



Member of the PSSA

Website: <http://helderbergphoto.com>

<http://helderbergphoto.co.za>

Founded in 1954 : For the Encouragement of Photography

# **HELDERBERG PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY**

## **JULY 2017 NEWSLETTER**

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## **CHAIRMAN'S NOTE**

This month's newsletter is chock a block full of new information ... please take some time out to read it through! There is news on outings, as well as our 'My Portfolio' Project.

Wednesday's Black and White Meeting, as well as our Club Meeting on Wed. 12 July, will have as their set subject 'The Drama of Light'. Do make an effort to take part!

Read more about our successful outing to De Doorns – thanks to Chris for organising the HPS Outings Whatsapp (lift) group – it works well!

Go out and enjoy your photography!

All the best, Nettie



## **PSSA : PRO's NEWSLETTER**

**COMMUNICATION**, is very important in any Society, Club or Organisation and it is one of the strategies that came out of the recent Bosberaad to work on towards the way forward for our Society. Please, as a member, always feel free to give us ideas, suggestions etc., that you feel would contribute in any way, as the Board continues to unpack all the strategies. **THIS NEWSLETTER IS THE WHAT AND THE WHERE FOR OUR SOCIETY.**

### **JAP**

Francois and Johann are working on the accreditation module for all members who did the JAP course and who wish to obtain accreditation. An invite will be sent via MailChimp shortly – **PLEASE LOOK OUT FOR THIS.**

### **MEMBERSHIP**

Invoices will be going out soon for the renewal of your membership fee and it has been approved that members 65 and over will benefit for a 20% discount if paid by the end of September.

### **NOMINATIONS AND VOTING FOR REGIONAL DIRECTORS.**

Please also look out for this notification which is also going out soon and please use your vote, as a member, to nominate and vote for who you would like to see representing your Region.

### **EVENTS TO KEEP IN YOUR DIARY.**

#### **AV Roadshow at West Rand Photographic Club**



AV Makers South Africa, in conjunction with the West Rand Photographic Club, presents an evening of international Audio Visual shows. The programme, presented by Jeff Morris from AV Makers, will be held at **19h00 on Tue 11 July at the Florida Lake Canoe Club**. Jeff will be showing a selection of AVs from the 'Water' theme competition held last year, some others from the International AV showdown organised by his club, and some brought back from his recent trip to the UK. These are competition winners of international standard and there will be few other opportunities to enjoy them in South Africa. Countries represented include Australia, England, Ireland and Holland.





**PLEASE GET YOUR BOOKING IN FOR OUR CONGRESS, TIME IS RUNNING OUT. THERE ARE SOME REAL INTERESTING SPEAKERS ON BOARD. UPDATES WILL CONTINUALLY BE PUT ON OUR WEB SITE.**

PSSA is also looking for a Region to host the 2018 Congress – PLEASE CONTACT OUR PRESIDENT FRANCOIS ROUSSEAU IF YOU WOULD BE INTERESTED.

#### **OVERSEAS HONOURS NEWS FROM JILL SNEESBY – CHAIRPERSON HONOURS DIVISION.**

FIAP's AFIAP and EFIAP awards are based on International Salon acceptances achieved in salons with FIAP Patronage. They do not stop there, in order to honour photographers who, after having achieved the EFIAP distinction, continue to actively participate in International Salons under FIAP Patronage and, by doing so, help to promote photography, with their new artistic production, FIAP has instituted 7 additional FIAP levels. I am delighted to congratulate Willem Kruger on being the first ever PSSA member to achieve his EFIAP/b.

Congratulations also go to Neels Beyers, Human Meyer and Andre Serfontein on achieving their EFIAP awards.



FIAP also recognizes workers in Audio Visual and our latest recipient of the AV-AFIAP is Jeff Morris, congratulations Jeff.

PSA currently offers three levels in line with our LPSSA, APSSA and FPSSA. Their's being the BPSA (Bronze), SPSA (Silver) and GPSA (Gold). As with ours you can skip the BPSA and go straight for the SPSA but you must achieve the SPSA before you may apply for a GPSA. In order to apply you must be a member of PSA. Congratulations to Evelyn Gibson, in achieving her SPSA in Monochrome Street Photography.

#### **AV CONGRATULATIONS.**

##### **Le Palmarès 2017 de La Coupe Lumière**



Congratulations to our fantastic AV makers with more overseas successes!

Anne D'OLIVIERA and Franz JESCHE collected the Prix de la BANDE SONORE (audio component)

for “MYSTERIOUS VENDA.”

and the Prix du PUBLIC (audience choice) for the same AV.

