

CAPE CAMERA

February 2026



Official Newsletter

CAPE TOWN PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY



Skeleton Coast adventure by Simon Frank Mouton

11

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On the cover

The photograph was taken at the dress rehearsal of the ballet *Giselle*, held at Maynardville on the 19th of January. Access for CTPS members was kindly arranged by Kim Stevens, and 15 members availed themselves of the opportunity. We were free to roam around the empty venue. I went close to the stage to take this photo, which is a scene right at the end of the ballet. The photo was taken with my Nikon Z6.2 at ISO 4000, 28-200 lens set at a focal length of 130mm, an aperture of f7.1 and a shutter speed of 1/250th of a second. The stage was lit with blue lighting to fit the story line of that scene, which made photography difficult.

◀ *Giselle* by Richard Goldschmidt

News from the Council

I should like to bring members' attention to some photographic events later this year which will need you to plan ahead and put them in your diaries. The first is our own club's second weekend away for 2026, which is planned to be held over the weekend from Friday 14th to Sunday 16th of August at Travellers Rest Farm in the northern Cederberg. This farm has 29 chalets, half of them I have reserved for CTPS members. The farm is situated just over the Pakhuis Pass on the Clanwilliam to Calvinia road. We are planning an Astro course for members as part of our Education and Development programme at the hall in July, to be followed by a practical weekend away shooting astro. This is the weekend away, and is open to all members, even if they don't do the astro course. The farm accommodation is fairly basic, but well used at that time, as it is the Bouldering season, with rock climbers coming from all over the world to climb large boulders in the area. It is also flower season with the Biedouw Valley just down the road with wonderful flower photography opportunities for us during the day. The farm also has the Sevilla Rock Art trail on it for those interested in that. The farm has a restaurant which we will no doubt rely on for our evening meals. Google their website 'Travellers Rest'.

The second weekend event I need to inform you about is being organized by the Western Cape Photographic Forum, which our club is part of. I attend four meetings a year with all the other chairpersons of the 14 or so other clubs, to coordinate events such as the Interclub competition. Four clubs have been designated to organize a mini congress over the weekend of Friday 4th to Sunday 6th of September in Tulbagh. They have arranged for talks on Landscape photography and other subjects with practical shooting with Kyle Goetsch assisting. The week-

end will also host a new format of the old Interclub competition. The mini congress will be held at the NG Kerk hall. It should be quite different from our CTPS weekend in Tulbagh last year. Please put this event in your diaries and come swell the ranks of CTPS members present. It will be our turn to organize a similar event in two or three years' time.

The third event we have spoken about before, and that is the PSSA National Congress to be held in Port Elizabeth from Tuesday 29th September until Friday the 2nd of October. CTPS had the most delegates at the last congress in Struisbaai and hopefully we will do so again in PE. More about that in subsequent Cape Cameras, although booking of accommodation is happening now.

Our Montagu weekend in mid-April has now been thoroughly planned by Lea-Anne Alexander and I know of 30 of our members who will be present. There is still an opportunity for 'late comers' to join us. If you wish to join, even just for the day on the Saturday, please contact me.

We welcome three more new members this past month, Erin Matthews from Bloubergstrand, Glynn Katzin from West Beach, and Dawid Lotz who lives in the United Kingdom but has a holiday house in Meadowridge for the summer months. We look forward to seeing some of your entries.

