Founded in 1954: For the Encouragement of Photography



Member of the PSSA

Website: http://helderbergphoto.co.za

HELDERBERG PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

AUGUST 2015 NEWSLETTER

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THE CHAIRMAN'S NOTE

It is a bit wild and woolly (and cold!) as I write this, I only hope that you have managed to use the weather, and some of the interesting lighting opportunities it sometimes presents, to your

advantage and made some good captures. By all accounts a number of us (especially on the committee!) are going to be away on various trips in August and September, so hopefully all of you who are here will attend the meetings and keep the home fires burning. I guess you could then say some will be dodging and others will be burning?! Let's hope that the photographic rewards from the travellers will be rich – we look forward to them. Of course we also know that some of the best photos come from our own back yard, so those who are not away can still fly the flag high.

Timothy Allen said "It can be a trap of the photographer to think that his or her best pictures were the ones that were hardest to get".

Cheers

David

CLUB MATTERS

Website: http://helderbergphoto.com

TEA, COFFEE AND BISCUITS (all very important! – that's why it's in red ...)
August seems to be the month when many of us are going to be travelling – hence the tea bag is now being toted by Danie Coetzee! (who has been asked to supply a new jar of Nescafe classic, or whatever is good) and to bring it to the B&W evening. Could I ask any of the ladies, or gents who will be at the B&W Meeting to handle the making of the tea etc.please? There is a new hot water geyser above the taps, which can be used (Bernard knows about it – and I think Tommi does as well). Milk and biscuits are in the bag, and Jeremy and Jillian have already been paid for this particular meeting. Afterwards, someone who is coming to the Club Meeting on the 12 August, is requested to take the bag home, and bring it back on that Wednesday (Nettie will bring milk and biscuits...) thanks so much to whoever is able to help!

Black and White Interest Group Meeting Wed. 5th August

August's B&W Set subject is 'Isolation', and the featured photographer is Christopher Thomas – Paddy will give a talk on him.

<u>Club Meeting</u> Wed. 12th August

August's set Subject is 'Isolation' ... Check the website for submission details. Check what 'isolation' means, and go out and shoot! You can do it!

<u>Audio Visual Interest Group</u> Wed. 26th August

At the meeting July we showed avs from members, as well as 'external' ones – always interesting to see. Do come along to this informal meeting – even if you do not 'make' avs!

AV Makers at Orms, Bellville

There will be a meeting on Saturday 15th August ... 9.00am

GET YOUR FEET WET

As newbies – when we join the club – we often think 'I'm never going to be brave enough to put up my pics amongst this lot!'. Well, that's where you are wrong! You only need to get your feet wet once, and then everything will go swimmingly! Contact Nettie (nettie28@iafrica.com) if you would like to show ten of your own favourite images, using the microphone to explain where you made the picture, and why you like it. It's really not scary – most have been there before, and the audience will not burn you down in flames! In fact, they'll be very supportive! So contact Nettie!

SHARE YOUR PROJECTS, IMAGES, EXPERIMENTS AND TRAVELS

Often members have more images to show than just those they enter into Competition and Review. Perhaps you have started a project, or perhaps you have a series of images on a particular subject? Or are you experimenting with post processing and need answers to problems? Or have you travelled recently and have been able to put a travelogue together? Perhaps you would be willing to show us your particular way of post-processing? A timeslot can be made for you to show your work at one of our meetings.

<u>2015 PROGRAM</u>

5th August B&W Set Subject 'Isolation'

9th August (Sunday = National Women's Day)

10th August (Monday=Public Holiday)

12th August Club Meeting Set Subject 'Isolation'

26th August Audio Visual

2nd September B&W Set Subject 'Unusual Viewpoint'

9th September Club Meeting Set Subject 'Unusual Viewpoint'

24th,25th,26th,27th September Outing to Nieuwoudtville (Thursday 24 = Heritage Day; Friday 25th = School Holiday...)

