



# IPIP Photographic Club

## July 2023 Newsletter

### Theme: Chiaroscuro

Image By



Sue Bowden

First and foremost, our thanks to the members who submitted newsletter articles during May, for publication in June or beyond. It is gratifying to note that not only did we receive “current” contributions but also submissions which were slightly “overdue” and also those which were due for future inclusion. *Lovely Stuff – Keep them coming.*

Email articles to me at [pdk.main@gmail.com](mailto:pdk.main@gmail.com) or to the IPIP address . . . . Ed

### Calendar

Meeting Date	PV Submission Date	Theme	Theme Cut-off Date	MC Cut-off Date
1st August	Midnight 22nd July	Vanishing Point	1st July 2022	1st May 2023
5th September	Midnight 26th August	Time	1st August 2022	1st June 2023
3rd October	Midnight 23rd September	Abandoned Buildings	1st September 2022	1st July 2023
7th November	Midnight 28th October	City ‘scapes	1st October 2022	1st August 2023
5 <sup>th</sup> December	Year-End Function			

### Set subject Theme Definitions

Theme	Definition
Vanishing Point	The vanishing point is a point in the image where parallel lines appear to converge in the distance.
Time	Clocks, watches or any item that depicts time. This can include sundials, calendars, egg timer, stop watches etc. It cannot include an aspect of people ageing or crossing a finishing line.

Abandoned Buildings	A single structure or a group of buildings. Interiors or exteriors (or both) must convey a sense of dereliction and decay.
City 'scapes	Image to have a visual appearance of a city or urban area; a city landscape. A single building would be regarded as architecture and not a city scape.

## **IPIP Website**

Members are reminded that our Club website [www.ipip-photoclub.co.za](http://www.ipip-photoclub.co.za) has been up and running for a while now. This is a first-class professional landing site full of interesting information and striking images, which we hope will attract newcomers to our Club.

## **PhotoVault Submission**

All our monthly photo submissions are handled via Photovault at [www.photovaultonline.com](http://www.photovaultonline.com). A separate document explaining how to access Photovault is available on request. When submitting your images ensure that you receive an Email confirmation from PV within, say an hour, to the effect that your photos have been received. If not, you need to "re-finalise" your submission.

Please remember that at least one of your images must be in the Mono genre.

## **Salon Acceptances**

It is possible that glitches can occur between the time that advice of acceptances are automatically transmitted by Photovault and the receipt of such advices by the IPIP Committee. As a "safety net", I would have no objection if members were to copy me the relevant images for inclusion in the NL. . . Ed

## **Club Submissions for 2023**

The following guidelines are applicable to this year's submissions:

- One of your 4 photos must be in Monochrome
- In future, SS judging details will be presented at the meetings – these results will still be forwarded to members by Email together with the MC results, which will be remotely judged as before.

## **Matters Arising from the June Club Meeting**

A bumper total of 26 members attended our July Club meeting. The Retro Red Bus photographers' excursion on 15<sup>th</sup> July has attracted a number of our members.

Both Max and Hilton Stone achieved 2-Star status. Our congratulation to these two members for their achievement.

The recently held LR training sessions were enthusiastically attended and a follow-up session will be arranged.

It appears that PHOTOVAULT will be offline between 20<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> July. A revised (later) submission date for our Aug pics, will be announced soonest.

Next meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> August. Four Star judging training on 26<sup>th</sup> July.

## **Membership Fees**

The 2023 fee structure remains unchanged.

Payable in advance for the year before the end of February – R300 or pro-rata from the month of joining the club @ R30 per month. Plus a fee per meeting to cover meeting cost – R30 per person – you are welcome to pay for all meetings in advance (R600) but we cannot refund any fees if members miss a meeting.

## **Members' Star Level Advancement Guidelines**

One of the main points of being a member of a photo club is to challenge yourself and to climb the ranks by taking amazing photos. The following basic guidelines indicate what you need to achieve in order to move to the next star level. A separate document providing a full description of the advancement guidelines can be obtained on request.

From 1 to 2 star – 10 Club Gold Awards

From 2 to 3 star – 25 Club Gold Awards

From 3 to 4 star – 50 Gold Awards plus 10 Salon Acceptance

From 4 to 5 star – 100 Gold Awards and 25 Salon Acceptances

## **Franconi Challenge**

Submissions are now open for 2023. You will need to submit a portfolio of 6 images **before 31 October 2023**.