Richard Goldschmidt
President



Upcoming themes

Month	Set Subject	Competition Date	Entry date
April	PORTRAITS-HUMAN AND ANIMAL. A likeness that reveals personality and mood. Can be headshots, partial face, full body, or back view.. Colour or monochrome. Manipulation allowed.	1st April	25th March
May	NATURE-BIRDS ONLY. Birds photographed in a natural setting.. NO manipulation allowed. Colour only.	6th May	29th April
June	LOW KEY PHOTOGRAPHY. Predominantly dark tones with dramatic, moody atmosphere Manipulation allowed. Monochrome only.	3rd June	27th May
July	ABSTRACTS. Subjects that are abandoned, discarded, or forgotten - strong emphasis on storytelling.. Manipulation allowed. Colour or monochrome	1st July	24th June
August	ABANDONED AND DISCARDED. Images depicting anything abandoned or discarded can be entered here. There should be a strong focus on story telling. Manipulation allowed. Colour or monochrome	5th August	29th July
September	WINTER MOODS. Create an evocative image that conveys the feeling, atmosphere, or essence of winter. Manipulation allowed. Colour or monochrome	2nd September	26th August
October	SPORTS PHOTOGRAPHY. Any sporting event or active recreation involving effort, skill, and rules. NO manipulation allowed. Colour only	7th October	30th September

Full 2026 themes are available on the CTPS [website](#).

Upcoming Salons

To help you plan ahead, below are all the salons for the first quarter of the year

7 March 2026	14th National AFO Salon
7 March 2026	PECC AV Festival (Brochure available)
14 March 2026	29th PSSA Up & Coming National Salon (Brochure available)
21 March 2026	SAVAS 4th Digital Salon
28 March 2026	PSSA National Salon of Photography (Brochure available)

Refer to the [PSSA website](#) for full list of Salons for the year ending June 2026.

Refer to PSSA website for list of [International Salons](#).

CTPS members excel in latest Salon

Well done to all for flying the club flag high!

7de Brandpunt Salon results

Leading the results for this salon is Richard Goldschmidt with an impressive seven acceptances. Close behind is Lesley Parolis with six acceptances. Sharing third place are Ruth Scholtz and Jacoba van Zyl, each achieving five acceptances. Francois Roux follows with four acceptances, while Neels Beyers secured two acceptances. With one acceptance each are Dieter Bütow, Nicol du Toit, and Mariana Visser.

5th Bethal Digital Salon PDI (2026)

Dominating the results this month is Simon Frank Mouton with an outstanding eleven acceptances. Following strongly is Francois Roux with five acceptances, while Richard Goldschmidt secured four acceptances. With two acceptances each are Neels Beyers, Nicol du Toit, Anna Engelhardt, Joyce Goldschmidt, and Charlene Naude. Achieving one acceptance each are Lee-Anne Alexander and Jacoba van Zyl.

E & D Report back

18 February – The heart of photography by David duChemin



and author, David duChemin. Held exclusively via Zoom, the session proved to be a soul-stirring alternative that left many of us looking at our viewfinders with fresh eyes. The 90-minute video presentation was less a technical tutorial and more an invitation to a deeper conversation. DuChemin moved beyond the "how-to" of camera settings, focusing instead on the "why" behind the shutter click.

He stressed the importance of accepting that many photographs we take will be 'failures' – but that these failures are part of the process that lead to new ideas, stronger work and more honest questions, enabling us to think more creatively about

line, light and moments, and to explore the use of many other available tools.

He showed great skill in being able to drill down to concise, ever so practical ideas on how to think about the art and craft of photography and how we can improve it. He did not so much provide direct answers, but rather motivated us to think differently about what and how we shoot.

He encouraged us to approach photography more creatively about line, space and light, and to explore more boldly the use of juxtaposition, depth of field, visual mass, framing, scale, balance, tension and creating mood and mystery.

He stressed that if we want to change and improve we need to ask ourselves better questions during the creative process and become not only more intentional but also more intuitive, so that those beautiful moments of success happen more often

"Knowing failure is part of the process because it leads to new ideas, stronger work and more honest questions that liberate us to peer a little less frightened into the unknown."

David duChemin invites members to visit his web site [YourBonusResources.com](#) in order to download free of charge two of his best-selling eBooks plus a PDF of the presentation slides.

Winning images from February

Set subject: On the Coast

The judges for February were Steff Hughes for all Prints and PDIs Set Subject and John Alexander for all Open PDIs.

