

It is an illusion that photos are made with the camera... they are made with the eye, heart, and head.



Monthly Newsletter: December 2025

December Photography Club Editor's Note

Last night was our club's Gala Evening, and **WOW**... what an incredible, joyful way to wrap up the year!

A huge thank-you to everyone who made it so special. The atmosphere was filled with laughter, and the photographs on display were nothing short of breathtaking.

Our members truly brought their best work from across the year, from abstract and macro to travel, wildlife, and everything in between. The gala video and AV presentations were stunning, showcasing the very best of our members' creativity and growth.

This year was a big year for the club. Every member took part, pushed boundaries, and developed their skills, and it showed. Helderberg is truly a special group of people. What makes this club exceptional is not just the shared passion for photography, but the way members support one another and stay genuinely involved in the club and in each other's journeys. Our members don't only care about photography, they care about helping others grow in it too.

We've built something rare: a culture where ego matters less than passion. We celebrate each other's achievements and progress, and we grow together.

What we've said to one another and we truly live by:

- We're a club where every photographer belongs, from first-click beginners and passionate hobbyists to seasoned pros, all free to explore, experiment, and express.
- We celebrate inclusion, curiosity, and creativity, making space for every genre, style, and bold idea behind the lens.
- Above all, photography should spark joy. This is a fun, inspiring space — because we're photo friends first, always.
- Our secret exposure setting? We don't take ourselves too seriously... but we're perfectly focused when it comes to photography. The club works because there are no egos. We work hard for one another, we enjoy the journey, and while it's never about individuals, every individual becomes a better photographer because of it.

As you ride this creative high, remember to join our monthly club meetings, where inspiration never stops, and of course our bi-monthly "Tribe of Chromasters" sessions: the perfect space to grow, experiment, laugh, and level up your craft alongside fellow creatives.

We truly are one big family, and last night reminded us just how special this community is.

Wishing everyone a wonderful holiday, spend time with your loved ones, rest well, and don't forget to pack your camera

We can't wait to see the creativity our members bring into 2026!





Letter from our Chairman

Well as they say in the land of the Long White Cloud Kih Ora (Greetings).
It's hard to think that another year has passed in a flash and there
is still so much photography to accomplish and get done.

As I reflect on 2025, I am very proud to be associated with so many accomplished and excellent photographers as we have Helderberg Photographic Society. The quality of the photography is of a very high standard as I am sure you will all agree with me. Congratulations to all those that submitted work for our monthly competitions, the black and white earnings and to the Audio-Visual Section.

Our club has shrunk, as all photography clubs seem to have, but we have a dedicated core of members who make it worthwhile. If anyone has any suggestions on how to attract new members, please let us know.

Some thanks are also due. Nettie and Michele, thanks for all your input and help over the year and for all the positive suggestions etc. To Carima, thank you for stepping up and taking over the computer work that makes our meetings function so well and for also taking on the monthly newsletter which I am sure everyone enjoys reading. To Riaan thanks for revamping our web site and making it a great source of information and reference for members. Irmel, thank you for leading and organizing the Audio-Visual group. Last but not least thanks to Issi and all the ladies who sort out the teas etc. at meetings (oops and to the men who helped washup)

Season's Greetings to you and your families and I hope to see you all at the February 2026 meetings.

Keep clicking

Bernard





Club Meeting Information:

Our next meetings will be on the following dates in January remember the closing dates of Photo Vault (PV)

| Meeting | PV Closing Date | Meeting Date | Set Subject |
|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Club Normal | 9 January 2026 | 13 January 2026 | Trees and Forest |

Take note:

- HPS Annual General Meeting will be held on 10 February 2026.
- The subscriptions for 2026 are R 450.00.