Please let our Chair know once you have chosen a topic, you can then start photographing that topic from the day you messaged her. You must also submit a short essay (200 to 500 words) on your topic including why you chose the topic, what you learnt and what the challenges were.

Please remember that the rules for 2023 have changed:

- Only one category to be submitted;
- No repeats of previous themes;
- No repeats of previous image types/genres;

Try something you have never done before, challenge yourself !

## **Events and Outings**

A number of forthcoming events and outings were discussed.

There will be a Club outing 20<sup>th</sup> August. Details TBA.

Studio photo session hosted by Jacques Kammerling on 29<sup>th</sup> July. Details to be confirmed.

Dog show at Marks Park on 30<sup>th</sup> July.

The "Royal Randfontein Stofskop" motorbike jamboree will take place on Sat 12<sup>th</sup> August at the Randfontein Oval Raceway. Visit [www.stofskop.co.za](http://www.stofskop.co.za).

The Grand Rand Airshow will be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> September at Rand Airport Germiston. A few of our members attended this lively event last year and thoroughly enjoyed the spectacle.

A number of dirtbike (MX) events are planned for the the year. August 5<sup>th</sup> at Dirt Bronco, September 2<sup>nd</sup> at Terra Topia, October 28<sup>th</sup> at Erora.

Zwartkops Raceway Inland Championship Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> August.

## **Technical Feedback and Training**

**The following article by Nikki Twomey will no doubt find resonance not only among cellphone photographers, but also contains useful tips and techniques which are universally applicable**

In the words of award-winning photographer Chase Jarvis, "the best *camera* is the one that's with you." Because our smartphones are pretty much always close to hand, they offer the most convenience for capturing *that* shot.

iPhone photography has revolutionised the way we capture and share moments of our lives. With the advanced camera technology and powerful image processing capabilities of modern iPhones, it's no longer fair to dismiss pictures taken on an iPhone as inferior. While it's true at the time of writing this, that few serious photographers are using a smartphone as a substitute for a DSLR, the increase in quality and capability over the last few years has been dramatic and it's clear that it will be the future. Many professional photographers are embracing the smartphone as a great alternative to their DSLRs in certain contexts.

At this stage, a DSLR will still outperform a smartphone when it comes to resolution, image sensor, focal length and optical zoom, but depending on what you want to take pictures of, the iPhone is a serious contender and a must for when you need to travel light!

However not everyone knows how to get the most out of their iPhone and just as the DSLR requires special skills to use it effectively, there are techniques to get the most out of your iPhone.

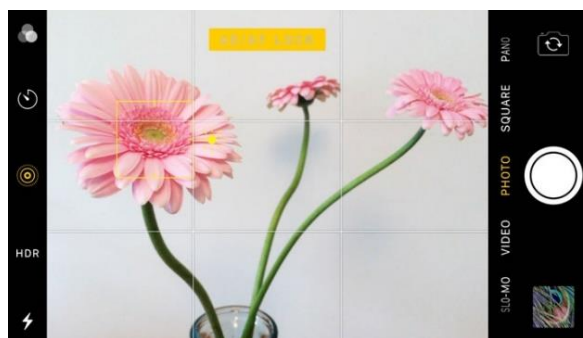
In this article, I will share some basic tips and techniques for better iPhone photography.

### 1. Focus

First, stop just randomly pointing and shooting...the camera doesn't know where to focus and will try to balance out everything it 'sees'.

1. Open the camera app on the phone
2. Compose your shot (you can use the grid feature to assist with rule of thirds. To enable the grid, go to Settings > Camera and turn on the Grid option. This will divide your screen into nine equal sections, with two vertical and two horizontal lines intersecting at four points. The rule of thirds suggests that you place your subject along these intersecting points or along the lines for a more balanced and visually appealing composition.)
3. Tap on the screen where you want your focus to be, e.g. a human figure against the landscape, or the stamen of the flower
4. A yellow square will appear where the focus will be

If you want to **take multiple photos** without having to set the focus each time, you can lock in the Auto Focus setting by holding down the square until the AE/AF LOCK appears in a yellow block. Simply tap anywhere to remove once again.



