



Monthly Newsletter: March 2026

March Photography Club Highlights

Thank you to every member who joined us for our March club meeting. It was wonderful to see so many familiar faces and spend another evening together sharing our love for photography.

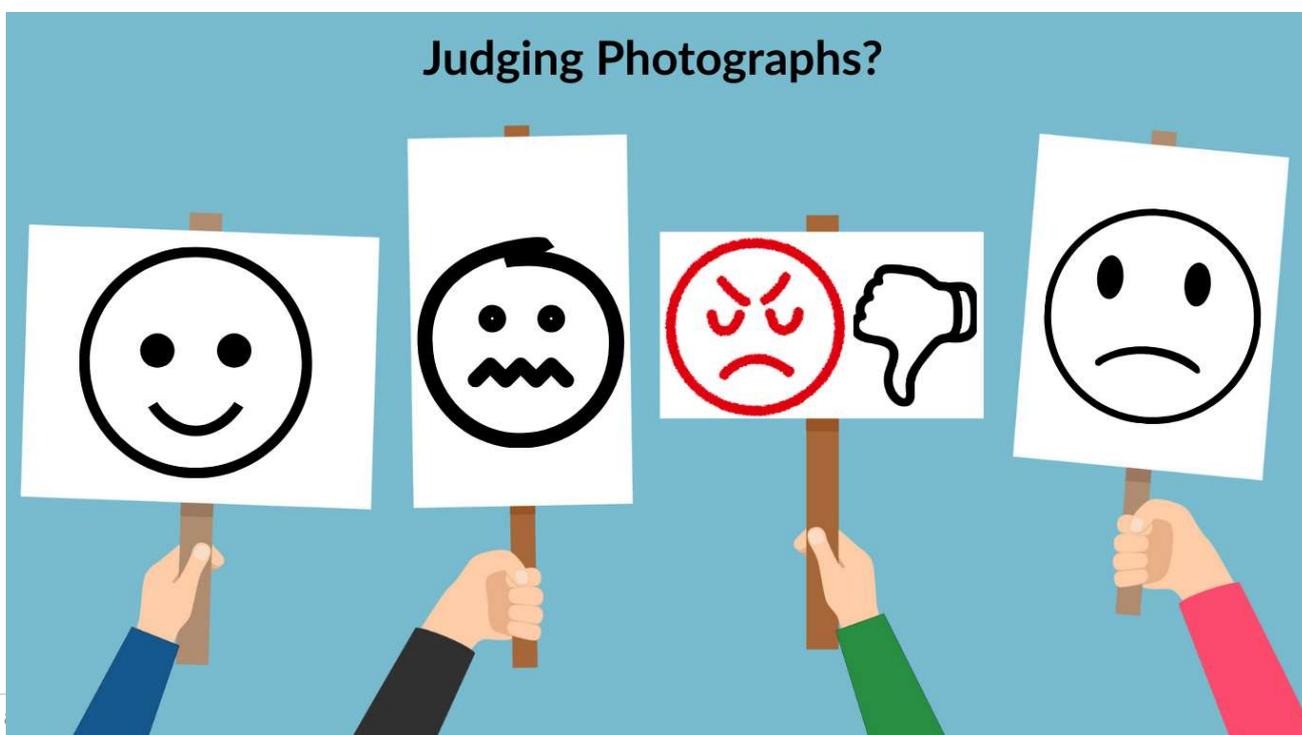
As we move closer to Easter, it's a good reminder that the seasons are slowly changing, and somehow the year already feels like it's running away from us. Take a moment to pause in your busy routines. Step outside, breathe, and notice what the changing season offers, softer light, shifting colours, different moods in nature. These small changes are often where the most beautiful photographs are waiting to be discovered. And most importantly... don't forget to take your camera with you.

Club competitions are a central part of our photography journey. Some photographers love them, they provide a challenge, a goal to work towards, and an opportunity to see how your work stands alongside others. For others, competitions can feel stressful or intimidating. But whether you love to compete or prefer to observe, there's always something to gain constructive feedback, fresh perspectives, and a chance to refine your eye. Judging can be equally enlightening, it teaches you to see beyond the obvious, to notice details and techniques you might not otherwise.

This month, we'll explore this side of photography, why competitions matter, what they can teach us, and how judging can help us grow as photographers. It's all part of our shared journey, learning, experimenting, and capturing the beauty around us

Please remember that next month will be a joined Club month for our regular Club and then earlier that evening our Black and White evening. Please join us for the Black and White.

The editor



March Results

Every month our club competitions remind us why we love photography so much. One set subject, one open p category, and yet so many ways of seeing the world. Each image submitted represents a moment of patience, creativity, and the courage to share your vision with others. Whether your photograph scored at the top or simply took part in the evening, every entry contributes to the spirit and growth of our club.

A big congratulations to all our winners this month, and a sincere thank you to every member who entered images. Your willingness to participate, experiment, and sometimes step outside your comfort zone is what keeps our club vibrant and inspiring.

We look forward to seeing all your beautiful images in April. Let's continue to grow from strength to strength, welcome new members, and support one another on this creative journey.