30th September Audio Visual

7th October B&W Set Subject 'Conventional Landscape'

14th October Review

28th October Audio Visual

4th November B&W Set Subject 'Painting with Light'

11th November Club Meeting Set Subject 'Painting with Light'

25th November Audio Visual

2nd December B&W Set Subject 'Corners'

9th December Gala Evening

30th December No Meeting

HPS COMPETITION RESULTS

Prints: Set Subject 'Windows of the Soul'

1st: Peter Dewar 'Windows of the Soul'

2nd: Irmel Dunaiski 'Bundle of Joy'

3rd: Paddy Howes 'Window of the Soul'

Open

1st: Bernard Seymour Hall 'Knobbles and Cracks'

2nd: Neels Beyers 'Mist rolling in'

3rd: Neels Beyers 'Drie Bome'

Projected Images: Set Subject 'Windows of the Soul'

1st: Rosie Burton 'Window of Hope

2nd: Rosie Burton 'Autumn sings to my Soul'

3rd: Sue Tatham 'Soulful'

Open

1st Peter Dewar: 'The Tempest'

2nd: Alison Duncan (Country member from Hopetown) 'Karoo Storm'

3rd: Danie Coetzee 'Ready to Strike'

CONGRESS IN THE CANOLA 2015

Full details of the programme and how to register are on the congress web page: http://pssa.co.za/2013-01-31-11-47-56/2015-pssa-national-congress-swellendam

Congress is about Photography, Learning and Sharing!

Congress is about photo opportunities, interacting with fellow enthusiasts, lecturers and the exploring the region!

Congress is about celebrating achievements:

- PSSA Showcase will present the results of the various local and international competitions.
- Honours Division will present the successful 2015 **Honours** recipients and their panels.
- AV Division will present the highlights and winners of the various national AV salons.

Congress is also the meeting place of great minds and think tanks such as the **Members' Forum** and General Meeting. This is your meeting to air your ideas/suggestions as well as concerns/queries and have them responded to by the PSSA Executive.and others.

Is your Club represented at Congress this year?

Be inspired by our stimulating and entertaining speakers:

Some of whom are:

Obie Oberholzer; Paul Bruins; David Benn; Bennie Gool; Manus van Dyk; Koot Marais; Johan Botha; Johan Kloppers; Jill Sneesby; Ann d'Oliveira; Francois Roux, and others.

WILD SHOTS

Register for Wild Shots now! Saturday 24 October, Cape Town

Hello Canon Clickers,

Check out the latest Click Magazine, for professional photography insights and more. Go to: http://www.clickmagazine.co.za and you can download it from the site, where you will also find previous editions of Click Mag.

Any feedback would be warmly welcomed. Please feel free to use the comments section on the site or to send a mail to editor@clickmagazine.co.za.

TWO OF OUR FORMER CHAIRMEN WERE ASKED TO GIVE US THEIR TAKE ON PHOTOGRAPHY, AND HOW TO ENJOY IT! Thanks to Roger Lee and Bernard Seymour Hall!

LEARNING TO ENJOY OUR CAMERAS Article by **Roger Lee** of **HPS**

Photography is a wonderful hobby which can be really rewarding. It can also be frustrating as we try to get to grips with the vast amount of information that there is available to 'help' us enjoy our hobby. There are courses, books, lectures and, of course, the invaluable (mind-boggling!) availability of information on the internet.

This is a **brief** individual viewpoint on how to go about improving our knowledge and increasing our enjoyment without being over-whelmed!

The key point to bear in mind is:

'There is no magic 'silver bullet' that will easily transfer all this knowledge to our amazingly versatile brains!'

As in most things of life one does get out what one puts in in terms of effort. It's also true that if someone tells us something we are liable to forget most of it but if we actually do something by ourselves we will probably remember most of it and be able to do it again.

Understanding our cameras

The instruction book is invaluable! (Preferably in PDF format)

It is not a novel to be read cover to cover. It is a very useful reference book. Modern cameras can be rather complex with myriads of different settings. This can make them appear really daunting. They are not really.

We just need to make sure that we understand the basic operations by following the relevant sections of the book. (We should not be sidetracked by all the fascinating features.). Once we are familiar with these we can gradually start to expand what we can do as we feel the need to expand our photography. This way we can to explore the capabilities of our camera using different features <u>as we need them</u> - just by using the index and referring to the sections we want to read.

Over a period we will become familiar with everything we need to know about our cameras and, because we have done it by ourselves, we will find it easier to remember it. In need we just give ourselves a quick refresher from the book.

Our Photographic Techniques:

We should use 'You-Tube' - it is amazing. For example search for 'Depth of Field'. We get a large selection of video tutorials explaining it and how to use it in detail. A quick rule of thumb method to find the good ones is to look at the number of views. In general the higher the number the better the video.

