

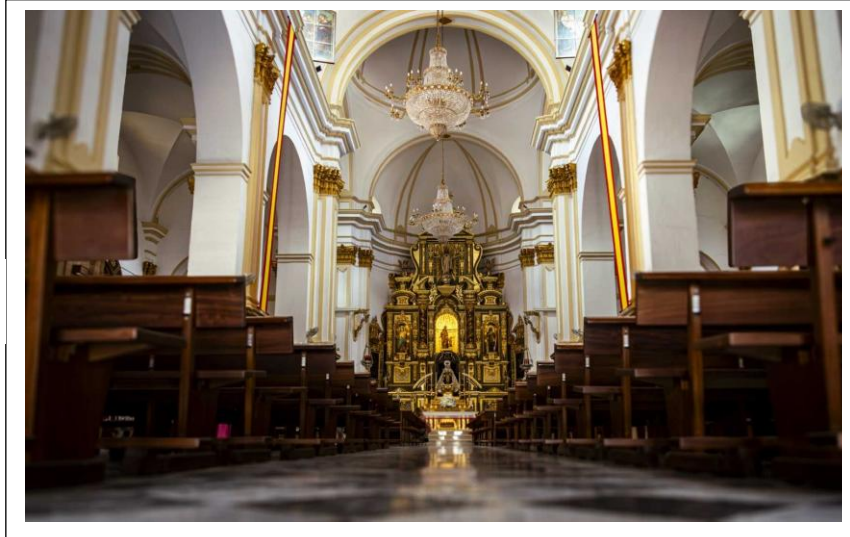


IPIP Photographic Club

February 2025 Newsletter

Theme: Monochrome

Image By



Danae Cole

Here we are at the beginning of a new photographic year. May all our members stay Healthy, Wealthy and Wise in 2025 – well 2 out of 3 ain't bad!! Good shooting and let's make it a "COM" year.

Matters Arising from the February Meeting

Twenty seven members and three on-line members attended our February meeting. The AGM was tabled.

AGM

Matters arising from the 2025 AGM, are as follows:

Financials:

Our Club is solvent with cash in the Bank and the budget for 2025 is based on a projected worst case break-even scenario, provided that we do not incur a loss on the 2025 Congress event. Membership fees remain unchanged.

Club Office Bearers:

1. Committee member 1 – Chair – Saskia Cole
2. Committee member 2 – Treasurer – Robert Freeborough
3. Committee member 3 – Dudley Schnetler
4. Committee member 4 – Phileen Lutge
6. Social media co ordinator – Robert Freeborough
7. Website co ordinator – Peter Maitin-Casalis
8. Compilation of newsletter – Pierre de Klerk
9. Outings co ordinator – ???
10. Refreshments – Jill Kupper
11. Randpark High liaison – Jill Kupper
12. Judges and judging co ordinator – Phileen Lutge
13. Preparation of peer vote and judging outcome
– Bruce & Pat Clark
14. Salon co-ordinator – Kim Lategan
15. Door liaison – Sacha Fermor

CHAIR made an appeal for someone to assume the role of outing co-ordinator

Interesting Statistics:

- Total number of images submitted : 1094 images by 39 people
- 12 of the 39 people submitted 4 images consistently every month
- Bronze – 0% Silver – 35% Gold 64% COM – 1% (11)

The above matters concluded the AGM, which was followed by our usual Club announcements.

New Member

We welcome Chris Annear as a new member to our Club. We wish Chris a rewarding time with IPIP Photo Club and lots of photographic success.

Franconi Challenge

This regular yearly activity will again take place during 2025, subject to the following guidelines:

1. One topic may be chosen and submitted, thereafter the final images may be taken;
2. Six images must be submitted with a written narrative;
3. Deadline for submissions 31 October 2025;
4. You may change your topic once through the year, taking images from that new date;
5. Choose a topic which will challenge you and with which you will learn new skills;
6. Do not choose a theme that you used in previous years, even in a different variation;
7. You can practice many more topics, decide which will work, perfect the process, submit as topic and then take final images (may not work with travel photos);
8. Submit your images to other photographers – share your photos and get feedback;
9. Carefully choose the Name of the submission – it must reflect topic;
10. Make sure each image reflects and encompasses the topic and the name of submission. The set will be judged as a panel (set). They must all clearly speak to the topic;
11. Take note of the order of the photographs – the order could tell a story;
12. Each image must be technically correct in terms of focus, exposure etc. (unless intentionally otherwise, which you explain in your text submission);
13. Study the comments and scores of your and other panels to further your learning;
14. Normal club rules apply for manipulation and use of AI.

