

# THE DRIFTWOOD



Official Newsletter of the Beachcombers Photography Club

March 2010

(The Beachcombers Photography Club is affiliated with the PSSA)



Photographer: Peter Martin –red heels – received a COM at the 2010 Emfuleni Circuit Salon.

To visit our website, go to <http://beachcombers.photography.googlepages.com/>  
To email us: [beachcombers.photography@gmail.com](mailto:beachcombers.photography@gmail.com)

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### 1. Themes for 2010

<b>MONTH</b>	<b>THEME</b>	<b>VENUE</b>	<b>DATE</b>
April	In die tuin	Empangeni CC	13 Apr 2010
May	Black and white	NSRI	4 May 2010
June	Kinders	Empangeni CC	1 Jun 2010
July	Audio visueel	NSRI	6 Jul 2010
August	Groen	Empangeni CC	3 Aug 2010
September	Practical	NSRI	7 Sep 2010
October	Altered reality	Empangeni CC	5 Oct 2010
November	Sport	NSRI	2 Nov 2010
December	Year end function	To be determined	7 Dec 2010

## 2. Theme Talk

Since June's theme is Children, I thought the article below would be appropriate. Visit the links for even more tips on photographing kids.

### Tips for Photographing Children

Posted Jan 06, 2006 by static

Let's face it, most kids really couldn't care less about having their picture taken. Chances are they'd rather be playing something way more fun than "camera studio" or whatever other kind of nonsense we feed them to get them to actually be within the frame of our camera.

I've learned through much trial and error that there are certain things you will just not convince a child of by explaining that "mommy wants a good picture of you" or "grandma and grandpa are going to have this hanging on their wall". Child photography is mostly about being quick and secondly about playing the psychology game with kids to make it fun for them and not a chore.

Some things that (usually) work for me...

#### 1. Get them involved.

One of the things that I find extremely helpful when photographing children is to get them involved in the process. Plunking them exactly where you want them and saying, "now smile naturally" just doesn't work. No really. I'm serious. It doesn't.

It's far easier to get a natural picture of a child if you let them explore the setting that you want to have them in and if there's something of interest to them within the setting of your shot.

#### 2. Location, location, location.

Obviously a child is going to be much more keen to get their picture taken when they're also having fun. Taking a child to the beach, or a park, or a bridge over a creek can create an awesome background and also pique their curiosity allowing them to walk and investigate while you're snapping frantically.

#### 3. Be quick!

Kids are movers and unless you can work some kind of serious magic your subject ain't gonna sit still for long! Remember that your shutter button is your friend and it likes to be pushed often. Kids also tend to make silly faces when a camera is pointed at their face so it's imperative that you shoot lots in order to get those few stellar shots of children.

#### 4. Be patient.

Chances are you won't be able to get the shot you want straight off the bat. Give the child time to warm up to you and their surroundings. Give them some space, sit back and watch, but always be ready!

#### 5. Choose your equipment wisely.

There's no need for a tripod when you're photographing children. It will likely just cause you much frustration as child subjects are constantly on the move. You'll want to hand hold your camera so you can move with the child and get right up close. I would also recommend using a fairly high ISO film because again, your subject won't be able to sit still for long. Also, be sure to have your equipment fully prepared before you even meet with the child. They'll get seriously bored with you if you're spending your time together changing batteries, lenses, and cleaning equipment.

## 6. Shoot at eye level.

Getting down to a child's level will not only make them feel more comfortable with you but eye-to-eye contact is also extremely engaging in a photo. The expressions you capture from the child's perspective will look much more natural than if you're hovering above them.

## 7. Get close!

Once the child is comfortable with you and your camera try and get in a little bit closer. It isn't necessary to have the child's full body in every shot. Often times the sweetest, most intimate shots come from focusing on the child's face and capturing expressions that are unique and natural to them.

## 8. Finish on a good note.

Likely, the child will be DONE by the time you've got the shots you're after. Instead of sending a child away from a session tired and grumpy, finish it on a high note for them. One thing I like to do is allow the child to take one picture before they're off. Hold the camera for them as they look through the viewfinder and guide them to pushing the right button. If you're shooting digitally they can see the results immediately and they'll go away from your session excited and looking forward to coming back so they can, "do that again!"

