

[www.knysnaphotosociety.com](http://www.knysnaphotosociety.com)

NEWSLETTER: May 2023

Pictures of the Month

Senior



Croc Catch by Pieter Mare

## Junior



Cape Vulture approach by Claudette Gericke

## Editor's note

We have a superb collection of images this month and it was good to see Pieter and Claudette's wonderful nature images. The junior members are certainly making the seniors sit up and take notice!

A highlight this month is Anne's beautifully written and illustrated photographic biography. Too modest to mention her Honours which are APSSA and DPSSA, she lets her pictures do the talking.

Also, this month we publish an article on Salons by Alta Oosthuizen of the Pretoria Photographic Society.

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The Knysna Photographic Society is proudly affiliated with the  
PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA



# Message from the Chair

May 2023

## **Welcome to our new member:**

We welcome Zelmarie van Rooyen, a new member of our club.

It's good to have you with us Zelmarie and we wish you a long, happy and stimulating time at KPS.

## **The Buzz is back!**

I couldn't help noticing, at our club night in May, that our KPS member buzz was back. It reminded me of pre-Covid meetings. We seem to have crossed some critical threshold and it was wonderful to experience an increase in member attendance, along with much photographic chit chat. Long may it last.

## **Member fees for 2023-24**

Although our club year officially ends on 30<sup>th</sup> June, our AGM will only be held in August. This is to allow time for the financials and prize winners to be confirmed. The new fee structure for 2023-24 has been approved by the committee and is published elsewhere in this Newsletter. Subscription fees are due on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2023 but can be paid any time from now on.

We have noticed that some judging fees have "fallen through the cracks". If you are one of those members who submit images but do not attend meetings, you may have fallen behind on judging fees. Please remedy this if possible.

In the new club year we will be more focused on this income stream.

## **David DuChemin presentation**

Thanks to Peter Oosthuizen for organising this wonderful presentation by David. If you missed out but would still like to see it, please contact Peter. It may still be possible to view it.

## **Food Photography Presentation**

Thanks to Carol Phillips, for organising the food photography presentation by Martin Kellerman and Daleen Engelbrecht. This was an excellent presentation, much enjoyed by those who attended.

## **Save the Date**

Please diarise the 24<sup>th</sup> August 2023. Our AGM and annual Prizegiving will be held on this date, at the Knysna Golf Club. Entrance for members is free. More information to follow.

## **Committee nominations or 2023-24**

Given the approaching AGM, now is a good time to contemplate who you who like to serve on your KPS Committee. Please nominate those you would like to see on the committee. This is an important process as it is vital for the club's wellbeing. The election process will be part of the AGM