This was the only acceptance from an English-speaking country and it is noteworthy that an English dialogue was so highly regarded in France by both.

CONGRATULATIONS as always to our monthly Club Winners and Web site image winner. All images for these competition since July last year until June 2017 now go forward for the final winners for the year – the results will be announced at Congress. PLEASE NOTE ENTRIES FROM JULY 2017 MUST BE IN HD FORMAT.

Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm, let us keep that burning and moving within our Society.

Till next time – enjoy the rest of our winter months.

EVELYN - PRO

### **PROGRAM: 2017**

As you may notice from the program below we have managed to reclaim the *first WEDNESDAY* of every month, for the Black and White Interest Group. The *second WEDNESDAY* of the month is devoted to our Club Meetings (except on 7<sup>th</sup> August – which is a Monday – due to the fact that Wed. 9<sup>th</sup> is a Public Holiday, and the Tuesday was already taken up by another group). Also, our Audio Visual meetings are going to take place every SECOND month, starting from January 2017 (viz. Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, Nov) on the *last WEDNESDAY* of the month, at Irmel's home in De Boord, Stellenbosch, now starting at 7pm. Address and directions will be sent on request.

Regarding Club Meetings -your Committee has chosen the Set Subjects bearing mind the many facets of photography – macro, creative, abstract etc. which any member can tackle ... and we persuade you to 'tackle' these genres even though they may not be in your comfort zone. Don't be hesitant about entering your work ... Just Do It!

Please take particular note of the changes in the Program for 2017 ... in fact it might be a good idea to print a couple of copies for your car, diary and the fridge!

We are planning to hold **two workshops** during the year, details of which will be advertised as soon as the programs are completed.

| <b><u>PROGRAM 2017</u></b>     |              |                                                             |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| Wed.5 <sup>th</sup> July       | B&W          | 'The Drama of Light'* 7.30pm                                |
| Wed.12 <sup>th</sup> July      | Club Meeting | 'The Drama of Light'** 7.30pm                               |
| Wed.26 <sup>th</sup> July      | Audio Visual | At Irmel's 7pm                                              |
| Wed.2 <sup>nd</sup> August     | B&W          | 'Interaction'* 7.30pm                                       |
| MONDAY 7 <sup>th</sup> Aug     | Club Meeting | 'Interaction'** (Wed.9 <sup>th</sup> P.Hol. Library closed) |
| Wed.6 <sup>th</sup> September  | B&W          | 'Emotion'* 7.30pm                                           |
| Wed.13 <sup>th</sup> September | Club Meeting | 'Emotion'** 7.30pm                                          |
| Wed.27 <sup>th</sup> September | Audio Visual | At Irmel's 7.00pm                                           |
| Wed.4 <sup>th</sup> October    | B&W          | 'Ruins'* 7.30pm                                             |
| Wed.11 <sup>th</sup> October   | Review       | ***7.30pm                                                   |
| Wed.1 <sup>st</sup> November   | B&W          | 'Illuminated' *7.30pm                                       |
| Wed.8 <sup>th</sup> November   | Club Meeting | 'Illuminated' **7.30pm                                      |
| Wed.29 <sup>th</sup> November  | Audio Visual | At Irmel's 7pm                                              |
| Wed.6 <sup>th</sup> December   | B&W          | 'Waterfall'* 7.30pm                                         |
| Wed.13 <sup>th</sup> December  | Gala Night   | Bring eats & drinks & glasses! 7.30pm                       |

\*B&W: Prints: 1 Set Subject (SS) + 2 Open, or 2 SS and 1 Open

\*B&W: Projected Images: 1 SS + 2 Open, or 2 SS and 1 Open

\*\*Prints: 1 Set Subject(SS) + 2 Open; or ... 2 SS + 1 Open

\*\*Projected images: 1 SS + 2 Open; or ... 2 SS +1 Open

\*\*\* Review: 2 Prints and/or 2 projected images allowed, or 1 of either

### **REPORT: CLUB REVIEW MEETING WEDNESDAY 14<sup>th</sup> JUNE**

What a delight it was to have one of our Honorary Members, Nicole Palmer, come and review our prints and projected images! She was light a breath of fresh air, enthusiastic and to the point. Many of us felt it was time to take our camera out of its bag, and get somewhere to make photographs! No doubt



many of us had this in mind when we went to De Doorns on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June

...

### **REPORT ON DE DOORNS OUTING 24<sup>th</sup> JUNE**



There was a wonderful turnout for this popular outing – the weather was great, if a little cold at first. Those able to make it were: Paddy, Peter and Mari, Ronelle, Denise and Gavin, Fiona and Allan, Wessel and Marelize, Hilddidge, Liz Cartwright, Ann Baret, Tanya Els, Irmel, Elizma, Marguerite, Issi, Anlie, Chris and Vanda, Nettie (22 members and extras).