March Set Subject

The Set Subject for March is “Bokeh”, a concept which is relatively new to us and not always well understood. In order to provide an insight into Bokeh, Fabienne Jardim gave a well presented illustrative talk on the subject. A zip file containing the presentation, is enclosed in the covering Email to the newsletter.

Club Outings

Members are reminded of our 2025 Weekend Away outing in Wakkerstroom – 28th to 30th March. Book accommodation at a venue of your choice.

A number of potential local outings were identified as follows (no specific details at present):

1. Workshops at RPH – Close up, selective colour
2. Urban walk – Maboneng
3. Levitation – Walter Sisulu gardens
4. On the water – rowing regatta / boats

General Guidelines for submission of members' monthly images

Submission Procedure:

All images must be submitted via www.photovaultonline.com. Instructions on how to use this App can be obtained from the Committee.

Time Limits:

1. Set Subject
To be taken within 12 months of submission
2. Members' Challenge
To be taken within 6 months of submission

Monochrome Submissions:

Monthly submitted photos must include at least one monochrome image subject to the following guidelines:

1. Should you submit 2 set subject and 2 members challenge images, one must be monochrome.
2. Should you submit 4 colour, the image with the lowest score will be disqualified.
3. Should you submit 3, 2 or 1 images, there is no need to submit a monochrome image.
4. A workshop will be done on shooting in monochrome and editing monochrome.

Image Processing:

1. images must have been taken by you.
2. You may however use Photoshop brushes.
3. Should you, for example, do a background or sky replacement, you may not use the AI tool for this purpose. The new background or sky must have been taken from another one of your images.

Naming of Images:

1. When naming your images for submission, use the opportunity to tell the judges more about the image. It's the only opportunity you have.
2. Use a name which fits the image;
3. Try not to use the theme name in the name with number eg. Abstract 1 and Abstract 2
4. Try not make it a long sentence, remember someone has to type the name out twice in full, once for the peer vote voting form and once for the judging outcome

PSSA Central Gauteng Regional Congress 2025

Our Club is hosting this event and a co-ordinating group of members are actively engaged in setting the wheels in motion. The incumbents are:

Jill Kupper	-	Catering Co-ordinator
Roland Cundill	-	Sponsorship
Nina Parry	-	MC and Time scheduling
Phileen Ludge	-	Judges
TBA	-	Competition co-ordinator
Robert Freeborough	-	Treasurer & Registration
David Wolstencroft	-	Speakers
Saskia Cole	-	Activities

Thumbnail event details are listed below and further elucidation will follow from time to time, as and when more in-depth matters are finalised.

- 1 Saturday 17 May 2025 – Cliffview Primary School
- 2 24 members assisting – 22 members attending
- 3 Photographing
 - Still life – Abstract / old / insects
 - Dogs – agility, tricks, portrait
 - Models
 - 2 male (worker/motor bike)
 - 2 ballet dancers
- 4 Lunch – Boerewors rolls, prego rolls, vegetarian lasagne.
- 5 Speaker – Johan Brits (land scape)
- 6 Coffee truck

Some of the duties for which volunteers are needed, include but are not limited to:

1. Packing goody bags & welcome pack
2. Hanging up 70 PSSA images
3. Manning PSSA images
4. Food preparation
5. Set up still life (bring props)
6. Set up hall
7. Group leader
8. Model and dog assistants
9. Food prep and serving
10. Clean up during and after event
11. Pack up and vacate hall

An Inter-club competition between 6 photo clubs will be adjudicated across 3 categories viz. Mono. Colour, Nature. The competition will be open to Seniors (4 Star and above) and Juniors (1-3 Star) from each club.

Members' Forum

This month's article is submitted by one of our members whose knowledge of Post Processing techniques, needs no introduction – Dave Brimson

The most misused tool in photography

While there will be a ton of debate as to what would be considered as a tool of photography, being aware of how to use this one tool will change how you think about your photography in a profound way. So what is it? Is it your ISO settings, your F-stop, shutter speed? No those would be settings not tools. Is it choosing the wrong lens? Nope, not that either. Is it over saturation, your Black and White conversion, your composition? No, the most overly misused tool is the magnifying glass.