Entries in the monthly PSSA Competition:

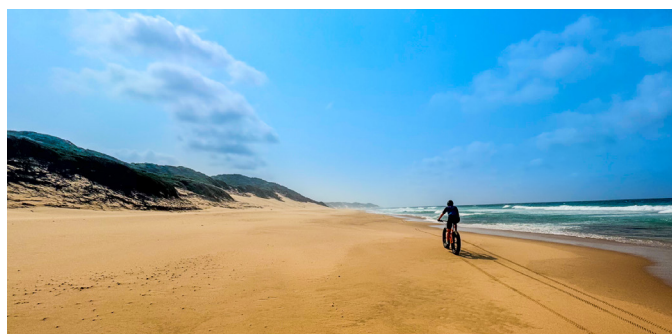
The Senior Entry for February was '*The right moment*' by Lesley Parolis; and the Junior Entry was '*Blue tit resting*' by Rainer Clauss.

Promotions this month

Heiko Denker and Rainer Clauss to Advanced

Below are the winners in the various categories together with the judge's comments.

Set Subject



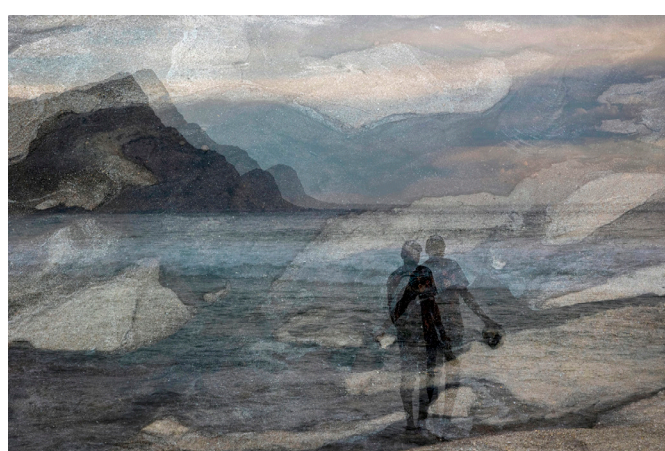
Winner PDI – Set (Intermediate) *The Endless Beach* by Nigel Basel (10). An attractive composition that creates an interesting X. Suggest lifting the shadows on the rider and the grassy knoll on the left



Winner PDI – Set (Master 9) *Leading the race* by Neels Beyers (12). An excellent action shot that allows the boat to head straight towards the viewer! The colours look slightly unnatural, suggest dialling back the saturation.



Winner PDI – Set (Proficient) *Surfin* by Charlene Naude (13). Good detail, colour and action - also in the wave. The figure is well lit.



Winner PDI – Set (Proficient) *Kogelbaai* by Ansie du Toit (13). A creative take on the set subject. The multiple layers and the colour choice are excellent



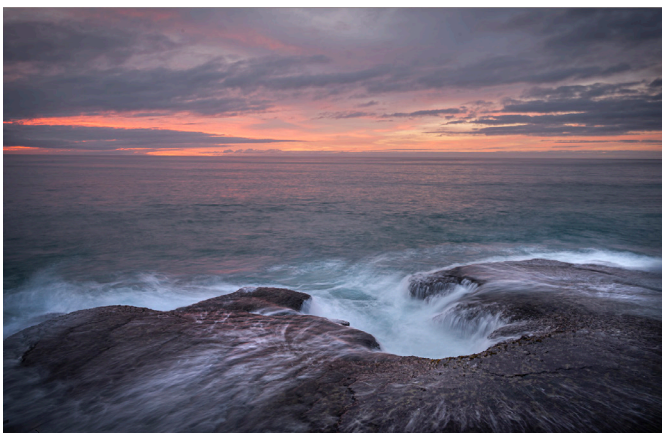
Winner PDI – Set (Master 2) *Sky high* by David Barnes (12). A very clever sequence that is well edited. To show more of the scene and particularly of the waves at the bottom would have improved the image.



Winner PDI – Set (Advanced) *Icarus* by Simon Frank Mouton (14). An exceptional and well composed image that demonstrates that very little is necessary to tell a dynamic story. What would it look like without the line of cloud at the bottom? Improved the image.



