

Founded in 1954



Member of PSSA

<http://helderbergphoto.com>

MAY 2011
NEWSLETTER
Helderberg Photographic
Society
PO Box 2004
Somerset West 7129

AGENDA
Club Competition
'Backlit'
Wednesday 11th May

AV Evening
Wednesday 25th May

Your 2011 Committee

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FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S TRIGGER FINGER

The best definition of luck that I have come across is: "when preparation meets opportunity". I think that this certainly applies to photography. Most photographic opportunities are relatively fleeting, the light has to be just right, the subject has to be in the right place doing the right things. All the elements of composition have to fall into place and we have to have the right equipment in place to get that one truly magnificent shot. Some of us go for very long periods being "unlucky". So where do we get the preparation from to make sure we capture these opportunities? Reading extensively helps, but can be time consuming. I have found that the plethora of magazines contain much of what we need to know in bite sized chunks that we can absorb in our hectic life styles. The new technologies available are also great sources of information. You only have to Google a "how do I photograph....." to get back some information on how to achieve your picture. YouTube is another major resource that has an abundance of learning opportunities. For those who have not tried it, just search YouTube "photoshop elements x raw processing" to be bombarded with videos from all sorts of people just wanting to tell you how to do something.

The real trick is to file all this away under "experience" and then when that priceless opportunity presents itself be able to recall "experience" - think laterally and apply it to the situation and capture the shot.

How do we do this? By practice, experimentation and challenging ourselves to think outside our little boxes. That's why we have our society so that we can interact and share with our fellow photographers...

Quote of the Month

"Chance is always there. We all use it. The difference is a poor photographer meets chance one out of a hundred times and a good photographer meets chance all the time."

Brassai

NOTICE BOARD

Projector Feedback.

On Wednesday 27th April Steve, Antenie and I met at the hall to check on the calibration of the projector. We used the charts provided by the PSSA for this and found that the projector's settings were a little out. We corrected these.

We then tested the projector at different distances from the wall and using a proper screen. None of these seemed to have an effect on the visual quality of the images projected. This means that we can continue to project on the wall as we have in the past.

We also had a look at the use of S-RGB and Adobe RGB. This appears to have a major effect on the projected image and it is critical that the right choices are made at the time of processing an

image for submission to the club. All images must be in S-RGB when they are to be submitted to the club. We urge all members to go to the website for details.

In order to assist members to calibrate their monitors we will be posting the PSSA charts on the website. They are self explanatory but if any one has a problem you can speak to us at the next meeting.

We will continue to monitor the projector.
Bernard

Nettie

Those HPS members who might be interested in this conference could read details at the following address and also have a look at my abstract for the conference.

<http://www.nedicc.ac.za/test/Programme.aspx>

Regards

Antenie

Head: Reprographic & Digital Services

National Library of South Africa

5 Queen Victoria street,

Cape Town

Tel:021-487-5617

REPORT: EVALUATION Evening 13th April

There was a very reasonable turnout of members and guests at the April Meeting. We were happy to welcome a number of prospective members, amongst them being a young lad of 10 – Joshua – who showed us some of his excellent work. Our guest was Richard Swemmer, a professional photographer who specializes in portraits, product and fashion photography. He spoke about the do's and don'ts of studio photography and how to go about lighting specific shots; later he and Deon Kuhn evaluated the work of those members who had sent in their images for constructive criticism. A high standard of work prevailed.

REPORT: OUTING – Rally from Gordons Bay to Betty's Bay

Helderberg members do it in all kinds of weather! To say that it was a windy day is an under-exaggeration – sometimes we were nearly blown off our feet!

Those who could make it were: Paddy Howes (organizer), Denise and Gavin Whiteford, Nick Cameron and his wife (who was his assistant!), Steve Crane, Rosie Burton, Gail Sturgess, David and Maggie Damp, Joshua, Gary and Jenny Buhrmann and Nettie Warncke.

Tasks were set in Gordon's Bay Harbour – we had to find circles, triangles, flags, reflections and something called 'the happy oyster' ... Then along Clarence Drive to the Steenbras river bridge where a number of us climbed down towards the river to get shots of the bridge, river stones and waves.