Club Overall Winner

 **Misty Day Strand Jetty BW – Riaan van den Berg**

Top 3 – Open Category

 **Muizenberg Huts** – Carima van den Berg (14)

 **The Visitor** – Antenie Carstens (14)

 **Still Moving** – Hilldidge Beer (14)

Top 3 – Set Subject: Hi or Low Key

 **Misty Day Strand Jetty BW** – Riaan van den Berg (15)

 **The Athlete** – Steve Trimby (13)

 **I Don't Know Where I Left My Bike Mom BW** – Riaan van den Berg (13)

Top 2 – Prints

 **Early Riser** – Peter Dewar (14)

 **Arniston Dawn** – Peter Dewar (14)

*“A photograph is not just taken, it is created through patience, vision,
and the courage to share how you see the world.”*

OVERALL WINNER: MARCH '26

MISTY DAY STRAND JETTY
BY
RIAAN VAN DEN BERG



Misty Day Strand Jetty – by Riaan van den Berg (Overall Winner)

On the shoreline of Strand, where the ocean whispers against the sand, stands one of the area's most photographed landmarks, the old Strand Jetty. Once a proud structure stretching confidently into the sea, it now lies broken and weathered, its timbers marked by years of wind, waves, and passing time. Yet in its decay, it has become something more: a symbol of endurance, memory, and beauty found in imperfection.

Captured in high key, the photograph transforms the scene into something almost ethereal. The water, softened into a luminous white veil, seems to cradle the fractured jetty in silence. The missing planks and jagged edges are not flaws but stories, echoes of fishermen, families, and countless sunsets witnessed from its frame.

Against the glowing sea and sky, the jetty appears almost ghostlike, a relic suspended between past and present. This image, chosen as our club's overall winner, reminds us why photography is so powerful. The lens did not simply record a landmark; it revealed its soul. By using light to strip away distraction, the photographer allowed us to feel the solitude, the fragility, and the quiet majesty of a place many of us know well.

The Strand jetty may be broken, but in this photograph, it stands eternal, a reminder that beauty often lies in what remains, not in what is lost

Top 3 Open



Muizenberg Huts - Carima van den Berg



The Visitor - Antenie Carstens



Still Moving - Hilldidge Beer

Top 3 Set Subject Hi or Low Key



Misty Day Strand Jetty- Riaan vd Berg



The Athlete - Steve Trimby



I Don't Know Where I Left My Bike Mom - Riaan vd Berg

Top 2 Prints



Early Riser - Peter Dewar



Arniston Dawn - Peter Dewar

Open



Open



Set Subject: Hi / Low Key



Set Subject: Hi / Low Key





Club Meeting Information:

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

Meeting	PV Closing Date	Meeting Date	Set Subject
Club Black&White @ 18h00	10 April 2026	14 April 2026	Hi or Low Key / Still Life
Club Normal @ 19h15	10 April 2026	14 April 2026	Still life

Take note:

- April **Set Subject** is Still Life
- April is also our **Bi-Monthly Black White Meeting**
- **Still life photography** is the art of capturing inanimate, stationary subjects, such as food, flowers, or everyday household items, arranged to create a compelling, artistic composition. It emphasizes control over lighting, composition, and, often, a symbolic narrative or aesthetic, frequently used in commercial product photography, fine art, and creative, controlled studio settings.
- **Key Aspects of Still Life Photography:**
 - **Subjects:** Inanimate objects are the focus, ranging from everyday items like food and books to, historically, symbolic objects like skulls and candles (memento mori).
 - **Control:** Unlike landscape or portraiture, the photographer has absolute control over the arrangement, lighting, and background of the scene.
 - **Composition:** It focuses on the artistic arrangement of objects, using lighting and framing to create a specific mood or message.
 - **Purpose:** Used for creative expression, artistic exploration, and, in many cases, commercial advertising, such as product or food photography.

Outings, Workshops and Courses

Outings:

KalkBay – 29 March at 9h00

Velddrif Kuifkop Weekend 25-28 August.

Self-catering midweek break, bird cruise on Cracklin' Rosie, maybe wildflowers are in bloom ect ect.

Contact Nettie for more information



Vergelegen Wine Estate- Calling all photographers the launch the **4th edition** of their annual photography contest, and this year they introduce a striking new theme: **Black & White Photography**.

Contest Details:

- Photos must be taken at Vergelegen during April–May.
- Black & White only.
- Limited to two photographs entered per person
- Camera, Smartphone, and Junior categories, plus People's Choice.
- Guided photo walks with Orms Direct will take place on 18 April & 16 May.

If you see something interesting on Facebook or any groups, please share with the group.