Whatever we need to know, from aperture-priority to white balance, there is an easy to follow video on you-tube.

As an example, if we search for 'Composition Photography' we find videos by people like Scott Kelby - all we need to do is watch and then practise some of the concepts. There is basically nothing about our photography that we will not be able to find an instructional video on You-Tube. It is an amazing free resource.

It is just up to us to grow our own photographic expertise - at our own speed and our own level of interest. We just need to make the effort.

Post Processing:

For many of us who are not good with computers, post processing software is a daunting prospect. However, by not using it we are missing out on one of the main benefits of digital photography.

Free Software:

Free programmes such as Picasa and Faststone are wonderfully useful and easy to use. Picasa in particular is very user friendly with all manner of help available on line. Again we just use you-tube and get videos on using Faststone etc. Manufacturers also provide free software such a Nikon View NX.

We can do it all by ourselves if we make the effort. If we are concerned about inadvertently deleting or messing up images we just select a variety of images and copy them to a special file. We can then use those to play with while we get up to speed with the software. Doing this means that we will be more adventurous and learn faster!

Bought Software:

Programmes like Photoshop Elements, DxO and Lightroom are excellent and easy to use. They can be as simple or as complicated as we would like them to be.

Once again the approach should be step by step.

We cannot 'learn Lightroom' just like that. It is just too complex. But, if we take it step by step we will learn as we go (and, if we do it ourselves, we are far more likely to remember!)

We make use of you-tube, or, in this case, all the excellent training videos available from the Adobe website.

We gradually learn all the different steps leading up what we would like to do. It is fascinating and great fun experimenting as we go.

Once again we can use it to the level that we enjoy. We do not need to be experts. We may find, however, that as we get used to it we will start to experiment more and more as we gain in confidence.

Many of us are 'waiting for the right course' to get started. We shouldn't wait, we should just grab the opportunity provided by modern technology and jump in and get started!

We can all improve our techniques and skills all by ourselves and get so much more out of our hobby. We just have to make the effort!

Learning Photography (or Anything Else for that Matter)

By: bushhappyfred (... your friend and mine – Bernard Seymour Hall ... ed.)

People often ask how you have accumulated your knowledge and how you went or go about it. So here is my method.

I call it learning by osmosis. There is no one single method that will give you everything you want or need to know. Learning is a continuous process. I try to learn at least one new thing every day. Sometimes what I learn has no application at that time but the main thing is that you remember what can be done so that when an opportunity arises you can dredge it up from your memory and apply it. Sometimes when you are being creative ideas just pop into your head and these are the memories of all those little learning opportunities you have invested in, in the past. Many years ago I read how someone used an extension tube with a 400 mm lens to shorten the minimum focusing distance so that he could photograph humming birds. I have not used it yet but when I see that snake I want to photograph I already have a possible method. Once I went to work by train for 6 weeks just so that I could read a tome on excel. My friend thought I was nuts (they are more than likely right) but my

only objective was to see what could be done and then were to find the method when I needed it.

So what are the first things I think you should learn to improve your photography.

- 1. Know the basics about you equipment.
 - a. Where are all the essential control buttons wheels etc?
 - b. How to change them without having to look?
 - c. How to change ISO, shutter speed and aperture quickly?
 - d. Where are these controls shown in the viewfinder?
- 2. Know the basics of photography.
 - a. What is ISO (or ASA for the old hands) and what it controls in your photograph?
 - b. What id Shutter speed and what it controls in your photograph?
 - c. what is aperture and what it controls in your photograph (for me the most important to understand as it controls the 3rd dimension?)
- 3. Exposure. This is how all ISO, Shutter Speed and Aperture change relative to eachother to give you the result you want.
- 4. Composition.
- 5. Computer Software.

You can get a good enough grasp of 1, 2, 3, 4 in 1 to 2 hours so that you will be able to start capturing photographs that will be more pleasing and most of important of all you will know a Little of how you did it. I used to carry a note book where I recorded all this basic information for every shot. It forced me to think about what I was doing and gave me a reference afterwards of what worked and more importantly what did not work. This is a good discipline (for a while) even in the digital age where all this information is stored for you.

You are now equipped to go out and start taking photographs and now you can really start learning your art.