Paddy gave us homework (as is her wont) ... 1) Selfie 2) Rows 3) Orange 4) Wide Angle 5) Movement 6) On the Top 7) Walking 8) Handy 9) Zoom/out 10) Vignette 11) Soufull ... and she invites everyone who took part to send one image of each subject, plus one selfie, to Steve in time for the club Meeting on Wed. 12<sup>th</sup> July (11 pictures in all). We will zip through them as there will be quite a few to share! If you do not send to Steve, please bring them, sized to club-size please, on a stick.

## **CLUB MEETING WEDNESDAY 12<sup>th</sup> JULY**

Set subject: 'The Drama of Light'

We are very lucky to have Paul Bruins judge this competition ... please make an effort to take part in it!

Paul has a love for nature and the outdoors, and enjoys architectural and fine-art landscape photography. We look forward to meeting him.

As an added 'extra', glüwein will be 'on tap' ...

## **UPCOMING HPS OUTINGS**

### **Thursday (note the day...) 27<sup>th</sup> July 'A Day Outing to Worcester'**

Paddy has been in touch with David Reade, the very well known glassblower, and he has agreed that a few small groups of 3 people at the most, can come and photograph him as he blows glass. He does not work on Fridays, or on the weekends, so this particular Thursday is the best we can do. David's wife, Lorna is a painter. Their work is displayed at The Barn Art and Glass Gallery, 170 Church Street, Worcester. Meet at the gallery/workshop at 10.00am.

### **David Reade CV**

Born England 1960.

1977 Began working with glass under master glassblower Michael Harris at Isle of Wight Studio Glass. During a seven year period I worked in Southern Ireland and at the Isle of Wight learning glassblowing and designing skills.

1984 After a holiday in South Africa I decided to make it my home, my first studio was in Cape Town sharing with glassblower Gary Thompson.

1986 Built new studio in Worcester South Africa sharing with glass artist Kea Verwey.

1987 Went to Scandinavia and worked in small studios, visited and learnt from Sweden's best master blowers.

1988 Returned to South Africa.

1992 My wife Lorna and I bought and renovated a 1790 Barn; this has become our home and studios. Lorna is an artist whose paintings are also inspired from Africa.



Since 1991 I have developed a style of glass which is inspired by the deserts and mountains of Africa. I work with architects and art galleries around the world. I have had many exhibitions and my work is in many private and public collections. Work is in the collections of: Consol Glass, Gilby's Collection, Cultural History Museum Cape Town, Durban Art Museum, Pretoria Art Museum, Pietersburg Art Museum, Stourbridge Glass Museum.



## **Lorna Reade - CV**

LORNA READE

ARTIST \ PAINTER

(Lorna Hoffman Binneman Reade)

Born 1ST OCTOBER 1951 BLYVOORUITZICHT GOLDMINE

Lived in Zambia till 1965,

Completed schooling at Potchefstroom Girls High

JHB Parktown Girls High

JHB High School Art, Ballet and music

Art apprentice for MGM Studio and Kinekor Film Studio

Designer for Pilkington Tiles of London

First group exhibition: JHB Art Gallery, Joubert Park (Merit Award)

1972: First official commission, Oil painting for The David Hotel in Jerusalem

Solo and group exhibitions in JHB and Pretoria as Lorna Hoffman

Exhibitions thereafter as Lorna Binneman, on a local as well as an International platform.

Merit Award, Annual Group Exhibition in P.E., Watercolour

Merit Award, Rembrandt Young Artists, Oil

1987-1991: Opened her first Art Gallery and Coffee Shop, in Worcester BINNEMAN ART GALLERY

1992- : Restored 1789 Wine cellar in Worcester

May 1992: Opened THE BARN ART GALLERY AND COFFEE SHOP

1992, Married Master Glass blower David Reade

1992-2005: Numerous commissions and exhibitions.

Lorna and David have their studios at The Barn and exhibit worldwide.

Mediums are: Watercolour, oils, inks.



THE BARN ART & GLASS GALLERY  
170 CHURCH STREET WORCESTER  
TEL 023-3428136  
FAX 023-3423103  
E-MAIL [drreade@netactive.co.za](mailto:drreade@netactive.co.za)

Groups of 3 will be able to go into the glassblowing area. The Gallery also has a coffee shop where you can wait until you get called!

After the glassblowing visit, the idea is to visit the Karoo National Botanical Garden just outside Worcester - the aloes are in full bloom at the moment. A restaurant there could be the place for some lunch ...



