



IPIP Photographic Club

November 2023 Newsletter

Theme: City Scapes

Image By



Shirley Buckley

Here we are at the virtual end of our 2023 photographic activities. November was the final month for image submission and our next meeting will be on the 5th December, which will take the form of a cocktail party and prize-giving event.

The Themes for 2024 will be announced at the meeting.

Members are requested to read and digest the following message by CHAIR:

“IPIP PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB - POSITIONS TO BE FILLED 2024

On Tuesday 6 February 2024, IPIP Photography Clubs Annual General Meeting will be held. On that day, all committee members and club positions will be vacated and must be filled again. Some members may choose to continue with their 2023 positions and will put their names forward for nomination. Other positions and roles will need to be filled by new people.

The following are the current Club roles and positions :

1. Committee member 1 - Chair
2. Committee member 2 - Treasurer
3. Committee member 3
4. Committee member 4
5. Committee member 5
6. Social media co ordinator (Facebook and Instagram)
7. Website co ordinator (update photos and calendar monthly)
8. Compilation of newsletter
9. Outings co ordinator
10. Meeting refreshment preparation
11. Submission of images
 - a. Access Dropbox for images and judging spreadsheets
 - b. Rename and number 1-3 star images
 - c. Send 1-3 star & RPH images to judges
 - d. Insert all images into Peer Vote, upload into Google Drive
 - e. Prepare Peer Vote Google Forms
 - f. Receive 9 sets of judging, combine into 3 sets (MS Excel)

- g. Mail merge into one judging table per submission (MS Word)
- h. Insert tables into Peer Vote with corresponding image

In the coming months please carefully consider which role you would like to play in the Club. What role or position will you put yourself forward for ? And consider who in the Club you would like to nominate for a specific role or position.

Have you been a member of the Club for a long time and never played a formal role ? How can you contribute to the Club ? The nomination forms will be distributed in January 2024.” . . . **End of Message**

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.

Matters Arising from the October Club Meeting

A total of 20 members and two visitors attended the November meeting. CHAIR opened the meeting by displaying a “bumper crop” of photos submitted by members who received Salon acceptances. Seven members received a total of 19 acceptances in 3 recent PSSA Salon events and 4 members received a total of 23 acceptances in the 24th PSSA 1-3 Star “Up-and-Coming” Photographic Competition.

Due to size constraints, the relevant images are not included in the newsletter.

It is gratifying to see how many of our members are submitting images to Salons and while it may “rock us back on our feet” when our images do not get accepted, Salons nevertheless provide an effective vehicle for improving our skillsets and maintaining the motivation to produce our best results. CHAIR made an appeal for more members to become involved in Salon submissions.

The following members received promotion to higher Star levels:

Danae Cole to 3 -Star

Byron Kennedy to 2-Star

Congratulations to these members for their achievements.

“Best-of-the-Best”. Choose 2 of your top-scoring past photos (one each in the SS and MC categories) re-edit if necessary and submit them by Email to the IPIP address before 15th January.

The meeting was enlivened by a spirited presentation from Sandy van Vuuren on her photographic highlights (and tribulations) during a recent visit to the Emerald Isle. Pubs and Monuments, the 40 shades of green and the iconic Ring of Kerry – most entertaining.

A vote will be taken at the February 2024 meeting regarding various options related to the cutoff dates for submission of our Club images. For example 6 months for MC and 18 months for SS - as well as other options. Think about your preferences in the meantime.

The cutoff date for February 2024 submissions, is 1st October 2023.

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

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

Membership Fees

The 2024 fee structure will be advised in the new year.

Franconi Challenge

A total of 10 members participated and the results will be announced at the December meeting.

Events and Outings

Our 2024 Weekend Away will take place during 19 – 21 April in Kaapsehoop Mpumalanga. There may still be a room or two available at the Angel Mist Guesthouse. Otherwise just book your accommodation in one of the many other establishments.

Technical Feedback and Training

A lesson learned – By Dudley Schnetler

I recently learnt a lesson about the need to be meticulous in making backups.

