



# **IPIP Photographic Club**

## **September 2025 Newsletter**

### **Theme: Urban**

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**Image by**



**Danae Cole**

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Our chair was missing from our September meeting, but Roland happily filled in to keep things running.

### **September Club Meeting**

#### **PSSA Regional Interclub Competition**

We are proud to announce that IPIP won the Junior section of the PSSA 2025 interclub Competition. 39 clubs from across the country entered images. The scores for juniors of the top 4 clubs were :

IPIP Photographic Club	- 670
Brandpunftotoklub	- 669
Ermelo Fotoklub	- 669
Randburg Photo Club	- 661

Overall IPIP shared 10th place with Boksburg, each having 1325 points.

Congratulations to our junior photographers who participated, namely Antje Higgo, Byron Kennedy, Dave Brimson, Gerry Mullon, Jenny Williamson and Peter Casalis.

#### **Promotion**

Congratulations to Caylem Harris, who has been promoted to 2 Star.

#### **Guest speaker**

A huge thank you to Meghan McCabe for taking time to speak at our meeting on her career in Motorsport photography and then moving into Wild Life photography.

## **Discussion evening**

A successful discussion evening was held on the third Tuesday of August. This meeting will thus continue. An online link was also available. Although Photoshop and Lightroom will be available, going forward only light edits and cropping will be done and not detailed editing. The aim of the evening is to discuss images that you would like to submit to Club or a salon and would like advice on how to improve it. Or perhaps you have an image that did not perform as well as you expected. JPG images must be emailed to [ipipimages@gmail.com](mailto:ipipimages@gmail.com) before 15 September 2025.

## **New IPIP Hardware**

IPIP currently owns the projector which is used at every meeting, but the laptop used to project at the meeting is privately owned by our Chair. This set up is used for the discussion evening as well. The meetings are thus dependant on the Chair being present or for another member to bring their private laptop. The situation is far from ideal.

Therefore, instead of using the surplus funds in the bank account from 2025 and the congress proceeds, for a paid workshop, the funds will be set aside to fund a Club laptop in future.

## **Outings**

### **Levitation**

On Sunday 5 October 2025 there will be an opportunity to play with levitation at the Walter Sisulu Botanical Gardens. We will try to obtain access from 7 am. Watch the Whap's App group for further information.

### **Swimming Pool model shoot**

On both 25 October 2025 and 1 November 2025 a swimming pool model shoot will be held at Roland's house in Roodepoort. The sessions will be limited to only 8 photographers per session. They will be held in the afternoon and will be weather dependant. The time to be confirmed. Watch the What's App group for further information.

## **Weekend Away**

The 2026 Club weekend away will be held in the town of Chrissiesmeer from 10 to 12 April 2026. Chrissiesmeet is located down the N17 to Springs and past Bethal and Ermelo (35 km north of Ermelo). The area is known as the Lake District of SA with its 270 lakes and pans.

Three possible places to book accommodation are :

- John Jack Inn – 14 people (R1500 per night for 2)
- Kings Guest House - 19 people (R1960 per night for 2)
- Chrissiesmeer Country Cabins – 14 people (R1040 per night for 2)

## **Up-coming Set Subjects**

The set subject for October is CONTRE JOUR, which may be typically defined as:

“Contre-jour photography is a technique where the camera is pointed directly toward a light source, such as the sun, so the subject is backlit—lit from behind. The term is French for "against the day" or "against the light."

Key characteristics of Contre Jour photography are:

- The subject often appears as a silhouette or partially obscured by shadow.
- The light source is typically very strong, creating high contrast between light and dark areas.
- It can produce dramatic effects, lens flare, rim lighting, and atmospheric depth.
- Details in the subject may be lost, but the emphasis is on mood, shape, and outline.

Common uses:

- Portraits with glowing hair edges due to backlight.
- Landscapes at sunrise or sunset with silhouetted trees or buildings.
- Creative shots that highlight form rather than detail.

