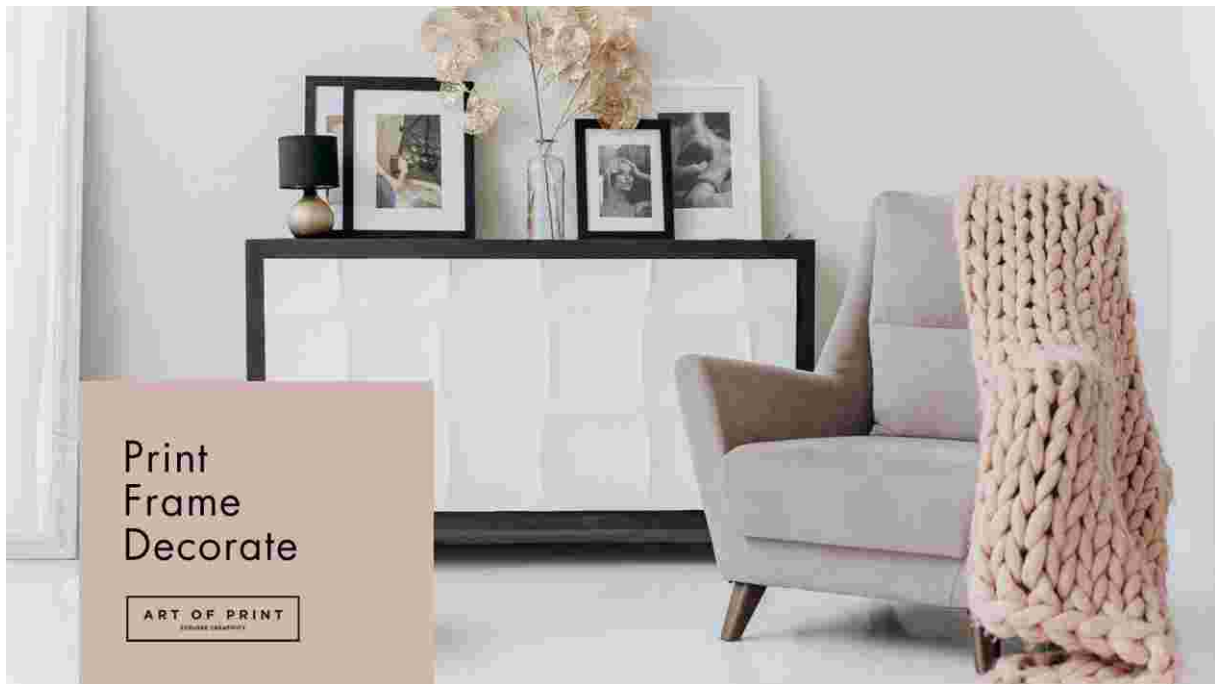


Never give up

18th International Photographic Salon Varna
2025

Nothing here

Outdoor Photo:



Contact Nr: (012) 348 3693/www.outdoorphoto.co.za

President's Page - Thelma van der Schyff

WE HAD JOY WE HAD FUN WE HAD SEASONS IN THE SUN

Not all places in our beautiful county present seasons the same.

I hail from our dear old Western Transvaal, which is pure veld, trees, meerkats, warm summers and very cold winters. No mountains, impressive rivers or noteworthy heritage sites. Only thorn trees and mine dumps. However, it has its own beauty. Just like any other province in the RS of A.

Residents residing in the fairest Cape are convinced there is no other place to be. This is debatable though, as Mpumalanga near Mariepskop, Bourke's Luck and Sabie all have their own magic. The same can be said about Haenertsburg and Tzaneen.

A person who lived in Port Elizabeth and Boknes says that when she moved to Pretoria, she was pleasantly surprised to experience seasons, as the Eastern Cape is green all year round.

The various seasons make for impressive photographs. It is referred to as Seasonal photography. Each season is a canvas for your creativity, from spring's vibrant hues to winter's serene landscapes.

Discover techniques, gear suggestions, and editing secrets. Challenge your skills with assignments and join our seasonal photography as Set Subject for August

Spring is an exciting season as we are tired of being cold, having the sniffles and being couped up inside. The spirit is ready to be revived and get out and about. There is a certain feeling when seeing the start of new growth. Soft colours, tender shoots and exuberance. Mostly the pictures of spring will focus on buds and soft colours.