Doug Emanuel

# May gallery of high scoring images

## Senior



Stunning Sydney – Sonia Elliott



Run Free- Luan Laubscher



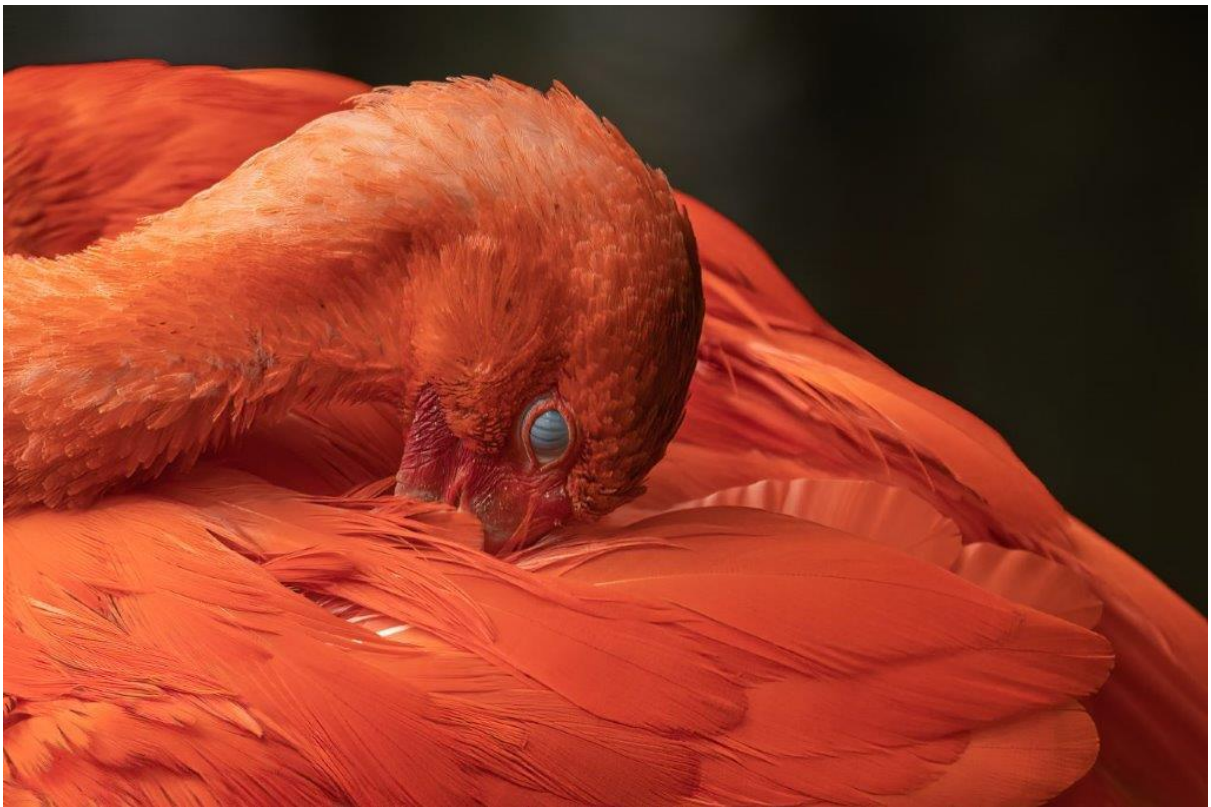
fallen vase – Carol Phillips



Disagreement - Pieter Mare

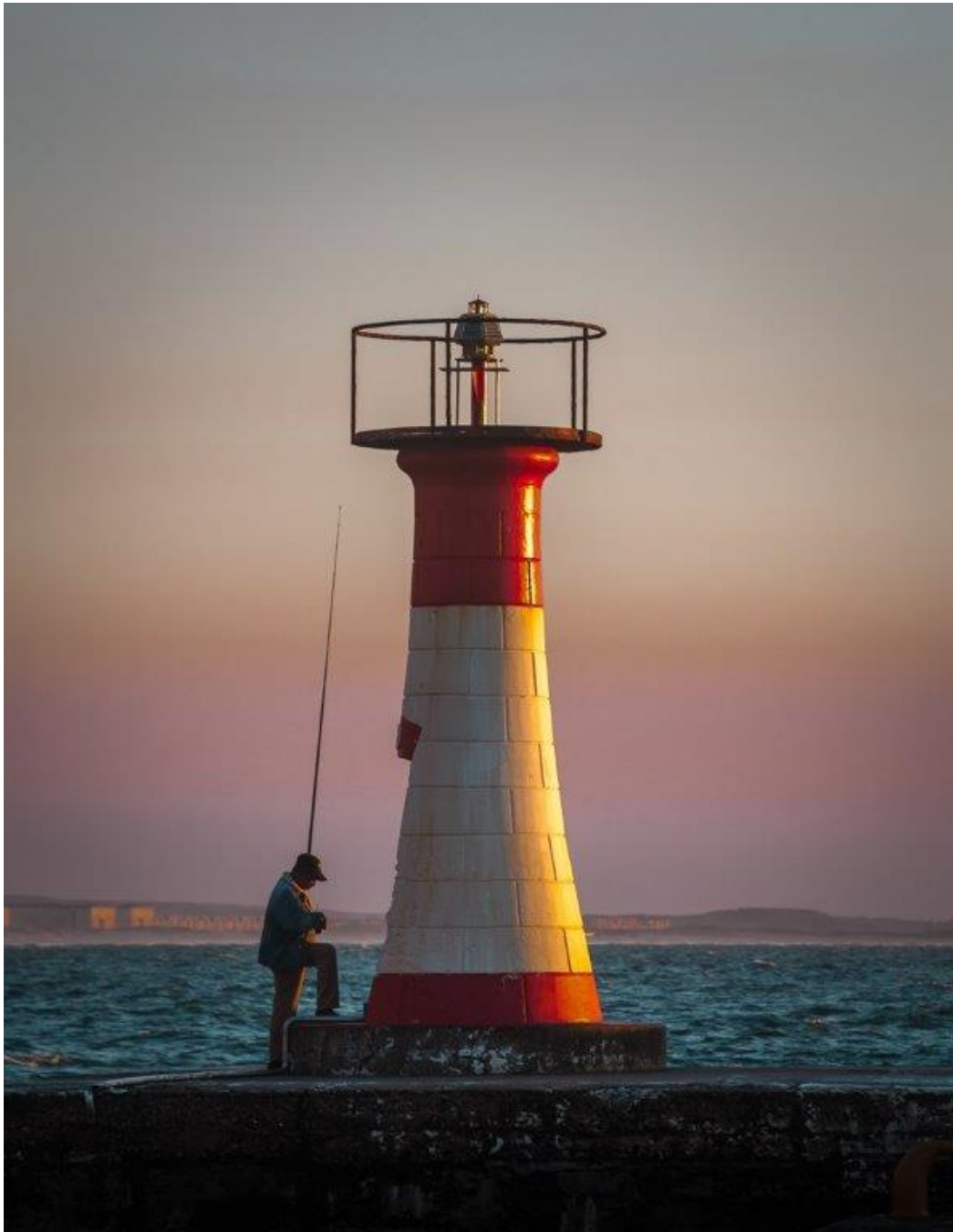


Billy Always Knew He Was Special – Luana laubscher



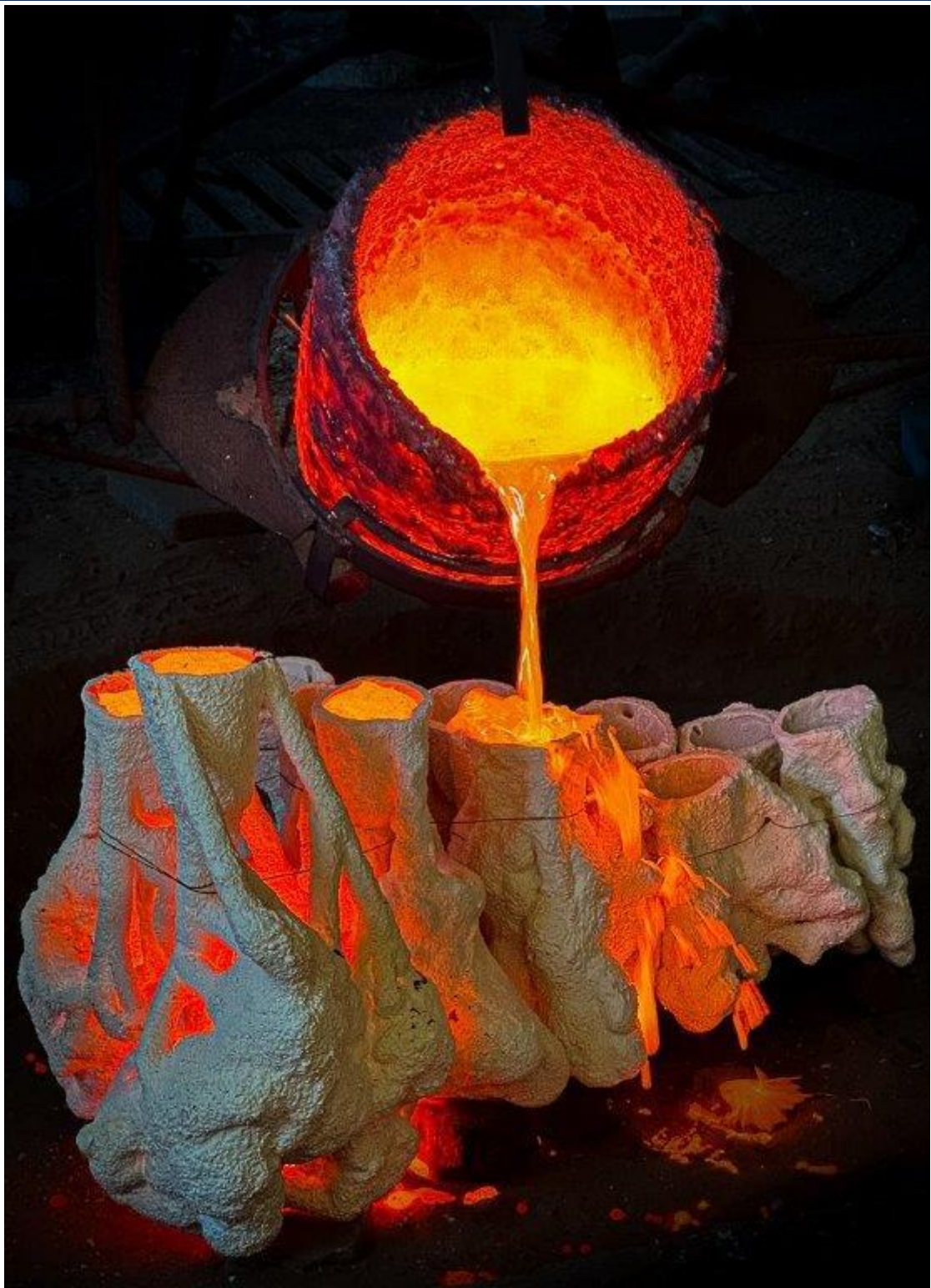
Asleep – Gillian Maskell

# Juniors



Solitude Standing – Gary Hansel

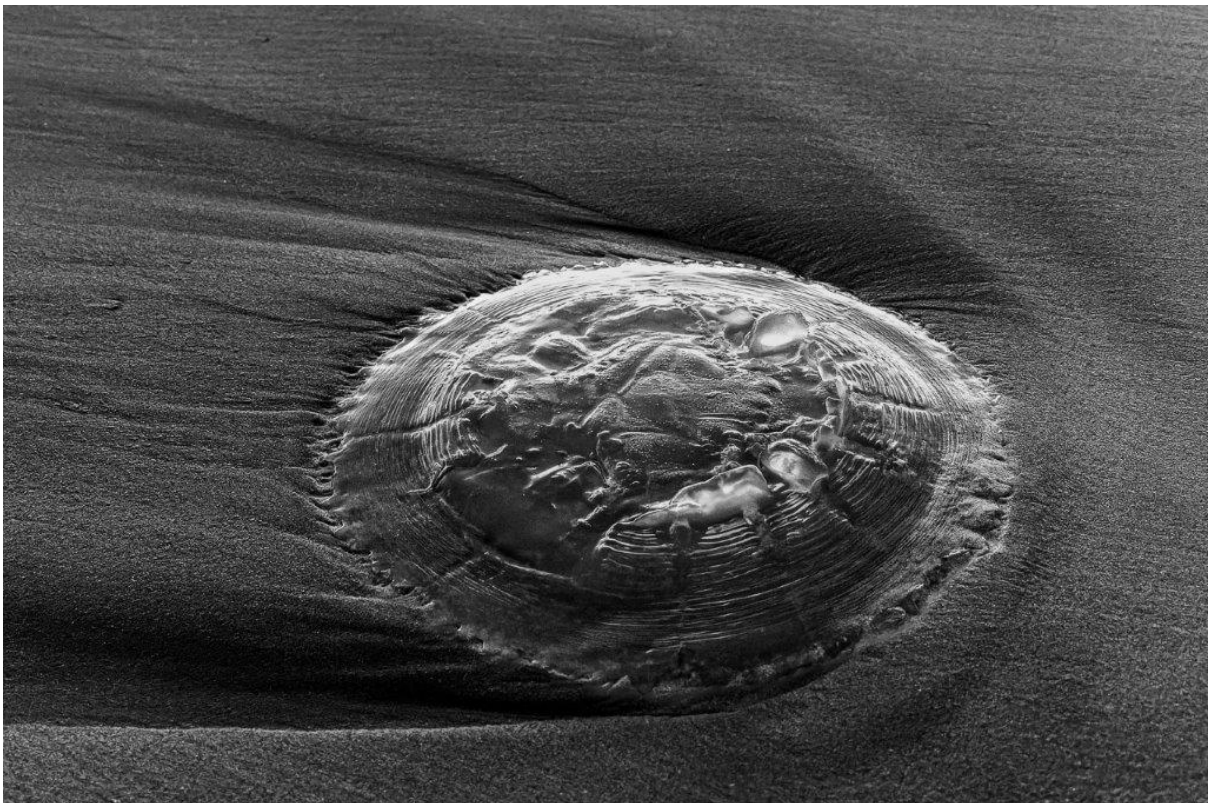




Liquid Bronze – Kim Gaskell



Leopard Resting – Claudette Gericke



Jellyfish Stuck on You – Alan King



Hi Contrast Hibiscus – Alan King

## SALON ACCEPTANCES KPS MAY 2023

### AFO 11<sup>TH</sup> 70<sup>TH</sup> CELEBRATION SALON 2023

Cathy	1
Willie	1
Willem	2
Eileen	4

### 12<sup>TH</sup> TAFELBERG SALON 2023

Anne	1
Veronica	2
Peter	2
Cathy	3
Carol	3
Sonia	3
Willie	3
Willem	4

### PSSA WEBSITE POM

Eileen came 4<sup>th</sup> shared with 4 Photographers out of 42 entries

## Editor's Choice

### My photographic journey – Anne Hrabar

Photography was alive and well in our house when I was a child. My mom took stills as inspiration for her landscape paintings and Dad was always taking movies on holiday and special occasions. My first camera was, I think, a box brownie. You looked in from the top! As soon as I earned a meagre salary during my prac year during Architectural studies I bought a Pentax Spotmatic SLR as did Andrew my then fiancé. We spent many happy times shooting at the Rand Easter show and even walking and shooting the streets of downtown Jhb on Saturday nights ! We joined the Wits photo club to be able to use the darkroom, so I did a little printing. I took, developed, and printed my first selfie at age 20! Just wish I could find it now.