Learning the Computer Software (5) follows the same process but can be far more intensive and time consuming. There is just so much you can do in so many different ways it is mind boggling. I try to keep it simple and advise that you choose 1 software and learn to use that until you are achieving the type of results you want. Once you are reasonably comfortable you can use some of the specialist stacking, stitching etc software. Remember Photoshop (in its various forms) Lightroom, Gimp etc. all do more or less the same things, just in different ways. What I have found is that you have to find out how something was done and then go to the many resources available to see how to do that particular process in your chosen software.

Resources

In the digital age there are infinite places to find how to do things reasonably quickly and easily. Often it just a case of posing the question and being overwhelmed by the response.

The most important resource is your own brain. It can remember more than you think, recall memories (sometimes an idea pops in your head and you think I didn't know I knew that) and it can take to differing concepts and apply then in a unique way. Often it is good enough to just remember that you can do something and then let your subconscious and logic work out the how.

Your cameras manual should be with you always. It will get you past those little technical things about your camera. You can print it or store it electronically but it should always be handy. This is also very helpful if you ask someone what they are doing and they have to show you on your camera because even models within a make have different layouts.

Fellow photographers. Most people are quite willing to share their knowledge with you and help. Everyone was a beginner at some time and remembers how it felt. Also try to find a mentor or two. Someone who you think you can get on with and you can relate to. You may have many mentors over time. Remember the mentors function is to point you in a direction and then for you to go and do the research and learning.

Photographic courses and club outings are also a good way to learn from other people. I went on a Desert Light and Dance of Light workshops with Nicole Palmer (www.nicolepalmer.co.za My blog www.desertlight.co.za nicolep@adept.co.za) which had immeasurable influence on my photography.

Good old books (you remember those things) make good references. This ranges from technical books which have the how's and why's to simple coffee table books for inspiration. Books can be expensive but keep an eye out for second hand books and cast offs from other photographers. The principles and methods are the same whether for film or digital. You just have to understand and adapt them.

Another source of quick and concise information is photographic magazines. I have a pile of magazines in my study new and old which I pick up and work through. Just seeing a photograph with the simple details of lens, shutter speed and aperture can be very informative. There are also lots of short articles which may not be detailed enough but they point you in a direction to research how to do something. This evening I saw something on stacking that I will use on my next outing. Last week I read an article on HDR and they used an Orton Image (the old film photographers will remember this one and for those of you who have no idea what it is here is your first lesson. Look it up) which I will try out soon as well.

Today the biggest source of information is the Internet. The problem can be sorting out what you want to see. My view is that even if I have to read or watch something that I may think is not what I am looking for I am at least learning what I don't want and honing in on what I do want. The two most useful learning sites for me are google.com and youtube.com. It amazes me that there are hundreds of people out they just itching to impart their knowledge to me. Don't be scared to ask questions like on these 2 sites. Some examples:

- "how to convert to black and white (quite broad)
- "photoshop how to convert to black and white (a little narrower)
- "photoshop cs6 how to convert to black and white (more specific)
- "photoshop cs6 how to convert to infrared black and white (specific)

Sometimes the answers you get are not what you expected. Try to reframe the question put the photoshop cs6 at the end instead of the front. Give more information in the question.

Often if I hear someone talking about something that piques my interest I will make a note and then when I get home ask google or youtube

- what is a raw photograph
- what is the difference between raw and jpeg
- what is aperture
- photography what is contrast.

Youtube is particularly useful as there are visual explanations and you can see how to do something. When using youtube I frequently use the pause and back buttons. Sometimes I make detailed step by step notes on a process (old school) or I just download the video for future reference. I have 2 screens so I often open a youtube session on one with a video about a technique and on the other screen I have a Photoshop session open with the photograph I want to process. Then it is just a case of stepping through the video, pausing it and repeating the steps in Photoshop. I find this much easier than having to swop between programs on the same screen.

In conclusion there is no silver bullet to learning. It is a slow cumulative habit based on your own curiosity and tenacity (my wife calls it obsession) to achieve an objective in your case to take great photographs that make you happy. Just like your photograph you have to be creative to find the mix of resources and methods that will help you learn the art of photography.

Final bit. You will never stop learning.

Good luck and if you need some help I am always happy to assist with the little I know.