Summer is a time of bright light, balmy temperatures, and beautiful skies. Of course, summer photography does come with its fair share of challenges. The sun can be too intense, washing out your shots and adding unwanted contrast. The heat can make it difficult to photograph outside during the middle of the day. It is necessary to pay attention to the position of the sun. If you see clouds that will diffuse the light, it will help you to create soft, even illumination (perfect for portraiture, flower photos, and forest landscapes). Clear skies, on the other hand, will produce hard, high-contrast light (great for street photos and architectural shots). This is also the time going for golden hour shots.



Autumn is known for vibrant colours, textures, and unique lighting of the season. This is where the opportunity presents itself for capturing close-up shots of fallen leaves and other autumnal elements. Wonderful photos await you shortly after sunrise and before sunset. The club had a few visits previously to Clarence during Easter weekend, and it was very rewarding to see colour change in nature. However, the cold is also one of the things I remember to this day. We would go out when it was still dark and set up for our shots, waiting for the sun to provide the magic. My fingers would be so cold I could hardly press the button on the camera.



Winter in South Africa offers unique opportunities for photographers, with cooler temperatures ideal for astrophotography and less crowded tourist spots. The natural light is also softer and more even, making for pleasing portraits and landscapes. Additionally, winter brings specific photographic opportunities like snow in certain regions, and the chance to capture the beauty of leafless trees and nature in resting mode. The adventurous ones can try astrophotography, providing a dark place can be found.

Below, just for you to enjoy.....



Looking forward to your inspirational images

Till next time

Thelma

2025 PPS ANNUAL PHOTO STORY COMPETITION

PPS members are reminded of this exiting and creative annual competition. You are requested to timeously start considering the topic of your entry and to collate a set of applicable images for your presentation. Images will be entered on a PhotoVault portal. On the evening of the presentation the images of each entry will be displayed on the screen and each participant will briefly relate the story.

Important Dates

19 August 2025: Activation of the PhotoVault portal for submission of the images.

30 August at midnight: Closing date for submissions.

2 September: Presentation of entries by participants at the Photo Café meeting.

Examples of Themes for your Story

The Photo Story will consist of an **album of 4 to 6 related images** that converse an interesting story. Examples of themes that could be considered:

- Human behaviour, animal behaviour, pet behaviour, environmental occurrences, sports actions, etc. The set of images should be captured at the same spot or in the immediate surrounding related to the occurrence.
- A thematic set of images that relate an interesting, humoristic, or educational story, for example flowers, plants, bridges, doors, windows, etc. Funny situations, graffiti, etc. All images must contribute to the storyline.

Format and Rules of the Competition

A **minimum of 4** and a **maximum of 6** images per album.

Only one entry per member.

The first image must contain an appropriate **title** for the album. Consecutive images may contain **brief subtitles** to further highlight the story.

The digital size of each final image must be adjusted to no more than **1920 pixels wide** and **1080 pixels high**, with a maximum size of **2MB**. The album may contain a mix of portrait and landscape images. The aspect ratio of the images may vary.

All entries will be presented at the September Photo Café. Participants will be requested to present their albums, with a time restriction of about 4 minutes. The winners will be selected by popular vote of the audience.

Entries must be submitted via a designated PhotoVault portal. The portal will be activated 2 weeks prior to the date of the competition and will close on the Saturday at midnight preceding the Photo Café meeting.

I hope that you will enjoy participating in this unique photographic experience.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Pine Pienaar

PPS Vice President

pienaar459@gmail.com

Attached: Summary of the winners and the participants of the 2024 Photo Story Competition

WINNER:
CHRISTELLE
(PISCES OF ME)



ICED OVER



BLACK INK



WRAPPED UP



FINALLY

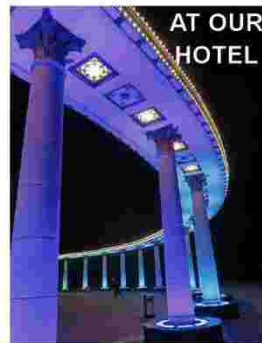
RUNNER-UP: BOSHOFF (THE HUNT)



