



Member of the PSSA

Website: <http://helderbergphoto.com>

<http://helderbergphoto.co.za>

Founded in 1954 : For the Encouragement of Photography

HELDERBERG PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

MARCH 2018 NEWSLETTER

CHAIRMAN'S NOTE:



We heard you – members and visitors who in different ways expressed a need for technical help. In some cases it was for camera technique, in others for digital post processing.

Then there are the long standing discussions about the shortcomings of club photography in South Africa. For many the main culprit is a perceived narrow mindedness and conservatism in many clubs that does not encourage creativity and experimentation. My impression is that in recent years there have been encouraging improvements in this regard.

Another gripe is the questionable level of competence of many club judges.

Your HPS Committee, as well as the Western Cape Photographic Forum, have set in motion actions to help address a number of these needs and concerns, in the form of talks, workshops, courses and outings. Also available to all, of course, is the incredible variety of mostly free online resources you can access at the press of a button.

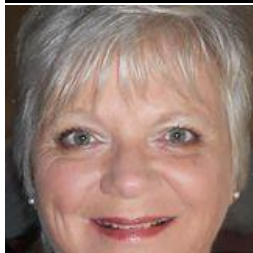
The BIG question though is: Will attending workshops, talks, courses and reading, actually result in you making better photographs? The answer is well... yes and no... depending...

Canadian photographer and author David duChemin says it is all about **vision**, **craft** and **creativity**. In this issue of your newsletter we publish one of his blogs that eloquently points to some pitfalls, and what he thinks will help you improve your craft and make meaningful photographs.

There is of course no simple, and single, answer to a complex question. But I still agree with David...

Chris Herselmann

NOTE FROM NETTIE



PRO, Editor, and Committee Member

Dates and events to make a note of:

2018 CAPE PHOTOGRAPHERS REGIONAL AND PSSA NAT. AV CONGRESS

18 - 22 March in Prince Albert

PSSA Congress hosted by the Port Elizabeth Camera Club

30th September – 5th October, in Port Elizabeth

Go to: www.pssa.co.za

HPS Visual Design Workshop: The date is Saturday 24th March, at Paddy's farm, 9.00am. Once again the presenters will be Paddy, Izak and JJ. Contact Chris Herselman chris.herselman21@gmail.com or Paddy Howes dreamcatcher@radionet.co.za to check whether there are any cancellations.



Paddy Howes

HPS Beginners Photography Workshop

We are planning to hold a workshop for beginners, and photographers who want to extend their knowledge of the craft. Wessel, who is a member based in the Overberg near Caledon, has offered the use of his premises and his expertise. He believes that beginners need more than a presentation or lecture and suggests that the workshop is a blend of explaining the concepts, demonstrating them and then having participants apply them practically, followed by a feedback section on work or assignments done. There will also be other presenters. He has accommodation available and suggests making a weekend of it. He has an old farmhouse with 5 Bedrooms and a converted study, so 6 units in all. 5 have double beds and one has a single bed. There is also floorspace for the camping minded!

The maximum number of people for the workshop will be 12 and it is also possible to drive through in the mornings should you not wish to stay over. Seasoned photographers may also want to have a brush up on their skills but preference will be given to beginners. It has also been suggested that we can open the second day to a club outing.

The timing has not been finalized but April and June are possible dates. May is difficult for the accommodation, but might be possible. It may be pushed out to mid-August to coincide with Canola blossom time.

At this point we are looking for a statement of interest from members to get an idea of the numbers. The cost of accommodation will be minimal. Wessel will come back to me but he needs to cover his costs. The thinking is between R200 and 300 per person depending on numbers.

Please let Mark Smeddle, mark.smeddle@liblink.co.za know if you are interested and wish to book and make your own suggestion about timing. We will determine final dates on getting feedback from members. We will advise later if the outing option is added on to the workshop. It will be a really great weekend in the country.



Mark Smeddle : Committee Member



Wessel Wessels



Overberg

HPS EXHIBITION

Tuesday 14th August until Thursday 16th August

Our HPS Exhibition: Although nothing is as yet finalised regarding requirements of the prints which are to be submitted (sizes, number of, etc.) the final dates are 14th to 17th August at the Bright Street Gallery, Bright Street, Somerset West. Please diarise these dates ... the opening will be in the evening of 14th August, and 'take-down' will be on Friday 17th. Submitted prints need to be as yet, unseen work. Watch this space ...