Winner PDI – Set (Salon) *Beach Walk* by Catherine Bruce Wright (12). The image has a feeling of quiet space and solitude. It is well exposed and pleasingly composed. The textured rocks match the pattern in the sky.



Winner Print – Set (Master 2) *The Boiling Pot* by Richard Goldschmidt (14). Great colour, composition and editing. Suggest a little more rock at the bottom. The criteria of a high-key image.



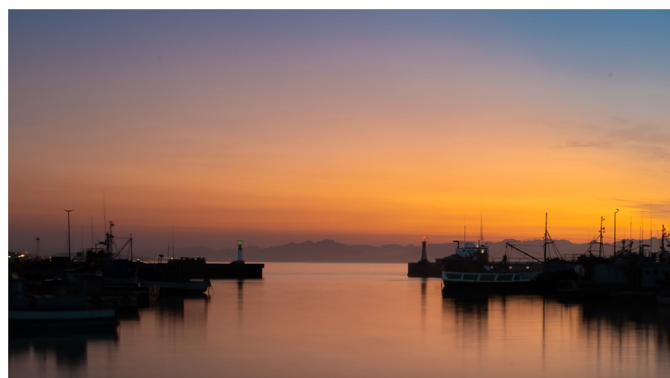
Winner PDI – Set (Salon) *Ebb and Flow* by Joyce Goldschmidt (12). A beautiful image that gives a feeling of movement. It was taken at a good time of the day and has lovely colours. Suggest cropping a bit off the top to focus the eye on the gondolas.



Winner PDI – Set (Intermediate) *Peaceful Prepp* by Carlo Grossmann (10). Good choice of shutter speed to freeze the wave. There are good details in the rocks, which is lacking in the birds, and the sky is over processed.



Winner PDI – Set (Salon) *Marine Cliffs and Terraces* by Paramasivam Saravanakumar (12). Beautiful light, colour and detail. The slow shutter may be a tad too slow, as it prevents any visible movement around the rocks. The very colourful sky at the top distracts from the rest of the images and could be desaturated rather than cropped off.



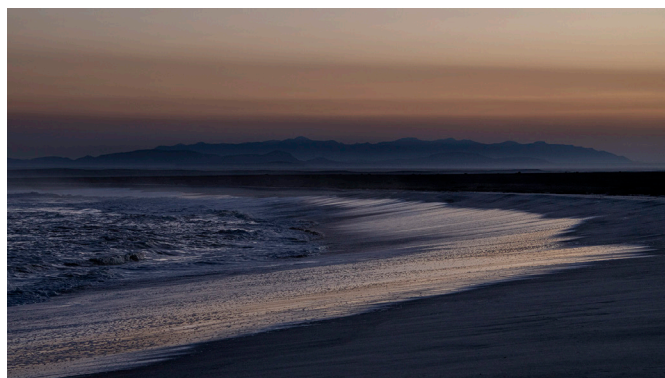
Winner PDI – Set (Beginner) *Leaving the harbour* by Steve Woodward (10). Great composition and lovely colours. Suggest lifting the shadows to get more detail in the boats. There are also several dust spots in the image which indicate an urgent sensor clean.

Winner PDI - Open (Salon) *Maritime Museum Venice* by Joyce Goldschmidt (15). This is truly an outstanding image. The techniques applied are excellent. The framing, balance, composition, symmetry, complementary colours, textures and story all contribute to the craft of an image that deserves a position in a gallery. The author is a master in this genre and should be very proud.

Open Subject



Winner PDI - Open (Proficient) *Blue tit resting* by Rainer Clauss (14). An outstanding image of the bird in its natural habitat. The separation of the bird with the creamy bokeh is stunning. The detail in all the feathers and eye is sharp. The colours are also well handled.



Winner PDI - Open (Proficient) *Good Morning Brandberg* by Tony Edmunds (14). A wonderful image capturing a perfect moment in time. One can almost hear the surf and yet this is balanced by the apparent stillness of the mountains and morning light in the background. The curve of the sand and water leads the viewer from bottom left around the image, all contributing to an outstanding composition.