This style requires careful exposure control—photographers often underexpose to retain details in the highlights and enhance the silhouette effect.

The Set Subject for November is “LEVITATION”. Levitation photography is a creative technique where a photographer stages a scene to make a subject—or objects—appear to be floating or defying gravity, often achieved by posing the subject on a hidden support like a stool or using a temporary suspension method. The effect is then perfected in post-processing software, such as Photoshop, by removing the supports and blending the images to create a surreal, magical, or mind-bending visual composition.

## **Editing images**

Be aware that all aspects of a submitted image to either Club or Salons must be your own work. All items in the image must be photographed by yourself. You may use brushes in Photoshop but not for example textures as downloaded from the internet. Anything added with the use of AI generation is not allowed.

## **Franconi Challenge**

A reminder that the Franconi Challenge is due 31 October 2025. You still have time to submit a theme and then photograph.

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. You may change your topic once through the year, taking images from that new date;
4. Choose a topic which will challenge you and with which you will learn new skills;
5. Do not choose a theme that you used in previous years, even in a different variation;
6. 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);
7. Submit your images to other photographers – share your photos and get feedback;
8. Carefully choose the Name of the submission – it must reflect topic;
9. 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;
10. Take note of the order of the photographs – the order could tell a story;
11. Each image must be technically correct in terms of focus, exposure etc. (unless intentionally otherwise, which you explain in your text submission);
12. Study the comments and scores of your and other panels to further your learning;
13. Normal club rules apply for manipulation and use of AI.

## **Members' Forum – Sacha Fermor**

In June this year four of our members were invited by Jenny Williamson to join her at her timeshare for a week in central Drakensberg at a place called Fernwood just next to the Drakensberg Boys Choir, Alan, his wife Miriam, Gerry and I went. We specifically wanted to go as there was a hot air balloon race that was taking place that week. We were spoiled with the most beautiful view of the Drakensberg Mountain when we arrived and the accommodation was amazing, from electric blankets, rusks for breakfast with tea or coffee, to open fires made every night and each of us taking turns to cook amazing meals, we ate like pigs and had such a great time. Photography was our main talk of the week.

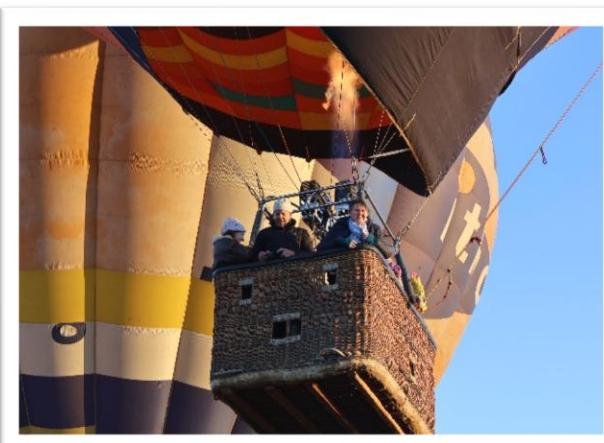


Drakensberg is South Africa's largest mountain range and in Afrikaans it stands for "Dragon Mountain" it is located mainly in Kwa Zulu Natal forming the eastern part of the country. It stretches for approximately 1,000 km (600 miles) generally southwest to northeast, with a north-western bend that creates the north-eastern border between Lesotho and South Africa. The range also separates Kwa Zulu-Natal from the Free State province and is known for its dramatic scenery, unique flora and fauna, and extensive San Rock Art. The Drakensberg is the source of several important rivers, including the Orange, Vaal, and Tugela. Towns near the Drakensberg include Himeville, Underberg, Gauteng, Ladysmith, Dundee, Ixopo, and Matatiele. These towns serve as gateways to the mountain range, offering access to hiking trails, natural beauty, and cultural attractions within the Northern, Central, and Southern Drakensberg regions.





