

FRAMESHIFT MAGAZINE

VOL. 2 | F-STOP KEMPTON PARK | FEBRUARY

20
25

SHOWCASE: ANITA BESTER

THROUGH THE LENS: AN
INTERVIEW WITH ANITA
BESTER

MASTERING THE
ART OF
STRAIGHT OUT
CAMERA

FEBRUARY
2025 REVIEW

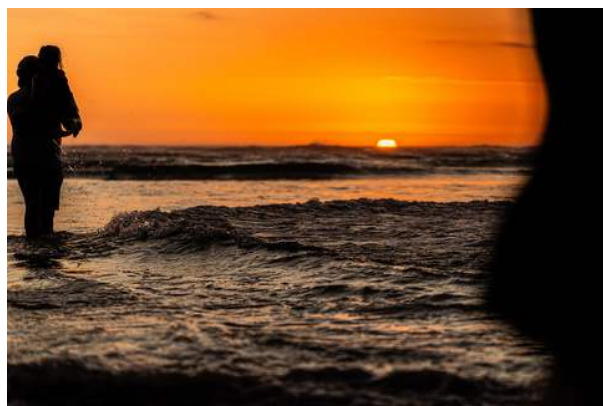
SHIFT IN FOCUS

FOCUS IN
PHOTOGRAPHY

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FrameShift Magazine

FrameShift Magazine is a dedicated space for photographers to connect, learn, and share their vision. Each issue is filled with inspiration, insights, and opportunities to grow as a photographer. From spotlighting member work to sharing expert tips and behind-the-scenes stories, every page is designed to keep you engaged and motivated.

Why FrameShift?

The name reflects the essence of photograph, shifting perspectives, framing moments, and transforming the ordinary into extraordinary. With each issue, we aim to inspire you to see the world in new ways and embrace your creativity.



How You Can Get Involved

FrameShift Magazine is a collective effort, and we want every member to feel part of its creation. Share your photos, suggest topics, or contribute articles, it's your chance to make your voice heard and your work seen!

- Have a unique technique or workflow to share?
- Know an inspiring story behind an image?
- Discovered a hidden gem location for shoots?

We'd love to include your insights and experiences in upcoming issues. This is your magazine, and together we can make it a rich tapestry of ideas, inspiration, and creativity.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Your involvement keeps the club and this magazine vibrant and exciting!

Continue reading



FrameShift Magazine

FrameShift Magazine Information:

Publisher: F-STOP Photographic Society

Editor: Deidre Schnetler

Cover Photo: Yellow Daisy by Anita
Bester

Suggestions: Email suggestions to
editor@fstopphoto.co.za



Previous Editions:



Chairman's Corner

2025/2026 New Committee Announcement

It is my pleasure to introduce the new F-stop committee for 2025.

The committee for 2025/2026 is as follow:

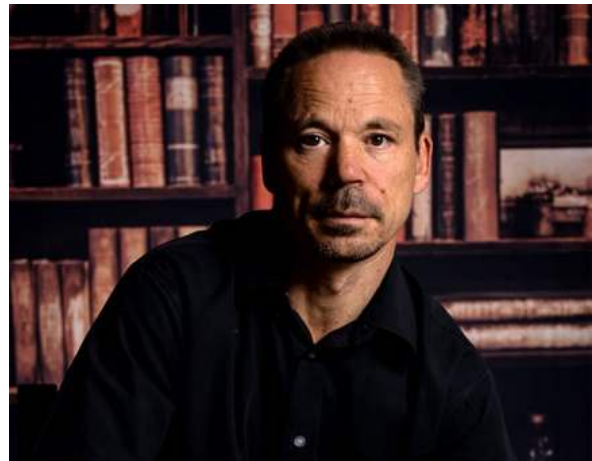
- Chairperson – Arnold Bester
- Vice Chair and Technical coordinator/projection management – Rickus Barnard
- Secretary – Kay-Leigh Moore
- Treasurer – Maureen Fourie
- PR & Editor magazine/website/social media – Belinda Ueckermann
- Events and workshop coordinator – Ryan Sim and Fraser Bryce
- General Steward and backup technical – Anthony Malin

Committee Position Overview:

The Chairperson

It is particularly important to note that the chairperson does not have any special powers in the committee. It depends on the constitution of the organization how the chairperson may act. Chairing requires him to ensure that the resources and skills of all committee members are utilised to the full. In this way the association will be much more effective.

A chairperson should not use their position to impose their views on the club. He will make sure that the club and committee operates smoothly and everyone knows what is expected of them. He will chair the club meetings and committee meetings as well as AGM/SGM.



Arnold Bester - Chairman of F-Stop Kempton Park

He will communicate with other club chairmen and keep club updated to all happenings/decisions in the PSSA and CERPS region. All action taken by the chairperson must be formally reported to the committee at its next meeting.

The Treasurer

The treasurer (Maureen) has day-to-day responsibility for the association's money and for keeping accurate financial records. However, it is the committee that has responsibility for deciding how the money is used. This is an important distinction to remember.

It is also important to note that while the treasurer has day-to-day responsibility, the committee is the body with overall responsibility for ensuring that the finances are managed properly. Maureen has indicated she will take responsibility of managing images loaded onto Photovault and getting it all ready for Rickus to display on club nights. Final scores and results will then be loaded back onto Photovault for members to access.

Continue reading



The Secretary

The role of secretary (Kay-Leigh) is not as defined as that of chairperson but some of these may include taking minutes in meetings and keeping records thereof. Correspond with the chairperson on basic admin. Correspond with committee and club members. Keep the membership records and details. Send and receive letters/emails on behalf of the club. Communicate with new members on the working of the club.

The Technical and projection coordinator

This person (Rickus) is responsible for the setup and projection of images on club nights. He will communicate with judges on the night to finalize the scores for each meeting. Scores will then be forwarded to the PR/secretary person for distribution. He will also be a backup for the chair to manage club evenings and other in case of chairperson not being available.