Continued studies resulted in the camera only being brought out for holiday trips and high days. Slides were the preferred medium by then. This continued through the stage of babies, kids' parties etc.

My camera still got to be used for work. Images of foundations, structural steel in place before a pour, plumbing pipes and electrical conduit were the order of the day.

Really un inspirational but necessary record shots! ☹️

We changed to digital in 2004. However, post processing did not even cross my mind! I shot in auto mode using my Nikon D100 as a point and shoot. It was only after attending Plett U3A lectures on digital photography that it dawned on me that one had the opportunity to process. I started with the Beta version of Lightroom and am still a LR fan!

At about this time I retired from practicing architecture, partly because of a motor accident that I was lucky to survive. Thus, I had more time for photography. and joined KPS in 2006. I really must thank all KPS members past and present for their part in making my journey so much fun, so informative and inspirational. The mix of design/aesthetic vs technical aspects of digital photography echoed architecture, so I moved happily from one discipline to the next.

Photography for me really has been a journey! My camera has taken me all over the world. It beckons and I must follow ☺️! I just wish it would pay!

I have now come to realize that it is not photography that gives me the greatest thrill. It's being in and experiencing new places or seeing old places in different light that really ignites my passion.

*"Photography is only a tool, a vehicle, for expressing or transmitting a passion in something else. It is not the end result. "* David Hurn

Nature is for me the most wonderful, beautiful, and most intelligent thing in the Universe. So photographically, whether I take a macro of a tiny insect or a pano of the milky way I am in my happy place!

Capturing a good image is a bonus. My purpose is to share the beauty that I see in Nature with others who may then be able to appreciate it better. My mission is to showcase the beauty and intelligence of nature.

I certainly hope that I can continue to have travel adventures to build up a good supply of images that I can process well into old age when I can't manage the hiking or travel any longer .(due to Budget and body!)

And I hope I can avoid AI forever because no computer can create as well as Nature can!

Thanks for reading this far!

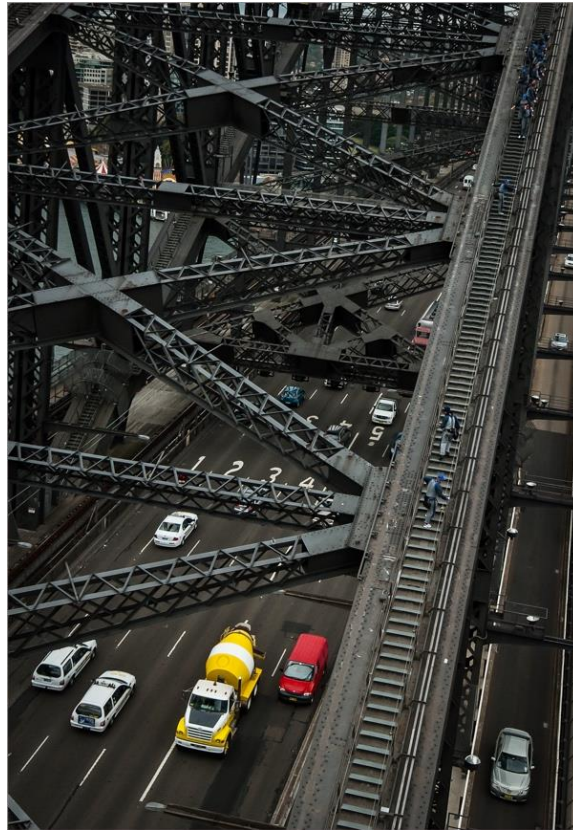
*"Look deep into Nature, and then you will understand everything better." Albert Einstein*

Here are some images that mean a lot to me for various reasons. In some, emotions that I felt at the time of shooting were overwhelming, in others the looking back to the moment is when the emotion emerges.



*"Down she goes"*

The wonderful experience of a rhino relocation and release on our game farm. It illustrated to me the false sense of security when behind a camera! The professional photographer was on top of the container ! I was in the line of the charge. The adrenalin only hit after it was all over. Limpopo. 2010



“Yellow lorry , red lorry’

This reminds me of the last carefree week of my life together with my dear husband Andrew . Sydney.  
2011



'Let's go Drink'.