- **Winter:** The Garden falls in the winter rainfall area, so remember your raincoat. The 1 km Shale Trail is a must in winter. It gives an extraordinary view of the area with snow on the Hex River Mountain range and sometimes on the surrounding mountains as well.
- Take note that our Garden has a no bins policy and that all visitor must take their litter back with them.
- Remember your hat, water and hiking shoes.
- Bring a camera and field guide books.

- **High Season (1 June - 31 Oct)**

- Adults: R22
- Students: R15
- Children under 18: R10
- Pensioners: R12
- BOTSOC Members: Free
- Disabled persons: Free

**IMPORTANT:** Please let Paddy know if you are definitely able to come - [dreamcatcher@radionet.co.za](mailto:dreamcatcher@radionet.co.za) Deadline for replies: Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> July

## **PROPOSED WEEKEND OUTING TO THE TANKWA KAROO NATIONAL PARK**

Paddy is researching accommodation dates i.r.o. a Friday to Sunday Weekend at the Tankwa Guesthouse – the one that looks a bit like a fort... This, we hope, will be in November. Once a go-ahead is received, participants will have to eft

their money to the HPS account. It will be a self-catering affair, with possibly two evening 'group' braais. More about this as we go along....

### 'MY PORTFOLIO'



1. Each participant must enter five prints – these prints should depict any genre(s) the photographer enjoys doing.
2. The five prints should be sized as follows: PRINT SIZES FOR HPS (and for Interclub)
  - ❖ The *minimum* size of a print (without its mount) is 150mm x 200mm. (6" x 8")
  - ❖ The *maximum* size of a print (without its mount) is 300mm x 450mm. (12" x 18")
  - ❖ The maximum size of the mount board may not exceed 400mm x 550mm.
3. Only **NEW** work, made during 2017, and which has not yet been shown at HPS meetings, may be entered. **Requests have been made to include images made in 2016 ... due to a majority vote from several (not all) Committee members, this is now acceptable - but please bear in mind that your images should not have been shown at HPS before. My personal take is that if you made great images in 2016, you most probably would have shown them by now! There is plenty of time (until September) to make five good images, I think!!! (Guess who votes for 2017 pics only!)**
4. Three independent judges will be asked to judge each portfolio.
5. Picture Works, Stellenbosch, run by JJ van Heerden, is offering a discount on all prints being made for this project.
6. Picture Works will be awarding a prize of a stretched canvas to the winner.
7. Roxanno's Framing will be asked to offer a discount on all framing required for this project. **Roxanno's replied that they always give good prices (!) (and have offered to sponsor a prize for our Interclub...)**

8. It is not imperative that you use the above two suppliers – you may certainly use your own preferred printers and framers, should you so wish. Prints should be mounted, and include a backing board.
9. All prints will be required to be brought to the B&W Meeting on Wednesday **6<sup>th</sup> September**, or, may be dropped off at Picture Works before 6<sup>th</sup> September, after which they will be judged during that following week.
10. The showing of 'My Portfolio' will take place at the Bright Street Gallery, Bright Street (bottom end), Somerset West on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2017, at 6pm. The Gallery will be open on Wednesday and Thursday (11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> October from 9.30am until 4pm for viewing during the day. The prints will be taken down on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October. HPS would like to obtain each photographer's permission to keep these prints aside - for inclusion in the HPS selection of work for Interclub 2017.
11. So far, we have had affirmative replies from the following members: Nettie, Michele, Paddy, Izak, Irmel, JJ, David, Chris, Denise W, Mark, Fiona, Hilldidge, Marguerite, Sonja, Steve T, Danie, Liz, Please let me know asap if you would like to be added to this list ... Bernard? Peter D? Neels? anyone else?
12. Here is a further request! It would be of great help if you could request your framer to attach a hanging string to the back of your prints eg.



something like this ... This will facilitate the hanging of the prints enormously – many thanks!

Any queries: contact Nettie 082 5763278 or [nettie28@iafrica.com](mailto:nettie28@iafrica.com)

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## **PHOTOGRAPHIC TOURS**

(I lifted this from Face Book! Ed.)



SAR Steam Tours added 2 new photos.



• June 29 at 11:43pm •

Big steam Tours are back in South Africa! Tours with steam locomotive Classes 12AR, 15F and 25NC are on its way. Next Tour in November visiting the Freestate Lines from Kimberley to Bethlehem. This is a photographic tour so daily different photo / Video sessions are planned in. Board the train, relax and enjoy hard working steam.



**Henry Claassen** It will be awesome to see these old steam engines around. Please lets have tours like these in every province and bring back some of the old coaches.