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING: Wednesday 18th April at Michele's home

AUDIO-VISUAL INTEREST GROUP

The next Audio Visual Meeting will be held on Wednesday 28th MARCH in Stellenbosch. Kindly advise Irmel if you are able to come Irmel@avcreations.co.za

An Audio Visual Combined Meetup is being planned for Saturday 14th April, in Kleinmond, together with Hermanus Photographic Society and Kleinmond Kiekie Klub. You are welcome to go out really early and do some shooting before the meeting starts, or do some shooting afterwards. Please liaise with Irmel at the above address.



Irmel Dunaiski: Audio Visual Convenor and Committee Member

OUR FACE BOOK PAGE

Remember to check out our Face Book page ... several new insertions include images taken during the Kogelbaai outing!

HYPERLINK TO MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE 2018

<..\Documents\Committee 2018.docx>

PROGRAM 2018

Wed. 7 th March	B&W	Graffiti
Thurs. 15 th March	Club	Graffiti
Wed. 28 th March	AV at Irmel's	
Wed. 4 th April	B&W	Wrinkled

Wed. 11 th April	Review	
Wed. 2 nd May	B&W	Solitude
Wed. 9 th May	Club	Solitude
Wed. 30 th May	AV at Irmel's	
Wed. 6 th June	B&W	Shoot it Square
Wed. 13 th June	Review	
Wed. 4 th July	B&W	Gesture
Wed. 11 th July	Club	Gesture
Wed. 25 th July	AV at Irmel's	
Wed. 1 st August	B&W	Abstract Flowers
Wed. 8 th August	Club	Abstract Flowers
Wed. 5 th September	B&W	Seen from Above
Wed. 12 th September	Club	Seen from Above
Wed. 26 th September	AV at Irmel's	
Wed. 3 rd October	B&W	Arches
Wed. 10 th October	Club	Review
Wed. 7 th November	B&W	Forms in Nature
Wed. 14 th November	Club	Forms in Nature
Wed. 28 th November	AV at Irmel's	
Wed. 5 th December	B&W	Double Exposure
12 th December	Gala Evening	

Please note that the 11th April is a REVIEW evening, and NOT a Club Competition ('Wrinkled') – kindly adjust your diaries...Members are encouraged to go out and shoot NEW images for submission to Club Competitions ☺

SUBMISSION OF PRINTS AND PROJECTED IMAGES FOR COMPETITION, REVIEW AND BLACK AND WHITE EVENINGS

*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 Please submit images that you would like constructive criticism on ... sending in your best images is not the idea of the Review Evening. Please reserve those images for normal club competitions. Further information regarding sizing, deadlines for submission etc. may be found on the HPS website at <http://helderbergphoto.com>

Please also remember to send in a projected image of your print, for projection purposes!
Thanks!

SUBSCRIPTIONS 2018

R300 per person for the year

R180 per person (Country Membership)

R180 per person from September 2018

Unfortunately, if you have not paid your subs, you may not enter work for the competitions or review evenings.

NOTE FROM THE TREASURER



Michele Moss : HPS Treasurer and Committee Member

The club relies on timeous payment of members' subscriptions

Banking Details

Account name: Helderberg Photographic Society

Bank & Branch: Nedbank, Stellenbosch

Branch code: 107110 (+00 at end, if necessary for your bank)

OR

198765 (Nedbank Universal code) SUBSCRIPTIONS 2017

Account Number: 2608001130 *(it is a SAVINGS Account)*

NB: Please indicate your name as reference, or send an e-mail with proof of payment to Michele at michele@michelemoss.co.za.

All subs to be paid ASAP please.

If you no longer wish to be a member of HPS, please send an email to Nettie at nettie28@iafrica.com with 'PLEASE UNSUBSCRIBE' in the subject line. This is only fair.

Please e-mail Michele Moss (our Treasurer) at

michele@michelemoss.co.za should you experience difficulties with the eft process.

Our finances pay toward hall rent, insurance and upkeep of equipment, provision of tea, coffee, biscuits etc., rental of a post box (P.O. Box 2004, Somerset West), Affiliation Fees to the PSSA, travelling money and chocolates for visiting judges, etc. The R10.00 fee for tea or coffee pays for the car guard, Jeremy, and his wife, Gillian, who does the washing up for us.

Please note: Those members who have not paid their subs by the end of March will have their names removed from the mailing list.

FUTURE PRINT SIZES FOR HPS (and for Interclub)

1. The *minimum* size of a print (without its mount) is 150 mm x 200 mm. (6" x 8")
2. The *maximum* size of a print (without its mount) is 300 mm x 450 mm. (12" x 18")
3. The maximum size of the mount board may not exceed 400 mm x 550 mm.