Being surrounded by so many eles in Etosha. The feeling of being at one with nature. Etosha 2013



"Salisbury plains'

Feeling such an overwhelming oneness with nature among thousands of penguins completely at ease with humans. South Georgia 2014





'Largo Paine'

The feeling of elation having hiked up for 4 hrs to see this sight. The frustration of not having the energy to walk down to the water's edge (see the little people there) as it required walking back up to the ridge again. Patagonia 2014



'Stirling falls'

The wonder of nature as exhibited in so many ways in New Zealand 2018.



'Perfect start to the day'

I was on such a high after being in a tent for 24 hrs in the mist and rain! Being enveloped in the dawn light!  
Drakensberg. 2021



'Not a paper moon'

Natures valley moonrise always evokes a feeling of peace and tranquility. 2021



‘Maletsunyani Falls’

A stunning location which gave me nightmares for weeks afterwards after slipping on wet rocks and falling a bit too close to the edge for comfort! Lesotho 2022



‘In the spotlight’

A lesson in zooming in and waiting for the light. Near Greyton 2022



Luphathana waves''



'Thundering waves'

The power of nature on display. Wild Coast 2023

And now off to Madagascar to see what nature has in store for me there!

Anne Hrabar 2023

# Salons, salons.....SALONS!!!

By Alta Oosthuizen

This is a subject that gives most people Goosebumps – either of the good or bad kind! So many enter salons, and they are so excited about their entries, that they sit at the edge of their chairs awaiting the results. When the results come out, it is just there when most people's enthusiasm comes to a screeching halt!! Out of 24 images, you have 1 or 2 acceptances, sometimes if you are fortunate. What is more likely to happen, is that you get 0 acceptances. Oh dear, really **ABSOLUTELY NO ACCEPTANCES????** People get discouraged and feel negative about salons and together with the fact that they stop entering, they do not have a good word to say about salons either...but that is ok. Let's try and explain something about salons, if it is at all possible, as salons are, just like anything in photography, a very subjective thing. I have had this discussion with a lot of people and it can go on and on! I would like to keep this short and sweet – like I always say, less is more!!

Remember the following: Club judging is all about the learning experience. A salon is like a test and Honours judging is like an examination. Let me explain how salon judging works. People all over the country have the opportunity to enter the salon and you can end up with many hundreds of entries. Salon judging is not about taking your time - this is a point where people like to criticize salons a lot - but salon images are usually all about IMPACT!. The different image, the one that does not look like 400 of the other entries, a unique image that STANDS OUT!! Usually it is people with judging experience that judge a salon, people that can within seconds identify a good image out of all the images entered. You have to come to a point where you can accept that those judges might just have a sound reason for not accepting your image based on a lot of exposure and experience. Something else to remember is the number of acceptances allowed per salon. The general rule is only between 20-25% of entries will be accepted and out of that, 10% of the acceptances will receive a COM. The final decision on the exact percentage of acceptances lies with the hosting club. Let's talk numbers.....

Let's say one category received 1000 entries. For this we are going to follow the worst case scenario. 20% of 1000 is 200. Only 200 images out of the 1000 will be accepted and then 10% of 200 bring the number of COMs to 20. I really hope this gives you a little bit of perspective on the numbers. Let's say you have a low entry salon and the number of entries is only 500. 20% of 500 is only 100 and 10% for COMs is only 10 images. Now you can see that salons are a numbers game. The more entries, the better your chance of getting images accepted, but then you are also competing against a bigger pool of entries. This is something that you do not have control over. It is just the way it is – unfortunately!!

The judging procedure is as follows. You as a judge sit in a dark room with a calibrated projector. You and the other 2 judges sit down and the images are displayed. You have a scoring device like we have at the club to give your score out of 15. This is basically the “In” vs “Out” round, the first sifting of the entries. After this and breaks in between, you come back to look at the numbers. Sometimes there are way too many images that were accepted and then you have to redo scoring for, say the 36 scoring group, to once again have a sifting. The top scoring images (37 and up) are those that are in the running for COMs and the medals. You once again look through all those top scoring images, discussing the images that you as a judging panel feel deserve the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place. This could take some time if the 3 judges are not on the same page. If there are still too many COMs you have to look through those again and then choose the 20 best to receive COMs. It is a time consuming process and we as judges have the sense of responsibility to choose the best images. Because of the fact that there are 3 judges, one person's personal preference will be eliminated, since the process is balanced.