Working in my Lightroom Library, I made a mistake which somehow broke the links between the image (which I hold on a hard drive) and the editing information in Lightroom. This happened to my 20 favourite landscape images, so the problem needed to be fixed!

Having considered the recovery options, it was clear that by far the easiest option was to recover the earlier position from the catalogue backup. Not a problem.

Except when I looked for the backup on the computer, it was nowhere to be found! Some work had been done on my laptop six months ago and the backup information was not where it should have been. I had been backing up regularly but had never checked to see where the backups were, or whether they were successful.

I eventually found them stored in the most improbable place, so at least they were not lost. But....the last backup was 5 days previously, because the setting was once per week, on exit. Sometimes if I was in a hurry, I skipped that backup for that week.

Eventually I took the long route of restoring the links manually for those 20 images, a few hours work. Thank goodness it was only 20!

I have now changed the backup address, I backup every time Lightroom exits, and no more short cuts even when I'm in a hurry.

This will of course create hundreds of files, so you can delete old files, as long as you know the more recent backups do actually work.

But wait, there's more! What happens if my laptop crashes? I use one drive so there is an automatic backup. If you don't have one drive, you should backup the backup to somewhere which is not part of your computer. Also, does Lightroom backup everything? No, only the catalogue which is the editing information. The images themselves need to be backed up separately, as well as some other odds and ends. Read this article for a more comprehensive view of what needs to be done.

<https://fstoppers.com/business/youre-probably-not-backing-all-your-lightroom-classic-data-526597>

Is this all just a waste of time? Wait until you lose the information on your 20 favourite images to find out!

Members' Forum

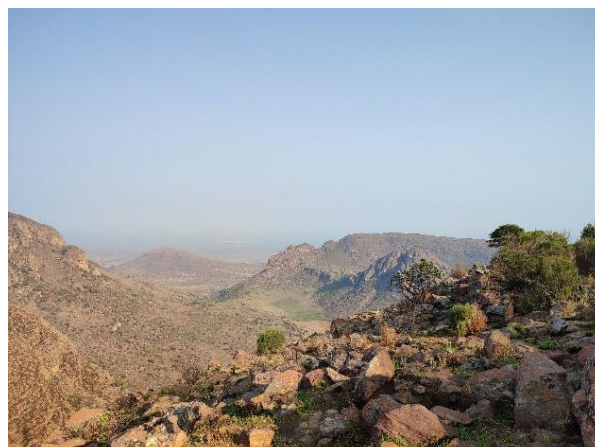
A trip to Marakele National Park - By Kim Lategan

Jeffrey and I spent the long weekend at the park. Its one of the smaller parks with an area of 670 000m² (670Km²) in the Waterberg Mountain range. Home to the Big 5, we saw 3 of those.



We stayed at Tlopi Tented Camp. Our tents name was Sunbird. We overlooked a dam. Unfortunately, no animals came to drink while we were there. On our first day, we decided to go up to Lenong Viewing Point, which is home to a colony of Cape vultures. This is the second biggest breeding colony in the country.

We did see some vultures flying around. The drive up was scary as the road is narrow (wide enough for one car) and no barrier between you and the sheer drop down the mountain. The view from the top was worth it though.



Luckily, I was not driving, hubby had that pleasure. We still needed a strong drink when we got back to the plains. We were lucky to see 13 rhinos, a herd of Cape Buffalo and elephants. As you can imagine the sunsets were spectacular and clear skies at night.



On our last night, we had strong winds. Two of the tents' poles were broken and our neighbor's kitchenette's sliding door shattered. Jeffrey had visions of the tent flying off and him running around looking for his clothes. It was a lovely, relaxing weekend and we will definitely go back.

A memorable trip to the Western Cape, in two parts, by Saskia Cole.

TIME IN THE CAPE – PART 2

A worth while stop on this side of the world is the Elgin Railway Market. Elgin is located not far from the town of Grabouw. The Elgin Railway Market is within an old apple warehouse converted into a bustling Steampunk, Art Deco market boasting local food and craft vendors, live music and is the gateway to the beautiful Elgin Valley. The original building was built in the 1940's by Italian POW's. The concrete tapered columns and curved box gutters bear testimony to the skill of those bygone craftsmen. It has been extensively renovated into a showpiece well worth a visit. Thank you <https://www.elginrailwaymarket.co.za/> for that information.