Further along we had to find two crosses looking out to sea and a scene which 'looked like Scotland', eventually arriving at the mouth of the river which runs down from the mountain through the Harold Porter Reserve in Betty's Bay. Here we were instructed to photograph flying birds, shells, seaweed, river water and white rocks, as well as having to take two self-portraits (for me that necessitates having to read the camera manual again, so I cheated and asked Denise to take my pic instead!). A picnic on the beach did not happen – getting inside a car was a much better idea – so everyone toddled off home hoping they had made a few good shots! Participants are reminded to send their 20 best shots, plus two portraits (one for the beginning, and one for the end of the sequence) for showing at the club meeting on 11th May.

PSSA National Congress Hartbeespoort 1 - 6 October 2011

See www.pssa.co.za for details

WORLD PRESS PHOTO 2011 – NATURE GALLERY

www.discoverwildlife.com



Nature Singles: 1st Prize : Cape Gannet by Thomas P. Peschak (South Africa/Germany), for Save our Seas Foundation



Nature Singles: 2nd Prize :
Atlantic Sailfish by Reinhard Derscherl, Germany, for Mare magazine



Nature Stories: 2nd Prize :
Whooper Swans by Stephano Unterthiner, Italy, for National Geographic Magazine

COMPETITIONS

ENVIRONMENTAL PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 2011

Message from Emily Doyle of CIWEM

Dear Nettie

I am hoping that you can pass on to your photographers and wider contacts that the Environmental Photographer of the Year 2011 competition is now open, and this year a **new video category** has been introduced to further raise awareness of environmental and social issues.

Organised by the Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM), the Environmental Photographer of the Year is an international showcase for the very best in amateur and professional environmental photography, and is one of the fastest growing photographic competitions in the world – receiving 4,500 entries from photographers in 97 countries in 2010.

EPOTY celebrates photographers who use their ability to raise awareness of environmental and social issues. It is open to professional and amateur photographers of any age from anywhere in the world, and encourages entries that are creative, resonant, original and beautiful. Subjects include wildlife and marine life, environmental degradation, street photography and urban lifestyles, technology, landscapes and portraiture.

As always, the competition is **completely free to enter** and is open to international amateur and professional photographers of any age, encouraging entries that are contemporary, creative, resonant, original and beautiful. The winning photographs come together to form the most outstanding collection of environmental, social and natural photographs in the world.

The 2011 competition categories are:

- Mott MacDonald's Changing Climates
- The Natural World
- The Underwater World
- Quality of Life
- A View From the Western World
- Building Our Future (New for 2011)
- The Young Environmental Photographer of the Year (Under 16 & Under 21)
- Video (New for 2011)

Individual pieces are judged on impact, creativity, composition, originality and technical abilities. Winners receive cash prizes and all winning entries are displayed in the Environmental Photographer of the Year exhibition, launched in London. Copyright is retained by the photographer.

See past winning entries, competition details and news coverage from 2010 at www.epoty.org. You can also watch a [brief video](#) of the 2010 Awards Ceremony. You can also keep up to date with any new developments by joining our [Facebook](#) group.

The competition will run until **31st July 2011**, with judging taking place throughout August and September.

I hope you may be able to forward this email onto your contacts, encouraging them to enter via www.epoty.org. As I said, this is for professional and amateur photographers, so we actively encourage those with a general interest in the environment to enter as well. The competition is open until 5pm on 31st July 2011.

Many thanks and best wishes,

Emily Doyle

Marketing & Media Manager

Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM),

15 John Street

London, WC1N 2EB

Tel: 020 7831 3110

Website: www.ciwem.org

Registered Charity No. 1043409

Garbage In, Garbage Out: Get it Right In-Camera

From 'Worth a Thousand Words'

All too often, I hear the phrase "I'll just fix it in Photoshop" from a photographer. I must admit, it drives me a little crazy! As they say in the IT industry, "garbage in, garbage out." In other words, the quality of the output depends on the quality of the input. There are some things even Photoshop can't fix, and it pays to capture the best raw material possible in camera.