**SAR Steam Tours** Hi Henry, we are looking at yours in all provinces but are restricted to access and availability of heritage locomotives and rolling stock. SARST believes that a true steam tour experience means staying on the train and not having to check in and out of hotels. Currently the only set of sleeper coaches are kept in the care of Reefsteamers in Germiston

## **PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION**

### **SANParks Annual Photo Competition 2017 launches 1st of July**

South African National Parks (SANParks) will be launching the Annual SANParks Photo Competition on the 1st of July 2017. The competition will be open for entries until 31 July 2017. Various prizes are up for grabs, so make sure you enter and share your wonderful captures in our parks. Terms and Conditions apply.

The competition consists of two divisions, each with three categories, as below:

#### 1. DSLR

- Fauna & Flora (wildlife activity, animal portraits, birds, insects, flowers, trees, etc.)
- Landscapes (and seascapes and viewpoints)
- Lifestyle (families, couples, youth and people engaging in park activities)

#### 2. Compact cameras & Smart Mobile Phone images

- Fauna & Flora (wildlife activity, animal portraits, birds, insects, flowers, trees, etc.)
- Landscapes (and seascapes and viewpoints)
- Lifestyle (families, couples, youth and people engaging in park activities)

For more information on how to enter, competition rules, prize description, etc. Please visit [https://www.sanparks.org/about/photo\\_competition/default.php](https://www.sanparks.org/about/photo_competition/default.php)

#### ***Enquiries***

Email: [sanphotocomp@gmail.com](mailto:sanphotocomp@gmail.com)





## **EXHIBITION**

The ***Cape Town Photographic Society*** would like to invite you and your members to

### Classical Vintage to Creative Modern

6<sup>th</sup> – 21 July, 2017  
at Amplify Studio



This is an exhibition of prints submitted by more than 30 current CTPS members. The exhibition will be open from 7pm on July 6<sup>th</sup>, the 'First Thursday', when Cape Town's art lovers roam the streets from one exhibition to the next.

The prints will be on display in the modern Amplify Studio in Loop Street until 21 July, and we hope you'll encourage all your friends and relatives to go and view the work done by members of our society.



CTPS' rich heritage will be commemorated in a small Vintage Section where we will display a few of our old prints, cameras and glass slides - including the wonderful print of Table Mountain taken in 1890 (left) and Arthur Elliott's photo of the building of Rhodes Memorial taken in 1905.

For more information about CTPS visit [www.ctps.co.za](http://www.ctps.co.za)

**Amplify Address:** 153 Loop St • Ground Floor • Cape Town 8001 • [www.amplifystudio.co](http://www.amplifystudio.co)



On June 29th we opened the second official [\*\*Orms SPACE Open Exhibition for 2017\*\*](#). As always, the concept was simple, to give anyone the opportunity to exhibit their work. We opened for submissions on May 22nd and were delighted with the response from our readers. The submissions started rolling in straight away and boy, with over 600+ submissions you guys did not make the curation process easy for us at all.

When opening night finally arrived we were once again blown away by everyone who stopped by to come have a look. As always we paired the opening with the [\*\*Orms Cape Town School of Photography\*\*](#) student exhibition, this includes work from the [\*\*full-time students\*\*](#), as well as a selection from the [\*\*part-time photography courses\*\*](#).

We'd like to say thank you again to everyone who submitted their work, we were so pleased with what we received and to see the talent out there! If you didn't make it into the selection this time around, please don't get discouraged. We've made the SPACE exhibition a regular feature, so please keep your eyes peeled for the next one.

The exhibition will be up until July 14th, so please feel free to stop by anytime **during office hours**. Simply drop in at the Orms Cape Town School of Photography, 4th Floor, 62 Roeland Street, Cape Town. For those of you who couldn't make it to the opening night, we decided to include a few images below...



# Hoe maak ek met die horison in my landskapfoto's?

AUTHOR: [Outdoorphoto Team](#) POSTED: June 30th, 2017

*Die plasing van die horison speel 'n belangrike rol in die uitkoms van jou landskapfoto's, so dink twee keer voor jy dit weer reg in die middel plaas... Professionele fotograaf en*

safari gids, **Villiers Steyn** van *Vision Photography* in die Laeveld wys ons hoe om die horison tot jou voordeel te gebruik.

Gaan loer vir 'n slag na jou vakansiefoto's op Facebook en tel 'n bietjie hoeveel van jou landskapfoto's horisonne wat reg in die middel sit het. As ek moet raai, is dit nege uit tien... of dalk selfs almal!? Dis menslike natuur om die horison in die middel van foto's te plaas – ons doen dit somer outomaties. Maar het jy al ooit daaraan gedink presies hoe belangrik die horison in jou foto's is, veral die plasing daarvan? As jy dit in die middel sit, sien 'n mens slegs 'n gedeelte van die agtergrond en 'n gedeelte van die voorgrond, maar nooit genoeg van die een of die ander om die beeldskone landskap werklik reg te laat geskied nie.