INVITATION TO COMPETE IN 2015 KIRSTENBOSCH PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION from CLAUDE FELBERT

Hello Nettie

Following on the success of the past two years I am excited to announce this year's **Kirstenbosch Photographic Competition** starting immediately and ending in March 2016. Our sponsors, **Canon** and **Orms** have again stepped up with a very generous prize for the winning entry – **a Canon EOS 5D Mk. iii worth R35000.**

There will also be a monthly prize as well as added interest for those achieving top results. Our new partner, **Independent** and their **Weekend Argus have** agreed to print the top six to eight images each month. They will credit the photographer for the image.

I have attached the flyer that gives some details of the competition as well as the Website address which is where to find the entry details. Also included in this email are the rules of the competition. Please read them as they have changed slightly from previous years.

Note that 2014 entrants do not have to re-register if their contact, camera and other details remain the same.

I hope that the enticing new additions to the competition will persuade you to enter.

I wish you all Good Luck and hope you make many great images.

Claude / Competition Organizer

Rules of the Kirstenbosch Photographic Competition – 2015 / 16:

- 1. By submitting your images you agree to abide by the rules of the competition.
- 2. Entry is free and you may submit up to **four images per month**, however, at least **one** of those images must be a **flower image**.
- 3. Entries for any given month will close on the last day of the month.
- 4. Only images taken in Kirstenbosch, National Gardens during 2015/16 will be considered.
- 5. Digital images only will be considered and must be submitted in the **Jpeg format no** larger than 2 MB per file.
- 6. Entries can only be submitted electronically on the website at http://botsoc-kirstenbosch.org.za/competition (see Website for entry procedure)
- 7. Employees of BotSoc, SANBI, their Partners and Sponsors and the organizers of the competition, and their immediate families, are not eligible to enter this competition.
- 8. Photographers *may not* submit images that have previously won awards in similar competitions.

- 9. Only nature and scenic images that may contain Flora and / or Fauna, taken from within the grounds of Kirstenbosch will be eligible. In other words, photographs where the main subject is flowers, plants, trees, birds, insects, reptiles or landscapes are eligible.(see rule 10)
- 10. As Kirstenbosch is a public space people may be included in the competition photographs, but courtesy and good taste must be maintained at all times. It is assumed that the photographer has ask people before taking any photographs and has their permission to use the photograph in the competition. Do not photograph children without the permission of the parent.
- 11. The images must be photographic in nature, although every form of post-processing is allowed, the image must, in the judge's view, represent a real scene, i.e. no key elements can be added, removed or modified. Participants submitting prize-winning digital entries may be required to produce the original image file before a prize is awarded, therefore the entrant must retain the original image until after the results have been announced.
- 12. Kirstenbosch, BotSoc, SANBI and their partners and sponsors reserve the right to free reproduction and use of any of the images entered in this photographic competition to promote or advertise the competition and to use in their magazines, newspapers, newsletters, website, brochures and posters etc. In other respects copyright will remain with the photographer. With any publication of a photograph credit will be given to the photographer.
- 13. Names, dates or watermarks are not permitted to be included on an image. If any photographs are submitted with such annotations they will be disqualified.
- 14. Selected images entered may be viewed on the BotSoc Kirstenbosch website along with a galley of images. http://botsoc-kirstenbosch.org.za/competition
- 15. Some of the selected images will be displayed at Kirstenbosch on a monthly basis and may be printed in the Weekend Argus and possibly other affiliated Newspapers giving credit to the photographer..
- 16. Each month a winning image and a number of selected photographs, for each section, will be displayed on the Website and may go forward to the final selection of the winning images. There will be a monthly prizes. Photographers are encouraged to enter new pictures every month, as this will increase their chances of winning. Each month is in essence a new competition from which images may be chosen to go through to the finals for consideration at the end of the year. Selections may mean that photographers have more than one image in the final selection of images.
- 17. The competition opens on the 13th of July 2015 and will close on March 31st 2016.
- 18. The judge's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.





Photos by Michael Tracey, Mo Bassa, Fabio Marco Obertufer respectively

1st July 2015 to 31st March 2016

Photographs must centre on fauna, flora and/or landscapes, and must be taken in the Kirstenbosch Gardens during the competition. Up to four photographs may be submited each month and may be taken with any camera or photographic device. Monthly prizes will be awarded. To see the rules and how to submit photographs go to www.botsoc-kirstenbosch.org.za/competition.