This one little tool is the source of so much unhappiness. We use it to zoom into our images to look at details, and for the most part as photographers we are looking to see if the image is in focus. What is the problem with that you ask? Well, the problem is that once we determine in the photograph is in focus, we linger. We linger in the image zoomed in at 100% for far too long, looking for imperfections, looking for reasons to justify buying that 64megapixel full frame camera with all the bells and whistles. We stay zoomed in hoping that we can find a way to save an image that we wish we had shot with a longer telephoto lens or with the two times converter. We hope to make that vague outline of a bird into a full screen portrait and then we start looking at ways to “denoise” the image because now it looks terrible.

The truth of the matter is that unless we are doing “Super detailed editing”, staying zoomed in is an awful idea. We start to see flaws that really are not there. We say that the image is noisy, we say that the image is pixelated, that there isn’t enough detail. Nine times out of ten we lay the blame on the camera or the lens but we do not consider the audience and where they will see the image. A Billboard for example has a viewing distance of about 50 meters, and uses at minimum 4 DPI (DOTS PER INCH). DPI is a printing resolution as opposed to PPI which relates to screen resolution in PIXELS PER INCH. Most websites keep their PPI resolution for images down to 72ppi as this helps the website to load faster. Magazines and Posters are printed at 300dpi for the best quality and this applies to photographs as well. There is diminishing returns to DPI and at 300 and above the difference is not noticeable enough to warrant printing at any higher dpi.

Modern monitors, televisions, cellphones and tablets all boast a higher resolutions with greater image fidelity (Quality), but with the higher resolutions there is a temptation to fall into a way of thinking that a higher resolution is automatically better. So we start to think that well, if my monitor can handle 3840x2160, then everything should be saved, exported at that resolution otherwise it would be a waste, right? Well, wrong! Popular social media sites will often compose an image that the application feels is too large, which results as a poorer quality upload. Images start to look more pixelated and “softer” and we sit back thinking that the solution is MORE, so we go to the sharpen tools, we go to AI programs like TOPAZ or 3rd party plugins for photoshop. However Instagrams resolution for a post is 1350 pixels high and 1080 wide, anything larger than that is going to be compressed. We then look at the images on our phones or tablets which we hold at a maximum of an arms length away from us.

There is also now the added problem that when submitting to salons using the PhotoVault, the maximum resolution one can upload is 1920x1080 with the total file size being less than 2mb. On a 4k monitor, our image is now smaller than “Full Screen”....we zoom in to fill the dimensions....and our images look soft and pixelated. We are also tempted to zoom in to check the focus of the image which is counterintuitive as by zooming in we naturally make the image softer and pixelated and we have a false perception that we missed focus. Missing focus means that we have not fulfilled the most basic of requirements as a beginner photographer. Zooming in also introduces visual abnormalities that could be considered as flaws in an image which are then attributed to a mistake or overcorrection by the photographer, when in fact the issue is introduced by zooming in past the 100% dimension of the image.

Another problem with zooming into an image is that we start to notice “Noise”. Now I have to be clear on this, Noise creates detail. But like all things there is a balance. Too much noise and the details being to break down.

Understanding that you may be introducing noise unnecessarily to your image is a learning process. Part of that learning is that you must understand that you are not introducing more light to your camera by increasing your ISO. In fact what is happening is that you are increasing the Light to Signal Ratio. For the musicians out there, its like turning your volume up all the way on your amp and still wanting more volume, we see that ever tempting Gain knob but the more we turn up the gain the more we distort the sound, its not as clean as it was before, and it is the same with ISO. To correctly expose we would need to add more light to the scene in other ways. Excessive cropping will enlarge the size of the noise in the image.

It would be far better to shoot at a higher ISO, correctly exposing an image, and view the image in its original ratio and dimensions than to Crop or zoom in.

Everyone is guilty of zooming into an image beyond the images intended viewing distance. As photographers, whether it is as a hobbyist, professional or judge, we must be more cognisant of the intended viewing distance and resist the urge to zoom in past the limitations of the image belt for social media, web content, or submissions that will be judged for core competencies. I promise that we would all be a lot happier and more satisfied with our work.