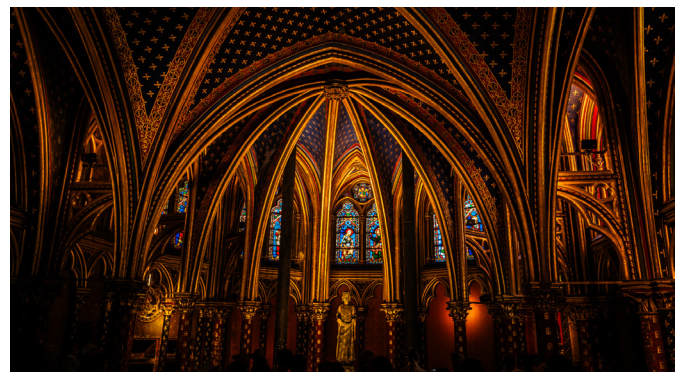
Winner PDI - Open (Master 3) *The right moment* by Lesley Parolis (15). This is such an iconic image and a privilege to judge. The author has in the words of Henri Cartier Bresson captured a "decisive moment". The framing, composition, symmetry, balance, tonality and lighting all contribute to making this an exceptional image. The author should be so proud.



Winner PDI - Open (Advanced) *Golden Horn Metro Bridge* by Ruth Scholtz (14). Another outstanding image which most likely required lots of planning. The camera settings are superb in that the movement of the train is evident but there is still sharpness as required in other areas. The lighting and colours are beautiful, and the highlights are well handled. The perspective allows for leading lines with the bridge, suspension cables and walkway. To improve and provide a more powerful image, consider cropping off the staircase on the top left.



Winner PDI - Open (Intermediate) *Before the storm* by Nigel Basel (10). At first glance this image conveys the approaching storm and the cyclists wanting to head home rapidly. The composition is wonderful as the eye travels from the cyclists to the landscape beyond and provides a sense of scale, place and story. The inclusion of other people walking alongside adds interest. To improve the image, check the blacks as they appear to be clogged and some detail has been lost. It also lacks sharpness.



Winner PDI - Open (Intermediate) *Sainte Chapelle* by Hanief Kader (10). An attractive image of the inside of a well-known landmark that must have been a challenge to achieve, considering all the other people being present. The colours and lighting capture the atmosphere. The stain glass windows are particularly well-handled as those could easily been blown out. To enhance the image, consider checking the saturation settings in post processing as it appears over saturated and also use the transform tool to straighten the columns and arches.



Winner PDI - Open (Beginner) *Egret Catch* by Steve Woodward (11). Most interesting to note is that the Egret's feet are visible through the water. This is unusual and it was most likely due to the author being positioned slightly above the bird. The image is sharp which is particularly noticeable in the eye. Suggest reducing the highlights on the feathers, particularly on the bird's neck.



