



IPIP Photographic Club

June 2023 Newsletter

Theme: Old Signs

Image By



Kim Lategan

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 even though your name is not on CHAIR’S submission roster.*

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
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			

Our July theme is beautifully amplified/explained in a video clip submitted by Deon Heyns, which will hopefully help us in mastering this somewhat unusual and interesting genre.

[Chiaroscuro – A Tango Between Light and Darkness | Patinatur Studio](#)

Thankyou Deon!

Set subject Theme Definitions

Theme	Definition
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 June Club Meeting

Our June meeting was attended by 18 members and 8 online participants.

A letter of appreciation from the SPCA was displayed. Winning images in respect of Salons and our Club activities, were presented. These are replicated at the end of the NL.

CHAIR announced that the Merv's challenge event has been renamed the Franconi Challenge, dedicated to the memory of Mervyn and Cathy Franconi.

Derek presented 3 portfolios submitted for the ex-Chair's Golden Gate Challenge. The winner was Sandy van Vuuren.

Dutchy displayed a number of videos and led a discussion on the subject of Chiaroscuro, our set subject for July.

The committee is pleased to announce that Antje Higgo has been promoted to 3-Star level. Our congratulations to Antje for her achievement.

Dates to remember: This month's submissions 24th June. Judging training 4-Star 28th June online. Next meeting 4th 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

It was tentatively agreed to schedule 3 outings during June/July viz. Rietvlei NR, Monte Casino Bird Park and Nirox Sculpture Park – details to follow in due course.

Technical Feedback and Training

Cellphone Photography

Thankyou Louise for this interesting article.

Smartphone cameras have come a long way in recent years and have become the primary mode of photography for many people. There's a saying that the best camera is the one you have on you. While smartphone cameras are convenient and easy to use, there are certain best practices that can help you take better photos with your phone.

The newer smartphones are able to take RAW images, rather than just jpegs, really changing the scope of smartphone photography as we know it.

1. Clean Your Lens

One of the most basic and yet essential practices for taking good photos with your phone camera is to clean the lens. Your phone camera lens is prone to picking up fingerprints, dust, and other debris, which can affect the quality of your photos. Cleaning your lens with a soft cloth or lens cleaning solution will ensure that you get clear and crisp photos.

2. Adjust Your Camera Settings

Most phones come with camera settings that allow you to adjust various settings such as exposure, ISO, and white balance. Adjusting these settings can significantly impact the quality of your photos. There are also a variety of filters available that you can apply before you take the photo. Most smartphones have HDR that can be used to blend different exposures.

3. Tap the screen to set focus

Typically, when you point your smartphone at a subject, the camera will guess what you want to photograph. For instance, if it recognises faces, it'll focus on the faces; if it recognises a person, it'll focus on the person.

This method of autofocus can work well, especially if you're photographing a clear scene with an obvious main subject. But when the scene is more complex, your smartphone may get the focusing wrong, and the shot will turn out blurry.

4. Use Natural Lighting

Lighting is a crucial element in photography, and the same is true for smartphone photography. Whenever possible, try to use natural lighting when taking photos with your phone. Natural lighting is generally more flattering and can help you get better results than artificial lighting. Try to take photos in well-lit areas, such as near a window or outside during the golden hour.

5. Keep the standard rules of photo composition in mind

The rule of thirds, leading lines, symmetry, repetition and straight horizons are just as important in smartphone photography and will go a long way to creating beautiful and interesting images.

6. Avoid Using the Zoom

Most smartphone cameras come with a zoom feature that allows you to zoom in on your subject. However, using the zoom feature can significantly degrade the quality of your photos, resulting in blurry and pixelated images. Instead of using the zoom feature, try to get closer to your subject or crop the photo later to get the desired effect.

7. Experiment with Composition

Composition is another essential element of photography that can help you create more interesting and visually appealing photos. Try experimenting with different angles and perspectives when taking photos with your phone. Don't be afraid to get creative and try new things, as this can help you create unique and memorable photos. Using a

smartphone allows you to reach difficult places and use interesting angles. You can also invest in a mobile tripod to make your life easier.

8. Apps for post processing smartphone photos

There are several apps available for post processing. Snapseed is a very good one to use and it's completely free. Adobe Lightroom (free with in-app purchases available) and Photoshop Express (free to download) also offer mobile versions. Your smartphone also has built in apps and editing capabilities that come standard with the photo gallery, for basic editing.