Next meeting : Tuesday 4th March 2025

Venue : MOTH Hall 18:00 for 18:30

Submissions : On Photovault before Midnight 22nd February 2025

Hope you enjoyed the February newsletter

HAPPY SHOOTING

IPIP PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB

Set Subject Topics for 2025

Month	Set Subject	SS Image Cut-off Date	MC Image Cut-off Date
March	Bokeh	1 st February 2024	1 st September 2024
April	Close-up	1 st March 2024	1 st October 2024
May	Through a Window	1 st April 2024	1 st November 2024
June	On The Water	1 st May 2024	1 st December 2024
July	Selective Colour	1 st June 2024	1 st January 2025
August	Golden Hour & Blue Hour	1 st July 2024	1 st February 2025
September	Urban Photography	1 st August 2024	1 st March 2025
October	Contre Jour	1 st September 2024	1 st April 2025
November	Levitation	1 st October 2024	1 st May 2025

- The MAY SS topic implies either one or the other - or both - of the subjects

Members' Images – February 2025

Salon Acceptances

4th Bethal 2025 Salon

Deon Heyns



The Valley – 33

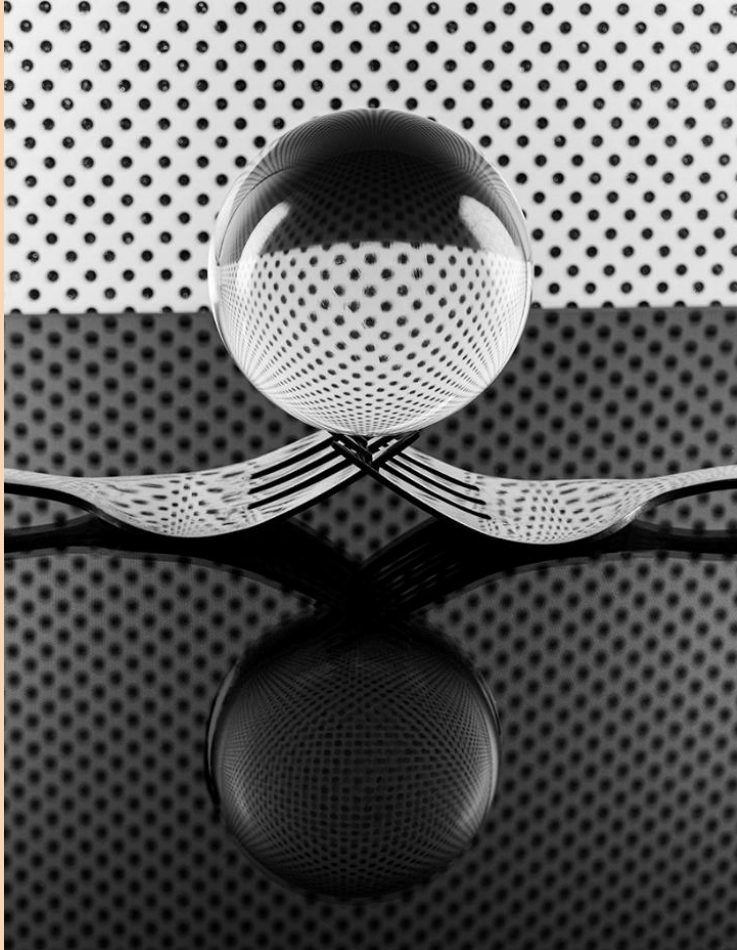
Angry – 36



Members' Images – February 2025

Salon Acceptances

4th Bethal 2025 Salon



Saskia Cole

Forked Balls – 36

Gerry Mullon

Secretary Bird – 34



Members' Images – February 2025

Salon Acceptances

4th Bethal 2025 Salon
Gerry Mullon

Ice cold Coca-Cola – 34



Ahhhh - 37



Girl with the dragon tattoo – 35



Members' Images – February 2025