5. Exposure

You can manage the amount of light coming into your camera as follows:

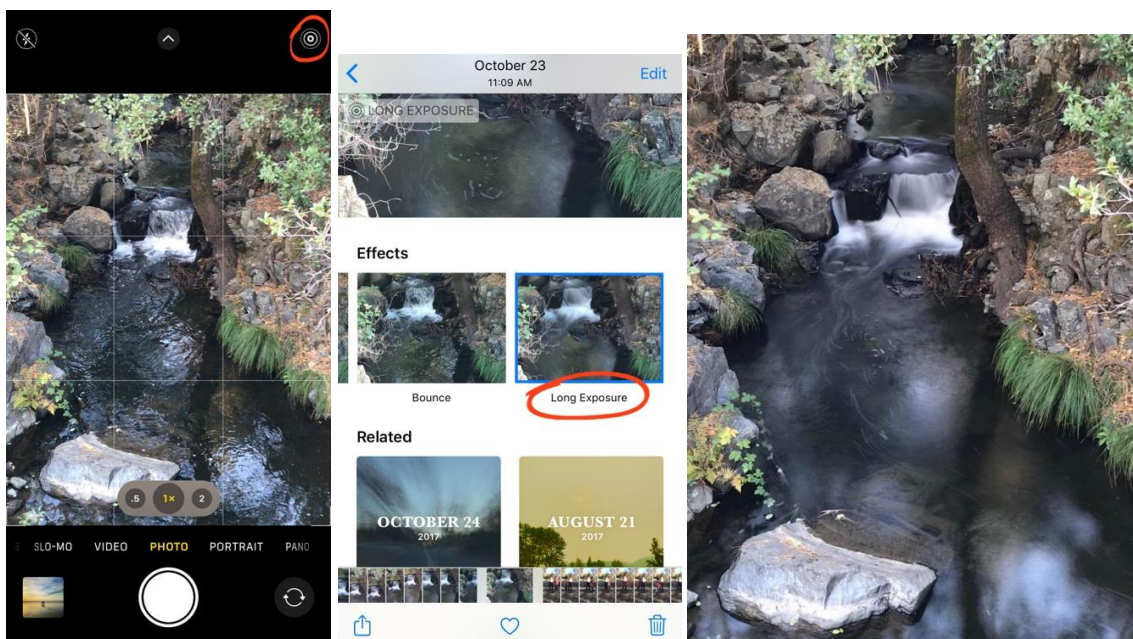
1. Set the focus by tapping on the screen. Notice the little yellow sun beside the yellow square.
2. Drag your finger up or down on the screen to make the shot lighter or darker.



3. Long exposure

To achieve the silky, blurred effect of water in motion, shoot in LIVE mode

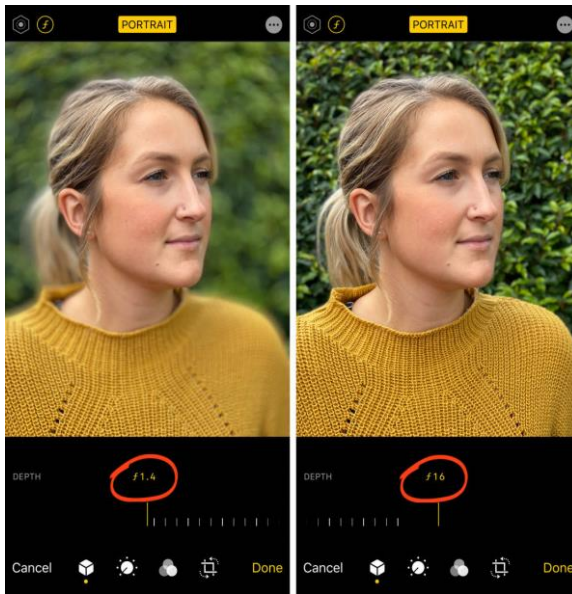
1. The concentric circles ringed in red indicate that LIVE mode is on. (If it is 'off' there will be a line through the circles)
2. Ideally use an iPhone tripod or hold the phone firmly on a completely steady surface
3. If LIVE mode is on it effectively shoots 3 seconds of footage
4. Then go to the photo itself and swipe *up* on it to reveal options for different effects, one of which is the "Long exposure" effect