Above article by Kris Krug from <http://staticphotography.com/node/100>

For really GREAT examples go to <http://www.photographingchildren.com/>

### 2 More Articles:

[http://www.diyphotography.net/the\\_complete\\_guide\\_to\\_children\\_photography\\_part1](http://www.diyphotography.net/the_complete_guide_to_children_photography_part1)

[http://www.diyphotography.net/the\\_complete\\_guide\\_to\\_children\\_photography\\_part2](http://www.diyphotography.net/the_complete_guide_to_children_photography_part2)

## 3. Competitions

### Environmental Photographer of the Year 2010 Now Open



CIWEM (The Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management) runs the Environmental Photographer of the Year, which is one of the fastest growing photographic competitions in the world. In 2009 we received nearly 2,500 entries from photographers in over 60 countries.

This is a serious competition that seeks to celebrate photographers who use their ability to raise awareness of environmental and social issues. It is open to all professional and amateur international photographers of any ages and encourages entries that are contemporary, creative, experimental, resonant, original and beautiful.

The categories are:

- Mott MacDonald's Changing Climates
- The Natural World
- Quality of Life
- Innovation in the Environment (New)
- The Underwater World (New)
- A View From the Western World (New)
- CIWEM's Young Environmental Photographer of the Year (Under 16 & Under 21)

The judging panel is made up of some of the most respected environmental photographers in the industry, including Gary Braasch, winner of the Ansel Adams Award for Conservation Photography, as well as senior environmentalists. Individual pieces of work will be judged on impact, creativity, composition, originality and technical abilities. Winners receive cash prizes, and all winning and highly commended entries are displayed in the international Environmental Photographer of the Year exhibitions. Copyright is retained by the photographer (see terms and conditions at [www.ciwem.org/arts/photographer](http://www.ciwem.org/arts/photographer)).

Enter via [www.ciwem.org/arts/photographer](http://www.ciwem.org/arts/photographer). As I said, this is for professional and amateur photographers, so we actively encourage those with a general interest in the environment to enter as well. The competition is open until **5pm on 31st July 2010**.

Many thanks and best wishes,  
Emily Doyle



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Website: [www.ciwem.org](http://www.ciwem.org) email: [emily@ciwem.org](mailto:emily@ciwem.org)  
Registered Charity No. 1043409

**Talking About Stars by CIWEM's Environmental Photographer of the Year 2009 Bolucevschi Vitali Nicolai, from Moldova.**

CIWEM is an independent professional body and a registered charity, advancing the science and practice of water and environmental management for a clean, green and sustainable world.

## Four Nations 2010 - Inter-Society Digital Image Competition

Entry is now open for the 2010 Four Nations Competition. Please submit a maximum of three of your very best images for consideration for the PSSA entry, to reach me no later than 15 April. Images must be sent via email to [jillsneesby@telkomsa.net](mailto:jillsneesby@telkomsa.net)

No image previously entered in this competition may be submitted again and it is suggested that current work should be given preference. Subject matter is open.

Images may be acquired on traditional film and scanned to an electronic file, or acquired electronically with a digital camera. The digital image must be original and may not include any elements produced by anyone else but the photographer. All processing procedures performed on the digital image must be done by the photographer.

As photographers all elements must be photographic – if graphic elements are included they should enhance the photographic image but not take over from it. All graphics used should be created by the photographer using their own artwork.

All images must be resized to a maximum of 1024 px on the horizontal axis and 768 px on the vertical axis. All images must be saved as jpegs and the file name should be as follows **S Title of image - Your Name** eg **S Kalahari Lion - Jill Sneesby** - S being for South Africa.

*JILL SNEESBY Hon MPSSA  
Four Nations Competition Director 2010*

## 4. Workshops



### KWAZULU-NATAL MIDLANDS PHOTOGRAPHIC WORKSHOP WITH ROGER & PAT DE LA HARPE

Co-ordinates S29 28 40.5 E30 14 12.6

Howick is situated in the KwaZulu Natal Midlands some 20 Km to the north of Pietermaritzburg. The region is well known for its incredible scenery and wonderful climate. Its here that we hold our Beginner / Intermediate Photographic and Photoshop workshops.

These 3-day workshops are held at a small conference centre just outside Howick and usually take place over a weekend, with registration and an introductory talk (which includes a slide show) on the Thursday evening and then a full day on Friday and Saturday and a half-day on Sunday.



The following aspects will be covered in the workshop:

- Understanding your camera.
- Image composition and adding impact to your picture.
- The secret of using light.
- The art of seeing and creating a photograph.
- Camera controls.
- Principles of Photography.
- Using the histogram to judge exposure.

- The use of Blinkies to prevent blown out highlights. (Blinkies? Come to the workshop and find out).
- Image editing in Photoshop.
- Use of Photoshop layers to enhance images.