The Events and Workshop coordinator

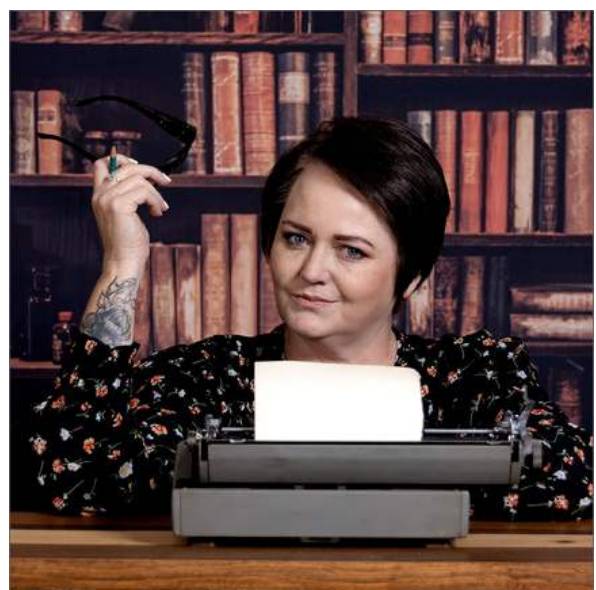
The person in this position (Ryan and Fraser) is responsible for arranging club outings and workshop events for the club members to attend. This allows for members to experience different photographic opportunities even if it may cost a small fee.

PR and Editor/website/social media manager

This person (Belinda) will be responsible for creating a monthly magazine or newsletter for members to enjoy feedback on club activity and results. The website will be kept up to date with info on the club as well as members' activity and progress. Social media is part of the club's image and will be kept up to date monthly with club activity and results.

General Steward

The general steward (Anthony) will be a person to assist any of the other portfolios in times of high workload. He will assist on club nights to get all equipment set up and control lighting. He may have the task of arranging/managing certificates or other paperwork as well as communicate with visitors and new members on their first night at club.



Maureen Fourie - Treasurer of F-stop Photographic Society.

SHIFT IN FOCUS

Changing Focus: Stepping Down, Looking Ahead, and Welcoming New Leadership

There are only three things certain in life: taxes, change, and death. And while stepping down as Editor of FrameShift Magazine and Public Relations for F-Stop isn't quite as dramatic, it does mark the end of a chapter for me, one filled with creativity, growth, and an incredible sense of community.

Being part of the committee has been an unforgettable journey. From crafting engaging Facebook posts to curating monthly videos and designing certificates that celebrate our members' achievements, it's been an honor to help showcase the incredible talent within our club. But as every photographer knows, sometimes you need to change your perspective, and the time has come for me to shift my focus to new projects and fresh adventures.

That said, I couldn't be prouder of what the committee achieved in 2024/2025 especially with our Salon and the CERPS event. These milestones stand as a testament to the dedication, passion, and teamwork that make F-Stop such a special club.

A special shoutout to Maureen Fourie for organizing CERPS 2024, an event that will undoubtedly go down in history! And to Arnold, our chairman, your unwavering support and guidance have been invaluable, thank you for leading with vision and heart..



Got to Catch the Tram by Deidre Schnetler

As I step back, I am thrilled to announce that Belinda Ueckermann will be taking over as Editor of FrameShift Magazine and Public Relations for F-Stop. Belinda's creativity, dedication, and fresh perspective will undoubtedly take the magazine to new heights, and I can't wait to see how she puts her own stamp on it. Congratulations, Belinda I know you'll do an amazing job!

To the new committee, I wish you all the best of luck as you step into your roles and continue to shape the future of this club. I stand behind you as you begin this exciting new term and have no doubt that F-Stop will continue to thrive under your leadership.

To everyone who has been part of this journey, thank you. Thank you for the laughter, the learning, and the shared passion that makes this club feel like home. Keep capturing the world through your lens, keep telling stories, and never stop pushing the boundaries of your creativity.

See you all behind the camera!

Deidre Schnetler
Former Editor & Public Relations, F-Stop Photography Club

General Club Rules

Club House Rules:

Respectful Conduct

All members must treat each other with respect and courtesy, both in person and online. Constructive criticism should be offered in a positive and encouraging manner.

Attendance and Participation

Members are encouraged to attend meetings regularly and participate in club activities, such as workshops, shoots, and exhibitions. Active involvement ensures a thriving and engaging club environment.

Submissions and Deadlines

When submitting images for competitions or showcases, members must adhere to the provided deadlines. Late submissions may not be considered for review or exhibition.

Photo Copyright and Ownership

Members must ensure they own the copyright to their submitted images or have permission to use the work of others. All images submitted must be original, and credit should be given to any collaborators or external sources.

Respect for Privacy and Permissions

When photographing people, property, or private spaces, it is important to seek permission from subjects or property owners before submitting or displaying the work publicly.

Collaboration and Teamwork

The club encourages collaboration between members. Sharing techniques, tips, and feedback helps create a more supportive and educational environment for everyone.

No Plagiarism

Members should ensure their work is entirely their own. Plagiarism, including copying or heavily referencing other photographers' work without credit, is not tolerated.

Respecting Themes and Categories

When entering club nights, members should adhere to the themes and categories as outlined. Images should reflect the intended focus and requirements.

Club Elections and Nominations

Nominations for committee positions will be open during the AGM. Members interested in contributing to the club's leadership should follow the nomination procedure and attend the AGM to vote.

Photographer's Responsibility

While photographers are encouraged to experiment and push boundaries, they are responsible for ensuring that their work aligns with the ethical standards set by the club, particularly in terms of authenticity and originality.

F-STOP Photographic Society
is proudly affiliated with the
PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY OF
SOUTH AFRICA www.pssa.co.za



PSSA Information

Upcoming Events and Info

PSSA Contact Information?