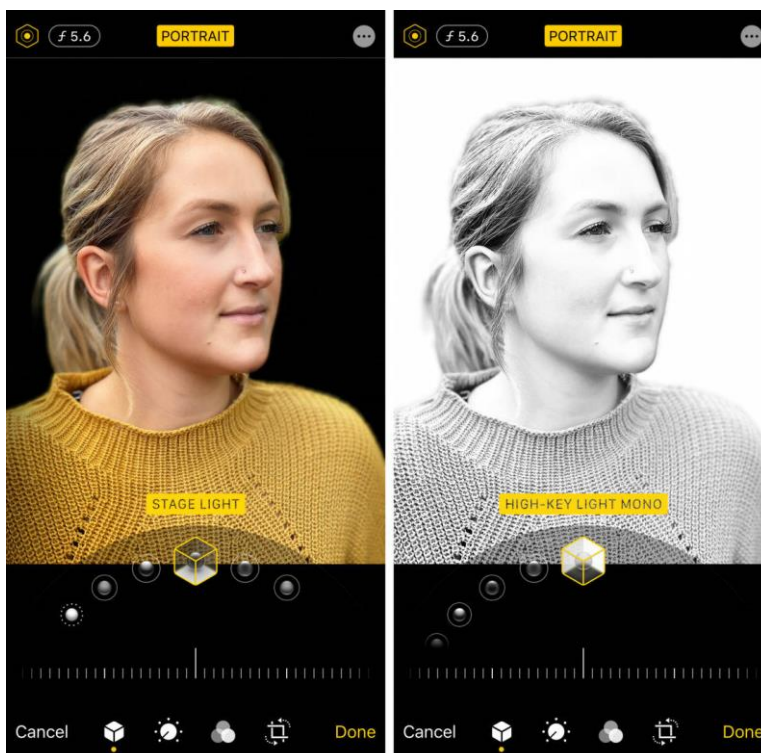


## 5. Portraits

To achieve a beautifully lit portrait with a blurred background, select portrait mode within the camera. Once you have taken the shot you can adjust your f-number (tap top left) to increase the background blur or have more detail in focus (slide the scale).

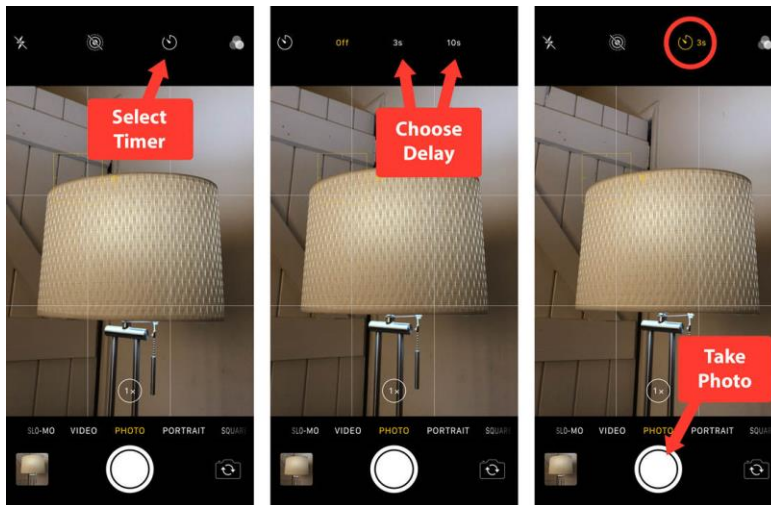


Within portrait mode you can select different lighting effects e.g. natural light; studio; contour; stage; stage mono and high-key mono. These can also be selected after the shot is taken, so long as you were in 'portrait' mode. (Slide along the curve below)



You can also use the Timer for Self-Portraits. If you want to take a group photo, the timer function can be a handy feature.

1. Set the timer, by selecting the little arrow at the top of the screen, then the timer icon (you have a choice of 3 or 10 secs), put iPhone on a tripod or prop it up securely, and pose for the shot.



## 2. Burst mode

Most people aren't aware that the iPhone offers a burst mode for capturing action shots.