## **Programme:**

### **Thursday**

16:00. Arrive At Yellowwood Café for course registration and set up. Yellowwood Café is situated on the Farm Fairfield just outside Howick on the way to the stunningly beautiful Karkloof. The photogenic homestead, where we'll be meeting, is a historic monument and was built in 1872. After registration we'll have an introductory talk and show and a very quick look at Photoshop in preparation for the action on Friday morning.

### **Friday**

05:30. Meet at the entrance to Umgeni Valley Nature Reserve (Co-ordinates S29 28 27.8 E30 14 16.8) just past Yellowwood Café on the Karkloof Road. The greater part of this nature reserve lies in the spectacular Umgeni River gorge below the Howick Falls. The upper part is the fringe of a rolling plateau which has an average altitude in excess of 1 000m. Precipitous cliffs mark the edge of the plateau, dropping to the thorn tree studded valley below. The wildlife (zebra, impala, wildebeest, blesbok and others) can be particularly relaxed so we should get some very good images of them as the sun rises at about 06:30. We will continue to work the area, shooting images of the flowers, trees and scenery until the light "goes" about 2 hours after sunrise.

We return to Yellowwood and download our images onto our computers. Participants then select 3 images to include in the evaluation session and at about 09:30 we head into the dining room for a scrumptious brunch.

The day continues with discussions, Photoshop tutorials and image analysis (this aspect is critical - we work with your images, looking at composition, impact and technical details).

Sunset is at about 18:30 and so at about 16:00 we'll head out into the field again to do more practicals. Locations depend to a large extent on weather conditions so we'll make the call on the day but it will probably be to the recently established Karkloof Crane and Conservation Centre. The centre is set amongst some wetlands on a private farm at the foot of the very beautiful Karkloof mountains. There are 2 large bird hides (we had some input with regard to the design of the interiors so they work well for photographers), open water and stunning scenery. Here we will experiment with the use of wide angle and telephoto lenses.

### **Saturday**

06h00. We'll meet on the Karkloof Road at the turn-off to Karkloof Falls. After winding through grasslands and pine plantations, the Karkloof River tumbles over the Woodhouse Falls before plunging 88m over a sheer cliff into the forested Karkloof Valley. This is where we learn to photograph water - reflections, action, movement and especially, how to get those soft, fluffy waterfall images. Coffee will be served under the pines and we return to Yellowwood to download images.

We work through the day much as we did the previous one with analysis, discussions and practicals. In the late afternoon at about 16:00 we'll be joined by a young model who will pose for us. The Yellowwood Café gardens are very beautiful and we'll spend some time in them, working with the models. We will use different lenses, looking at what effect lens choice has on the image. We will look at how to pose people and use changing vantage points to achieve different effects.

### **Sunday**

08:00. Meet at Yellowwood to download images. After a light breakfast we begin with the analysis of the modeling images from Saturday afternoon - this time, because of time constraints, only 2 images are submitted by each participant. After the evaluation session we look at how to edit a portrait in Photoshop, using layers to enhance skin texture, eyes and mouth.

We wrap up the workshop with Sunday lunch, served on the lawns overlooking the Howick Falls.

### Equipment required is as follows:

- A Digital SLR Camera preferably with removable lenses (a fixed lens camera will work but will limit what we can do to a certain degree). An advanced point and shoot camera will be fine for beginners, but it should have a fairly long lens, as we will be doing some wildlife photography (e.g. Canon G9, G10 or S5, Nikon S60, P80 or P6000 or something similar).
- Zoom lenses - the selection is broad but at least 2 zoom lenses are recommended, one wide angle and one medium to long telephoto, which should preferably have some form of image stabilization.
- A flashgun.
- A sturdy tripod.
- A laptop computer with either Photoshop or Photoshop Elements loaded on to it. This is essential. Instruction will be in Photoshop Elements 6. It is recommended that you have some form of backup medium - DVD's or a portable hard drive. We will have copies of Photoshop for sale at the workshop and also free versions of various other programs available to load onto your computer.
- A memory card reader or computer cables to connect your camera to your laptop.
- The charger for your camera/s.
- Memory Card/s.
- The manual(s) for your camera(s).
- A hat to keep off that hot African sun.

### Accommodation and Venue:

We can recommend suitable Bed and Breakfast (B&B) venues nearby. Please let us know if you'll be needing accommodation while you are doing the workshop. Yellowwood Cafe is the most beautiful 19th Century stone farmhouse overlooking the famous Howick Falls and is the perfect venue for our workshop from both an aesthetic and hospitality point of view.