Outings, Workshops and Courses

Outings

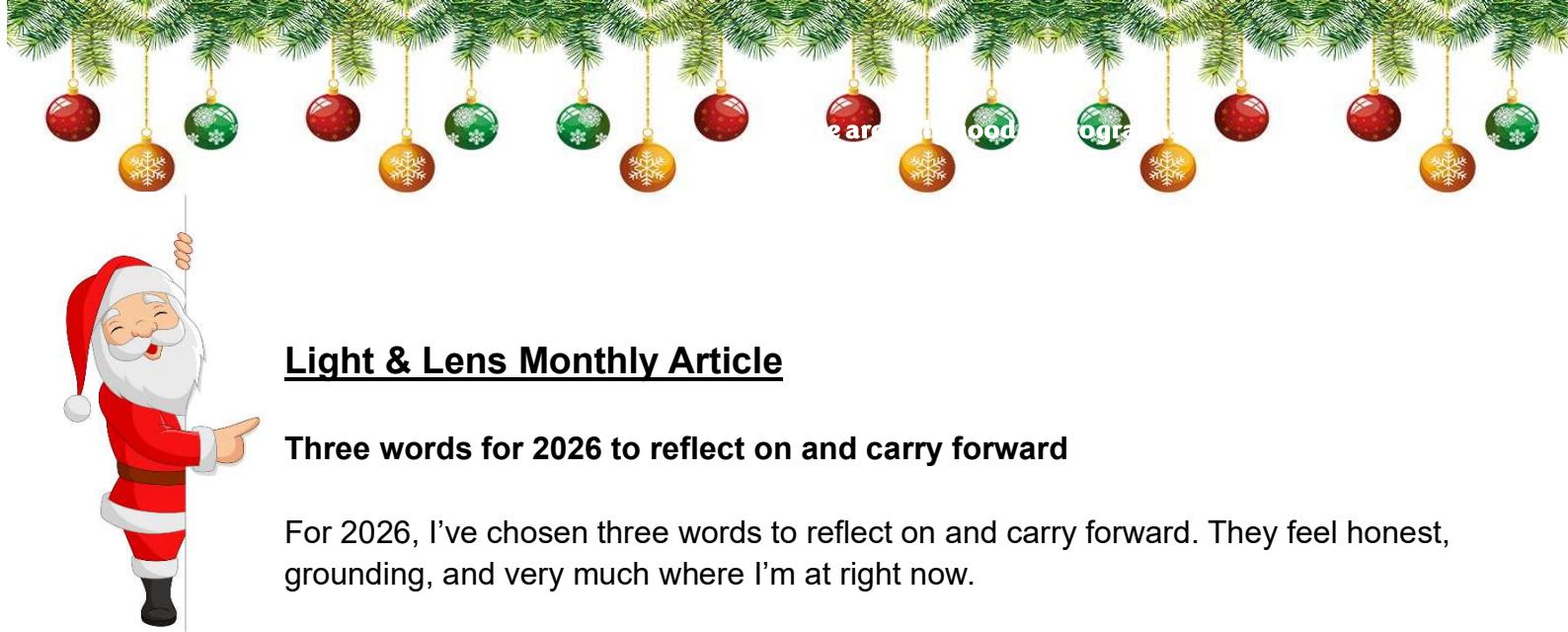
Please start thinking of where to go next year, if you see something interesting let us know, we can maybe arrange a group outing.

Audio-Visual

Join the AV community for a relaxed evening of sharing

Audio-Visual productions on the big screen, not a competition, just creativity, stories, and good company.





Light & Lens Monthly Article

Three words for 2026 to reflect on and carry forward

For 2026, I've chosen three words to reflect on and carry forward. They feel honest, grounding, and very much where I'm at right now.

Creativity

I realised something important; my photography mojo had quietly disappeared. That moment made it clear that creativity needs my attention again. Not in a forced or productivity-driven way, but in a playful, curious, let's-experiment way.

In 2026, creativity means:

- Picking up my camera more often
- Trying new techniques and revisiting old ones
- Using familiar tools more intentionally
- Allowing myself to experiment and make mistakes
- Remembering that photography should be fun

This desire to reconnect with creativity is exactly why I created my "***The Creative Year***," a space to explore, experiment, and rediscover the joy of making images together.

Connection

Somewhere along the way, genuine human connection seems to have been diluted. So, in 2026, connection is a conscious choice. That means more quality time with friends and family offline, but it also means showing up more meaningfully online, especially within the photography community.

I want more:

- Shared images and shared growth
- Real conversations and honest exchanges
- Connection that feels human, even though a screen

The Creative Year is one way I hope to nurture that, by creating a space where we can share our work, encourage one another, and grow together throughout the year.

Uncomplicated

Simplicity often comes from a lot of behind-the-scenes overthinking. That perfectionism is useful when building structured courses, but not when all I want to do is share a photo or a thought.



Uncomplicated is my reminder to:

- Let go of perfection
- Stop overthinking the small things
- Share more freely
- Focus on enjoyment over approval
- In short, to have more fun, and to keep things lighter.
- Carrying these words forward
- Creativity. Connection. Uncomplicated.

These are the three words I'm reflecting on and carrying forward into 2026, not as rigid goals, but as gentle guides.

Additional Information:

Our **website** is being updated regularly, go and have a look. Thank you to Riaan for all your hard work.

Visit our **Facebook** page, invite friends to like our Facebook page.

Let's invite people to come to a club meeting, maybe a few members can have ideas about how to grow the club, get in new young members.

Webpage: <https://helderbergphoto.com/> Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/helderbergphoto/>

*Here's to a
wonderful holiday
and a
successful year ahead.*