1. Simply hold down and **swipe the shutter to your left** and let go as you have finished capturing the movement. This action allows you to take pictures in quick succession. It's ideal for moving subjects e.g. sports photography, or for capturing crashing waves, or restless kids/pets. (Remember if you just hold down the shutter – you will automatically shoot a *video*)
2. The camera will keep taking photos until you release the shutter button. Once you have shot the burst you can choose the best shot and delete the rest.



For portability, convenience, ease of use and instant editing, the iPhone is an amazing choice for everyday photography. iPhone camera technology is constantly improving, with each new model offering better features and image quality than the previous one.

Every single generational camera development has seen heated arguments made about why upcoming products can never replace the current status quo.

“35mm can never offer the quality you get from medium-format.”

“Digital can never replace film.”

“Mirrorless can never replace DSLRs.”

Every time, the argument is based on comparing the quality of a mature technology with the then-current quality of an emerging tech. *9to5Mac.com* points out, tongue in cheek, that the argument is absolutely correct, right up until the day it isn't. 😊

*(Photography credits: iPhone Photography School)*

### **An “Aide Memoire” from Derek Carstens**

All of us at one time or another have arrived at a shoot and found our equipment is malfunctioning or we've forgotten something important.

In light of this I've compiled a short check list to follow prior to a shoot. I would suggest that you do this a few days before the shoot rather than the night before!

#### **Photographer's checklist**

- 1 Make a list of all the gear you may need including back-up equipment.
- 2 List your objectives of the shoot.
- 3 Charge all batteries. Includes camera, flash, laptop, torch, and phone.
- 4 Test all kit
- 5 Clean all kit, tog bag and tripod.
- 6 Check all settings. ISO, F-stop, shutter, (reset to average ISO100 f8 1/125) autofocus, VR, WB, mode (single shot/continuous), image quality.
- 7 Format cards (after backing up!) take additional cards.
- 8 Pack gear neatly into your bags
- 9 Pack a torch, rain jacket, jersey, compass, suntan lotion, Tabard, water, snacks, clipboard and pen, reflector, spare reading glasses, fold up chair, stepladder if required. Include a small first aid kit, containing plasters, antiseptic cream, headache tablets etc.
- 10 Confirm address of shoot and travel time and how to get there
- 11 Pack everything in one place or in your car the night before.
- 12 After the shoot pack all your kit away and check it off your kit list.
- 13 On return home clean all equipment and reset setting, see 6 above.
- 14 Download and back up your images.

#### **Another important list**

List all your photographic equipment with serial numbers. Include filters triggers etc. This is invaluable in the event of an insurance claim.

I hope that you find this useful. Keep shooting,  
Derek Carstens



## An essential guide to a fundamental principle of photography

The link below provides a mine of useful tips and guidelines on how to use two specific compositional elements for improvement of your shots. It discusses inter alia, how to apply the Rule of Thirds technique in Landscape, Portrait, Wildlife, Pet and Street photography. There is a section on when to break this compositional “rule” and the article also offers a brief comparison between the RoT and the Golden Ratio approaches. A worthwhile read.

[https://digital-photography-school.com/rule-of-thirds/?utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Jun-223&user\\_id=pdk.main@gmail.com](https://digital-photography-school.com/rule-of-thirds/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Jun-223&user_id=pdk.main@gmail.com)

## Members' Forum

### A Karoo Interlude – A few thoughts shared by Pierre de Klerk

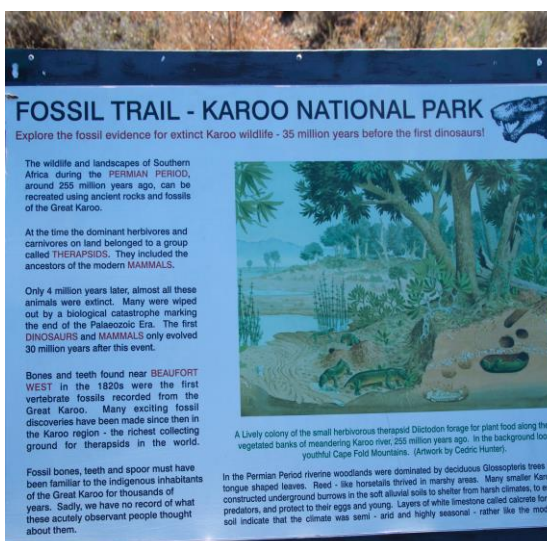
When you next motor through the Karoo on the way to the coast and you are thinking “when, oh when will I be through this boring, flat, never-ending dull landscape”, spare a thought for the fact that the Karoo is one of the most interesting and fascinating places in the country – if taken slowly, with frequent stops to explore the surroundings.

