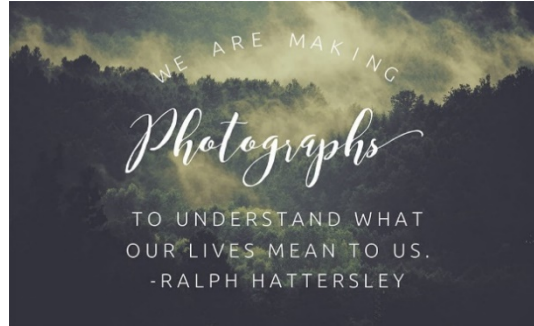




IPIP PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

MARCH 2026 NEWSLETTER



WELCOME TO ANOTHER YEAR OF PHOTOGRAPHING AND LEARNING NEW SKILLS.

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

Submission Deadline: 21st February

Set Subject image cut off date: 1st February 2025

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

Due Date : 21st February 2026

Next Meeting: 3rd 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 circualted 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 st January 2025	1 st August 2025
March	Still Waters	21st February	1 st February 2025	Open (See notes below)
April	High Key	28th March	1 st March 2025	1 st October 2025
May	Street Photography	25th April	1 st April 2025	1 st November 2025
June	Negative Space	23rd May	1 st May 2025	1 st December 2025
July	Double Exposure	27th June	1 st June 2025	1 st January 2026
August	Candle Light	25th July	1 st July 2025	1 st February 2026
September	Long Exposure	22nd August	1 st August 2025	1 st March 2026
October	Decay	26th September	1 st September 2025	1 st April 2026
November	Nature	24th October	1 st October 2025	1 st 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)

Month	Set Subject	Definitions
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 **10-12th 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 31st 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.

Members' Biopics

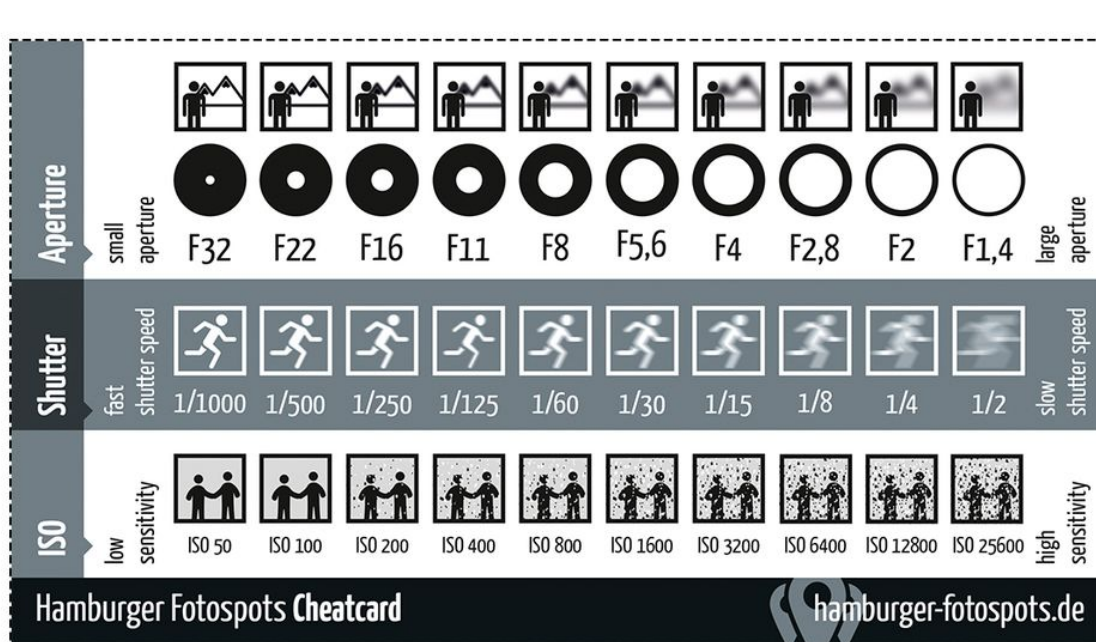
Hi, I'm Caylem Harris. I was born and raised in Johannesburg, growing up in the little township of Eldorado Park. These days, I live in Florida Glen with my amazing wife and our three incredible kids... my greatest adventure and inspiration. By day, I work in IT as a Systems Administrator and Webmaster for a private tertiary institution in the Western while I still love the work, photography has slowly become the space where my heart feels most at home.

My journey into photography started back in 2004 when I was living and working in the UK. I bought my first little Samsung point-and-shoot, and honestly, it wasn't anything fancy but it opened up a whole new world for me. I experimented with everything: portraits, macro, landscapes... and I loved every moment of it. A few years later, I discovered why I've always been so drawn to photography. While helping my grandmother sort through my late grandfather's belongings, I found his collection of old film cameras and photos he had developed himself. In that moment, something clicked. It felt like I had uncovered the missing link to my creativity; as if this passion had been passed down through the generations.

Since then, I've explored different camera systems from Canon, Sony, and now Olympus, which I absolutely love. I still shoot film whenever I can, even though it's become a bit of an expensive hobby, because there's just something magical about it. To grow my craft, I completed a Photographic Diploma through the Photography Institute and recently joined IPIP, my first photography club. I don't know why I didn't join one sooner as being around people who share the same passion has been such an inspiration.

When it comes to my style, I'm drawn to vibrant colours, striking depth, and the timeless feel of black and white photography. I enjoy shooting landscapes, macro, portraits, and even weddings, each for its own reasons. I also love photowalks; there's something special about connecting with other photographers, swapping stories, and capturing moments together. At the heart of it, photography is my way of telling stories of people, places, and moments that matter.

My hope is simple: to keep learning, keep creating, and keep sharing this passion for as long as I possibly can.



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 Jonathan 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 Mullon 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 Higgs (38) - Trollfjord entry



**SS 5 STAR WINNER
David Wolstencroft – Freedom (41)**



**SS PEER VOTE 5 STAR WINNER
Coming Through – David Wolstencroft**



Lens Guide

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			