Website:

<https://pssa.co.za>

Salon:

<https://pssa.co.za/category/salons/calendar-results-for-year-ending-june-2025/>

International Salon:

<https://pssa.co.za/international-salons/>

Diamond Rating:

<https://pssa.co.za/diamond-ratings-and-salon-honours/>

Upcoming Salon:

Salon

Closing Date:

PSSA Salon

2025/03/08

Bosveld Salon

2025/03/15

Hillcrest Salon

2025/03/22

Paarl Salon

2025/04/05

MFFC PDI Salon

2025/04/19

SSCC Salon

2025/05/03

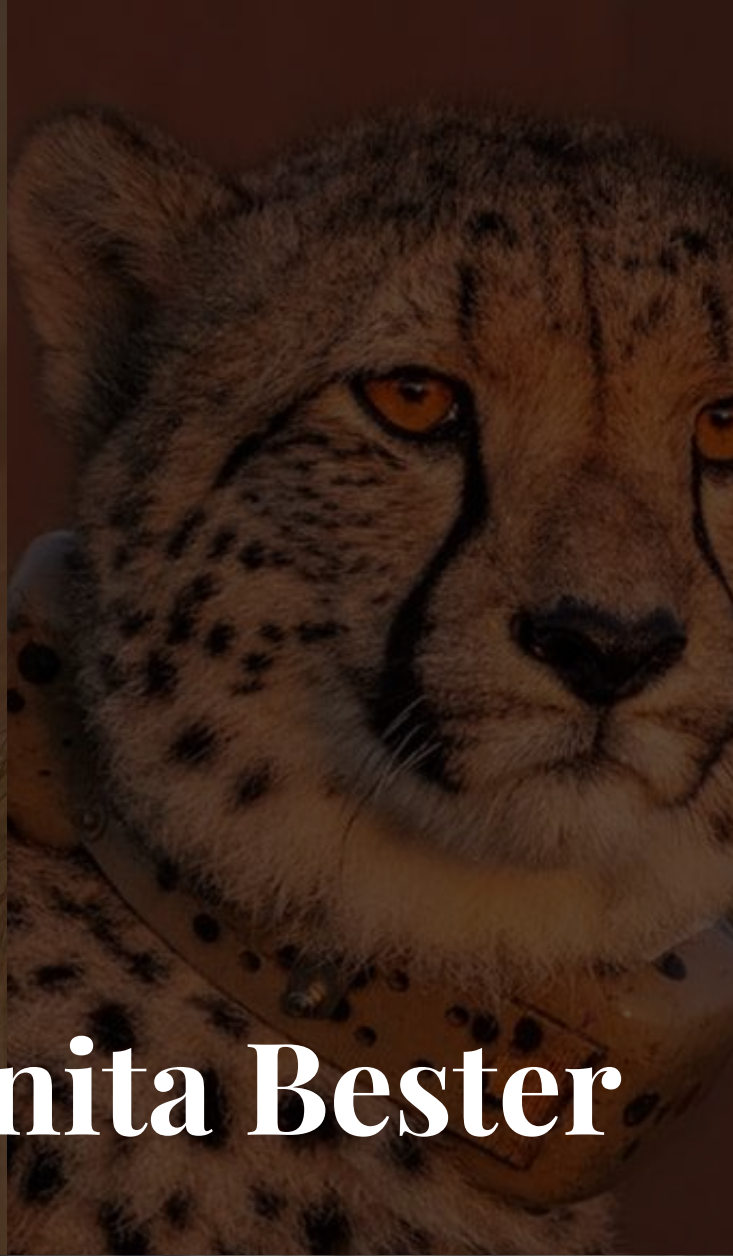
PSSA Congress

The PSSA Congress will be held in Struisbaai on 11 - 15 August 2025.

Click here for more information

<https://pssa.co.za/2025-pssa-national-congress/>





ShowCase: Anita Bester



ShowCase: Anita Bester

Through the Lens: An Interview with Anita Bester

For many, photography is more than just a hobby, it's a way of seeing the world differently. For Anita Bester it all started with a simple decision: if she was already spending time at wildlife sightings, why not capture them too? That decision not only led her to pick up a camera but also transformed the way she experiences nature. From wildlife to creative floral photography, Anita's journey is one of passion, patience, and artistic exploration.

Finding Inspiration in Nature

Anita's love for photography was born out of time spent in the Kruger National Park, where she was initially just an observer alongside her husband, Arnold, who was the photographer. However, standing still for long periods didn't suit her personality, so she decided to start shooting too. That moment in 2012 sparked a love for photography that has since shaped her view of the natural world, teaching her patience and deepening her connection to the wild.

A Unique Style: Emotion in the Wild & Artistry in Flowers

Describing her photography style as a blend of wildlife and creative floral art, Anita focuses on capturing emotion, movement, and the raw beauty of nature. Elephants remain her favorite subject, their intelligence, social bonds, and deep emotions make them endlessly fascinating.



Ubuntu by Anita Bester - This is the photo that accompanies my story, the only one I managed to capture where little Ubuntu paused briefly, looked straight at me, and then continued on his way

When she can't visit wildlife reserves, she turns her artistic eye to flowers. Using a tabletop light built by Arnold, she captures floral details and enhances them with Photoshop techniques inspired by artists like Laetitia Kenny.

Memorable Moments & Challenges

Among her most unforgettable experiences was a thrilling day at Rietvlei Nature Reserve, where she and Arnold spent two hours tracking a rhinoceros mother and her calf, Ubuntu. Anticipating their movements,

Continue reading



choosing the right shooting location, and finally capturing the perfect moment gave Anita an adrenaline rush she'll never forget.

But not all shoots take place in the bush. One of her biggest challenges was shadowing Arnold at their first wedding shoot. With everything happening at lightning speed, managing exposure was particularly tricky, especially when the bride and groom stepped out of a dark church into bright daylight.

It was a fast-paced, high-pressure experience, but a valuable learning opportunity.

Gear & Inspirations

Anita may joke that she "makes do with what she has," but her gear setup is solid:

📷 Canon EOS-R

🔍 Canon RF100mm Macro Lens

🦋 Sigma 150-600mm for wildlife

🌄 Canon EFS 10-22mm for landscapes

Her biggest photography influence is Arnold, whose patience and knowledge have helped her grow immensely. Other inspirations include:

- Laetitia Kenny for her artistic approach.
- Ana Butryn (Flowerapeople) on Instagram for floral photography inspiration.
- Rosie Lalonde on YouTube for creative techniques.
- Pinterest, where she gathers ideas, researches techniques, and experiments with new styles.

Advice for Aspiring Photographers

Anita believes photography is about the journey, not just the final shot. Her advice for beginners?

- Enjoy the process, keep experimenting!
- Use what you have creativity matters more than gear.
- Explore different styles, you'll discover what you love over time.
- Practice, be patient, and have fun!
- Learn from club feedback, judges' critiques, research, and YouTube tutorials have been her best teachers.