### Workshop Dates:

#### Our next workshop:

- 24th to 27th June 2010

### The cost of the course:

R2 500-00 p.p. (price subject to change) and includes brunch, teas and coffees, comprehensive course notes and a certificate of completion of the workshop. Accommodation, drinks, evening meals and extras are for your own account.

[Contact Us](#) to book your place on this exciting and informative workshop.



## 5. Upcoming Events

### Our Next Meeting

Our next club meeting will be held on Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> April 2010 at the Empangeni Country Club at 19h00. The theme is 'In die tuin / In the garden'.

### CANSA Relay for Life



The Relay For Life Event will take place on 8 - 9 May 2010 in Richard's Bay. We will not be participating as a club, but we urge members who are free on these days to go to the event to take photographs. This event is usually a good opportunity for taking Photo-Journalist type photos and it is for a good cause too. Please support them if you can. Queries can be directed to: Leoni Starker-Fox; tel. no. 035-7725677; Email: [lstarker-fox@cansa.org.za](mailto:lstarker-fox@cansa.org.za)


### Circuit 2010

This year's circuit will be made up of the following events:

Models/ Studio Practical	-	2 February 2010	-	completed
Thaba Ingwe	-	to be advised		
Mtunzini Classic	-	30 May 2010		
Hluhluwe Umfolozi outing	-	June 2010		
Twinstreams	-	August 2010		
Cape Vidal outing	-	September 2010		

## 6. Salons 2010

Get all the information on the upcoming salons from the PSSA website at [www.pssa.co.za](http://www.pssa.co.za). We also wish to remind you that a trophy is awarded to the Club member who receives the most number of Salon acceptances during the year. You must therefore ensure that you enter as many salons as possible. You also need salon acceptances to be promoted from three to four star and four to five star.

MAY 2010	<b>SALON</b>	<b>AFO Digital Salon 2010</b>
	<b>COUNTRY</b>	South Africa
	<b>CLOSING DATE</b>	22 May 2010
	<b>JUDGING DATE</b>	
	<b>INFO</b>	<p><b>Categories</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nature (excluding Birds, Including Macro)</li> <li>• Birds</li> <li>• Human Portraits</li> <li>• Scapes</li> <li>• Pictorial Sport</li> <li>• Pictorial Open</li> </ul> <p><b>Entries must be submitted online at</b>  <a href="http://www.photovaultonline.com">http://www.photovaultonline.com</a></p> <p><b>Conditions of Entry</b></p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><a href="#">Download now</a></p> </div>

Congratulations to **Peter Martin** whose images were accepted at the recent **Second Dihlabeng Salon of Creative Photography & the Emfuleni Circuit Salon**. Below are the images.

**Dihlabeng Salon of Creative Photography:**



evils of drink – COM – VArt manipulated

**Emfuleni Circuit Salon:**



Green frog – Nature Zoology (Vereeniging)



Umhlanga lighthouse – Landscapes (Vereeniging)

Red heels – COM - Pictorial Open (see our front page) (Vereeniging COM & Vanderbijlpark acceptance)



The Door – pictorial open (Vanderbijlpark)

**7. Member News**

Congratulations to everyone who received COM awards at the March Club Competition. Here are the images:



Manie Combrinck – surfer – winner advanced Open & overall



Hendrik McCarthy – memories of summer



Sias van Schalkwyk – Serengeti crossing



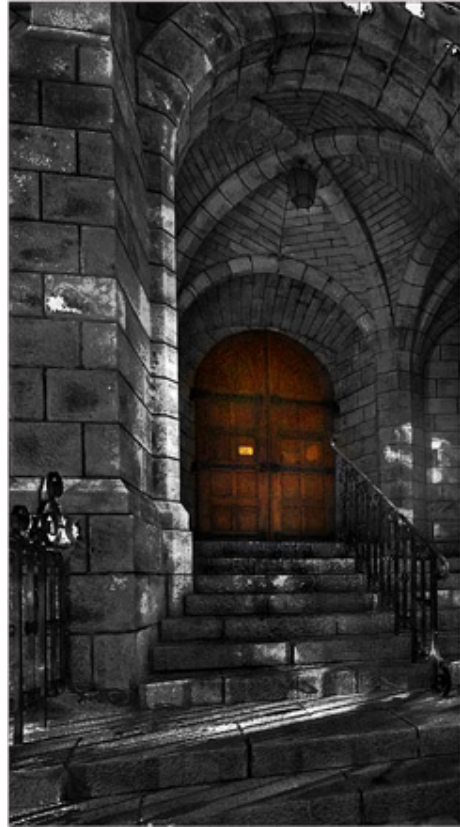
Manie Combrinck – tortoise – winner advanced theme



Sias van Schalkwyk – elegant grasshopper – winner novice theme & overall



Lara Staal – days gone by – winner novice open



Peter Martin – the door

## 8. Interesting / Useful websites

[www.pssa.co.za](http://www.pssa.co.za) Photographic Society of Southern Africa Official Website

[www.clickmagazine.co.za/click1.swf](http://www.clickmagazine.co.za/click1.swf) To view the online Canon magazine

[www.picturecorrect.com](http://www.picturecorrect.com) Photo tips and camera reviews, etc.

