



IPIP Photographic Club

May 2023 Newsletter

Theme: Flat Lay

Image By



Sacha Fermor

Our thanks to those members who have submitted newsletter articles – keep 'em coming.

Email articles to me at 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
6th June	Midnight 27th May	Old Signs	1st May 2022	1st March 2023
4th July	Midnight 24th June	Chiaroscuro (Light/dark)	1st June 2022	1st April 2023
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 th December	Year-End Function			

Set subject Theme Definitions

Theme	Definition
Old signs	These can be road signs, advertising, signs on a wall, that show wear and tear or are quirky or full of character. They should look old. This does not include graffiti.
Chiaroscuro (Light/dark)	Chiaroscuro, is an Italian term that refers to the intense contrast of light (chiar) and dark (oscuro) to create a strong and dramatic mood. The images must have a strong contrast between light and dark, use extreme low key and high-contrast lighting to create distinct areas of light and darkness.
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 aging 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 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. 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 March Club Meeting

Our May meeting was attended by 22 members. A number of our members recently achieved awards and accolades for their photographic work. CHAIR presented the results and the winning pics and details can be found in the Point addendum at the end of this newsletter.

Bruce Clark received a PSSA Top Achiever Award to honour his election as IPIP Top Salon Participant for 2022.

Our hearty congratulations go to all our members who received recognition for their photographic efforts.

Our 2023 week-end away was a rip-roaring success and “bookings are now open” for a similar event to take place 21-23 April 2024. Members are invited to let CHAIR know of potentially suitable venues within say, 4 hours driving time.

Submissions for June - Sat 27th May, Judging Training, 4 Star - Wed 31st May, Next Meeting Tue 6th June

The May meeting was a short one as CHAIR had arranged an inter resting event in the adjoining cemetery – Light Painting. Unfortunately, the weather did not enter into the spirit of things and dampened the undertaking by providing a pall of lightning and rain. The event is re-scheduled for 2 weeks hence. Oh well, more time to rehearse!

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

Merv’s Challenge

Submissions are now open for Merv’s Challenge 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 !

Task Lists for 2023

The tasklist for members' forum and biopic contributions can be found as a separate attachment to the newsletter.

To clear up possible confusion: The month listed against member names indicates the month of the newsletter, which is distributed shortly after the regular meeting of the same month. Accordingly, it will be appreciated if members would submit their contributions during or before the last week of the previous monthEd

Events and Outings

We would like to hear from members regarding future happenings or events of which they may be aware. This will assist with the planning of future Club outings.

Weekend Away

Our April weekend away was a "roaring success" and it was great to enjoy the company of members and their spouses in an informal setting. Sandy's descriptive "blog" can be found in the Members' Forum section below.

Future Events

The following activities are scheduled to take place in the near future.

Zwartkops Raceway: Saturday 20th May 2023 - National Extreme Festival

Parys Airshow: Saturday 3rd June 2023. Go to <https://bit.ly/43dyV13> or WhatsApp 078 486 6888 for further communications regarding the Parys Air Show.

MOTH Fete:

The Cottesloe Moth fete will be held on Sunday 4th June 2023. A military march past with military band will apparently take place in the adjoining streets. This might well be a good photo opportunity and the chance to support our host venue.

Equipment News and Reviews

Now I have seen everything!! A "smart" auto-levelling tripod that uses AI technology and includes a light meter as well as a remote-control panel to control your camera functions – Oh yes, almost forgot, it also supports a camera!!

The articles and video clips in the link below will mess with your mind. So if you have a spare \$2500 lying unused in the broom cupboard, you too can have an all singing and dancing AI tripod with auto-levelling, weather forecasting and lotto prediction.

What will they think of next?

https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/benropolaris/benro-theta?utm_source=kickbooster-direct&utm_medium=kickbooster&utm_content=link&utm_campaign=46de6e09&ref=7g180o



Technical Feedback and Training

Megapixels and Print Sizes

As a matter of interest, the following table contains a rough guide for the relationship between print size and quality, in respect of a random selection of MP resolutions. The data refers to the “normal” viewing distance of +- 300mm (as viewing distance increases so the resolution can be decreased).

MP	Resolution	Approximate Print Size (mm)
3	2048 x 1536	173 x 130
12	4256 x 2832	360 x 240
24	6016 x 4016	510 x 340
42	7952 x 5304	670 x 450

In short – High Quality prints require lots of lovely pixels!!