One such venue is the Karoo National Park.

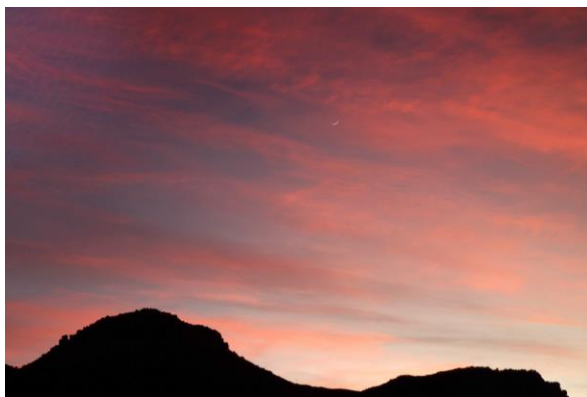


Stay a night or two and be sure to walk the Karoo NP Fossil Trail which is situated within the perimeter of the main camp. The Karoo was once an inland lake and is rich in an over-abundance of fossils (the Rubidge family collection on their Wellwood farm near Graaff Reinet is world-renowned).

The walkway contains well-placed information panels as well as actual fossils preserved within glass cases. It is a must-see for all those interested in the natural history of our planet.



The Karoo is a photographer's dream. You can practise virtually any genre here. Minimalistic, Silhouette, Landscape, Macro/Closeup, Textures, Birdlife, Iconic little towns with buildings out of a bygone era - and best of all – the clear air devoid of pollution, provides the setting for not only awe-inspiring sunset skies but also makes your landscape colours pop.



But hey Guys and Dolls. There is so much more to see. Why not take the N12 between Kimberley and Three Sisters (far less truck traffic) and stop off at Mokala National Park where you can see, among many other species, an impressive concentration of the majestic Sable antelope.

Stand on the bridge at Hopetown and photograph the mighty Gariep river. View the unusual black rock formations beyond Strydenburg. Stop off at the Kambro farmstall before Britstown, where you can find wonderful home-industry goodies (their dried fruit chutney will have you singing and dancing in the roadway)!

Further south at Three Sisters you will find the Travalia Farm Store. If you intend self-catering along your journey, this is the place to stock up on a wide variety of yummy provisions – from meats, breads, sauces, jams, wines to many other bottled goods and much more. You can also have breakfast or lunch here (their pork-lamb-cheese combo sausage will have you singing and dancing in the roadway again)!

Travelling further south, stop off at the quaint little “village” of Matjiesfontein – a place with a rich history dating back to the late 1800's. By this time you will be thirsty from all that singing and dancing so enjoy a jar of hooligan juice in an authentic Victorian-era pub. Stay at the Lord Milner Hotel (est. circa turn of the previous century), enjoy an interesting museum browse and ogle at a genuine London Red Bus which takes visitors on short trips into the surrounding Karoo environs.

Set up your camera up at night and be blown away by the clear air and the starry firmament.

Lest you think that the Karoo is only flat and brown, think again. Between Richmond and Three Sisters, turn off the N1 toward the town of Murraysburg. A variety of rural landscapes will greet you and from approximately 50Km beyond the town, you will start to see the outlines of the majestic mountain ranges which lie around the town of Graaff Reinet – The Ouberg Pass, the Noordhoek Berge and just outside Graaff Reinet, the Camdeboo National Park which takes you to the mountain heights above the “Valley of Desolation”. If you are anywhere in the above vicinities during the Golden Hour, you are in for a photographic treat!

Turning off inland before Graaff Reinet, you find the quaint village of Nieu Bethesda. See the iconic “Owl House” with its whacky art and trace our ancient history in the Fossil Exploration Centre.

Park at the lookout points of Naudes Pass and Paardekloof Pass between Middelburg and Graaff Reinet. Set up your camera and take stitched panorama images of the sprawling landscape vistas below.

If you are a hardy traveller and love the splendid isolation of the Karoo then take the gravel road out of Laningsburg into the so-called “Moordenaars Karoo” region. Take plenty of liquids and best take a sturdy high-clearance vehicle.