9. Editing tips

Play with contrast, clarity, and texture. Push and pull colours, or use selective adjustments to bring your photo to life. Watch that you don't over process, unless that's the look you're going for. It's very easy to oversaturate. Too much cropping and light adjustment may change the quality of the photos. Save your edited photos as new photos so that you can play around with different edits of the same photo.

10. Save your photos

Backing up your photos should always be standard procedure. Creating redundancy protects you from corrupted data and even losing files. Back your photos up on iCloud if using iOS and Google Photos if you use Android.

Using a smartphone camera to take photos can be convenient and easy and your photos have the potential to capture memorable moments in your life in the most amazing way!

Travelling Light with Camera Gear

Thankyou Jill for some wise words.

Travelling light with camera gear – well, that's an oxymoron !

In the past, when I travelled to Cape Town, I took everything – the tripod, all the lenses, the laptop, two camera bodies etc. And without fail, I never used half the stuff.

So how does one travel light, especially if going on an overseas trip?

According to a travel blogger, use a camera body that is the smallest and lightest. Most full frame cameras are heavier than the new mirrorless ones. Then choose a wide-angle lens (17-28mm) for shooting architecture and a telephoto lens (70-300mm) for shooting viewpoints.

Secondly, your camera and lenses should be packed in a well-padded camera bag and carried on the plane and kept with you at all times. Separate the lens from the camera body, use caps & lens covers. Remove the battery from the camera and keep separate.

Don't forget your charger and lots of memory cards!

So with this in mind, I set off 10 years ago on a tour to France & Spain. We landed in Paris early in the morning – grey skies & grey buildings. Later that morning, it wasn't easy to photograph the Notre Dame Cathedral or the Bridge of locks without getting unwanted people in the way. The postcards gave more credit to these tourist sights. However, we did enjoy Sacre-Coeur at the top of the hill, overlooking the city. It was quite the sunset experience.

The Louvre and Eiffel tower were best photographed from the outside.

At Monet's Garden in Giverny, the drizzly weather dampen all chances of taking photos of the Japanese bridge. Once again, the post cards presented a beautiful but unrealistic impression.

Once we were out of the city, the villages with their pots of geraniums on the balconies and the fields of wheat and poppies made beautiful landscape photos. Here, when we cycled from village to village, it was interesting to learn that some teenagers in our touring group had never learnt to ride a bicycle.

After a bus trip along the Louvre valley, to Normandy's D-day beaches, we arrived in Barcelona, Spain. The cathedral, Familia Sagrada had to be the most spectacular sight ever, both inside and outside. The works of the artists, Salvador Dali and Gaudi were definitely a highlight to this tour.

In the end, I would say, only take specific photos of those places or people that you want to keep as memories. Try to be selective. Ultimately, those photos are going to be saved in a folder, somewhere on your computer.

I also realized that a bridge camera or a cellphone takes good photos and is less cumbersome, especially if you are doing a lot of walking each day and staying overnight in different places. A trip overseas is expensive and one doesn't want to add to the expense by having a damaged camera or lens. Some people may disagree with me and may have other advice.

It will be good to know, perhaps we can pool our ideas together.

This month's biopic is all about a long-standing member: Sacha Fermor

Where do I even begin.....? I was born in Benoni 53 years ago (giving my age away) and lived there for 16 years, I moved to East London in 1986 and lived in Gonubie for 10 years where I worked at the Gonubie Hotel, met my amazing husband Neil who I've been married to for 27 years at the end of this month and we have two amazing children, Jamie my blue eyed girl whose 26 and as most of you know Jared who is 23 and also a member of IPIP club.

I studied Graphic- Design at the East London Technical College where I was fortunate enough to have Marlene Neumann, fine art photographers teach me. I was and have always been fascinated by photography and I remember as a child my first ever broken Olympus camera where I would just look through the view finder and capture imaginary photos. At collage I was fortunate enough to work in dark rooms and develop my own spools and print my own photographs. After I got my degree in graphic design I went and worked for Miladys as a window dresser, I managed 8 branches from Port Elizabeth, Grahamstown, King William's Town, Queenstown and East London. After doing this for nearly 2 years I decided to go into the graphic design business and worked for a company called Coral Print. It was in 1994 that I sadly lost my brother who was only 19 at the time and I then moved to Jet Line and soon afterwards married the man of my dreams, moved to Johannesburg and started our family. I worked for Minuteman Press and Print Inc. in Morningside and Rivonia. In 1999 just after Jared was born Neil got an offer as an expat on the Isle of Mann, we moved there that December and lived there for 18 months, TT races and an amazing Island to explore was something that we were fortunate enough to experience. We then moved to Milton Keynes in the UK in 2002 where we lived there until 2007 and finally came back home. We were homesick, not just for family but we just missed our beautiful country.