[www.diyphotography.net](http://www.diyphotography.net) Photography and studio lighting.

[www.dpreview.com](http://www.dpreview.com) Get all the camera reviews you want

[www.pixmag.co.za](http://www.pixmag.co.za) Pix Magazine's Website

[www.getaway.co.za](http://www.getaway.co.za) Getaway Magazine website

[www.photographycourse.net](http://www.photographycourse.net) Eccentric site by Skip Heine

[www.outdoorphoto.co.za](http://www.outdoorphoto.co.za) All things photographic (you should check out the member galleries – or add your own)

[www.nationalgeographic.com](http://www.nationalgeographic.com) The ultimate travel magazine's website

[www.megapixel.net](http://www.megapixel.net) Digital camera web magazine

[www.cameraclub.co.za](http://www.cameraclub.co.za) For all photo enthusiasts

[www.nwpphotoforum.com](http://www.nwpphotoforum.com) Nature, wildlife & pet photography forum

[www.pinhole.org](http://www.pinhole.org) Website on pinhole photography (see also: <http://photo.net/learn/pinhole/pinhole>)

[www.pecameraclub.com](http://www.pecameraclub.com) PE Camera Club website

[www.kameraklub.co.za](http://www.kameraklub.co.za) Krugersdorp Camera Club website

[www.ccj.org.za](http://www.ccj.org.za) / [www.arkayweb.co.za](http://www.arkayweb.co.za) Camera Club of Johannesburg website

[www.durbancameraclub.co.za](http://www.durbancameraclub.co.za) Durban Camera Club website

[www.onlinesources.co.za/cameraclub/](http://www.onlinesources.co.za/cameraclub/) George Camera Club website

[www.jpsscameraclub.co.za](http://www.jpsscameraclub.co.za) Johannesburg Photographic Society Camera Club website

[www.paarlphotographic.co.za](http://www.paarlphotographic.co.za) Paarl Photographic Club website

[www.anseladams.com](http://www.anseladams.com) Master B&W Photographer

[www.scubapics.co.za](http://www.scubapics.co.za) Underwater Photography portal

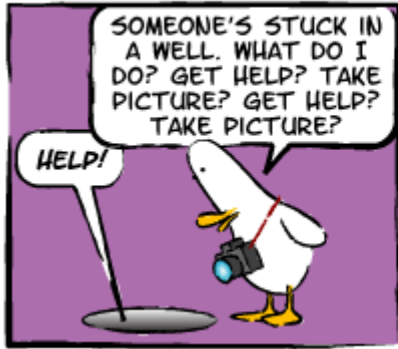
[www.africageographic.com/index.asp](http://www.africageographic.com/index.asp) The Africa Geographic, Africa – Birds & Birding & Africa Geographic Traveller Magazines' website

[www.sahides.co.za/xoops/](http://www.sahides.co.za/xoops/) All the info you need about hides from which you can view and take photos.

<http://www.zululand.co.za> You can find the best images entered at our monthly club meeting here, amongst other things.  
<http://www.sanparks.org> Official website of South African National Parks  
[www.worldpressphoto.org](http://www.worldpressphoto.org) To see all the winning photos in the 2007 World Press Photo Contest  
 If any of you know about great websites that we should all know about please let us know so we can add it to the list.

**9. Last laugh**

What The Duck



WTD 22

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**10. The Committee**

<p><b>President:</b>                  Manie Combrinck                  Cell: 082 4905075</p> 	<p><b>Vice President &amp; Finances:</b>                  Annett Nell                  Cell: 083 630 7613</p> 	<p><b>Secretary:</b>                  Marthie Combrinck                  Cell: 082 879 9249</p> 
<p><b>Web Master:</b>                  Sias van Schalkwyk                  Cell: 083 2299258</p> 	<p><b>Driftwood Editor:</b>                  Nada Crafford                  Cell: 082 8997658</p> 	

Please email any information that other members might find interesting to me at [nadacrafford@gmail.com](mailto:nadacrafford@gmail.com) so that it can be put in the Driftwood.