TITLE IMAGES OF THE REMAINING ENTRIES



TONY



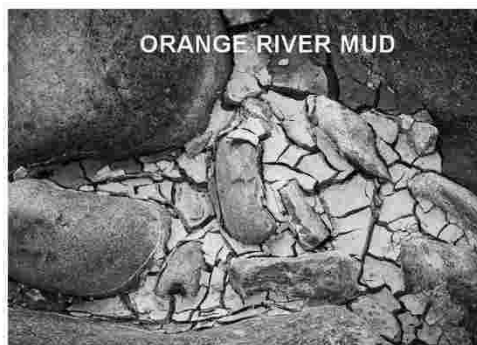
GERRIT



PINE



FRANSIE



JOHAN



GEORGE



MARY-ANN



JOHN



LINDA



GIUSEPPE



THELMA

Winning Images June 2025



*Best 2 Star:
Grieving
Kagiso Langa*



*Best Set Subject:
Luckily Mommy found
me again
Fransie Stevens*

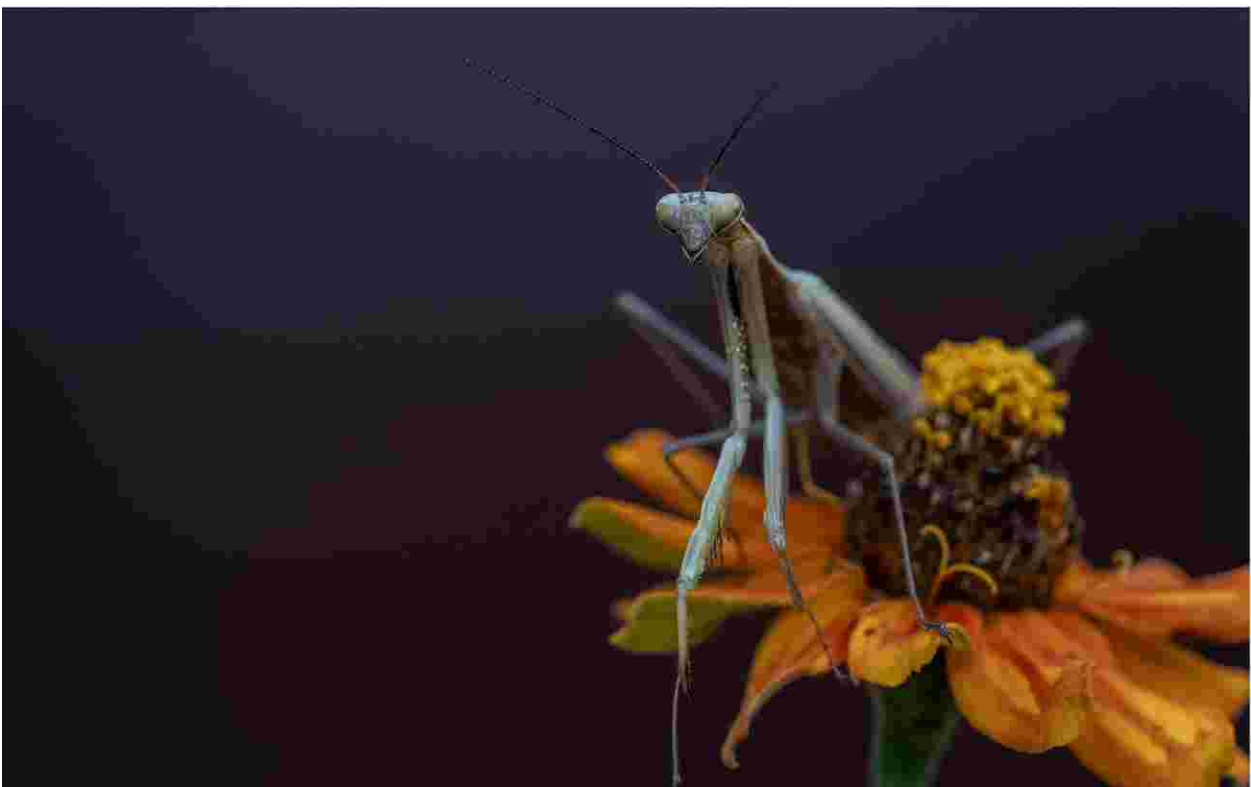
*Best Visual Art:
The Vanishing Point
Pine Pienaar*