When we moved back I started to realize just how passionate I was about photography and already had my Canon EOS 650D camera, it was in 2008 that I found out about IPIP and joined the club and have loved every minute of my journey with the club. I've met some amazing people in the club and sadly some have passed away. I also introduced a few of our members to the club including our chairman Saskia Cole. I don't think I will ever leave IPIP, I'm not a big fan of saloons and competitions but I just love the socializing and outings we do as a team. I must be one of the longest standing IPIP members in our amazing club, I learn new things daily and I also belong to the 52 week challenge on Facebook where I am the only member that has come 2nd twice and 3rd once. I have managed to do 8 challenges. Sadly this is the last challenge.

I am also fortunate that we have timeshare in Drakensburg and get to visit that beautiful part of the country once a year and then visit my in laws usually in December in East London where I get the chance to photograph some amazing

views. I love travelling and especially around South Africa. I'm off to Drakensburg this week and will also be going to Holland to visit my folks at the end of May. You will always see me with my camera close to me or my cellphone; I'm always seeing things and looking around for interesting photos to be taken. I have also just started painting classes.

I will keep capturing photos for as long as I live. It's my passion and my hobby. Some of my favorite mottos are:

Life is like photography. You need the negatives to develop.

It is an illusion that photos are made with the camera... they are made with the eye, heart and head. – Henri Cartier Bresson

When I have a camera in my hand, I know no fear. – Alfred Eisenstaedt

What I love about photographs is that they capture a moment that's gone forever impossible to reproduce



Biography by Sacha Fermor

One thing I did notice from the previous biographies is that most of us have some sort of connection of East London.

Members' Forum

A fascinating look into "mysterious" China!

Be enthralled by Deon Heyns' travellog and evocative images, which appear below

Visit to China April 2023

During March and April Adri and I visited our kids in Sydney Australia and Tianjin in China. Although we have been to both countries before, this was different in the sense that we are proud new grandparents (little boy in China and a little girl in Australia) and visited areas we have not been to before. This is a short recount of our experiences in China.

A 12 hour flight from Sydney to Beijing was followed by an hour and a half Didi (Uber) to the train station, a 30 minute train trip (**at 347km/h**) to Tianjin where our daughter and son-in-law are teachers at the International School of Tianjin. After a welcome shower, we packed and headed to airport *again* for a 3 hour flight to **Guilin**, a city in southern China.



Twin Pagodas Guilin

Following a good night's rest in Guilin, a boat trip followed to **Yangshuo**, an area known for its dramatic landscape of limestone karst hills



Boat trip on the Lijang river



Fuli Bridge on the Yulong river built during the Ming Dynasty



Life in Yangshuo



Impression Sanje Lui Night Show in Yangshuo

From Yangshuo, a car ride took us through the hills to the ancient town of **Xingping** where we stayed at Yunshe Mountain Guesthouse overlooking the Li river and the dramatic karst mountain landscape. The road does not go all the way to the guesthouse, so the staff has to carry the luggage the last bit. This is "real rural China" with no English. All meals are prepared at the guest house and served at a time to suit you - eat what you get, lovely!



The guest house, the view, breakfast and the old lady carrying out luggage (20+ kg per side)



On the second morning in Xingping, my son-in-law, Byron and I started at 5am for the 328m high trek up the Damian mountain to catch the sunrise over the Lijang river. This was done in total darkness with only a torch to assist. Breathtaking views, unfortunately the sun never made an appearance.



Life in Xingping



Bill Clinton visited Guilin in 1998 and asked to see the 'real' China. Xingping Fishing Village is what he got and the Chinese were spot on.