I think people sometimes resist spending the extra effort up front because they feel that it takes away from having fun with their photography. If they are concentrating on f-stops and leading lines, they lose their sense of being in the moment.

Certainly, there will be a learning curve when you start paying conscious attention to your composition and exposure. However, it's a lot like riding a bike. When you first begin to learn, you have to think about steering, and balance, and watching for traffic. It's difficult! If you persist, though, eventually all of these become automatic processes that no longer require conscious awareness, and you can start enjoying the feeling of the wind in your hair! It's the same thing with photography. Once you master the technicalities of exposure, choosing a shutter speed and aperture will become second nature. Next to become internalized will be your composition skills. You'll automatically scan the frame for distractions, and place your subject so as to achieve a visual balance. Then you can get back to concentrating on your subject matter, and having fun!

It's well worth the investment of time to learn your craft well. This allows you to enjoy the creative side of photography, not to mention making better pictures. Remember: a few seconds invested up front can save you hours in Photoshop.

Check out some tips on composition to get you started:

<http://www.ultimate-photo-tips.com/photography-composition.html>

Travel photography tips: Focusing

By: [Cameron Ewart-Smith](#) Getaway magazine



Controlling your camera's autofocus and knowing when to switch to manual focus is one of the most important aspects of travel and wildlife photography.

Autofocus points

It's so easy to mess up a great shot by allowing your camera to focus on the wrong part of the subject. Most modern cameras have a series of autofocus points (marked in the viewfinder) and you should practise passing the focus point from one to the other until you are completely comfortable.

Autofocus modes

In addition, learn how your camera's autofocus modes work. Many of the latest SLR cameras have single servo, continuous and manual modes.

In single servo, the camera focuses on a point and then locks onto it as long as your finger remains half-depressed on the shutter release button. This allows you to focus and then recompose slightly without losing the focal point.

In continuous mode, the camera will keep focusing constantly. This is great if your subject is moving but, if you focus and then recompose, your camera will refocus on possibly the 'wrong' spot.

In manual, it is all up to you and you have maximum control, but this mode is – for obvious reasons – a lot slower than autofocus systems.

Why use manual focus?

When photographing static subjects – still life, landscapes, food or even macro shots, manual focus works best. It gives you precise control while allowing you to compose the scene at leisure. Just remember to refocus every time you move further from or closer to your subject.

One of the most important aspects which will improve your ability to focus is learning to interpret the focus screen in your viewfinder. On some older cameras, this was easy, as they had a little split, round thingy mid-frame that helped in establishing if an image was in focus.

Modern cameras offer a clearmatte focus screen, which works on the principle that if it looks sharp through the viewfinder, it is. However, make sure your viewfinder is adjusted for your eyes and then practise. It's often difficult to get it just right.

Many cameras also help you out with an in-focus light or beep, but this is not infallible. Remember, what you see through the viewfinder is what you'll get.

BosSTRAP DAMERA SLING SYSTEM

Hello,

I am sending you this e-mail to announce a new camera support system that may interest your members. I attached a *Press Release* and a *Brochure*. Feel free to use any information contained in them in your Newsletters or "What's New" section on your site.

My new product is called the ***BosStrap Camera Sling System***. My company is BosStrap LLC.

From: Tom Fama [mailto:tomfama@bosstrap.com]

Sent: 15 April 2011 05:43 PM

To: AAA

Subject: Camera Club Discounts Now Available from BosStrap

My new product is called the ***BosStrap Camera Sling System***. My company is BosStrap LLC.



The BosStrap System includes two pieces: a BosStrap™ and a BosTail™. The BosTail replaces the manufacturer's neck strap. Simply attach the BosTail to the left strap lug or eyelet on the camera body. The BosTail typically remains on the camera. The BosStrap includes a nickel plated metal TriggerLoc™ to connect to a nickel plated ring on the BosTail.

Professional photographers tested the BosStrap System for three months in field and studio environments. They unanimously agree that its unique engineering offered the professional photographer benefits that were unavailable with any other system. The BosStrap System was tested with professional camera setups weighing over six pounds when typically equipped with an 80-200 mm f/2.8 zoom lens.

