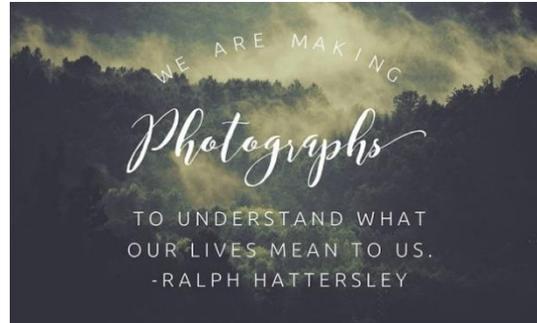




# IPIP PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

FEBRUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER



**WELCOME TO ANOTHER YEAR OF PHOTOGRAPHING AND LEARNING NEW SKILLS.**

**Topic: Still Waters *Capture Calmness or serenity of water***

**Submission Deadline: 21<sup>st</sup> February**

**Set Subject image cut off date: 1<sup>st</sup> February 2025**

**MC Subject image cut off date: Open (see notes in the newsletter)**

**Due Date : 21<sup>st</sup> February 2026**

**Next Meeting: 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2026**

**Venue: Moth Hall**

## **AGM**

The IPIP Annual General Meeting was held on 3 february 2026. The following are highlights :

- The budget for 2026 was circulated prior to the meeting and was approved. The annual membership fees will be increased to R400 per annum.
- The positions for the Club have been filled as follows :

Committee Member 1 – Chair – Saskia Cole

Committee Member 2 – Treasurer – Robert Freeborough

Committee Member 3 – Phileen Lutge

Committee Member 4 – Jill Kupper

Social media co ordinator – Robert Freeborough

Website co ordinator – Danae Cole

Compilation of newsletter – Sacha Fermor

Refreshments – Jill Kupper

Randpark High Liasion – Jill Kupper

Judges and judging co ordinator – Phileen Lutge

Preparation of peer vote and judging outcome – Bruce and Pat Clark

Salon co-ordinator – Kim Lategan

Photovault – Dutchy Geldenhuys

Results co-ordinator – Deon Heyns

- The Club does not have a dedicated outings coordinator. The Club would like to see outings scheduled for the year for Still Waters, Street photography, Decay, nature and long exposure. Please send all your ideas to the Chair.
- Secondly, please also send ideas for workshops for high key, double exposure, candle light and negative space to the Chair.
- Thirdly, please send ideas for speakers at the monthly meetings.
- Club Statistics – 2025

45 paid members

2024 - 1094 images submitted by 39 people

2025 – 1263 images submitted by 43 people

2024 – Images scored - Silver 35% Gold 64% COM – 1% (11)

2025 – Images scored - Silver 33% Gold 65% COM – 2% (25)

- Discussion evenings will be held on the third Tuesday of every month. Roland Cundill will be running the evening. It may be a practice or discussion evening. Please RSVP for the evening.
- Application has been made for IPIP to host a salon in 2026. There is however only one slot available for our region. We wait to hear from PSSA. David Wolstencroft has agreed to be our salon director.
- A discussion was held regarding the Franconi Challenge. A poll was held with the following results :

1 vote	Submit one theme before taking images but theme can be amended twice during the year
5 votes	Submit 3 themes and decide which to go with for submission
25 votes	Submit one theme before taking the images, the theme can be amended once during the year

The rules for the Challenge therefore remain the same. We encourage you to choose various themes for your own information, and take images as an experimental exercise for before submitting your theme. Also be sure to send your portfolio to more experienced members of the Club to obtain feedback and comments. They may see something that you don't. Pay close attention to order of the images in the portfolio, the portfolio is given an overall score as well.

Remember – the aim is to challenge yourself.

**PLEASE NOTE WE HAVE A NEW EMAIL ADDRESS: [lipipphotographicclub@gmail.com](mailto:lipipphotographicclub@gmail.com)**

## **Best Image for 2025**

Members were asked to submit their best image of 2025. Nineteen images were received and judging was done by members of the Kroonstad Photographic Club.