The road system will eventually take you to the Sutherland / Matjiesfontain tar road. There are a number of Farm-Stay guest houses in this stark, beautiful, forbidding part of the Karoo.

The following excerpt from a "TrailRider Media" publication is interesting:

"There are several stories about where the Moordenaarskaroo got its name. None can be verified. The word "Karoo" comes from the word Korusa, which in Khoisan means a dry and barren thirst land. The most popular story tells that the vast plains and endless blue mountains were so named because it once sheltered escaped slaves, runaway soldiers, smugglers and the banished. It's a desolate and barren place, but if you love the Karoo this is a must see!"

However, if you love good living, you can do no better than to spend a night or two or . . . in the lovely village of Prince Albert (aka "The Clarens Of The Karoo"). Enjoy super cuisine, tour the local cheesery, buy a bespoke mohair rug, photograph historic buildings and artifacts and book a star gazing conducted tour. The air is oh so clear.

Probably one of the finest scenic routes in South Africa connects Prince Albert via the Prince Albert Valley to the tiny village of Klarstroom . Travel this road in either direction and you will be blown away by the landscape photo opportunities which can be found along this route, especially in Spring and Summer. As usual, choose the morning and/or afternoon golden hours. You'll need plenty of SD cards!

There is so much more to tell, but for now, to summarise: the Karoo has a rich diversity to offer discerning travellers who have time to include the lesser-travelled byways in their travel plans and who wish to make full use of exciting photo opportunities.

*PS. I don't own shares in "Karoo Tourism", just awe-inspired by my many travels through this unique region.*



HOPE YOU ENJOYED THE JULY NEWSLETTER  
HAPPY SHOOTING  
**IPIP PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB**

## Members' Images – July 2023

### Salon Acceptances

## SALONS

3<sup>rd</sup> SAVAS National Salon - Bruce Clark – My war paint (35)



Nandi Falls Drakensburg (32)



**Members' Images – July 2023**

**SS – Judges' Vote**

**SS 1-3 STAR WINNER**

**Marshall – Dave Brimson (39)**





Members' Images – July 2023

SS – Judges' Vote

**SS 4 STAR WINNER**

**Old Copper - Deon Heyns (35)**



Members' Images – July 2023

SS – Judges' Vote

**SS 5 STAR WINNER**

**Remnants of medieval celebrations – Sandy van Vuuren (38)**



Members' Images – July 2023

SS – Peer Vote

**SS PEER VOTE 1-2 STAR WINNER**

**Melancholia – Danae Cole**



Members' Images – July 2023

SS – Peer Vote

**SS 3 STAR PEER VOTE WINNER**

**Marshall – Dave Brimson (39)**



Members' Images – July 2023

SS – Peer Vote

**SS 4 STAR PEER VOTE WINNER**

**Mi Amor – Shirley Buckley**





Members' Images – July 2023

SS – Peer Vote

**SS PEER VOTE 5 STAR WINNER**

**Passage lights – Dudley Schnetler**



## Members' Images – July 2023

### MC – Judges' Vote

**MC 1-3 STAR WINNER – TIE**

**Drink water and not wine – Lesly Kearns Eastwick (38)**



**Veiled mask – Dave Brimson (38)**



Members' Images – July 2023

MC – Judges' Vote

**Time for a smoke – Robin Larmuth (38)**



**Members' Images – July 2023**

**MC – Judges' Vote**

**MC 5 STAR WINNER**

**Wading Step – David Wolstencroft (39)**



**Judges comment – real magic in this image is the water caught between toes,  
perfect shutter speed, catching the decisive moment.**

Members' Images – July 2023

MC – Peer Vote

**MC 1-2 STAR PEER VOTE - WINNER**

**Horse Noir – Danae Cole**





Members' Images – July 2023

MC – Peer Vote

**MC 3 STAR PEER VOTE - WINNER**

**Veiled mask – Dave Brimson**



Members' Images – July 2023

MC – Peer Vote

**MC 4 STAR PEER VOTE - WINNER**

**Chinese Painter – Deon Heyns**



Members' Images – July 2023

MC – Peer Vote

**MC 5 STAR PEER VOTE - WINNER**

**A winter sunrise – Fabienne Jardim**