A Dream Destination: Namibia

If Anita could shoot anywhere in the world, Namibia would be at the top of her list. From the surreal beauty of Deadvlei to the vast landscapes of Fish River Canyon, and the unique desert elephants of Etosha, Namibia offers a dream blend of wildlife and breathtaking scenery.



Artistic Ellie by Anita Bester - A powerful portrait of an elephant emerges from the darkness, its textured skin and deep-set eyes telling a story of wisdom and resilience.

Continue reading



Where to See More of Anita's Work

Though photography remains a beloved hobby, Anita and Arnold share their work on their page, AAB Creations – Arnold & Anita Bester. You can also connect with her on:

📷 Instagram: [@anitabester](#)

📘 Facebook: Anita Bester-Roos

Anita's journey is a testament to how photography can change the way we see the world, whether through the soulful gaze of an elephant or the delicate details of a flower. Her passion for the craft continues to evolve, proving that with patience and creativity, every photographer can find their unique voice.



Valuable tracking by Anita Bester - Bathed in the golden hues of sunset, this cheetah's piercing amber eyes and spotted coat captivate the viewer. The tracking collar around its neck hints at conservation efforts, balancing the beauty of the wild with the reality of human intervention.



Sailing by Anita Bester A lone sailboat drifts across the ocean beneath a sky heavy with brooding clouds, while sunrays pierce through, casting a divine glow. The contrast between the turbulent waves and the tranquil horizon creates a sense of adventure and solitude.



February 2025 Overview



February Club Review

February's Winning Images: A Showcase of Talent and Creativity

The F-Stop Photography Club gathered on February 12, 2025, for an evening filled with incredible macro photography, insightful critique, and important club milestones.

The theme for the night, Tiny Things (Macro Photography), challenged members to explore the intricate beauty of the small and unseen, and the results did not disappoint.

Esteemed judge Paula Rutherford led the critique session, providing valuable insights and constructive feedback on the diverse range of images entered. The evening was also marked by the club's Annual General Meeting (AGM), where members reflected on the achievements of the past year and elected the new committee for 2025/2026.

February's Winning Images

The competition featured exceptional work across all star grades, with the following images taking top honors:



Theme Winner: Orchid Bloom by Ron Cox

- Star Grade 5H – Watching Time Go Up in Smoke – Michelle Rademeyer
- Star Grade 5 – Yellow Daisy – Anita Bester
- Star Grade 4 – Brown Hooded Kingfisher – Frank Ueckermann
- Star Grade 3 – Hvalur and Rannsy – Andre de Kock
- Star Grade 2 – Focus – Kay-Leigh Moore
- Star Grade 1 – I Am So Wise – Andries Botha
- Theme Winner – Orchid Bloom – Ron Cox

Best Images of the Evening

Senior Winner & Best Overall Image

Yellow Daisy by Anita Bester captivated both the judge and audience with its stunning detail and vibrant composition. The soft yet striking lighting brought out the rich yellow tones of the daisy, while the purple background with elegant swirls added a dreamlike quality to the image.

Continue reading



This harmonious contrast made it the standout image of the evening, securing both Best Senior Image and Best Overall Image.

Junior Winner

Focus by Kay-Leigh Moore, the Best Junior Image, is a powerful and atmospheric portrait of a firefighter. Taken at night, the image captures a side profile of the firefighter gazing into the fire's glow, though the flames remain unseen. The dramatic lighting and shadows add a sense of intensity and emotion, making it a striking storytelling piece that showcases both technical skill and artistic vision.

Theme Winner

Orchid Bloom by Ron Cox stood out as the top image in the Theme Category (Tiny Things – Macro Photography). This breathtaking close-up of an orchid captured the delicate elegance and intricate details of the flower, drawing the viewer into its soft textures and graceful curves. The play of light and shadow accentuated the petals, while the composition highlighted the orchid's natural beauty and fragility.

Ron's masterful use of depth of field created a dreamy, almost ethereal effect, ensuring that the orchid was the undisputed focal point. This image not only showcased technical precision but also embodied the essence of macro photography.



Senior Winner & Best Overall Image:
Yellow Daisy by Anita Bester



Junior Winner: Focus by Kay-Leigh Moore

Continue reading



Welcome to Our New Members!

We are thrilled to welcome Johan Venter, Leatitia van der Merwe, and Dewald Venter to the club! It's always exciting to see fresh talent joining our community, and we look forward to seeing your creativity and passion for photography in the months ahead.

Looking Ahead: March's Challenge

Next month's theme is Straight Out of Camera. This means no edits, no adjustments, just pure photography straight from your camera! A true test of skill, composition, and technique, we can't wait to see what our members create.

As we move forward into another month of exciting challenges, let's continue to push our creative boundaries, refine our techniques, and most importantly, enjoy the art of photography!