### Asemrowende agtergrond

Wanneer die agtergrond, met ander woorde, dit wat bó die horison lê, meer indrukwekkend as die voorgrond is, soos byvoorbeeld 'n asemrowende sonsondergang of 'n dramatiese Kalahari-donderstorm, plaas die horison laer as gewoonlik. Hoe meer indrukwekkend die wolke, hoe laer kan jy die horison laat sak. Sodoende verseker jy dat daar genoeg spasie in die raampie is vir dit wat die mooiste is.



### Verstommende voorgrond

Partykeer is die voorgrond (dit wat ónder die horison lê) meer indrukwekkend as die agtergrond, soos in die geval van hierdie toneel in die noorde van die Krugerwildtuin. Die kronkelende pad, kremetartboom en plantegroei vertel baie meer van 'n storie as die eentonige lug (of agtergrond), en daarom maak dit sin om die horison hoër as gewoonlik plaas, sodat jy soveel as moontlik van die mooi voorgrond kan inpas.



Daar's altyd 'n uitsondering


Wanneer jy weerkaatsings afneem, kan jy gerus 'n uitsondering maak, aangesien die voorgrond en die agtergrond ewe mooi is. Om die waarheid te sê, lyk weerkaatsingfoto's oor die algemeen mooier met die horison reg in die middel.

### **GORDON'S BAY FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS**






## AN EVENING WITH NELIS WOLMARANS



**XI BOLAND** TRAVEL presents...

An evening with **Renowned Wildlife Photographer**

 **NELIS WOLMARANS**

→ Wildlife Photography  
→ Photographic Safaris  
→ Passion for Africa's unique cultures and incredible wildlife  
→ Private guide  
→ Iconic Safari Destinations  
→ Hands-on photographic tutoring while out in the field

**More about Nelis Wolmarans ...**  
**A Private Wildlife and Photographic Safari Guide**

I am a born and bred South African wildlife photographer, whose images have covered the pages of numerous publications across the globe. I grew up in the heart of the Greater Karoo and from a very early age have had a deep love for Africa's wildlife. My dream became reality when I started working on a private game reserve in 1999.

[<Read more>](#)

|       |                                            |
|-------|--------------------------------------------|
| Date  | 25 July 2017                               |
| Time  | 18:30 for 19:00                            |
| Venue | Grande Roche Hotel, Paarl                  |
| Cost  | R60 per person<br>Includes a glass of wine |

**RSVP here!**

**Why not book your dinner for afterwards?**  
Book now at Grande Roche Hotel

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[www.bolandtravel.co.za](http://www.bolandtravel.co.za)

25<sup>th</sup> July Grande Roche Hotel, Paarl

18.30 for 19.00 R60 (includes a glass of wine)

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### Photo Links #62

by Steve Crane

#### Software

- [A Beginner's Guide to the Pen Tool In Photoshop | Fstoppers](#)
- [Lightroom mobile - who can use it? | The Lightroom Queen](#)

- [How to Create a Lomo Effect Using Only Lightroom | Fstoppers](#)
- [The Fill Command in Photoshop CC « Julieanne Kost's Blog](#)
- [A Unique Way to Convert Images to Black and White | Fstoppers](#)
- [A Quick and Helpful Tip for Local Adjustments in Lightroom | Fstoppers](#)
- [How to Use the Image Processor Script in Photoshop for Batches of Photos](#)
- [How to enhance colors in sunset photos with a single layer, and get optimal results](#)
- [Simple Techniques for Adding Contrast to an Image in Lightroom](#)
- [Photofocus | Why is Lightroom Importing my Images out of Order?](#)

## **Creativity & Technique**

- [Cull Your Photos Carefully - 5 Steps to Follow Before You Hit Delete](#)
- [Tips for Finding Potential in the Obsolete - Photographing Trash](#)
- [How to Optimize Photos For Facebook](#)
- [Photofocus | Mirrorless Camera Maniac: Shoot Black and White](#)
- [How to Stop Lens Creep for Free Using a Rubber Band](#)
- [How to Select a Subject for Long Exposure Photography](#)

## **Video**

- [Fstoppers Reviews VSDC Free Video Editor — A Great Place to Start Your Video Career | Fstoppers](#)