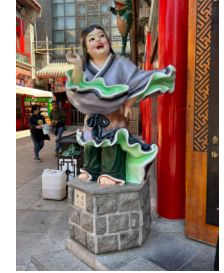


Cormorant fisherman on the river Lijang

After a week in the lovely countryside, we travelled back to Tianjin. Tianjin is an Industrial City in Northern China on the Bohai Sea. It is one of the nine national central cities in mainland China with a population of around 14.2 million. Not being a major tourist destination, it still has a flavour of its own as we have discovered.



The Porcelain House in Tianjin is a building decorated with about 4,000 pieces of ancient porcelain, 400 pieces of jade stone carving, 20 tons of crystal and agate and million pieces of ancient Chinese ceramic chips.



Ancient Culture Street of Tianjin

Binhai New Area is a part of Tianjin Pilot Free Trade Zone, gateway to the outside world in northern China, a high-level modern manufacturing and R&D transformation base, and international shipping and logistics center



The five-level Binhai library has a total space of 33,700 square meters and features floor-to-ceiling, terraced bookshelves able to hold 1.2 million books and a large, luminous sphere in the center that serves as an auditorium with a capacity of 110 people



The Juilliard School in Binhai is an extension of Juilliard New York and is uniquely focused on collaborative musicianship



The Tianjin river front at night



Walking about in Tianjin

Shortly before our return home during the May Day festivities we travelled to Beijing for the long weekend. Maybe not the best of ideas as the city was besieged with millions of people. Nevertheless we had a great time as we avoided the major tourist areas and just wandered around.



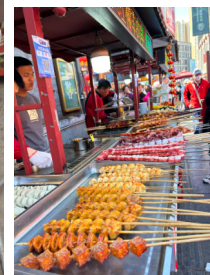
Wandering through the streets and Hutongs of Beijing



Asian food has always been our favourite with anything Chinese rating rather high. Our time in China was the perfect opportunity to indulge!



Hotpot, an all-time favourite



Street food can be found all over China for next to nothing and it is delicious

Members' Images – June 2023

Salon Acceptances

SALONS

Hibiscus Coast Salon - Pat Clark – Reflections 33



23rd National Up-and-Coming Photographic Competition

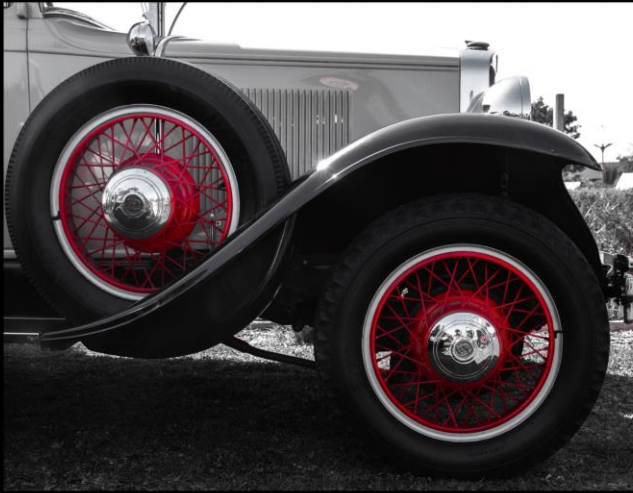
Pat Clark – Impending Storm (33)



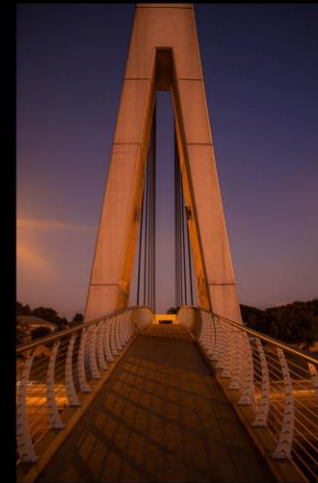
Members' Images – June 2023

Salon Acceptances

Graceful Lady (35)



Awesome Bridge (35)



Images by Pat Clark

Proud Mom (34)



Members' Images – June 2023

Salon Acceptances

Hibiscus Coast Salon – Fabienne Jardim – Breaking Out (36)



Lilly (35)



Wings of a butterfly (33)



Members' Images – June 2023

SS – Judges' Vote

SS 1-3 STAR WINNER

Pretville Zoom – Max Stone (41)