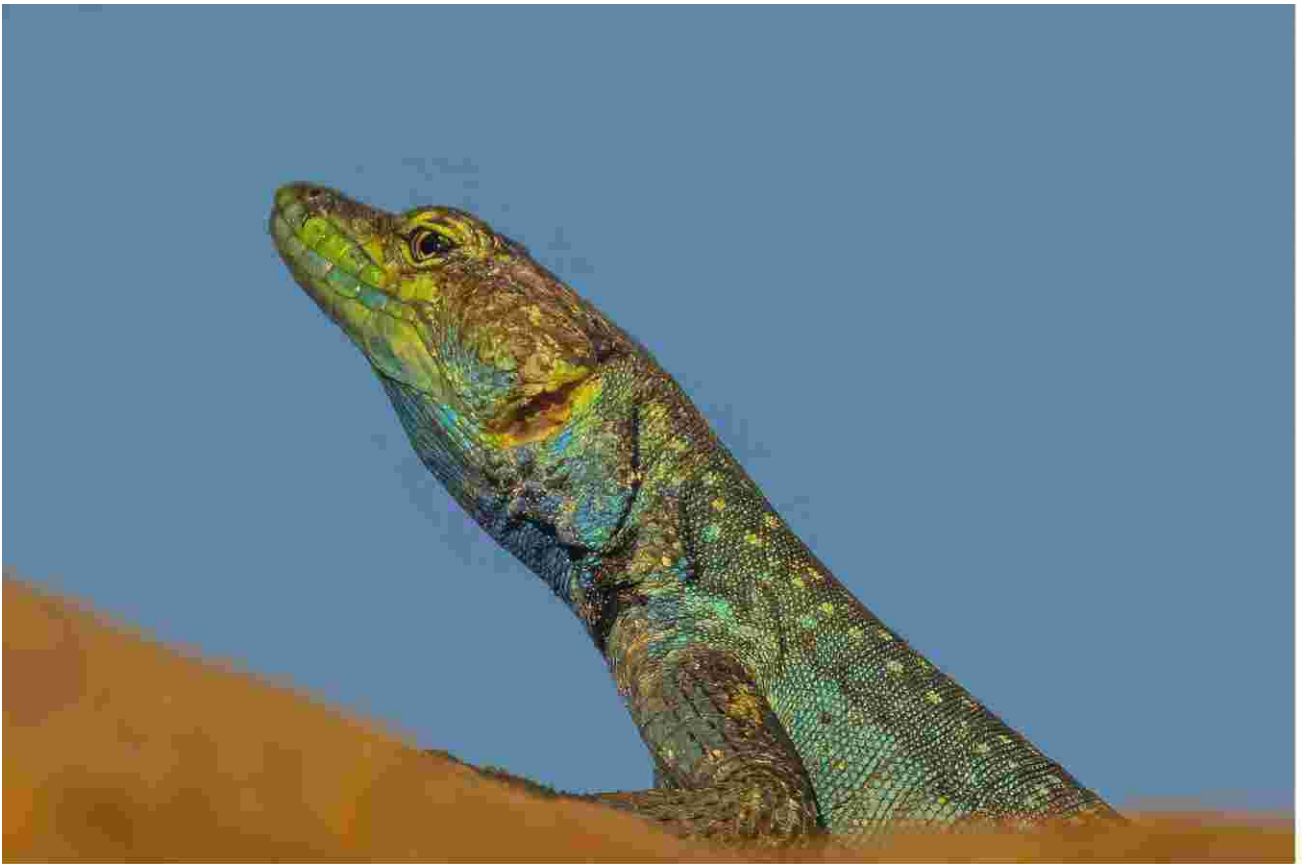




*Best 3 Star
& Best Junior:
Perfect diving entry
Mary-Ann Costello*

*Best 5 Star
Best Open, COM
& Best Senior:
I am posing
Giuseppe Carbonatto*