The market is probably best visited over a weekend when all the vendors are open, but one vendor was open for us on a quiet day during the week for coffee and some wholesome food. And with almost no one there, you are free to walk and photograph as you please. The metal work and detail in this building are phenomenal. So intricate. Someone has put a great deal of thought and effort into the design and décor of this building. That man is Roger Orpen, who worked in the film and TV industry and then bought a farm in the area. "I was looking around Elgin and I found this great big shed and I thought to myself: Well... I can do something with this. It looks really, really good. Maybe a market??" he says. "It was the most incredible, huge, open space. The original shed was built by Italian prisoners-of-war in about 1941/42."

One of the most interesting features are the four huge fans. "We built the fans that went up in the ceiling of the market. These fans were based on various designs: the first one was based on a Spitfire propeller, the second one was based on a Hercules C130 prop, and then the middle one was based on a dream that I had. The last one was based on your typical desk fan, which we just made a lot bigger." And they work, all connected by belts and driven by some machine somewhere, interesting engineering.

They have an old steam train from Ceres Rail which comes up on weekends bringing people from the V&A Waterfront. Its arrival must be quite a sight. Maybe next time ...



And neither of these are my photos either – there was no train or people to photograph and I was busy eating OK ?

On this particular trip to Cape Town, we drove instead of flying as we had a trailer in order to bring my daughters entire life back to Joburg. On the way down, The Driver was not interested in stopping and the best I could do was open the window with a high shutter speed to try and capture the landscapes flying by.

On the way back however, my partner in crime was once again at my side, and in the other vehicle with a heavy trailer, The Driver was far behind in our dust. Trespassing on private land, bundu bashing in a slow slung car and finding the most interesting places are what we do best together, and this trip was no exception. We were still looking for abandoned buildings, often speculating if they are truly abandoned or perhaps someone still lives there. Is there a gap in the fence where we can get in ? You drive past craning your neck to see and then turn around 2km down the road in a safe place .. it is the N1 after all !

But we did not find abandoned buildings, instead there on the side of a hill, large obelisk type stone memorials and a graveyard. Another favourite pass time ... who is buried there and what is their story? A quick turn around dodging

trucks, down a narrow track, the scratches on the car door will buff out for sure, and there must be a protection plate under the engine, is there not ? I did not see anything leaking out the bottom !



Indeed my photo !

The historic Monument Cemetery lies 10km west of Matjiesfontein (towards Cape Town). The cemetery is a popular stop for Anglo-Boer War enthusiasts and history buffs. The two obelisks on the koppie encourage many other tourists to stop and explore. One was erected in memory of George Maxwell Grant, killed in a rail accident, and the other is a British Army memorial in honour of Major-General Andrew Wauchope, affectionately known as "Red Mick." A hero of Scotland, he was killed at the Battle of Magersfontein, near Kimberley, during the Anglo-Boer War. Wauchope's grave in the cemetery below is marked by a simple sandstone memorial erected by his wife Jean. Nearby are the graves of James D Logan, founder of Matjiesfontein, and his wife Emma. Their daughter, Catherine, son, Daddy Jim, and several other family members lie nearby. In the cemetery are many historic graves, including that of English cricketer Edward Alfred Lohmann, considered to have been one of the world's greatest all-rounders ever.

Thank you https://www.thegreatkaroo.com/listing/monument_cemetery_near_matjiesfontein for that information.

This is not mine



This one is though to show I did actually climb up there !!



Back on the road, soon there was a sign for the Lord Milner Hotel. That sound familiar. I googled it and found the history Perhaps we should have stopped there

For those interested, Matjiesfontein's is named after a reed or rush called "matjiesgoed" from which early mats were made. In common with the surrounding district, including the adjacent "Moordennarskaroo" or Murderers Karoo.