During our stay in the Berg we were fortunate enough to see the Hot Air Balloon Race on the Sunday morning. It was cold but so worth it. Jenny was brave enough to fly in the one of the balloons and Alan and I stayed behind and took photos. It truly was an amazing experience seeing all the balloons take off in the early morning light and for the rest of the week we spotted the balloons flying around. Unfortunately there was not much communication with where the balloons were taking off or landing so it was difficult to follow them constantly.



Drakensberg is well known for its beautiful wildlife and bird life. We were fortunate to go visit the Falcon Bird Show. Falcon Ridge is a bird of prey centre in the Champagne Valley that includes raptors rehabilitated from injury and provides an excellent opportunity to see these magnificent birds in action above the majestic Drakensberg Mountains.





The reptile farm – Dragon Rock Reptile and Nature Park was another highlight for us which offered a fascinating and exciting visit, with a wide variety of display enclosures and interactive experiences and Gerry was rather keen to hold a tarantula.



Jenny, Gerry and I did some walking through the resort and the views were spectacular. Lots of birds to be seen and beautiful landscape views with zebras that came and visited us literally every day. Jenny brought lots of apples and birds seeds which was a bonus as the animals loved this.







This truly was a week of being spoiled in nature. Thank you to Jenny for letting us stay at this beautiful spot. Some spots to visit in central Drakensberg is Champagne Valley Resort, Monks Cowl and Giants Castle Game Reserve.

### **Next meeting**

Next meeting : Tuesday 7 October 2025

Venue : MOTH Hall 18:00 for 18:30

Submissions : On Photovault before Midnight 27 September 2025

HAPPY SHOOTING  
IPIP PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB

### **Set Subject Topics for 2025**

Month	Set Subject	SS Image Cut-off Date	MC Image Cut-off Date
October	Contre Jour	1 <sup>st</sup> September 2024	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2025
November	Levitation	1 <sup>st</sup> October 2024	1 <sup>st</sup> May 2025

# **MEMBERS CHALLENGE WINNERS**



# MC 1-3 STAR WINNER TIE

## ADAM BRAND – TIME TO TAKE THE BUS (39)



**MC 1-3 STAR WINNER TIE**  
**GERRY MULLON - TRIPTYCH (39)**



## MC 1-3 STAR PEER VOTE WINNER

Gerry Mullon – Storm in a tea cup





## MC 4 STAR WINNER

**Lesly Kearns – Eastwick – Psychodahlia (42- COM)**





## MC 4 STAR PEER VOTE

### Sacha Fermor – Old Lady Praying



## MC 5 STAR WINNER

### David Wolstencroft – Bringing in the nets (39)





## MC 5 STAR PEER VOTE

Dudley Schnetler – Mat Mata Milkyway



# **SET SUBJECT WINNERS**



**SS 1-3 STAR WINNER Three**

**Paul Mullan – Discovery (40)**





## Danae Cole – Market Hall (40)





## Danae Cole – Urban Giants (40)





**SS PEER VOTE – 1-3 STAR WINNER**

**Pat Clark – Dingy Alleyways of Melbourne**





**SS 4 STAR WINNER Tie**

**Carol Ehrlich – Bridge of Remembrance (38)**



## Deon Heyns – Hustle in the rain (38)



# SS 4 STAR PEER VOTE WINNER Tie

## Nikki Twomey - Life on the Edge





## Lesly Kearns-Eastwick - City Outskirts





# SS 5 STAR WINNER AND PEER VOTE WINNER

Sandy van Vuuren – On the move (42 COM)



# MONOCHROME

# MONOCHROME 1-3 STAR WINNER

Gerry Mullon – Triptych (39)





# MONOCHROME 4 STAR WINNER

## Carol Ehrlich – Bridge of Remembrance (38)



# MONOCHROME 5 STAR WINNER Tie

## Mark Geldenhuys – Discovery (37)





## Sandy van Vuuren – Going Up (37)



## David Wolstencroft – The Old Lady (37)