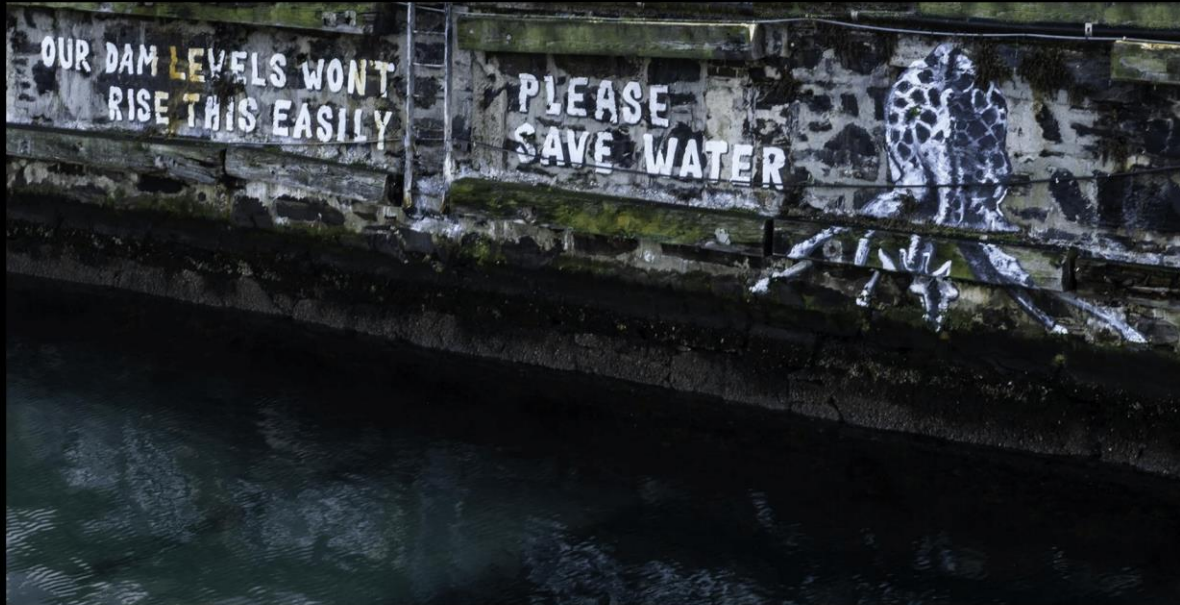


Members' Images – June 2023

SS – Judges' Vote

SS 4 STAR WINNER

Precious Resource – Geoff Twomey (37)



Members' Images – June 2023

SS – Judges' Vote

SS 5 STAR WINNER

Reviving Retro Rides – Sandy van Vuuren (36)



Members' Images – June 2023

SS – Peer Vote

SS PEER VOTE 1-2 STAR WINNER

No paint since 1937 – Max Stone



Members' Images – June 2023

SS – Peer Vote

SS 3 STAR PEER VOTE WINNER

Mrs Wendell Driving School – Pat Clark



Members' Images – June 2023

SS – Peer Vote

SS 4 STAR PEER VOTE WINNER

Race & Disgrace – Geoff Twomey



Members' Images – June 2023

SS – Peer Vote

SS 5 STAR WINNER

Reviving Retro Rides – Sandy van Vuuren



Members' Images – June 2023

MC – Judges' Vote

MC 1-3 STAR WINNER – TIE

Hello – Lesly Kearns Eastwick (39)



Bad Dog – Dominique Borlase (39)



Members' Images – June 2023

MC – Judges' Vote

MC 4 STAR WINNERS – TIE
Blue Streak – Geoff Twomey (36)



Minamalist Turn – Saskia Cole (36)



Members' Images – June 2023

MC – Judges' Vote

MC 5 STAR WINNER

Failed Block – Dutchy Geldenhuys (36)



Members' Images – June 2023

MC – Peer Vote

MC 1-2 STAR PEER VOTE - WINNER

Green Eyed Girl – Danae Cole



Members' Images – June 2023

MC – Peer Vote

MC 3 STAR PEER VOTE - WINNER

Bad Dog – Dominique Borlase



Members' Images – June 2023

MC – Peer Vote

MC 4 STAR PEER VOTE - WINNER

Fuli Bridge Yangshuo – Deon Heyns



Members' Images – June 2023

MC – Peer Vote

MC 5 STAR PEER VOTE - WINNER

Winters Silent Witness – Sandy van Vuuren