HPS OUTING TO KOGELBAAI



Issi Potgieter, HPS Outings Convener and Committee Member

REPORT WRITTEN BY STEVE CRANE

Kogel Bay outing - 24 February 2018

As arranged we met in the parking lot at Gordons Bay harbour shortly before 5pm. As I prefer not to pay to enter the parking area I parked across the street, only to find that there is no longer a charge and nobody watching the gate; something to remember for future visits.

Paddy gave out a short list of subjects to shoot, which she said was so easy that she hadn't made copies of the list. Of course this means that I am having trouble recalling what they were. There were five, with the first four all being "Spirit of X", where X was Sea, Sky, Rocks and Mountains, if I recall correctly. The final subject was "Zoom In and Zoom Out".

After waiting a few minutes past 5pm we headed off to Kogelbaai, passing the main resort entrance and turning in at the next entrance, just past the bridge over the little stream; the same place we went on the outing of 23 January 2016. Then had no problems but that was not to be so this time.



After parking we scattered with cameras and tripods, as any group of photographers does. I had taken only this one photo when Sonja approached me.



She told me that she had been approached by two uniformed guards who told her that we were in a private and must leave as we had no permits. Additionally, the gate we needed to exit by would shortly be locked and if we were still inside we would be spending the night.

I believe that Sonja had told Paddy and some of the others and unable to reach Peter and Mari who were already far off across the rocks, I told Wessel who was nearby and decided that I would rather move on than have to rush and possibly be disturbed while I was photographically *"in the zone"*. I drove out of the area and turned right continuing past the tidal pool to the first road side parking area on the ocean side beyond, thinking I could get down onto the boulder strewn beach below. I sent a message to the WhatsApp outings group telling the others where I was. On getting out of the car to look I found only a single, very steep path down and didn't feel very confident about it. I decided to continue on to Rooiels, sent another message to that effect, and just as I was about to drive off Sonja pulled up behind me. I told her my plan and set off to Rooiels.



Sonja arrived just after I parked, having been to her usual spot, only to find a wedding party there. We walked down to the path along the rocks and each went our own way, taking photographs.



After some time Peter and Mari joined us. We carried on taking pictures waiting for sundown after which the others left, with me staying a little longer before also heading off home.



Steve Crane : HPS Digital Advisor and Committee Member

Those members who went on the outing are requested to send **FOUR** images for projection, at the club Meeting on Thursday 15th March ... remember it is **THURSDAY!**

PLANNED OUTINGS FOR 2018

TOPLESS BUS SUNSET TOUR TO SIGNAL HILL FOR PHOTOGRAPHY AND PICNIC

Sunday 25th March. Be at the Two Oceans Aquarium Stop at the Waterfront by 5pm latest. Departure is at 5.30pm. The bus winds its way through the city to Signal Hill where a stop is made for photography, and a short picnic if you wish to bring one. The tour takes about 3 hours. Bring warm clothing. R110 per person if you book online; otherwise tickets may be bought at the kiosk near the Aquarium Stop. Please let Issi know if you would like to come – issi@vodamail.co.za Seeing the City from the top of the bus is a great experience!



OUTING TO INTAKA ISLAND (BIRD SANCTUARY) AT CENTURY CITY

Saturday 21st April at 9.30am

Intaka Island, an award-winning 16 hectare wetlands and bird sanctuary, is home to 177 species of indigenous fynbos plants and 120 bird species. *Intaka* – which means 'bird' in Xhosa – is a unique example of nature conservation and urban development co-existing in harmony. Apart from its environmental significance, the area offers a place of solace to take a stroll, relax, and get away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life



A boatripe, at a small fee, is also available. Google: Intaka Island, Century City.

PAARL ARCHITECTURE

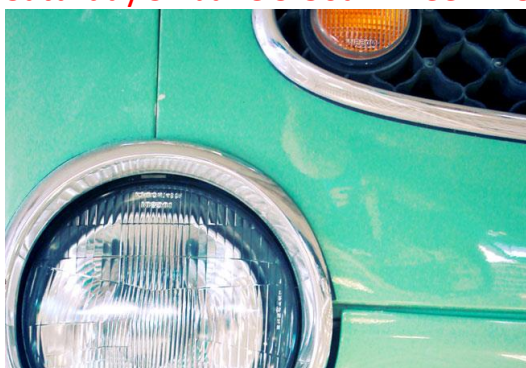
Saturday 9th May 9.00am Meeting place to be confirmed. If you wish to make a day of it, visit the Taal Monument in the afternoon!