Some personal pointers from Alta:

1. Enter salons to impress NOBODY but yourself. If you are in a rat race with someone else, you are playing a dangerous game. Enter salons to compete with yourself, nobody else.
2. It took me YEARS to get over the 1 image acceptance norm. My advice - keep on swimming!! It has a lot to do with your personality and there is no right or wrong here. To me it is a challenge. I take every salon as it comes, the acceptances as well as the lack thereof. I am thankful for the acceptances I do get and set a small goal for the next one. Always set very small goals. Try and get at least 1 acceptance for 3 salons in a row, then you try for 2! It is all about moving forward, baby steps are just the way to go!!
3. Try to enter a high impact image. What is a high impact image? What you view as high impact might not be high impact for me, but I think that generally we all know a high impact image when we see it. When you choose your images, try to detach yourself emotionally from your image. Most often we choose images that we have a huge emotional connection with, but it is not necessarily a high impact image. The judges will not share your emotional attachment, are totally unaware of either the effort it took to take the image, or how you felt when you took it. Therefore, try and evaluate your image on a non-emotional level
4. The club score for an image is not always a good guide of how it will perform on salons. Salon acceptances are not as easily available as gold awards at the club. Use your club score as an indication, but NEVER be upset if you received a high score in the club and your image is not accepted in a salon. Due to the numbers, there might have been better images than yours. Not because your image is not good, but because it might just fall short!!
5. Do not enter images taken on outings directly after the outing has taken place. So many times, I have seen 100s of images of the same "outing" in a particular salon. Judges get extremely bored looking at images from the same outing and they, therefore, lose their impact even if by themselves they are good. Once again, you do not want to enter the same type of images that other people will enter, then your image will just not have impact. Wait for 3 months at least before you enter your image....then your image will be fresh and different!!
6. Never forget why we do photography. We do it because we love it. Chasing acceptances and awards is not always the best way to approach your photography. See every acceptance/award as a bonus. Have your focus on improving your skills - technical and artistic.
7. Never give up!! If you want to be successful in a salon, never give up after only a few unsuccessful attempts. Remember, because of the subjective input by the judges, you might get one image accepted in one salon and not in the next one.
8. Never become too serious!! Always keep your sense of humour. "Oh dear, this was one of those terrible salons, I will try again" or "WONDERFUL, this was a great salon for me!!" If you are too serious and get anxious and furious with the judges you will only make yourself unhappy. Salons are there for you to measure your skills, use it to improve your skills.
9. Be careful of Facebook likes. I've seen so many people fall into this trap. They are "Facebook Photographers", chasing likes and comments. The main question is, who is commenting and who likes your images?? It is your friends, who love and adore you, but most of the time, they know NOTHING about photography! "WOW, this is an amazing image!" Usually, these comments are on images that are underexposed and out of focus. Just because you get likes and positive Facebook comments, do not

make it a good image. Keep perspective and be rational. Your Facebook “judges” are your friends, they see the person behind the image and will therefore comment in an uplifting manner. Salon judges are experienced people who know what to look for. They do not know who the author is; they simply judge the quality of the image itself!

10. Salons are like a game. The rules of the game are not always well defined, and the outcome may not always be fair in your mind!! That is the name of the game!! Play the game and make the best of it. If playing this game is giving you more heartache than pleasure, rather not play at all. Just remember you cannot argue with someone about what is pretty or tasty, as beauty lies in the eyes of the beholder. Some like tomato sauce over their chips some hate it, but it does not make the use of tomato sauce wrong!! If you decide not to play the game, it is also ok. Do not fall in the trap to break salons down because it's not working for you. If you are willing to play the game, do it with good sportsmanship and have the attitude of everything you get is only a BONUS!!

#### Image examples

1. Personally, I simply LOVE this image, none of the salon judges agree. I have entered it a lot of times but have not even got one acceptance!!



2. I LOVE this – Judges HATE it!!



3. One salon PSSA Silver medal.....next one not even an acceptance 😊



**Alta is a member of the Pretoria Photographic Society**

**Alta kindly gave her permission to publish this article in our Newsletter**

**It is relevant to all of us who become frustrated at the results of our Salon submissions**

**She holds the following honours –**

**APSSA (Vers), DPSSA (Vers), EPSSA (Mille Premium), AFIAP**

**Visit Alta's website at <https://altaoosthuizen.co.za/>**

## *Next Meeting*

21 June – live at Belvidere Manor

2 images may be submitted

Deadline for submissions via Photovault – 3 June before 12:00 p.m.

Competition – The Spirit of Music - 27 May before 12:00 p.m

## *Judges*

The judges for June will be Pam Brighton, Carol Phillips and George Morrison from the George Club who will be present at the meeting.