Congratulations to the winners

1-3 Star - Danae Cole (Urban Giants - 40)

4 Star - Lesly Kearns Eastwick (Psychodahlia - 43 COM)

5 Star - David Wolstencroft (Street Abduction 45 COM)



1-3 Star **Danae Cole** Urban Giants 40



4 Star – **Lesly Kearns** Psychodahlia 43 COM



5 Star **David Wolstencroft** Street Abduction 45 COM

## Set Subject Topics for 2026

The topics for 2026 are as follows (with submission and cut off dates)

### **IPIP 2026 Set Subjects**

Month	Set Subject	Submission Deadline	SS Image Cut-off Date	MC Image Cut-off Date
February	Entryways	24th January	1 <sup>st</sup> January 2025	1 <sup>st</sup> August 2025
March	Still Waters	21st February	1 <sup>st</sup> February 2025	Open (See notes below)
April	High Key	28th March	1 <sup>st</sup> March 2025	1 <sup>st</sup> October 2025
May	Street Photography	25th April	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2025	1 <sup>st</sup> November 2025
June	Negative Space	23rd May	1 <sup>st</sup> May 2025	1 <sup>st</sup> December 2025
July	Double Exposure	27th June	1 <sup>st</sup> June 2025	1 <sup>st</sup> January 2026
August	Candle Light	25th July	1 <sup>st</sup> July 2025	1 <sup>st</sup> February 2026
September	Long Exposure	22nd August	1 <sup>st</sup> August 2025	1 <sup>st</sup> March 2026
October	Decay	26th September	1 <sup>st</sup> September 2025	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2026
November	Nature	24th October	1 <sup>st</sup> October 2025	1 <sup>st</sup> May 2026

### **Notes on the above:**

- The 6-month age limit for MC images, is waived for the month of March only. All other months are unaffected by this waiver. The March MC images to be older than 6 months - select old photos and edit them with updated software.
- It is your choice whether you wish to attempt the "Elevated" variant (See the definitions below)

The following Subject descriptions and guidelines apply:

### **ENTRYWAYS**

One's own interpretation.

### **STILL WATERS**

Capture calmness or serenity of water.

### **HIGH KEY**

A style that creates a bright airy image with minimal shadows.

Elevation - Create a high-key shot using only natural light by placing your subject against a sunlit white surface

### **STREET PHOTOGRAPHY**

Documents candid moments of everyday life in public spaces, aiming to capture unmediated, random incidents.

### **NEGATIVE SPACE**

Empty space around or between subject/s which is used to emphasise the subject.

Elevation – Shoot against a featureless bright sky and underexpose the subject for a strong, minimalist silhouette

### **DOUBLE EXPOSURE**

An image that contains two overlaid images, either achieved in camera or in post processing.

### **CANDLE LIGHT**

An image where the lighting is only from a lit candle. If the candle is not present it must be obvious that the subject is lit by a candle.

Elevation - Balance the candle's warmth using manual Kelvin white balance instead of auto WB.

### **LONG EXPOSURE**

A longer-than-normal shutter speed to capture the passing of time in a single image.

## **DECAY**

Capture the visual elements of decline, ruin and decomposition.

Elevation - Shoot macro decay at 1:1 magnification using diffused off-camera flash to reveal microdetails

## **NATURE**

No manipulation allowed

PSSA definition of the Nature category:

Nature includes all branches of natural history, except anthropology and archaeology. Nature images include landscapes, geologic formations & weather phenomena and includes images taken with the subjects in controlled conditions. Photographs of artificially created hybrid plants, cultivated plants, feral animals, domestic animals, Farm animals or mounted specimens are ineligible. Human elements, if present should not detract from or overpower the subject. Manipulation is strictly prohibited. Processing or editing must be limited to making the image look as close to the original scene as possible

Editing techniques (manipulation) which are not allowed:

- Removing, adding to, moving or changing any part of an image, except for cropping and
- In Nature and Wildlife, NO vignette may be added.
- Blurring parts of the image during processing to hide elements in the original scene.
- Darkening parts of the image during processing to hide elements in the original scene.
- All conversions other than to complete grayscale monochrome.
- Conversion of parts of an image to monochrome, or partial toning, desaturation or oversaturation of colour.