## **Miscellaneous**

- [This Moon Terminator Illusion explains why light can appear to bend the wrong way - DIY Photography](#)
- [Do More Megapixels Cause More Problems? - Photo Tips @ Earthbound Light](#)
- [5 Free eBooks That Every Photographer Should Read](#)
- [6 Free E-Books on Street Photography](#)
- [How the Rolling Shutter Effect Works](#)
- [Exploring the Murky Concept of 'Shot on a Smartphone' Commercials | Fstoppers](#)
- [Even Ansel Adams Had to Advertise His Photo Business](#)
- [Photofocus | History of Photography: The Cabinet Photo](#)

**Steve Crane** | 2 July 2017 at 22:30 | Categories: [Photo Links](#) | URL: <http://wp.me/pn7vd-GW>



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## ARTICLE

9 min read

### What I Learned On Safari With A Wildlife Photographer ... A Blog

... with permission from Matthew Sterne

by [Matthew Sterne](#)  
on June 15, 2017

About six months ago I decided to buy my first DSLR camera. I looked online for suggestions but it was all quite confusing. So I rose from my chair at work, took a few steps, and tapped Simon on the shoulder.

Simon is Rhino Africa's resident photographer. He flies off on shoots to lodges and reserves all over Africa to capture the beautiful content we need. It's a sweet gig. And Simon, I'll be honest here, doesn't deserve it. All he deserves is a poke in the eye and a kick to the kerb. You see, Simon is my lunchtime table tennis foe and we've developed a scathing rivalry that adds a bit of spice to our work days.

Simon's trash talk is as weak as his backhand but it doesn't stop him from practising both daily. Simon grew up in Ireland and has an Irish attitude about things, a strange sense of humour that some people find endearing, but most just find a little weird and disconcerting. He calls it his Irish, "gift of the gab," but I think of it as more of a curse.

I love that he can't refute any of this.

Our enjoyable rivalry masks a begrudging friendship and Simon was happy to help me choose a camera and explain the basics to me. "At first, keep things simple. Always shoot in AV mode. Use the smallest F-stop you can. Leave it on ISO 400 and shoot in RAW format. Anyone worth their salt only shoots in RAW. You're then able to edit them and make them pop. Now bugger off."

#### **Lesson No. 1: Shoot in RAW**

I went out and took some photos that a few of our colleagues said weren't half bad. I wasn't going to allow that to pass and let Simon know his days were numbered. I told him one afternoon in the middle of a table tennis game, "Simon, you're dispensable now, I'd relook at becoming an electrician if I was you. Pretty soon you won't be needed round here." And then I popped off a searing ace down the line

and laughed gleefully.

“Ha! Your jokes are as bad as your photography,” he stammered, and then added for good measure, “And your blogs are shit.”

As the months went by I took more photos and started to enjoy photography even more. Along the way, Simon refused to edit them. “Smart boy,” I told him patronisingly, “I wouldn’t want to dig my own grave either.” And then in a whisper, I’d threaten him, “I’m coming for you Simon, you’re done.”

Then we found out we were going to Botswana on a 5-day trip together. This would be my chance to outshine him. I had little idea how wrong I was and how little I knew.



Simon saved the window seat for his bag

### **Botswana field notes:**

Our first game drive is at the unique Leroo La Tau lodge on the border of the Makgadikgadi Pans. While Simon moves swiftly like the pro he is, I fumble with my camera settings not knowing what or even how to shoot. I’m not used to the pressure of photographing moving targets, my normal subjects are mountains and trees, not unpredictable African beasts. I am panicking and not even able to remember the basics. Simon has explained the three important settings to me many times before – the F-Stop, shutter speed and ISO – but my mind is misfiring.

“That photo is overexposed, change the shutter speed,” Simon says. The shutter speed? I used to know that but in the heat of the moment, my mind draws a complete blank. I am too embarrassed to ask, so I guess what I should do.

“No Matt! That’s not the shutter speed you fool. Here.” Simon changes the setting and hands the camera back to me. I take some photos, focusing on the right composition and then watch Simon get to work.

He talks to the animals like they’re his friends while he shoots them, “Beautiful, to the left, come back... nice.” He also mimics their movements and sounds; the zebra grunt, the impala jump and the movements of an elephant’s head. I watch him and think he’s gone mad, but then I look at his photos and change my mind.

### **Lesson No. 2: Forget about everything else and focus on the shot**



The second game drive is in the famous Moremi Game Reserve in the Okavango Delta. I’ve realised

that speed and accuracy is vital in wildlife photography. I'm getting better with the handling of the cameras but nothing like Simon. He moves quickly with sniper-like precision. He has the same clinical approach that Mark Wahlberg has in all those sniper movies. I tell Simon about the sniper comparison, "Except you don't shoot to kill."