*Best 4 Star:
Motionless
George Stevens*

*Best Nature
& COM:
Springbok on the run
John Tapuch*

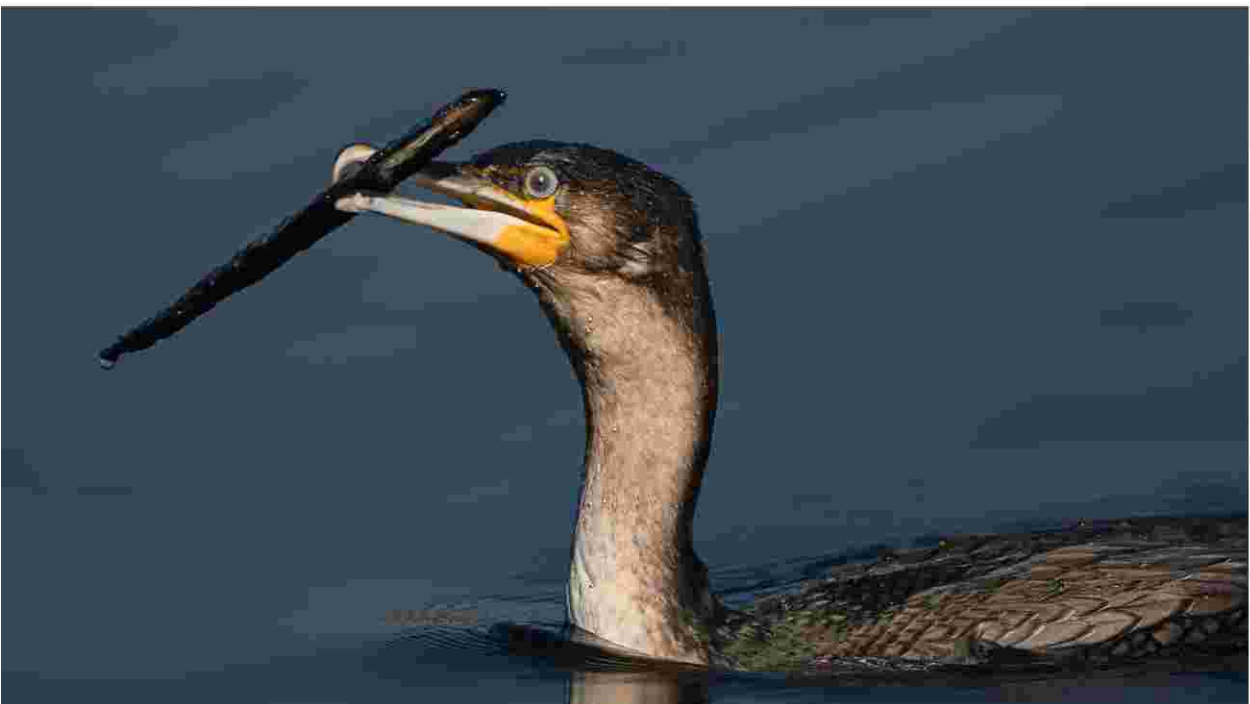


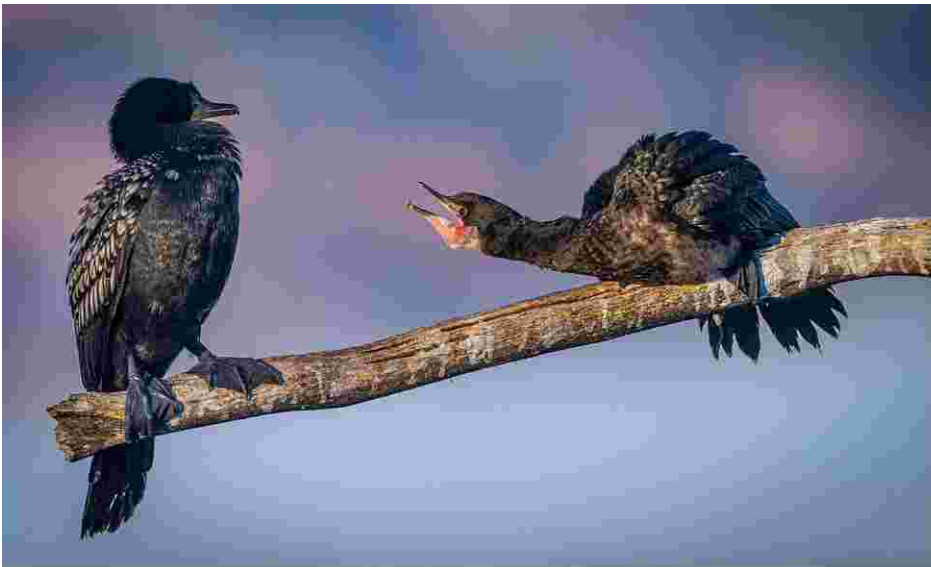
Good Nature:



COM
Against the wind
Karin du Toit

Just playing
Sonja de Klerk





*I said no
John Tapuch*



*Having a fun
feather day
Mary-Ann Costello*



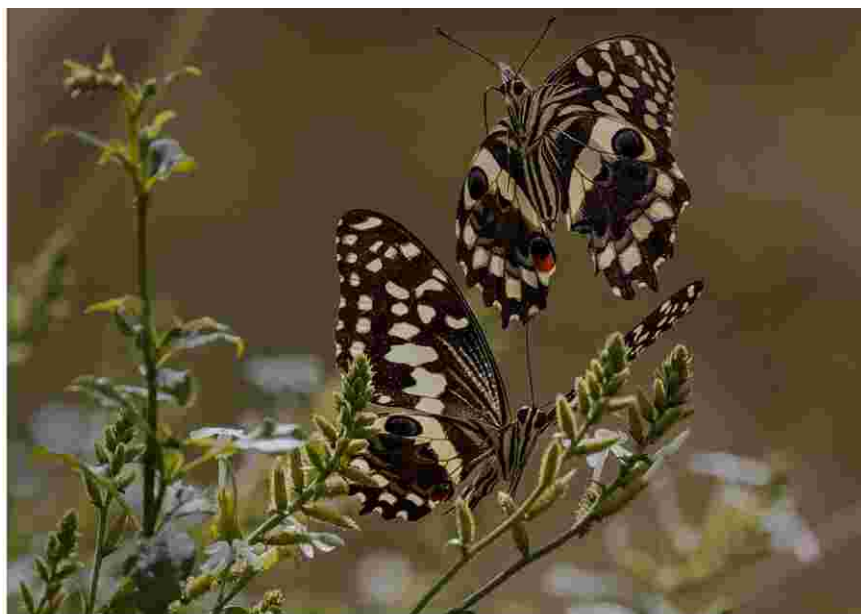
*Ready to go
George Stevens*



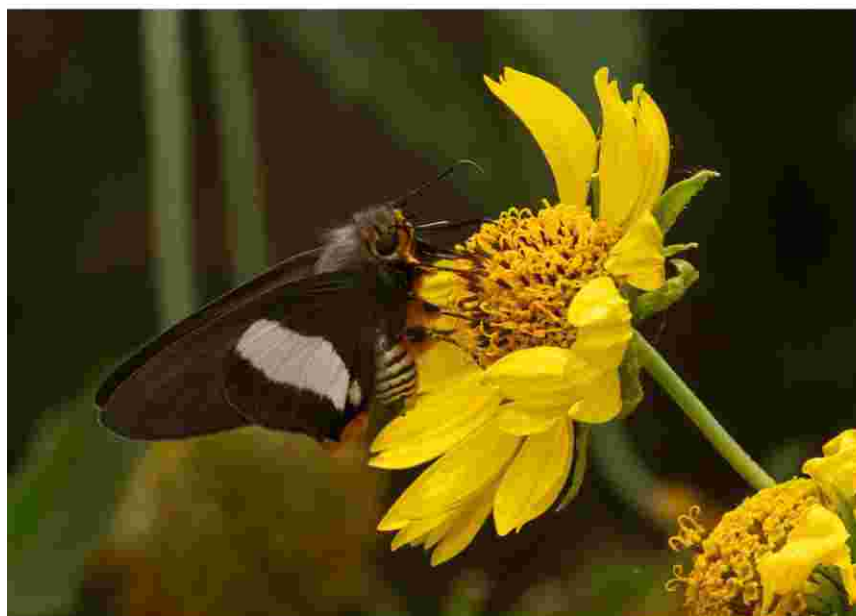
Spotted Eagle Owl
George Stevens

Cleaning house
Sonja de Klerk





Two of a kind
Giuseppe Carbonatto



*Wearing my little
black dress*
Fransie Stevens



Green and gold
Giuseppe Carbonatto



*Teeth by Golgate
Sonja de Klerk*



*The bully
Sonja de Klerk*

*Cheetah fleeing
Marianne Ver Loren van Themaat*



Good Open:



*Chin up
heels down
Fransie Stevens*



*Eye on the goal
Sonja de Klerk*

*Enjoy the swim
Sonja de Klerk*





*Yellow and red
agapantha
Joan Fouché*



*Coriander coriander
Sonja de Klerk*



*Hibiscus bloom
Joan Fouché*



*Not letting go
Giuseppe
Carbonatto*



*Landing strip
with obstacles
Fransie Stevens*



*A natural
garden
Sonja de Klerk*

Articles:

What really matters is how we achieve the end product. – John Tapuch

I felt it necessary to define what I believe is appealing when it comes to producing a great picture. Simply put, a great picture is an image that hits you between the eyes, or an image that evokes a positive emotion. Likewise, a bad or uninteresting image evokes a feeling of mediocrity or a lack of understanding of the necessary ingredients that makes a good photo.

The camera is only able to capture what the author saw and tried to reproduce in the first place.

This revelation was made clear to me when Casper started entering competition photos that he captured on his smart phone and who has now reached 4-star status in the club.

Sure the smart phone has many limitations, but the fact is, the human eye is what ultimately decides when to press the shutter and the potential of the image.

Why does one spend millions of Rands on a super car that can do 300 kph, when the maximum speed limit is only 120 kph. I will not go into what I believe the reasons are for that, but the main reason is, one's ego. There is a similarity with buying a camera. Possibly one starts to move up the ladder and is getting recognition, or would love to just own a classy camera and that they are in a financial position to do so. Or maybe they feel that they will take better pictures with it.