## *Set subject August – “Backlit”*

**Our next set subject is “backlit” or traditionally “Contre Jour”**

We have no speaker lined up to guide us but the following articles, culled from many on the internet are very useful and hopefully will inspire you to get out there with your camera.

<https://amateurphotographer.com/technique/landscape-photography/shooting-into-the-light-mastering-the-contre-jour-technique/>

Note the video insert!

<https://filmlifestyle.com/contre-jour-photography/>

<https://imageexplorers.com/shooting-contre-jour/>

<https://www.institute-of-photography.com/contre-jour-photographing-into-the-light/>



# Annual Subscriptions

Its that time of the year again!

## Approved Increase in member fees - new club year

Item	Description	Current (Rands)	Approved for 2023-24 (Rands)
<b>Ordinary members;</b>			
1	Annual subs - single	390	450
2	Annual subs - couple	600	690
3	Annual subs - social	300	350
4	Annual subs - Junior	240	275
5	Club night venue fee	20	30
6	Club night judging fee	10	10
<b>Honorary members;</b>			
10	Annual subs	Nil	Nil
11	Club night venue fee	20	30
12	Club night judging fee	10	10

Re Clubnight fees - discounted amount of R360 for the year, if paid with subs renewal.  
(11 meetings entry and judging fee, for the cost of 9)

Members who submit images but do not attend club nights, to be billed at six monthly intervals, if not paid in advance .

### Club Bank Details

Nedbank Knysna, Branch Code: 198765, Current account No: 108 906 2133  
Account Name: Knysna Photographic Society t/a KPS  
(Payment ref – Name and subs)

## Club Calendar – 2023

	Closing Date for Entries	Monthly Meeting	Set subject Presentation	Set Subject	Bi-annual Competition
June	10	21		Food	
July	8	19	13		
August	5	16		Backlight	
September	9	20	12		
October	7	18		Book or movie title	Wheels
November	5	16			16

## National Salons

(To June 2023)

[2023-05-27 Kriel Foto club 2nd Digital Salon of Photography](#)

[2023-06-03 South African Visual Arts Society \(SAVAS\) 3rd National Salon](#)

[2023-06-10 PSSA National AV Salon](#)

[2023-06-17 2nd Springs Photographic Club National Digital Salon](#)

[2023-06-24 Western Cape Youth Photographers National Salon 2023](#)

Anyone may enter a Salon. To find out more on how to do so, go to the Photographic Society of South Africa's website or ask one of the senior club members.

## Social Media

### Facebook

Our Facebook page gives members the opportunity to highlight images, talk about ideas, get honest feedback without fear of criticism. To join contact Carol for an invitation.

### WhatsApp

Find the group on WhatsApp under KPS Creatives. There's usually interesting discussion as well as stimulating posts and links.

# Online Resources

There are many options on the internet covering every aspect of our craft. Some are excellent, some not so good.

The following are worthwhile

## Landscape photography

Christian Hoiberg - <https://www.capturelandscapes.com>

*Many different articles on most aspects of landscape photography, free resources, e-books*

Alister Benn - Expressive photography - <https://www.youtube.com/c/ExpressivePhotography/featured>

*Landscape photographer of the year 2019. Technique, interviews, ideas*

Photo Cascadia <https://www.photocascadia.com/>

*A group of excellent photographers who share tips and techniques on their site*

## Post processing

Photoshop      Colin Smith | <https://photoshopcafe.com/>

Lightroom      Julianne Kost      <https://jkost.com/blog/>

*Both the above have free tips and tricks to help improve your post processing skills and to add to your knowledge*

## Bird photography

Ari Hazeghi      <http://arihazeghiphotography.com/>

*An outstanding bird photographer who freely shares tips and techniques*

## Useful blogs and forums

Back Country Gallery      Steve Perry's forum <https://bcgforums.com/>

*All aspects of nature, wildlife and landscape discussed. Steve is the author of several excellent e-books.*

Fred Miranda      <https://www.fredmiranda.com/>

*An all-round forum covering all genres, competitions, critique and gear reviews. Specialist sub forums for different camera makes, landscape, wildlife, black & white, street, people, architecture etc.*

John Caponigro <https://www.johnpaulcaponigro.com/blog/>

*A philosophical approach to photography and life. Many practical tips and techniques*

## Weekly e-magazines

Amateur Photographer      <https://www.amateurphotographer.co.uk/>

*The free, abridged, version of the oldest photographic magazine. Many reviews, techniques, tips and articles on every aspect of photography*