WIJNLAND CAR MUSEUM AND SCRAPYARD

Next to Cape Garden Centre on the N1, direction Paarl on the left hand side –

Saturday 9th June 9.30am Fee = R50



VISIT TO SIX DOGS GIN DISTILLERY, WORCESTER (gin tasting included)

Saturday 21st July 9.30am

More details will be released



KALK BAY HARBOUR at Full Moon

Saturday 25th August 4pm



There should be a high-ish tide – it's winter-time so there could be rough seas, plus a full moon! Also recommended: fish and chips at Kalkies

WEEKEND OUTING TO VAN RYNSDORP, NIEUWOUDTVILLE AND GIFBERG

Friday 14th September to Sunday 16th September

Details to follow



OUTING TO THE HORSE RACES! (as suggested by Rachel Gemmel)

Saturday 6th or Sunday 7th October

Details to follow

HPS RALLY

Saturday 3rd November

Details to follow

RESULTS OF THE CLUB COMPETITION HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14th FEBRUARY

HPS 2018-02-14 - Skyline Projected: Set Subject

No. Photographer Title Score Pos.

24 Peter Dewar Perth Skyline 28 1

5 Izak van Niekerk Toronto Skyline 28 2

18 Marelize Wessels Gracious 26 3

11 Ben ter Huurne Auckland at night 26

12 Wessel Wessels Overberg Sunrise 26

16 Izak van Niekerk Skyline outside Kinsale 25

17 Marelize Wessels Towards the Horizon 25

20 Mark Smeddle San Diego from Coronado 25

8 Peter Mason From The Cape Wheel 24

23 Neels Beyers Quiver trees ablaze 24

3 Neels Beyers Flatbuildings 23

14 Stephen Baines Pittsburgh 23

7 Steve Crane Done For the Day 21

13 Paddy Howes Sky Line 21

21 Viv Harpur Razed to the Sky 21

22 Denise Whiteford A quaint village 21

1 Stephen Baines Vancouver 20

2 Viv Harpur Pink Sky at Night, Photographers Delight 20

6 Ben ter Huurne African Sunrise 20

9 Steve Trimby Wine berg 19

10 Antenie Carstens Segregation 19

19 Wessel Wessels Babilons' Toring 19

4 Paddy Howes Sky Line 18
15 Denise Whiteford Spires 18
25 Steve Crane Pinnacle of Wealth 18

HPS 2018-02-14 - Skyline Projected: Open

No. Photographer Title Score Pos.

8 Izak van Niekerk Praha 28 1
7 Danie Coetzee Facing Mozart 27 2
11 Nettie Warncke A Flurry of Waxbills 26 3

10 Peter Dewar Seeberg Viewpoint 25
14 Wessel Wessels Try me! 25
21 Paddy Howes Dancing 25
6 Steve Crane Harmony Park Sunset 24
16 Neels Beyers Jetty 24
22 Danie Coetzee Girl in a cafe 24
24 Marelize Wessels Hang in There 24
5 Peter Dewar Jimmy Brown's 23
12 Viv Harpur Yoga on a Petal 23
15 Mark Smeddle Duesenberg 23
17 Ben ter Huurne What ever will happens today 23
25 Nettie Warncke Stripe Bellied Sand Snake 23
4 Steve Trimby Glow 21
9 Antenie Carstens Hurry up boys 21
13 Steve Trimby Emerald stream 21
23 Antenie Carstens 5 Acorns 21
1 Chris Herselman Traces 2 20
2 Mark Smeddle Candy Cane Lane 19
18 Peter Mason Sisters 19
19 Chris Herselman Old latch 19
3 Stephen Baines Dusk on Alcatraz 18
20 Denise Whiteford An icy morning 16

HPS 2018-02-14 - Skyline Prints: Set Subject

No. Photographer Title Score Pos.

4 Neels Beyers Windmill on a Farm 26 1
2 Neels Beyers Flats at Melkbaai 24 2
3 Paddy Howes Sky Line 23 3

1 Peter Dewar Curious Clouds 22

HPS 2018-02-14 - Skyline Prints: Open

No. Photographer Title Score Pos.