Star Grade 1 – I Am So Wise by
Andries Botha



Star Grade 3 – Hvalur and Rannsy by
Andre de Kock



Star Grade 5H – Watching Time Go Up in
Smoke – Michelle Rademeyer



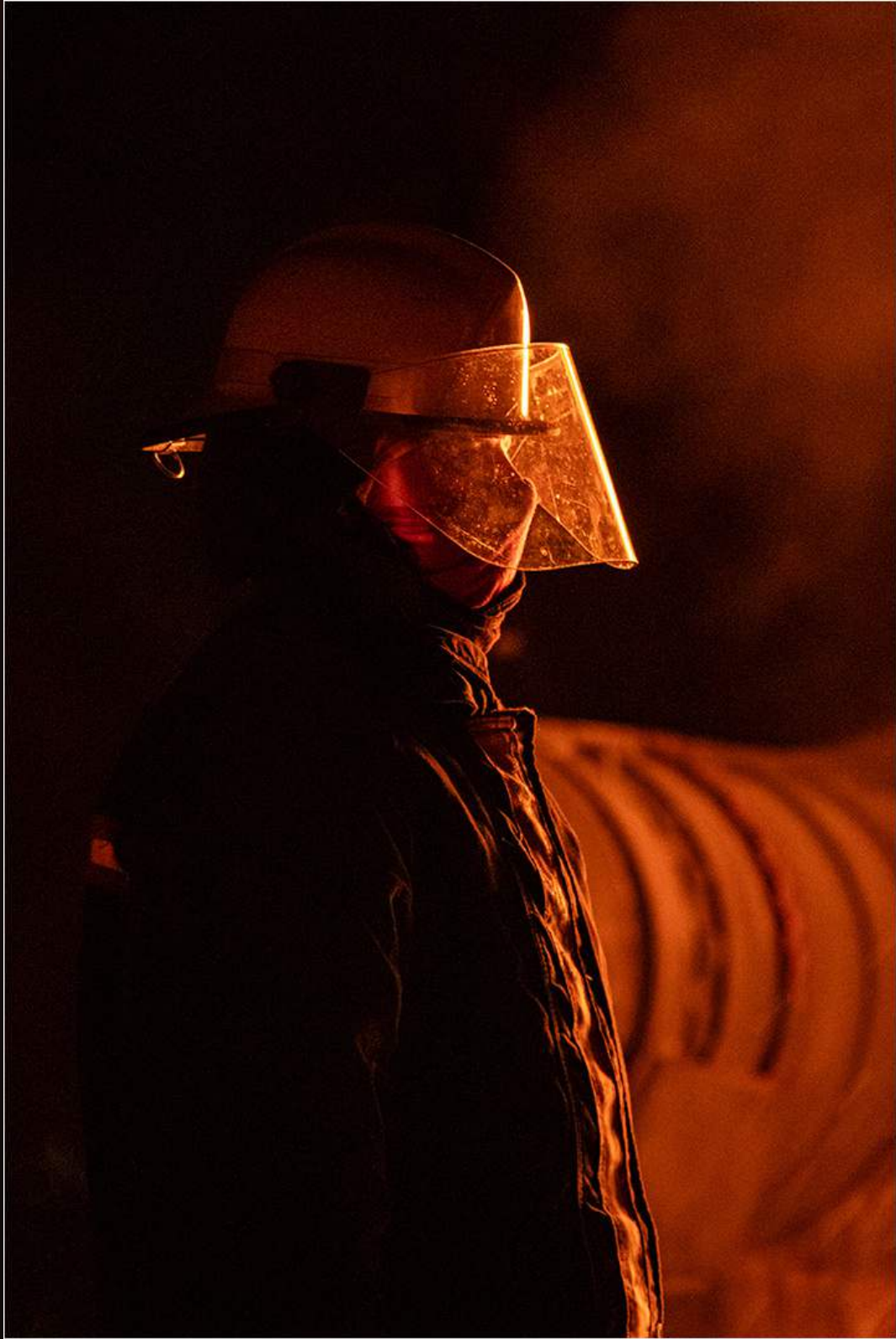
Star Grade 4 – Brown Hooded Kingfisher –
Frank Ueckermann

Best of 1 Star



I Am So Wise by Andries Botha

Best of 2 Star & Junior



Focus by Kay-Leigh Moore

Best of 3 Star



Hvalur and Rannsy by Andre de Kock

Best of 4 Star



Brown Hooded Kingfisher by Frank
Ueckermann

Best of 5 Star, Seniors and Event



Yellow Daisy by Anita Bester

Best of 5H Star



Watching Time Go Up in Smoke by
Michelle Rademeyer

February Scores

February Photo Scores – The Big Winners & Fascinating Stats!

February's F-Stop Photography Club competition was a showcase of skill, creativity, and attention to detail. With the theme "Tiny Things", members captured the world's smallest wonders with impressive precision! So how did everyone do? Let's break down the numbers, highlight the top scorers, and compare categories!

Highest Scoring Images – The 14-Point Champions!

No perfect 15s, but these six incredible images scored a Certificate of Merit (COM) with 14 points:

- Jeanette Smith – Macro Kemp (Theme)
- Ron Cox – Orchid Bloom (Theme)
- Anita Bester – Yellow Daisy (Pictorial)
- Michelle Rademeyer – Watching Time Go Up in Smoke (Altered Reality)
- Belinda Ueckermann – Dandelion Solo Dance (Pictorial)
- Frank Ueckermann – Brown-Hooded Kingfisher (Nature)



Theme Winner: Orchid Bloom by Ron Cox

These images stood out for their technical excellence, creative composition, and overall impact!

Category Breakdown

Each category had different participation levels and score trends. Let's dive into the details:

Theme ("Tiny Things")

Theme had the second highest participation rating across all categories with 24 entries. There are two images with high raking score of 14 (COM) each, Macro Kemp by Jeanette Smith and Orchid Bloom by Ron Cox. Ultimately Orchid Bloom by Ron Cox rained victorious as this months winner.

Below is score distribution

- 🏆 COM Winners (13 & 14 Points): 7
- 🌟 Gold Winners (10-12 Points): 13
- 🥈 Silver Winners (8-9 Points): 4

Continue reading



F-Stop Kempton Park

Interesting Fact: The Theme category had the second most entries and most COM winners, proving "Tiny Things" was a major inspiration!

Pictorial

Pictorial had 25 Entries and had two high ranking images with a score of 14 (COM), Yellow Daisy by Anita Bester and Dandelion Solo Dance by Belinda Ueckermann

Below is score distribution:

🏆 COM Winners: 6

🌟 Gold Winners: 17

🥈 Silver Winners: 2

Interesting Fact: Pictorial had the second-highest number of COM winners, showing strong competition!

Nature

Nature had 14 Entries, Frank Ueckermann score best of grade 4 Star with Hooded Kingfisher with a score of 13 (COM).

Below is score distribution:

🏆 COM Awarded: 4

🌟 Gold Awarded: 8

🥈 Silver Awarded: 2

Interesting Fact: Every Nature entry scored 9 or higher, proving consistently high quality!

Portraiture

Portraiture had 16 Entries and had five high ranking images with a score of 13 (COM), Rossi, Purrrfect, Highlander by Fraser Bryce and Leather, Sadness by Maria Gough

Below is score distribution:

🏆 COM Winners: 5



Kaplyn by Maureen Fourie

🌟 Gold Winners: 9

🥈 Silver Winners: 2

Altered Reality

Altered Reality had 4 entries and the highest score is 14 (COM) with Watching time go up in smoke by Michelle Rademeyer.

Below is score distribution:

🏆 COM Winners: 2

🌟 Gold Winners: 2

🥈 Silver Winners: 0

Interesting Fact: Half of the entries in this category earned COM, making it one of the highest-scoring categories!