Matjiesfontein is a feast for the imagination, between those walls lie a colourful history that includes international cricketers, Olive Schreiner's residency, fortification during The South African War (formerly known as The Anglo-Boer War) as headquarters of the Cape Command, refuge for Jamieson Raid reformers, and the venue of controversial war crimes hearings.

James Logan built the double-storey, turreted Milner Hotel in 1899, during the early stages of The South African War. The hotel was used as a military hospital during the conflict with British forces with the central turret serving as lookout and machine gun post. Some 10,000 troops were camped around the village during this time.

With Logan's drive and determination to embrace new technologies Matjiesfontein was the first village in South Africa to have both electric street lights and water-borne sewerage. He discovered an abundant subterranean water supply in the vicinity of the village and constructed water pipes to feed the requirements of the village and also sold water to the railways. The steam engines of the day were dependant on water in order to operate.



Another hill climbed by me to take this – no! There was not even a hill to climb.

In 1968, David Rawdon, hotelier par excellence whose claim to fame includes establishing Rawdons Hotel at Nottingham Road, the well-known Lanzerac set amongst the Stellenbosch vineyards, the Marine Hotel in Hermanus, and The Drostdy in Graaff-Reinet, purchased Matjiesfontein Village. After performing extensive renovations and utilising the wealth of antiques gathered during his world travels, David reopened the hotel in 1970, renaming it The Lord Milner Hotel.

<https://www.karoo-southafrica.com/koup/matjiesfontein/history-of-matjiesfontein/>



These are not mine either – did you read ? We did not stop here !!

Matjiesfontein is reputed to be the most haunted town in South Africa. There are apparently two female ghosts who are live-in guests at The Lord Milner Hotel, one being Lucy. Lucy is a vague spectre. Rumours abound of people having seen her floating around the passages and the stairs, wearing a negligee. They speculate that perhaps it's someone who died in the building. Whoever she is, she's friendly, and too ethereal to be frightening. It appears that Lucy has never checked out of her room on the first floor! They also wonder if Lucy could be one of the voices that can be heard from time-to-time emanating from one of the rooms in the dead of night. A loud quarrels erupts and shatters the Karoo tranquility, even more effectively than a goods' train clattering past. That's not all that's shattered: it also sounds

as if hundreds of glasses and plates are being smashed inside too. But when someone goes to investigate, everything is quiet and there's nothing that has been broken...

<https://www.matjiesfontein.com/blog/post/a-matjiesfontein-ghost-story-lucy/>



Ditto

HOPE YOU ENJOYED THE NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

HAPPY SHOOTING

IPIP PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB

Members' Images – Nov 2023

SS – Judges' Vote

SS 1-3 STAR WINNER

A different view of shanghai (41) – Byron Kennedy



Members' Images – Nov 2023

SS – Judges' Vote

**SS 4 STAR WINNER
& 4 STAR PEER VOTE WINNER
Rush Hour (40) - Deon Heyns**



Members' Images – Nov 2023

SS – Judges' Vote

SS 5 STAR WINNER

& 5 STAR PEER VOTE WINNER

Sunset over the City (40) Fabienne Jardim



Members' Images – Nov 2023

SS – Peer Vote

SS PEER VOTE 1-3 STAR WINNER

Not a bad place to work – Dominique Borlase



Members' Images – Nov 2023

MC – Judges' Vote

MC 1-3 STAR WINNER

& MC PEER VOTE WINNER 1-3 STAR

Hong Kong Street Life (42) (COM) – Byron Kennedy



Members' Images – Nov 2023

MC – Judges' Vote

MC 4 STAR WINNER

& MC PEER VOTE WINNER 4 STAR

Ladies in Pink Ladies (38) - Saskia Cole



Members' Images – Nov 2023

MC – Judges' Vote

MC 5 STAR WINNER

The Shrine (37) – Sandy van Vuuren



Members' Images – Nov 2023

MC – Peer Vote

MC 5 STAR PEER VOTE - WINNER

Off the coast of Milazzo – Sandy van Vuuren