3 Paddy Howes Nature's Lines 24 1
4 Peter Dewar Muelerivier Plaas 24 2
5 Peter Dewar Rest a While 22 3
1 Paddy Howes 4711 22
2 Neels Beyers Rotspoel 21



Perth Skyline by Peter Dewar



Praha by Izak van Niekerk

ARTICLE ... refer to Chris's Chairman's Note ...

What it Feels Like

In *Master Your Craft* by David duChemin. January 31, 2018



Painter Robert Henri (1865–1929) admonished his students to “Paint the spirit of the bird in flight, not its feathers.” His words have echoed with me since I heard them, joining photographer David Alan Harvey’s plea: “Don’t shoot what it looks like, shoot what it *feels* like.”

There’s a place in photography for the merely illustrative to show the world what a thing, person, or place looks like. At one point that was the primary role of the photographer: to go into the world where others might never go, and to report back with “what it looks like.” Or, similarly, to make portraits and create a likeness. But in 100 years, we’ve come to the point where nearly every corner of this world has been photographed, and at a minimum, most every person documented annually throughout their lives, if not selfie’d to the point of absurdity. There is less and less call for us to show anyone what anything looks like. We already know. Few of us really need more illustration, although the camera still does that very well.

“Don’t shoot what it looks like, shoot what it feels like.”

~ David Alan Harvey

What we need, and have always needed, is interpretation and inspiration. We don’t need to know what it looks like (whatever it is), but what it might mean—what it might feel like. More than ever, we need images that speak to a deeper part of our humanity than the thirst for details. We need, and hunger for, for context, insight, hope, and the kind of visual poetry that stirs our hearts, sparks our imaginations, churns our stomachs, or light a fire in us.

This is one reason the ongoing hunt for more megapixels or sharper lenses is so profoundly irrelevant. We’ve got the best tools we’ve ever had and photographers just can’t stop flocking to sites like PetaPixel and DPReview to argue about edge-to-edge sharpness and how many angels you can fit on a single pixel. I wonder how much more they need before the realization sets in that the human heart doesn’t give a tinker’s damn about the things they so passionately debate. I used to wish people had more passion, but that’s not the problem at all; there’s passion aplenty out there. It just hasn’t found the courage to stand on a hill worth defending, so it thrashes around in the mud pretending to matter, pretending to accomplish something. Passion needs an outlet.

“Paint the spirit of the bird in flight, not its feathers.”

~ Robert Henri

We don't need better tools and we don't need more passion. We need direction and something to say with the tools and the passion. If you want to photograph “*what it feels like*,” you have to experience that feeling. And the more deeply you experience it, the more you can put that into the photographs you make. It's hard to do this at the beginning. How do you experience something deeply while also giving 100% of your attention to the buttons and dials and the histogram and the depth of field? OMG, by the time you're done you'd be happy just to have the damn thing in focus, right?

At the beginning it's hard enough to shoot what it looks like. What it feels like? Hell, it feels like frustration, that's what it feels like, duChemin!

I get it.

This is why it's so important to master your craft. Not to geek out and become a so-called techy or a pixel-peeper, but to get so comfortable with those buttons, dials, technical choices, and thought processes that you can concentrate on feeling. On the right strongest moment, the aperture and shutter and composition that best communicates that feeling. On knowing what you have to say and interpreting that with the tools in your hands. *We become more free with the creative work when we can pay less attention to the technical because we are everyday getting closer to mastering those tools.*

When I say mastery I don't mean it in some elite way, just that you control the tools and not the other way around. I mean it in the sense that you're not freaking out all the time about highlights or what your f/stop should be because you've made those choices a million times before and your focus can be on other things.

“An artist must first of all respond to his subject, he must be filled with emotion toward that subject and then he must make his technique so sincere, so translucent that it may be forgotten, the value of the subject shining through it.”

~ Robert Henri

We photograph how something feels by feeling that thing ourselves, which in turn gives us something to say. The camera and all the elements of our craft are merely the means by which we say those things. And since our craft and our vision are inseparable from each other, if you want to be better able to express your vision, you need to get more comfortable with the tools that do that. That means focusing your efforts and getting on the path toward mastery: the more you master your tools and get comfortable with them, the more you'll be to use those tools creatively, playfully, and powerfully.

..... For now, I just want you to start thinking about this: while it's all well and good to want to “shoot what it feels like,” the way you do that is more practical and requires you to be so familiar with your tools and technique that they become what Robert Henri calls translucent. Forgotten, even. He was referring to painting, but it's the same thing.

Check out David's website: [www. davidduchemin.com](http://www.davidduchemin.com)



The author.

THE LAST WORD



Before the end of March please!

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