GRAND PRIZE



Canon EOS 5D Mark iii Value R35000 Body only

Proudly
Partnered by:
and
Sponsored by:



INDEPENDENT





From Brett at Photzy

HDR is a fascinating technique that is capable of producing photographs that simply cannot be produced any other way.



(Photographs by Kent DuFault)

In our free guide this week, Kent DuFault takes you step-by-step through the process of creating an HDR photograph.

Go here to get the HDR guide now: http://photzy.com/short-guide-to-hdr/

Here are some of the subjects that are covered in, "HDR Imaging – A Beginner's Guide".

- What types of subject matter works well for HDR imaging (and what subjects don't!)
- How to set up your DSLR camera
- Quick and easy steps toward your first HDR photo
- Special considerations for print versus online use

Discovering HDR imaging is a lot like the first time you created a photograph and thought, "Wow! This cool." It can bring that much joy into your work.

Go here to get the HDR guide now: http://photzy.com/short-guide-to-hdr/

EXHIBITION

Helderberg Photographic Society congratulates Cape Town
Photographic Society on 125 years of involvement in photography!

Exhibition: The Cape Town Photographic Society Celebrates 125 years

CTPS is celebrating 125 years of involvement in, and commitment to, photography in the Western Cape. On the 30th October it will be 125 years to the day that the first meeting was held at St George's School-room, Wale Street in Cape Town.

As part of the celebration for the auspicious occasion the CTPS has arranged an Exhibition held over two weeks where they will be displaying images captured over the last 125 years. The exhibition will cover photographs from each decade from 1890, through to submissions from their current members, and will be held in the Marble Foyer at the ArtScape from 21 July to 3 August.

The CTPS has spent about six months preparing for the exhibition, going through boxes of 100s of old photos in their archives, and it was a great find when they came across the image of 1890 Table Mountain, several glass slides and many old prints where the change from black and white prints to the introduction of colour prints are evident. In the selection of prints to exhibit, the idea was to try to cover each decade. As far as possible they only used images where they could find the name of the photographer and the date of the image, as you can image this was a most interesting endeavour.

The "Cape Town Photographic Society | Celebrating 125 years of Photography" exhibition will be open to the public on Wednesday 22nd July in the Marble Foyer at the Artscape, Cape Town. Please make sure you don't miss out!

Natures Best Photography Africa

• Location: South African Museum

• From: June 24, 2015 To: September 16, 2015



Venue: Iziko South African Museum Date: 24 June to 16 September 2015

Every minute, amateur and professional photographers are taking thousands of images of Africa's biodiversity and natural environments. The Natures Best Photography (NBP) Africa competition enables us to distill these to the best of all, and show them off in the Iziko South African Museum. We want to show those that evoke an emotional reaction when viewed, because of their beauty and the stories they tell. The winning entries shown here will later also be displayed at the Smithsonian. NBP Africa is organised by Kizo Art Consultants and Coetzer Nature Photography, and is the African arm of the international NBP competition, associated with the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, USA.

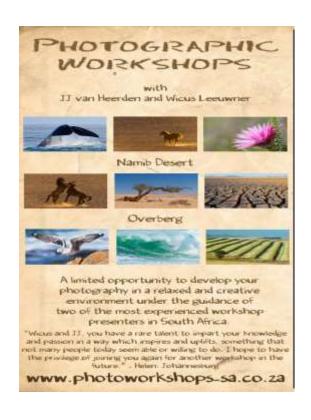
Enquiries: Hamish Robertson, Tel. 021 481 3897 or email hrobertson@iziko.org.za

Image credit: © *Andy Rouse / Nature's Best Photography Awards*

PHOTOGRAPHIC WORKSHOPS

Wicus Leeuwner and JJ van Heerden present their OVERBERG workshop

Dates 28 Oct – 1 Nov @ R8600 pp, Volmoed accommodation and of course great photographic opportunities





Join us on our annual creative photography workshop at the historic farm Kersefontein near Velddrift on the Cape West Coast

Tuesday 8 September to Sunday13 September 2015

Call or Email Melody on 031-9049226 ..melody@medimage.co.za www.anitadevilliers.co.za or www.medimage.co.za

THE LAST WORD



"DO I HAVE TO SAY CHEESE"? I'M LACTOSE INTOLERANT!"

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