Photojournalism

Photojournalism had 7 entries and had one high ranking image with a score of 12, Focus by Kay-Leigh Moore.

Below is score distribution:

🏆 COM Winners: 0

🌟 Gold Winners: 4

🥈 Silver Winners: 3

Interesting Fact: No Photojournalism entries reached 13+, but most still earned Gold!

Continue reading



Scapes

Scapes had 9 entries and the highest score is 12 with Oppad by Sarina Odendaal

Below is score distribution:

🏆 COM Winners: 0

🌟 Gold Winners: 4

🥈 Silver Winners: 5

Interesting Fact: Scapes had the highest Silver rate (55%), making it the most challenging category this month!

Who Had the Most High-Scoring Images?

- Michelle Rademeyer (5H) – Watching Time Go Up in Smoke (14), Waiting for the Train (13), Fracture (12), Time is Near (10)
- Rickus Barnard (5H) – Old Church in the Mountain (13), Misty Jetty (13), Crossfit Effort (10)
- Belinda Ueckermann (5H) – Dandelion Solo Dance (14), Crock Eyes (13), Belenois Aurota Butterfly (11), Sunday Buffet (10)
- Jeanette Smith (5S) – Macro Kemp (14), Juvenile Bateleur Just Landed (13), On His Way to You K (12), This Elephant Has No Meat (11)

Takeaways & Looking Ahead

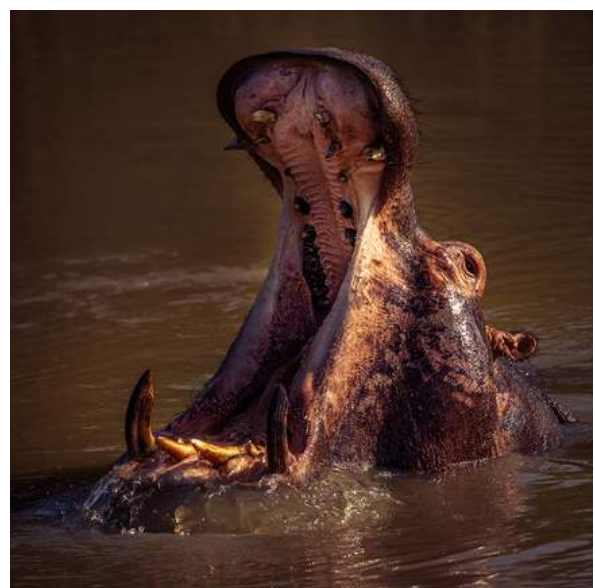
February was a fantastic month, with high participation and many standout performances. The macro theme brought out the best in photographers, and there was strong competition across Pictorial, Nature, and Portraiture.

March's theme, "Straight Out of Camera," will be a true test of skills! No editing allowed, just pure photography skill and creative composition.

Will we see a 15-point image next month? Can someone dominate multiple categories? We can't wait to find out!



Rambo by Kay-Leigh Moore



Hippo Yawn by Arnold Bester

February Certificate of Merit



Rossi by Fraser Bryce



Leather by Maria Gough



Highlander by Fraser Bryce



Purrfect by Fraser Bryce

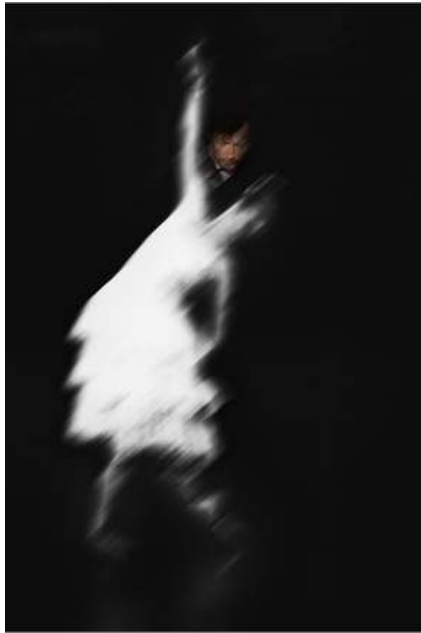


Heron Stretch by Ron Cox



Smoking Candle Lamp by
Arnold Bester





Puppet Master by Nico Strydom



Millipede by Arnold Bester



Yellow Daisy by Anita Bester



Crock eyes by Belinda Ueckermann



Detailed explosion by Anita Bester



Waiting for the train by Michelle Rademeyer



Brown-hooded kingfisher by Frank Ueckermann



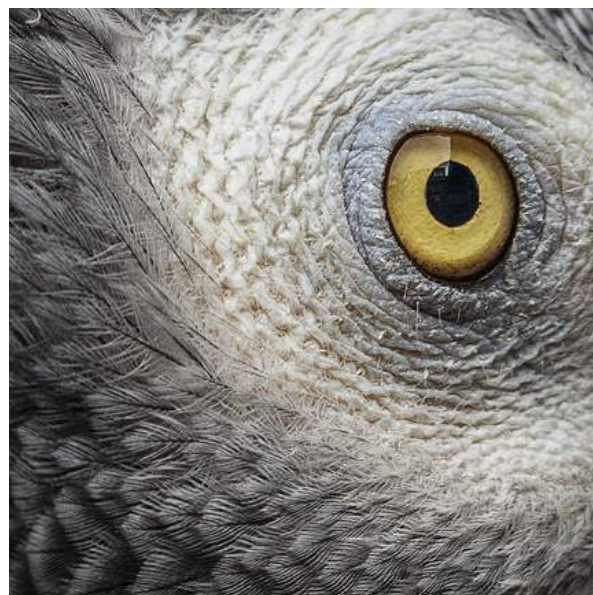
Sadness by Maria Gough



Watching time go up in smoke by Michelle Rademeyer



Orchid Bloom by Ron Cox



The Eye by Annaline Werth

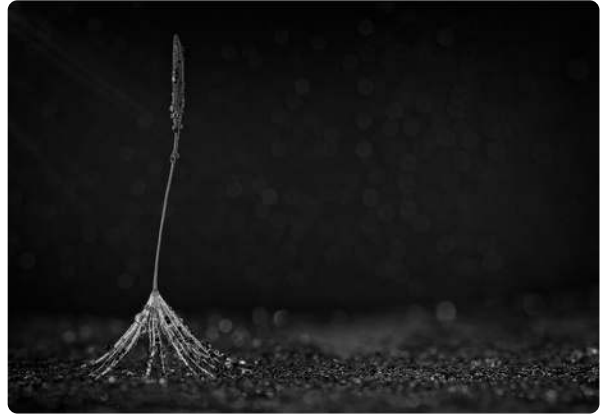


Hanging in there by Elsa Schnetler





Misty Jetty by Rickus Barnard



Dandelion Solo Dance by Belinda Ueckermann



Old Church in the Mountain by Rickus Barnard



Juvenile bataleur just landed by Jeanette Smith



Macro kemp by Jeanette Smith



Shy Bee by Deidre Schnetler

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR CERTIFICATE OF MERIT



Themes 2025



THEMES 2025

JANUARY - JUNE

January 2025: Still Life



Creative photos of arranged objects, focusing on lighting and composition.