The adjustable BosStrap is worn across your body, placed over your left shoulder and under your right arm as shown in the photos in the attached Press Release and Brochure. You'll notice that the BosStrap is wider than a typical camera strap. The wide nylon webbing is sufficient to distribute the weight of a camera without relying on a cumbersome and roaming shoulder pad.

In operation, the TriggerLoc slides along the BosStrap (which does not move) allowing you to effortlessly bring your camera up to your eye to quickly compose and capture the shot. When not in use, your camera remains safely and inconspicuously at your hip.

The web site shows the complete product line and provides more information about the BosStrap Camera Sling System. I hope you take a look. www.BosStrap.com

The BosStrap Camera Sling System features include:

- Camera tripod socket always available
- Fail-safe TriggerLoc lets you disconnect camera from the BosStrap in seconds
- No shoulder pad. The 1½" wide strap prevents neck strain and eliminates a cumbersome and roaming shoulder pad

- BosStrap adjust to 64" long
- Uses extremely smooth and strong nylon seatbelt webbing
- Frees both hands
- Adjustable BosTail length from 2" to 4"
- Light weight at less than 5 ounces
- Engineered with a Safety Factor of 10
- Some photographers have used BosStrap to support a battery pack
- BosStraps and BosTails are also sold separately
- Reasonably priced at \$39.95

Try the new BosStrap Camera Sling System. If you are not satisfied, return it with 30 days for a full refund.

Please let your members know about BosStrap.

Thank you,

Tom Fama

tomfama@BosStrap.com

www.BosStrap.com

508 251 -1345

P.S. BosStrap is also on Facebook: [Facebook Link](#)

P.P.S Shown on Wired: Gadget Lab <http://www.wired.com/gadgetlab/2011/03/bosstrap-a-shoulder-slung-free-spinning-camera-strap/>

JJ (van Heerden) sells the BosStrap in his new shop – Pictureworks – in Plein Street, Stellenbosch – situated next door to his old premises – do give him a visit!

SUPPORT OUR MEMBERS

News just in is that JJ (van Heerden) and Wicus (Leeuwner), both long-standing members of our club, have started their own interactive website. Logon to <http://www.photoworkshops-sa.co.za> for more information on their workshops, as well as registering yourself so that you can submit your own images for sharing and comment.

Wicus Leeuwner and JJ van Heerden offer a lovely selection of four workshops this year:

- * Desert horses, dunes, Kolmanskop and Luderitz - Aus (1 - 7 June)
- * Creating your own AV programmes - Hermanus (18 -21 August)
- * Overberg workshop (wheatfield, flowers, tidal pools) - Hermanus (26 - 30 October)

And here is the good news - there is a 15% discount for Helderberg members!
Do not delay, as these workshops have become very popular.
You can get further information from [Johan van Zijl](#) at 023 625 1593 or
info@donkeysanctuary.co.za

WORKSHOPS BY NICOLE PALMER AND ERIC PALMER

Face to Face Workshops

Photographing people

Dates: September... .. 16, 17, 18
Venue: "33 STELLENBOSCH".
Cost: R3200 per person with R1900 deposit.
This includes meals

Macro Photography Workshops

Dates: November 4, 5, 6
Venue: "33 STELLENBOSCH"
Cost: R3200 per person with R1900 deposit.
This includes meals.

On above mentioned Workshops, Participants are responsible for accommodation

NEW WORKSHOPS

FLASH Workshops

Dates: July 28, 29
October 13, 14

Venue: PALMER's HOME in JONKERSHOEK
Cost: R1500 per person with R750 deposit.
This includes lunch & refreshments

DE HOOP Workshop

Dates: 26 to 30 September
Venue: DE HOOP Nature Reserve
Cost: R6900 per person with R3450 deposit.
This includes accommodation & meals

For more details, visit the website www.nicolepalmer.co.za

Committee member **Roger Lee** has a webpage www.rogerleephoto.com which sets out the photographic courses he presents.