The latest mirrorless cameras are without doubt, amazing in their abilities and able to take over our technical and mechanical shortcomings. And the more money one spends, the more tweaks, presets etc. are available. This is not my forte and are more suitable to the gadget minded, or younger generations.

The amazing thing is that all modern digital cameras have incredibly capable sensors and the difference in image quality is marginal between the cheaper and more expensive cameras.

The fact that if one sees a photograph with potential, and you do not have a camera with you, no matter if you have a great camera, but its if it is in your cupboard, that image will not get captured. Therefore, a smart phone will to some instances be a good substitute.

Some of us were discussing the main reason images get pulled down at club level, and that is in the post processing. The main difference between a well seen and photographed image but is lacking in dynamic presentation, and a well-produced image, ultimately boils down to the post processing. This has become clear to me as I have over the years evolved in my retouching skills. As Photoshop\Lightroom has become more sophisticated, so have my retouching skills. Although, by no means am I as good as the experts, but I can see the difference. Especially when I pull out an old image that I worked on a few years ago.

On our next tour which will be in Dullstroom at the end of July, Johan and I will cover Post Processing techniques in detail.

The attached photo: When I saw the interesting door and only had my cell phone with me. It was taken with my Samsung cell phone.



A Flat Lay Challenge - Linda Martin

A good flat lay still life is something I have admired but really struggled to achieve properly.

Getting above my still- life and holding the camera steady is a serious challenge when your centre column of the tripod cannot extend up and horizontally over the objects laid out for photographing.



I have resorted to a small kitchen stepladder and leaned as far as I dare over the still-life. Using the smallest and lightest lens I have so I can hold steady even with a jacked-up ISO and speedlight. I get all wobbly and lightheaded and hope I can hold my breath long enough to get a steady shot. This way lies madness and not to mention serious injury if my aged and no longer flexible body hits the table or falls off the ladder or simply collapses onto the floor. I did consider standing on the table and aiming the camera down at my creation. This was not even worth trying since my table is more of a 3-piece trestle affair with roller wheels. It is a dressmaker's cutting table.

So, imagine my joy when one of the camera accessories places I get regular notices from had a gadget I have long dreamed about. The concept was more for blogging and photographing yourself making things or baking or sewing or whatever while filming and You-Tubeing. As you can see from the picture, it has a fitting for the downward facing camera and another fitting for a speedlight or LED light or whatever.