February 2025: Tiny Details (macro)



Close-up shots that reveal the fine details of small subjects.

March 2025: Straight Out of Camera



Photos shared exactly as they were taken, with no editing.



April 2025: Architecture

Images that highlight the beauty of buildings and structures.



May 2025: Movement

Capturing motion to show energy or tell a story.



June 2025: Urban Reflections

Creative shots of reflections found in cityscapes.



THEMES 2025

JULY - DECEMBER

July 2025: Objects Out of Place



Finding and photographing things where they don't belong.

August 2025: Decayed Beauty



Showcasing the charm of old or broken-down subjects.

September 2025: Idioms



Photos that creatively represent popular sayings or phrases.



October 2025: Traditional



Celebrating culture and heritage through photograph

November 2025: Self-Portrait



Expressing yourself through photos of you, taken by you.

December 2025: Year-End

Year-End celebration





March 2025



Straight out of Camera

Mastering "Straight Out of Camera" Photography

March's theme, "Straight Out of Camera" (SOOC), is the ultimate photography challenge, no editing, no tweaks, just pure skill and vision. This is your chance to prove that great photography happens before you press the shutter, not after. To help you capture flawless shots without post-processing, here are essential composition, lighting, and camera techniques to elevate your SOOC game.

Composition Techniques – Frame It Right From the Start

1. Rule of Thirds – Find the Perfect Balance

Imagine a three-by-three grid over your frame. Place subjects or points of interest along these lines or at their intersections for a naturally balanced, dynamic image. Centering your subject works sometimes, but a slight shift can add tension and energy.

2. Leading Lines – Direct the Eye

Use paths, fences, rivers, or even shadows to create natural lines that guide the viewer's eye toward the main subject. This adds depth and visual flow, making your image more immersive.

3. Simplify the Frame – Cut the Clutter

A busy background can weaken your composition. Move closer, change your angle, or adjust your depth of field to isolate your subject. A clean, intentional composition will always look stronger straight out of the camera.

4. Experiment with Perspective – Think Outside the Box

- Get low to the ground for a dramatic perspective.



Out Of This World by Fraser Bryce

- Shoot from above for a unique bird's-eye view.
- Frame your subject through windows, arches, or natural openings for added depth.

Shifting your viewpoint can turn an ordinary shot into something striking.

5. Fill the Frame – Make an Impact

Zoom in, step closer, and eliminate distractions by tightly framing your subject. This can lead to powerful, high-impact images, drawing attention straight to the details that matter most.

6. Use Negative Space – Let the Image Breathe

Surrounding your subject with empty space (like sky, water, or a simple background) helps emphasize its presence and mood. Negative space can create a minimalist, artistic feel while keeping the focus on the main subject.



7. Timing & Patience – Capture the Perfect Moment

A great SOOC shot isn't just about where you stand—it's about when you click. Wait for:

- ✓ The right expression in a portrait
- ✓ The best light as clouds move
- ✓ The perfect gesture in street photography

If you can anticipate the right moment, you won't need post-processing to fix anything later.

Lighting Techniques – Get it Right In-Camera

1. Master Natural Light – No Edits Needed

Lighting is your best tool. Learn how to use:

- Golden Hour (Sunrise/Sunset) – Soft, warm, and flattering.
- Midday Sun – Harsh but great for strong shadows & high contrast.
- Backlighting – Creates silhouettes or glowing edges.
- Overcast Light – Diffused, even, and perfect for portraits.
-

Tip: Avoid overexposing highlights—blown-out skies or faces can't be recovered without editing!

2. Use Shadows for Drama & Depth

Shadows can add depth, emotion, or even a graphic element to your shots. Experiment with strong side lighting for high contrast, or shoot at an angle where shadows become part of the composition.

Camera Settings – Nail It Without Editing

1. Use the Right Settings for Perfect Exposure

- Shoot in Manual Mode (M) or Aperture Priority (Av/A) – Control your exposure.

- Watch Your Histogram – Avoid overexposed highlights.
- Use a Low ISO (100-400) – Reduces noise for cleaner images.
- Shoot in RAW + JPEG – Even though you can't edit, RAW files capture more detail.

2. Get Sharp Focus Every Time

- Use Single-Point Autofocus (AF-S or One-Shot AF) for precision.
- Focus on the eyes for portraits, they should be the sharpest part!
- Increase your depth of field (higher f-stop like f/8-f/11) for landscapes.

3. Avoid Common Mistakes – Fix It in the Moment!

- ✓ Crooked Horizon? Use the grid or built-in level in your camera.
- ✓ Dull Colors? Adjust your white balance (e.g., Daylight, Cloudy, Shade).
- ✓ Motion Blur? Increase your shutter speed if shooting handheld.

Final Thoughts – Challenge Yourself!

March's theme is all about getting everything right in-camera. It's not just about avoiding mistakes, it's about pushing your creative and technical skills to capture stunning images without needing post-processing.

Are you up for the challenge? Let's see who can create a masterpiece straight out of the camera! No edits. No excuses. Just great photography!



Captivity by Maureen Fourie



Learning Hub



Learning Hub:

Mastering Focus in Photography

Nothing is more frustrating than nailing the perfect composition, only to realize later that your subject is out of focus. Whether you're shooting portraits, landscapes, or action shots, achieving razor-sharp focus is one of the most critical skills in photography.

This guide breaks down essential focusing techniques and camera settings to help you improve accuracy, whether you're using a DSLR or a mirrorless camera.