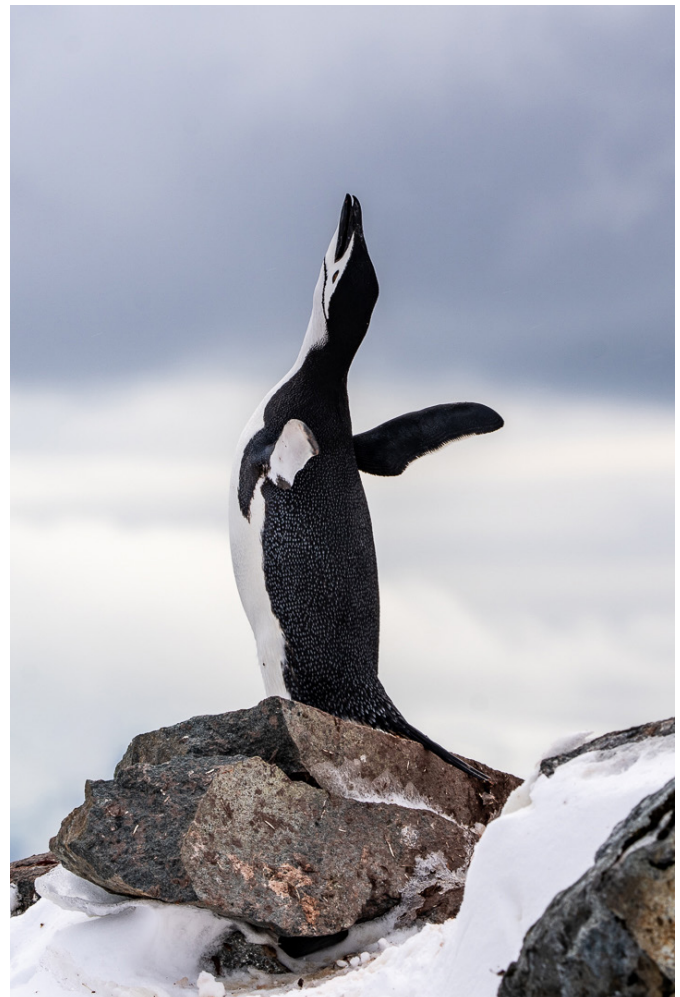
Winner PDI - Open (Intermediate) *Concentration in Motion* by Gavin Klevansky (10). Considering the time of day the image has been taken, the author has done well. While some white areas are blown out and hence show little detail, the rest of the colours, shadows and blacks are fine. The story is well illustrated with the rider's expression and the rear wheel off the ground reflecting the gravity of the situation. The image is sharp where it needs to be but still allows some movement in the wheels. Suggest allowing a little bit more space for the rider to move into.



Winner Print – Open (Master 1) *Her masters voice* by Trudi Du Toit (12). A sharp and well processed image. It would have been better if the dog had been looking towards the viewer. Suggest toning down some of the highlights on the dog's chest.



Winner Print – Open (Salon) *Dry cracked earth dam* by Lea-Anne Alexander (13). Good composite image that tells the two sides of the same drought. Great patterns and textures. Well processed.



Winner Print – Open (Advanced) *Sentinel of the South* by Mike Stricker (13). This is a great image of a penguin in the snow. Lots of detail in its coat, good composition



Winner Print – Open (Proficient) *Impressionist flying kites* by Liesl Walden (11). Something different that could have worked well if it were not for the strangely textured sky that does not work for the image. It takes away from the feeling of freedom. Some of the kites look blurry on the edges.

Other high-scoring images from our **February competition**

(Scores of 13 and more)



Dragons Breath by Catherine Bruce Wright (14)



Red Hartebeest by Heiko Denker (13)



Silent Night by Richard Goldschmidt (14)



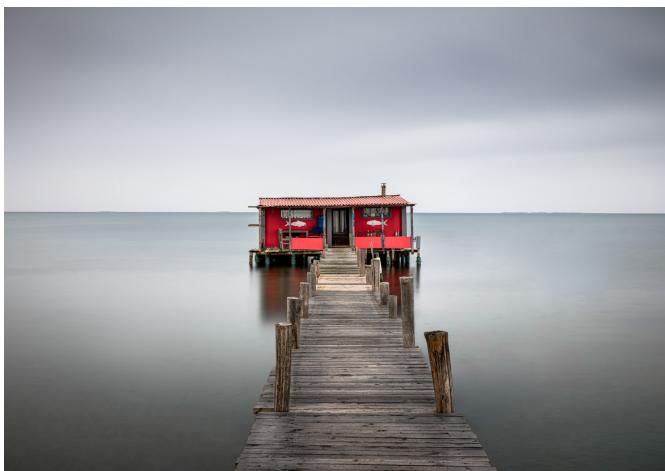
Catch of the Day by Walter Berndorfler (13)



First Light Feeding by Jeanette du Toit (13)



Skeleton Coast adventure by Simon Frank Mouton (13)



The red shack by Jacoba van Zyl (13)



Iconic lighthouse by Anna Engelhardt (13)



Giselle by Richard Goldschmidt (13)



SALT Milkyway Arch by Paramasivam Saravanakumar (13)



Ostrich Family by Charlene Naude (13)



Biblioteca Marciana by Jacoba van Zyl (13)