Editing techniques (manipulation) which are allowed:

- Cropping, straightening and perspective correction.
- Flipping an image horizontal or vertical.
- Removal or correction of elements added by the camera or lens, such as dust spots, noise, chromatic aberration and lens distortion.
- Global and selective adjustments such as brightness, hue, saturation and contrast.
- Complete conversion of colour images to grayscale monochrome.
- Blending of multiple images of the same subject and combining them in camera or with software (exposure blending/HDR or focus stacking).
- Image stitching - combining multiple images with overlapping fields of view that are taken consecutively (panoramas)

<b>Month</b>	<b>Set Subject</b>	<b>Definitions</b>
February	Entryways	One's own interpretation.
March	Still Waters	Capture calmness or serenity of water.
April	High Key	A style that creates a bright airy image with minimal shadows. Elevation: Create a high-key shot using only natural light by placing your subject against a sunlit white surface
May	Street Photography	Documents candid moments of everyday life in public spaces, aiming to capture unmediated, random incidents.
June	Negative Space	Empty space around or between subject/s which is used to emphasise the subject. Elevation: Shoot against a featureless bright sky and underexpose the subject for a strong, minimalist silhouette
July	Double Exposure	An image that contains <u>two</u> overlaid images, either achieved in camera or in post processing.
August	Candle Light	An image where the lighting is only from a lit candle. If the candle is not present it must be obvious that the subject is lit by a candle. Elevation: Balance the candle's warmth using manual Kelvin white balance instead of auto WB
September	Long Exposure	A longer-than-normal shutter speed to capture the passing of time in a single image
October	Decay	Capture the visual elements of decline, ruin and decomposition. Elevation: Shoot macro decay at 1:1 magnification using diffused off-camera flash to reveal microdetails
November	Nature	No manipulation allowed (See PSSA definitions of the NATURE category and how MANIPULATION is defined.

## General Guidelines for submission of members monthly images

### Submission procedure:

All images must be submitted via [www. Photovaultonline.com](http://www.Photovaultonline.com)

Instructions on how to use the app can be obtained from the committee

### Time limits:

**Set subject** to be taken within the 12 months of submission

**Members challenge** to be taken within 6 months of submission

**Monochrome submission** should you submit 2 set subjects and 2 members challenge images one must be monochrome

Should you submit 4 colour the image with the lowest score will be disqualified

Should you submit 3,2 or 1 images there is no need to submit a monochrome image

A workshop will be done on shooting in monochrome and editing monochrome.

### Image Processing

- Images must have been taken by you
- You may however use photoshop brushes
- 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

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

## Weekend Away

IPIP will be going to **CHRISSIESMEER** weekend of **10-12<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

The town is located in Mpumalanga, down the N17 to Springs and then to Bethal and Ermelo. The town is located about 35 km north of Ermelo and is known as the Lake District of South Africa with its 270 lakes and pans.

Accommodation bookings are being made with Miss Chrissie's Country House. Please contact them directly with bookings.

## Franconi Challenge

This regular activity will take place again during 2026, subject to the following guidelines:

1. One topic may be chosen and submitted, thereafter the final image may be taken;
2. Six images must be submitted with a written narrative
3. Deadlines for submission 31<sup>st</sup> October 2026
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 variant
7. You can practice many more topics, decide which will work, perfect the process, submit as topic and then take your 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 the topic
10. Make sure each image reflects and encompasses the topic and the name of the submission.
11. The set will be judged as a panel (set). They must all clearly speak to the topic.
12. Take note of the order of the photographs – the order could tell a story
13. Each image must be technically correct in terms of focus, exposure, etc. (unless intentionally otherwise, which you explain in your text submission)
14. Study the comments and scores of your and other panels to further your learning
15. Normal club rules apply for manipulation and use of AI.



Congratulations to Sandy Van Vuuren on winning the Franconi Challenge for 2025.

Sandy chose Wildlife for her topic.