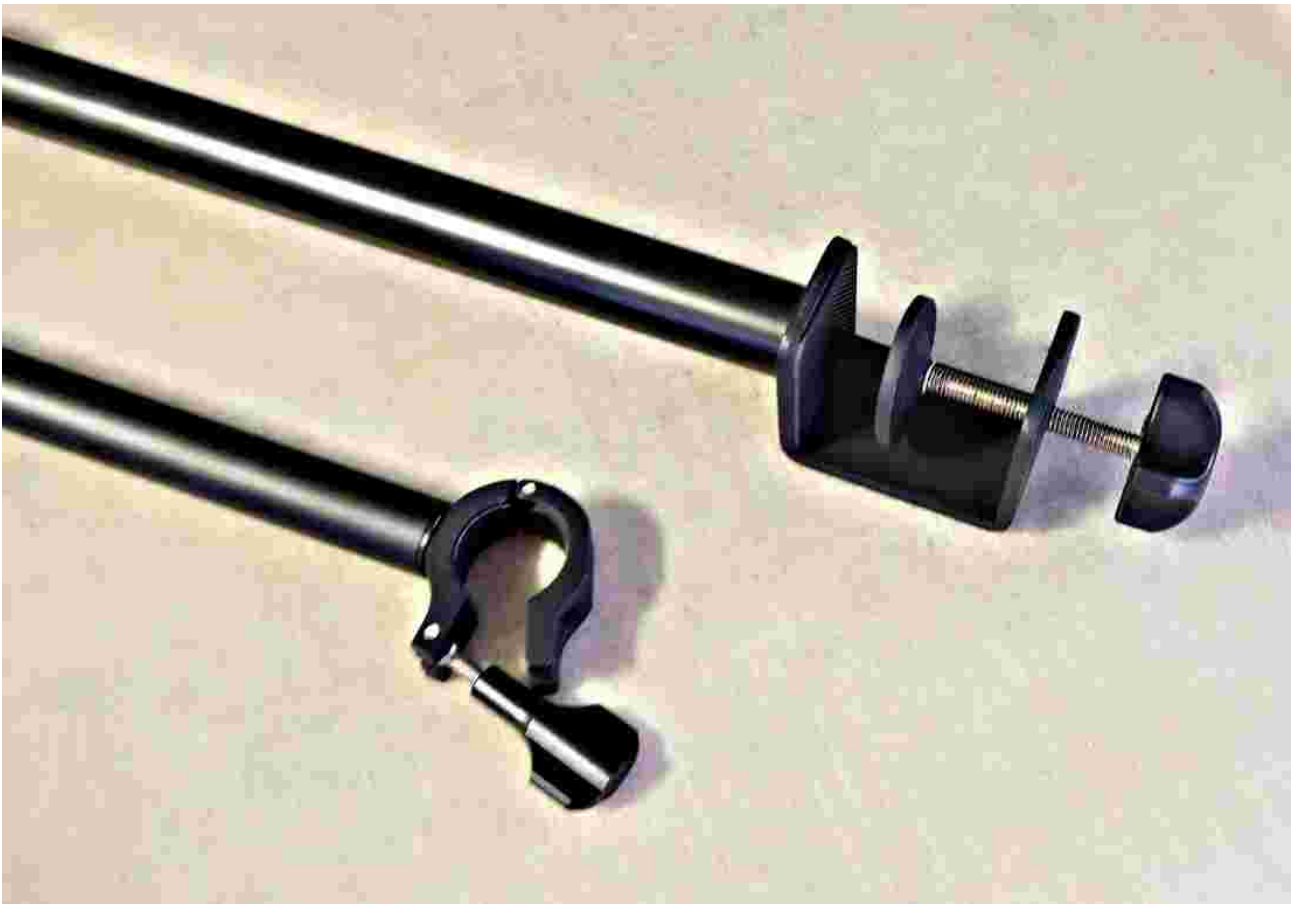
It consists of two adjustable tubes with heads that can fit a light to medium weight camera preferably with light weight lenses. The rig was after all designed for bloggers using smaller mirrorless cameras. It is surprisingly sturdy, and an articulate screen is the best for lining up the shot. I activated the shutter using the screen touch control but getting to the shutter button was not a problem. I will suggest here that one uses a 2 second timer to allow the camera to steady after pushing a button and maybe introducing a shake.



The longer vertical tube has 3 positions, and the horizontal tube is only 35cm of overhang. It is suggested that the horizontal tube with a camera attached is not clamped to the very top extension of the vertical tube. This is all to ensure stability but a LED or speedlight can be attached to the very top of the vertical tube safely.

The fitting screws at the top of the vertical tube and the end of the horizontal tube are multi-position with ball heads so can be arranged in a multitude of positions. The tightening screws are secure.

The base of the vertical tube can clamp onto a table of up to 5cm thickness. The clamps have a rubber compound to prevent scratching and helping with a secure grip.



The original offer when it first came out have both tubes in the kit. But this was just an introduction offer. By the time I decided to get the device I had to buy the tubes separately but not at a great deal more cash. The brand is NEEWER and the place to go looking is Camerastuff.

Product photography:





PPS Birthday list:

January	February
Marianne Ver Loren van Themaat 1	
Mary-Anne Costello 4	
Gerrit van Rooyen 19	
March	April
Christelle Swart 6	Nicole Rowe 6
Fransie Stevens 21	Casper van Eck 11
Linda Martin 22	Carina Munday 24
Charles Costello 30	
May	June
Boshoff Steenekamp 16	Joan Fouché 16
Detlef Basel 23	Lloyd Munday 18
Frans Fouché 30	
Marius Coetzee 30	
July	August
Diana van de Wiel 4	Tony Roberts 6
Kagiso Langa 8	Sonja de Klerk 10
Robin Miles 9	Lee Hutton 15
Johan Ver Loren van Themaat 21	George Stevens 16
	Johan von Willich 21
	Ann Roberts 23
	Brigitte Hansen 25
	Bibi Andrews 27
	Petra Haselmaier
September	October
Chantelle J van Rensburg 24	John Tapuch 1
	Ken van Wyk 5
	Thelma van der Schyff 8
	Huan Zhongjie 12
November	December
Santie van Eck 6	Giuseppe Carbonatto 1
Johan Hosten 9	Pine Pienaar 26
Karin du Toit 11	Marlene Birkholtz 31
Giel du Toit 15	
Frans Mohr 21	

Please send your date of birth to Joan Fouché if your name is not on the list.