WORKSHOPS BY NICOLE PALMER, WILLEM OETS AND ANITA DE VILLIERS Nicole: www.nicolepalmer.co.za; Willem: www.medimage.co.za; Anita: www.anitadevilliers.co.za

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Workshops</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Hosted By</u>	<u>URL Link</u>
6 - 8 May 2011	Beginners Digital Workshop	Durban	Willem Oets & Anita de Villers	www.medim
6 - 8 May 2011	Autumn in the Vineyard	Stellenbosch	Nicole & Eric Palmer	www.nicolep
15 - 19 June 2011	Tembe Elephant Park & Kosi Bay Workshop	Tembe Elephant Park Zululand	Lex Hes	www.anitade
24 - 26 June 2011	Advanced Photoshop Workshop	Durban	Willem Oets & Anita de Villers	www.medim
29 - 31 July 2011	Wings AV Workshop	Durban	Willem Oets	www.medim
7 - 11 September 2011	West Coast Photographic Workshop	Kersefontein & Dornfontein - Veldtdrift	Anita de Villers & Willem Oets	www.anitade

New Member

PAUL GODARD – ‘SOUL PHOTOGRAPHY’

Photo Safari in the Namib Desert

Join us for an inspirational photo safari in Namibia in June-July 2011



Winter in the southern hemisphere is an excellent time to travel in Namibia and this photographic expedition will take you to places that only a few people have seen.

This safari is limited to 6 people only in order to maximize the spirituality of the journey, and facilitate the connection with the natural environment.

It is an exclusive 18-day safari by road only with luxury camping in the wilderness of Namibia's purest landscapes and stays in 4/5-star lodges.



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PAUL GODARD - SOUL PHOTOGRAPHY

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info@paulgodard.com - www.paulgodard.com

OTHER WORKSHOP PRESENTERS

Peter Haarhoff : www.capephotoco.co.za

Namaqualand Photographic Workshops

6 – 12 August and 20 – 26 August 2011

with **Frank Krummacher and Hansie Oosthuizen**

To make bookings for the tour or the workshops, or to book accommodation at the hotel please email kamieshotel@kingsley.co.za or contact us on +27 (0) 27 672 1614 (tel.) or +27 (0) 672 1675 More information at: www.kamieskroonhotel.com

OUTINGS PROGRAM

Date		
11 June	De Doorns	The Hex River in all its finery!
9 July	Cape Town	A photographic walking tour through the Cape Town Gardens, Long Street? or anywhere else we fancy
13 August	Nyanga	Township Tour with a trusted guide
23-25 September	Cedarberg	Sanddrift 'Star Trails in the Cedarberg'
15 October 9.30am	Paddy's Farm	Macro at Montagne Farm, Verdun Private Road, Franschhoek. Bring picnic if you wish to stay on.
12 November	Birds	At Wolvegat on Baden Powell Drive. Security will be provided

The Outings convenor is Paddy Howes. Her telephone number is 021 8762136 (Franschhoek) to talk to her about any of these outings.

COMPETITION AND EVALUATION PROGRAM

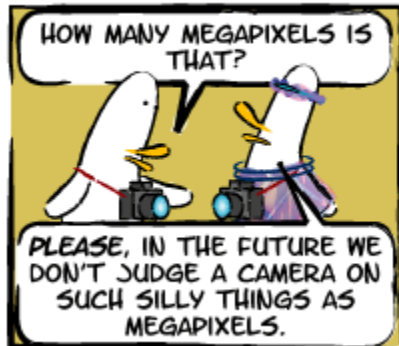
From May onwards, the basis for our Set Subjects will be 'Light'. As you wonder about the options you would like to pursue, consider doing some more research – perhaps from books or the Internet – and explore your ideas even further.

Date	Evening	Set Subject
11 May	Back Light	
8 June	Evaluation	
13 July	High Key	For tips, refer to our webpage!
10 August	Torch Light	
14 September	Flame Light	

12 October	Evaluation	
9 November	After Dark	
14 December		Gala Evening

THE LAST WORD

What The Duck



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