Essential Techniques for Tack-Sharp Focus

1. Use Single-Point Autofocus for Precision

Autofocus (AF) systems often select focus points automatically, but this can lead to missed focus. Instead:

- Manually select a single AF point to control where the camera locks focus.
- For portraits, always place the AF point on the subject's eye, this ensures sharp, engaging images.
- For macro photography, use a small AF point to ensure precision on tiny subjects.

2. Choose the Right AF Mode for Your Subject

Autofocus modes behave differently based on movement. Choose the right one:

- Single AF (AF-S / One-Shot AF) Best for stationary subjects (portraits, still life).
- Continuous AF (AF-C / AI Servo AF) Tracks moving subjects (sports, wildlife).
- Manual Focus (MF) Best for macro, astrophotography, and challenging low-light conditions.



Red by Annaline Werth

3. Master Back-Button Focusing for Better Control

Separating focus from the shutter button can dramatically improve accuracy:

Assign the AF-ON button to focus, so you can track subjects without accidentally refocusing when pressing the shutter. Especially useful for sports, wildlife, and street photography, where subjects move unpredictably.

4. Use a Fast Enough Shutter Speed to Avoid Motion Blur

Even perfect focus won't save an image if there's motion blur. Use these guidelines:

- General rule: Use a shutter speed of at least 1/focal length (e.g., 1/100s for a 100mm lens).
- For fast action: Use 1/500s or higher to freeze movement.
- For handheld shooting: If using a long lens, consider image stabilization to counteract handshake.

5. Control Depth of Field with the Right Aperture

- Use a wider aperture (f/2.8 - f/4) to create a soft background blur (bokeh) for portraits.



- For group shots or landscapes, use a narrower aperture (f/8 - f/16) to keep more in focus.
- Be cautious with extreme apertures—too shallow may cause focus issues, while too narrow can introduce diffraction.

6. Utilize Focus Aids for Extra Accuracy

- Live View Zoom-In - Magnify your scene on the LCD to check focus (useful for macro and landscapes).
- Focus Peaking - Highlights sharp edges in real-time (found in many mirrorless cameras).
- Eye Autofocus - If your camera has it, activate Eye AF to ensure portraits are tack sharp.

7. Use Hyperfocal Distance for Landscapes

For maximum depth of field:

- Focus about one-third into the scene for sharp foreground and background.
- Use a higher f-stop (f/8 - f/16) to extend focus range.
- Consider using manual focus to fine-tune sharpness.

8. Pre-Focus for Action Shots

- Sports & Wildlife: If you know where the action will happen, pre-focus on that spot to react faster.
- Street Photography: Anticipate movement and lock focus beforehand to capture decisive moments.

9. Keep Your Gear in Check - Calibration Matters!

- Calibrate your lenses if autofocus seems off — many DSLRs offer AF Fine-Tune adjustments.
- Clean your lens & sensor — dust or smudges can reduce sharpness.
- Use high-quality lenses — a sharp prime lens can outperform a kit zoom in clarity.

Focus Techniques for Different Camera Types

DSLR Cameras:

- Optical Viewfinder uses Phase Detection AF for fast focusing.
- Live View Mode relies on Contrast Detection AF, which is slower but more precise.
- Use Back-Button Focus (AF-ON) to improve tracking performance.

Mirrorless Cameras

- Electronic Viewfinder (EVF) provides real-time focus feedback.
- Hybrid AF (Phase & Contrast Detection) allows quick, accurate focusing.
- Focus Peaking & Magnification help with manual focus adjustments.

Final Thoughts – Practice for Perfect Focus!

Achieving sharp, well-focused images is a combination of technique, camera settings, and practice. By using the right autofocus mode, fine-tuning your settings, and leveraging focus aids, you'll significantly improve your photography.

Start experimenting today! Whether you're capturing fast-moving action, delicate macro details, or expansive landscapes, these techniques will help you lock focus like a pro.



Lines by Arnold Bester

January 2025 Weekly Challenge

Winners:

Celebrating the New Year (30 Dec 2024- 5 Jan 2025)



Celebrations by Maureen Fourie

New Beginnings (6 Jan - 12 Jan 2025)



Unfolding into perfection by
Anita Bester



A new rose opening by
Marthinus Odendaal

January 2025 Weekly Challenge

Winners:

Waterfalls (13 - 19 Jan 2025)



Waterfell by Stephan Fourie

Mushrooms (20 - 26 Jan 2025)



Mushroom in the forest by Arnold Bester

4th Bethal National Salon

Accepted



For a minute by
Fraser Bryce

Accepted



Highlander by
Fraser Bryce

Certificate of Merit



Herder by
Fraser Bryce

Accepted



Dawid by
Anneline Werth

Accepted



My Passion by
Anneline Werth

Accepted



King Fisher by
Belinda Ueckermann

4th Bethal National Salon



Accepted

Perfect Timing by Anneline Werth



Accepted

Mexican Day of the dead celebrations by Elsa Schnetler



Accepted

Joburg at night by Elsa Schnetler

4th Bethal National Salon



Certificate of Merit

Melrose Place by Fraser Bryce



Accepted

Calling for her mate by Jeanette Smith



Accepted

The pier Margate by Belinda Ueckermann

4th Bethal National Salon



Accepted
Jeanette Smith



Accepted
The under ground Inferno
by Deidre Schnetler

4th Bethal National Salon



Accepted

Brown-hooded kingfisher by
Belinda Ueckermann



Accepted

Reed Cormorant by
Belinda Ueckermann

4th Bethal National Salon



Accepted

Can-am G521 by
Belinda Ueckermann



Accepted

Westfert G99 by
Belinda Ueckermann

4th Bethal National Salon



Accepted

Late Night Travel by
Deidre Schnetler



Accepted

Got to Catch the Tram
by Deidre Schnetler

4th Bethal National Salon



Accepted

Everyone walks on
eggshells sometimes by
Michelle Rademeyer



Accepted

The sea holds one in its
net of wonder by
Michelle Rademeyer

4th Bethal National Salon



Accepted

Game of Life by
Michelle Rademeyer



Accepted

Tools of the trade by
Andre Rademeyer

CONGRATULATIONS
TO ALL ON THE
Salon Results!