Audio-Visual

Invitation: AV Showcase Day

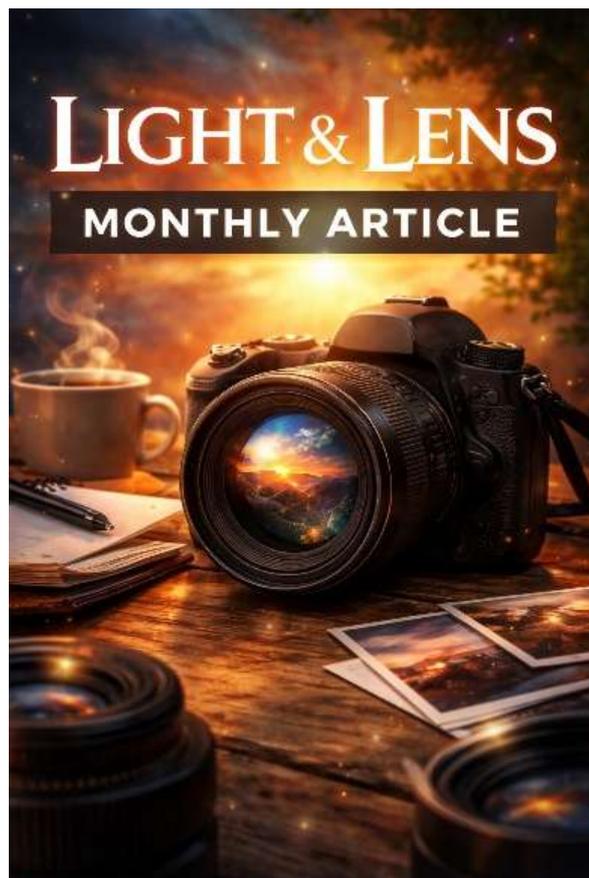
Join the AV community for a relaxed evening of sharing

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

Next JAP training starts 10 Oct 2026

A general application form will be available to download from this section of the PSSA website as of **1st July 2026**. The closing date for applications will be **1st August 2026**.

Light & Lens Monthly Articles – looking for some ideas on what you want to read about and send me some interesting articles that I can use



Light & Lens Monthly Article

by Carima van den Berg

Judging Photographs – Why Do We Still Do It?

Although HPS is mostly a social club where people come together to share their love of photography, we still include the judging of photos in our monthly meetings. Now let's be honest, judging is not everyone's favourite part of the evening.

Some members really enjoy it, some tolerate it, and others would happily skip it altogether. And that's perfectly okay. Photography is creative and personal, so everyone will naturally have their own opinion.

This article is simply one (My) perspective on why judging still has value within a photography club. Some will agree, and some won't, and that is part of what makes photography interesting.

The Good

One of the biggest benefits of judging is constructive feedback. When experienced judges comment on images, they often point out things we might not have noticed ourselves, whether it is something technical like exposure or focus, or something more creative like composition and storytelling. Even when the feedback is not about your own photo, listening to critiques of other images can still be incredibly educational.

Judging also helps keep photographers motivated and engaged. Knowing that your work will be presented to others often encourages members to go out and photograph more, experiment with new ideas, and put a bit more thought into their images.

Another advantage is that judging helps photographers understand how others see their work. Friends and family tend to love our photos simply because they love us or the subject in the image. Judges and fellow photographers, however, tend to look a bit deeper at technique, composition, and impact.

Finally, club competitions strengthen the sense of community. They bring members together to share their work, inspire each other, and learn collectively from both successes and mistakes.

The Not-So-Good

Of course, judging is not perfect. Photography is highly subjective, and what one judge loves another might not connect with at all. A photograph that scores very well in one competition might receive a completely different response somewhere else.

Sometimes judging can also lead photographers to play it too safe. When people try to predict what judges will like, creativity and experimentation can take a back seat.

And yes, criticism can sometimes feel personal. When we invest time and passion into creating a photograph, hearing that something does not work can sting a little.

Finding the Balance

Perhaps the most important thing to remember is that a judge's opinion is just that, an opinion. It is one perspective at one moment in time.

Good judging should ideally explain why an image works, not simply focus on technical flaws. At the same time, photographers should avoid trying to create images only to satisfy judges. Developing your own creative vision is far more important.

How to Survive Being Judged

Don't Take It Personally

A critique of your photograph is not a critique of you as a person. It is simply feedback on a piece of work you created, and yes, it's not easy ask me.

Create Emotional Distance

Try to look at your own images the way you would look at someone else's work. When you step back a little, it becomes easier to see both the strengths and weaknesses of a photo.

Judge Other People's Work

Looking critically at other photographs is one of the best ways to improve your own photography. Ask yourself questions like:

- How was this image taken?
- What works well here?
- What could make it stronger?

By going through this process, you naturally develop a better eye for evaluating your own images.

Take Everything with a Grain of Salt. Every judge combines their experience with their own personal taste. Their opinion is valuable, but it is not the final word.

Even famous photographers were once criticised for their work simply because their style was different from what people expected at the time.

Final Thoughts

Critique can be uncomfortable. Many photographers both want it and fear it at the same time. But if we truly love photography and want to improve, honest feedback becomes an important part of the journey.

At the end of the day, the most important question is simple:

Why do you take photographs?

If the answer is, likes, trophies, or validation, judging may always feel stressful. But if the answer is because you love photography, then critique becomes something very different, a tool that helps you grow while still staying true to your own creative vision.

And perhaps the best advice when someone critiques your photo, especially in the club, is simply this:

Just say "Thank you." Then decide what you can learn from it... and keep taking photographs.

Additional Information:

Our **website** is being updated regularly, go and have a look.

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

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