<b>Aperture</b>	small aperture											large aperture
		F32	F22	F16	F11	F8	F5,6	F4	F2,8	F2	F1,4	
<b>Shutter</b>	fast shutter speed											slow shutter speed
		1/1000	1/500	1/250	1/125	1/60	1/30	1/15	1/8	1/4	1/2	
<b>ISO</b>	low sensitivity											high sensitivity
		ISO 50	ISO 100	ISO 200	ISO 400	ISO 800	ISO 1600	ISO 3200	ISO 6400	ISO 12800	ISO 25600	
<b>Hamburger Fotospots Cheatcard</b>												
 <a href="http://hamburger-fotospots.de">hamburger-fotospots.de</a>												

# LENS GUIDE

Landscapes/ nature					
	24mm f2.8	14-24mm f2.8	24-70mm f2.8	70-200mm f2.8	
Portraits					
	50mm f1.8	85mm f1.8	135mm f2	24-70mm f2.8	70-200mm f2.8
Weddings					
	50mm f1.8	105mm f2.8	24-70mm f2.8	70-200mm f2.8	
Sports					
	14-24mm f2.8	24-70mm f2.8	70-200mm f2.8	300mm f2.8	300mm f4
Macro					
	105mm f2.8	200mm f4			

## Salon Acceptances

### 7th Vanderbijlparkse Fotografiese Vereeniging Salon PD



Bruce Clark Breakfast is Served - 35



Sacha Fermor Bird of Prey 34



Jenny Williamson Eurasian Kingfisher 35



Jenny Williamson Exotic Mushroom 34



Jenny Williamson Cyclist under Holborn Viaduct 35



Jenny Williamson Rainbow over Augrabies Falls 36



Chris Annear Jonothan Rea 35



Chris Annear Down Stoke 36



Chris Annear It's in the Air



Dudley Schnetler Passing Shower 38 COM

### Kroonstad Salon 2025



Bruce Clark Buffalo Toothpick 33



Congratulations to Gerry Mullan on her international acceptances

13 th MIROC Digital Circuit 2026 4 Salons Serbia – South Africa –Norway- Cyprus

Hosted by Danube Photo Club

13 th MIROC Crcuit Serbia, Donji Milanovac, Serbia  
10th MIROC Crcuit South Africa, Edenvale, South Africa  
8 th MIROC Crcuit Norway, Bergen, Norway  
3 rd MIROC Crcuit Cyprus, Limmasol, Cyprus

This was my first submission to an international salon. Although a few of the photos I submitted already had 3 acceptances, I chose them to establish whether my images would feature amongst international photographers. Each of the 4 above countries judged separately and on each of my acceptances there is a country name indicating which country accepted which image. Some images were accepted by more than one country.

## Members Challenge - Star Winners and Peer Vote Winners

**MC 1-3 STAR WINNER & PEER VOTE WINNER**

**Porcelain Poise (40) – Byron Kennedy**



**MC 4 STAR WINNER (Tie)**

**Moody Cheetah Portrait (39) – Antje Higgs**



**PEER VOTE - MC 4 STAR WINNER**

**Motherly Protection – Bruce Clark**



**MC 4 STAR WINNER**

**Time for Reflection (39) – Pierre de Klerk**



**MC 5 STAR WINNER**

**Clouds over JHB (43 COM) – David Wolstencroft**



**MC 5 STAR PEER VOTE - WINNER**

**Hibiscus – Alan Mason**



**Set Subject – Entryway and Peer Vote Winners**

**SS 1-3 STAR WINNER**

**Sacred Threshold (45)(COM) – Byron Kennedy**



**SS 1-3 STAR PEER VOTE WINNER**

**Stairway to Sanctuary – Byron Kennedy**



**SS 4 STAR WINNER (4)**

**Robin Larmuth (38) - Apartment gates**



**Derek Carstens (38) - Classic Door**



**Geoff Twomey (38) - The far end**



**Antje Higgo (38) - Trollfjord entry**



**SS 5 STAR WINNER**

**David Wolstencroft – Freedom (41)**



**SS PEER VOTE 5 STAR WINNER**

**Coming Through – David Wolstencroft**