"Yeah, but my shots are killer," he says with eyebrows raised, "I'm a lethal weapon baby."

"Settle down."

Simon gives me the biggest lens, 'Barry the bazooka,' to me. I see a far-off bird and try to take aim but the lens is long and heavy, and it wobbles like a branch in the wind. It takes a while for me to get used to it and steady the lens. I tell Simon of my trouble. "It is not about the lens, it's about what is behind the lens that matters."

"Ok, then swap with me."



"No."

*Things I hear Simon say...*

"Matt, take a photo, you fool."

"If I had a nickel for every time you did something stupid I could buy this lodge."

He is six years my junior but loves to lecture me on all things in life. "Look Matt, if there's one thing you have to do in life it's to always go with your gut."

"Matt, my student, what's the most important thing in photography?"

"A good camera?"

"No! Wow, you know nothing. The answer is focus and exposure."

"That's two things."

"No, it's not."

### **Lesson No. 3: Focus and exposure are the most important things in photography**

Then, two days later. "Matt, some people think that composition is the most important thing in photography. Are they right?"

"No, focus and..."

"Yes, they are right. Composition *is* the most important thing in photography."

"What about..."

"Shut up Matt, you idiot. Listen to your master."

### **Lesson No. 3: Focus and exposure are the most important things in photography**

### **Lesson No. 3: Composition is the most important thing in photography**



Just another standoff

Occasionally, I'd take a photo I liked and would show Simon. "I can't use that," he'd invariably say.

"It's shit." But then on our third evening, we go on a mokoro ride at Camp Okavango. It is sunset, a photographer's favourite time of day. "Anything we shoot now will be amazing," Simon says.

#### Lesson No. 4: Shoot at Sunset

I decide to have some fun and not worry about the right setting or the right lens or what Simon will criticise about me next. I get low and shoot across the water as we're guided silently along in the famous Botswanan canoes. I take photos of the lily pads and birds and reeds and water.

When the mokoro ride finishes we're greeted with a song and dance by the staff and I jump in there trying new angles and just hoping to get as many good photos as I can. Once the songs are over and the light has disappeared Simon says one of the few nice things he's ever said about anyone ever.



"You were in the zone there Matt. Nice."



Simon leaves our trip early for another shoot in the Kruger National Park. "Matt, it is up to you now to take the good photos. I have no doubt you will disappoint me," Simon says before he goes.

On our last evening game drive, we get a call on the radio that a leopard has been seen. In dying light, we race through the Savute Game Reserve bouncing along in excitement. The sun has disappeared over the horizon and we have to be back at camp in ten minutes before the park closes. I realise that I might only get one chance to photograph the leopard.

We arrive in a puff of dust and slow the vehicle down as we near the sighting. We see pointed fingers from another vehicle and see it; a movement of grass and a flash of a tail – the leopard is here. And then, before we can even settle, the leopard appears in front of us casually strolling towards the start of its night. I take a photo and look at it. It's dark – way too dark.

The leopard is nearly in front of us now and I consider forgetting the camera and just admiring the cat. But no, I must try to capture it. Do I change the shutter speed, ISO or F-stop? It must be the ISO, the sensitivity of the image sensor. But to what? The leopard is disappearing and I have no time to test it. I guess 1600 ISO, lift the camera, aim, take focus and shoot. I get it! I think. I can't be sure. The





leopard stalks off into the night.

A week later and back at the office, Simon and I take a closer look at the photo. Simon doesn't like it. "I can't use that," Simon says.

"I don't care if you can't use it."

"Look how grainy it is. You pushed the ISO up too far, you should have shot on 800."

"Maybe," I say, "But I like the photo. I think I might frame it."

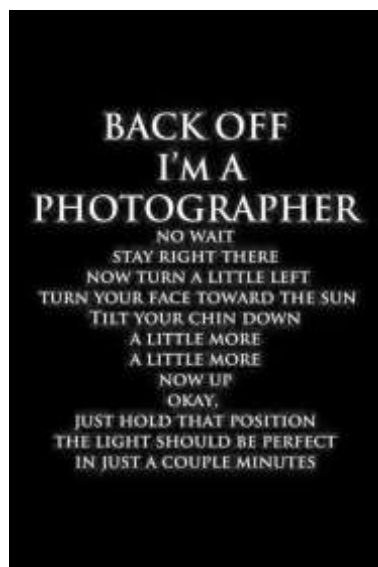
"Yeah," he says, "You would." Simon walks off and then returns. "It's not a bad photo. You should be happy with it."

Simon walks off again and I feel like he is the one patronising me now.

**Lesson No. 5: Take the photos you like and don't listen to a word Simon says**



## THE LAST WORD



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