Salon Acceptances

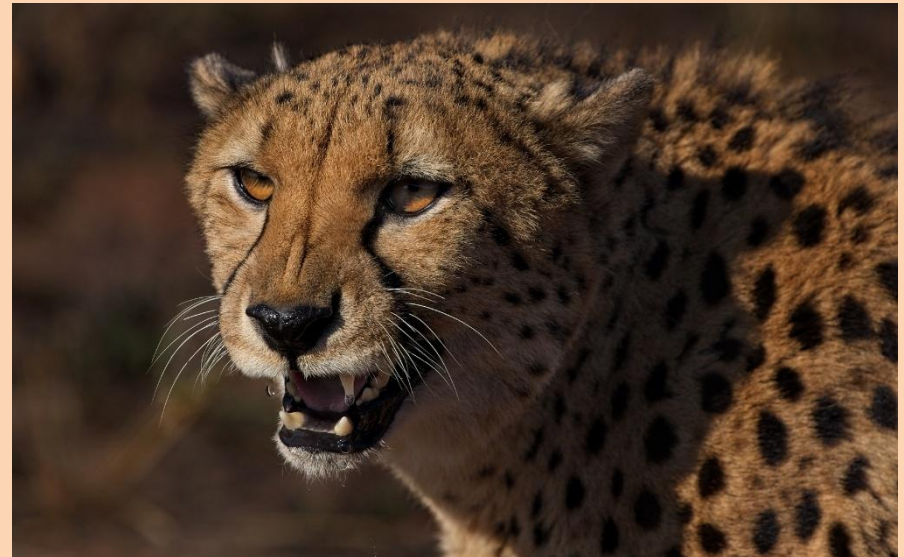
4th Bethal 2025 Salon

Pierre de Klerk



What Lies Ahead – 33

Grootman – 33



Members' Images – February 2025

SS – Judges' and Peer Vote

1-3 STAR WINNER (Tie)

Gerry Mullon – Cassiopeia (42)(COM)



1-3 STAR WINNER (Tie)

Polar Opposites – Gerry Mullon (42)(COM)



Members' Images – February 2025

\$\$ – Judges' Vote

4 STAR WINNER

Deon Heyns – Not Hot (38)



Members' Images – February 2025

SS – Judges' Vote

5 STAR WINNER

Sandy van Vuuren – Kaimans Bridge (40)



Members' Images – February 2025

SS – Peer Vote

4 STAR WINNER

Deon Heyns - Chinese



Members' Images – February 2025

SS – Peer Vote

5 STAR WINNER

Gnarly Old Boy – Dutchy Geldenhuys



Members' Images – February 2025

MC – Judges' and Peer Vote

1-3 STAR WINNER

Burst Of Light (42)(COM) – Gerry Mullon



Members' Images – February 2025

MC – Judges' Vote

4 STAR WINNERS (3)



Happiness - Lesly Kearns Eastwick (36)



Stairway to Beauty Sacha Fermor (36)



Stretton 24 – Roland Cundill (36)

Members' Images – February 2025

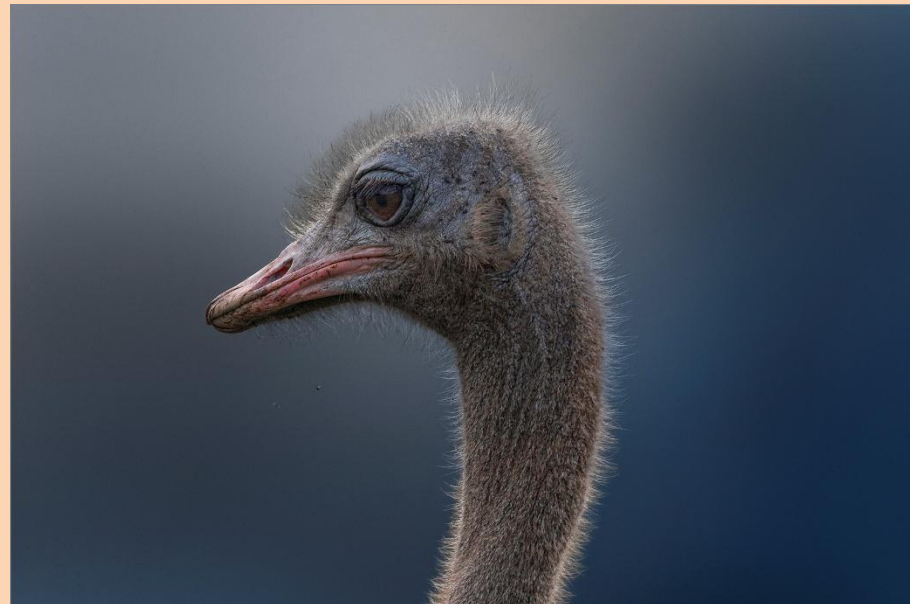
MC – Judges' Vote

5 STAR WINNERS (Tie)



Sandy van Vuuren – Alone (39)

Alan Mason – I am an Ostrich (39)



Members' Images – February 2025

MC – Peer Vote

4 STAR WINNER

Got You – Deon Heyns



Members' Images – February 2025

MC – Peer Vote

5 STAR WINNER

Alone – Sandy van Vuuren