Photographing Flowers

Flower photography is a firm favourite among members and while these can be stunning subjects, the technique involves more than just “aiming and shooting”. Light, composition, background and camera settings all play an important part. Those members who revel in this genre may find the following video clip helpful.

https://digital-photography-school.com/10-tips-for-improving-your-flower-photos/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Apr-0623&user_id=pdk.main@gmail.com

Members' Forum

A "travel log" by Sandy van Vuuren

April 21-23, 2023, will surely mark IPIP history as the first organised sleepover club event. What a stunning venue and perfectly timed to photograph the golden poplars. According to Bruce who was in the area two weeks prior when the poplars were still green, there is clearly a fine window to photograph, as the weekend was rife with yellow leafed confetti, and I predict a week later would have left us with bare branches. Van Reenan rest camp was a great choice (thanks Saskia) and away from the hustle and bustle from Clarens but central to a 360-degree opportunity for landscapes.



Van Reenan rest camp

Fabienne and I arrived a day early, when the weather was still balmy, and the sunrise and sunset was dramatic. A beautiful night sky with milky way called, and it was a difficult trade for a warm fire and gin verses camera and stars. The reason we do these things is to ensure that our photo buddies push us a bit and of course let's not forget FOMO. Dudley provided a great cheat sheet and a little push from Fabienne resulted in my first ever "usable" star shot. No foreground but at least I can drop into another image 📷.

The rest of the group more or less arrived around the same time, dropped their stuff and grabbed the last light to photograph the iconic Goldengate buttress. The sunset spot that Fabienne and I thought would be great turned out very average and lesson learnt; light is not always predictable. After a lot of rock scrabbling, we traded the very quickly declining light for a social braai around the fire. Thanks to Pat and Bruce who got an upgrade on their accommodation, we had a very homely spot to spend a very chilly evening eating and socializing with way too much food and a hungry jackal that was just a little too close for comfort. Clearly, we all got way too comfortable and only Bruce and Pat ventured out to do star trails.



Fabienne at sunrise, Friday morning.



Milky way, Thursday evening.

Early the next morning a bunch of eager photographers were making their way to a spot to get the sunrise. It was cold and windy, but the comrade was great and noting the morning golden light, I am sure we all managed to get something. Even Pat who worked on her flat lay in natural light on the mountain edge made sure she did not miss her deadline for submission.

A trip to the small family graveyard was called for and Derek engaged us with the related Romeo and Juliet story “This story is about Valerie Wilcocks, 22 and Johan Bestendig De la Harpe, 21 a young couple in love. It was the summer of 1932. Clarens was only twenty years old, a tiny village established in 1912 with dirt roads and sandstone cottages built by Cornish stonemasons. The young lovers would ride out from the farms of their respective families to meet in secret at a rendezvous in the mountains against the express wishes of their parents because of a long simmering feud between the Wilcocks and the De la Harpe families. One day they were out riding when a summer lightning storm unleashed tragedy in the form of a bolt from the sky and killed both lovers. Their grieving families set aside their differences and buried the young lovers next to each other. Valerie was twenty-two years old, and Johan was twenty-one. They died on 18 December 1932.”

After breakfast, we all went and did our own thing. Pierre focused on macro and Kim rode around and managed to sight some Zebra on the hills. A few of us walked up echo gorge which was absolutely stunning. Lunch in Clarens was a raucous affair of tall stories, beer, good food and great company.



Derek and Dudley, Saturday morning



Lunch in Clarens

Derek rose to the bait set by Saskia in initiating an ex-chairmans challenge; five photos around Clarens that needed to be submitted within three days (and he kept reminding us and counting down 😊). While we were scrambling around for a different take on the topics (old blue car, windmill, hat, car guard, something musical, wire art, sandstone, poplar, interesting shop front and red), I glimpsed the retired chairman in a coffee shop sipping coffee and eating donuts.....🤔.

Sunset was planned for a spot on the escarpment where we could get the car lights winding up the road. Again, the wind and cold was a huge challenge but nothing would chase us photographers away. We were armed with beanies and puffer jackets and enthusiastic partners that were willing to drive up and down the valley. After enough shots to get a few that we can stitch together, we hasted off to the fire at Pat's and Bruce's place and Saskia's bottle of Amarula.

Sunday morning, we scattered off in multiple directions before heading home. Derek and Dudley looking for sunflowers, Saskia, Bruce and Pat hiking up the Buttress, Kim exploring Clarens and Fabienne and I stopping off at a cheese farm supposedly for photos.

To sum up, this was truly a great weekend and so much fun. It was reassuring to find out that I am not the only one that loses lens caps, drops tripods and plans on the fly. I loved the easy-going attitude of the group and the safety in numbers in remote areas is always reassuring. Would I do it again. A definite yesso Saskia can't wait for the next venue?

Thanks everyone (Saskia, Neil, Dudley, Derek, Fabienne, Richard, Kim, Jeff, Pierre, Margaret, Bruce, Pat and Vernon) for making it easy and so much fun!



.... and one day, my girl, all this will be yours

Apologies Ladies. Just couldn't resist sneaking in this one!

HOPE YOU ENJOYED THE APRIL NEWSLETTER
HAPPY SHOOTING
IPIP PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB