



PICTURING FOOTSCRAY 2020

STREET POSTER
EXHIBITION

Established in 2016, the Picturing Footscray Photography Prize is building a modern photographic history of Footscray that is documenting everything from changing streetscapes to changing faces.

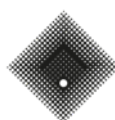
This year it portrays something no one expected – a global pandemic, through a local lens.

Normally we have a physical exhibition at our community hub VU at MetroWest. The current circumstances mean we're bringing a selection of photographs to you through the street poster exhibition.

SITES

- Corner Albert and Paisley Streets, Footscray
- 79-81 Charles Street, Seddon (Est. 1906 Cafe)
- 43 Anderson Street, Yarraville (Alpha Bakehouse)

The posters will be on display from 15 October – 11 November.



Photographs displayed in the order they're displayed on the street.

FOOTSCRAY



Victor Joubert
Covid Desolation

The deserted streets of Footscray around the Royal Hotel looking towards Droop Street during the COVID-19 second lockdown.



Becky Blechynden
A Waiting Welcome

Saigon Welcome Arch in the afternoon light. A Footscray landmark that celebrates community; while we are currently unable to be together outside our homes, the Arch is waiting to welcome us back.



Harrison Moss
Ciang, Footscray, 2020

A suburb often forgotten and overlooked, Footscray to me is the heart of Melbourne. A melting pot of cultures, expression and vibrancy that has shaped me.

I felt as though I had to return after a period of isolation, so I went with my camera in hand to explore the quieter locations. I met Ciang who was walking past and took a liking to my camera, we had a chat for a while (socially distant) about Footscray and how life has been during this troubling period. He asked if I could take a photo of him, which I responded - it would be my pleasure.

I've chosen this photo because even during a pandemic you can still meet kind and interesting people from all walks of life. Ciang to me is an embodiment of that and the uniqueness of Footscray.



Marlowe Wilton
Masked Bulldog

In these uncertain times, it is comforting to know that there is still some unity in the community. Everyone in the west is doing their part to slow the spread of coronavirus, and that includes wearing a mask at all times. The colours of the western bulldogs are almost the flag of the west.



Benjamin Laut
Old & New

The sun setting over the Heavenly Queen Temple, construction cranes perched above it like roosting birds, stood out at me as a way to express the way Footscray speaks to me. The marriage of old and new, carrying a multitude of rich cultural pasts, but building on top of them and growing with them, apparent to all who are open to its charms.

A few weeks after taking this photo, I moved into the city and the sun had set on my time there as well, making way for new life and new adventures in the west.



Mandy Wood
Feeding Time

This is Jane. Jane comes to feed the pigeons every day from St Albans... they wait for her. You can hear her laughter across the square.

I encountered this moment one afternoon and was taken with the sheer joy from Jane as she fed her pigeons. After asking if I could photograph her, this image was captured where you can see the two pigeons eating bread from her palm and Jane's contentment with having them there.

Taken in the industrial, graffitied backstreets of Footscray, this image shows the warmth and spirit of the community.



Lauren Nicholson
Sunday

A small slice of the interior of one of my favourite places to visit when in Footscray.

SEDDON



Adam Zammit

Douglas's Service Station

Displayed is the Douglas Service Station on Ballarat Rd Footscray. By day, it is a regular service station but by night, the bright neon sign lights the surrounding area. I always remember driving through the area as a child and seeing this sign. It reminded me that I was going to be seeing that favourite family. I also feel that it in some way is a landmark of Footscray.



Eva Mikelin
The Butcher

The photograph depicts a butcher shop in Footscray market. The Footscray market is an integral hub in the Footscray community and has become a symbol of the suburb. The market is home to stalls representing a wide variety of cultures, providing a glimpse into the individuals that make up Footscray's distinctive community. I love the hustle and bustle of Footscray market and observing a space constantly in motion, like its own living part of Footscray.



Mark Davidson
Boy and Birds

Earlier this year, I was walking the streets of Footscray and came across a man feeding the pigeons. I asked if I could photograph him and stopped to chat for a while. A boy behind the man was having fun scaring the birds. As me and the man were talking, I noticed the birds had been disturbed to my right and turned quickly to get this shot.



Alejandra Olavarria
Making our way from Footscray

This was taken in April of this year. We drove through Footscray on a cold foggy night and that was the last time we headed west.



Miguel Bellido
Upside Down

While the world feels upside down, I can hear a ringtail possum scuttling through the stars ...



Peter Casamento
Veiled Freedom

When LGBTQI people seeking asylum have had to conceal their identity for fear of persecution in their home countries, it is ironic that many have to "prove" their sexual orientation or gender identity in order to be granted asylum in Australia. Collectively veiled in our relative freedom, we are currently facing many complex challenges, the least of these being temporary mask-wearing to protect us from a virus. Many people mask their identities every day to protect from discrimination - another form of attack.

This picture is taken against the backdrop of Frank Veldze's sculpture 'Dream Home' in Footscray, made of discarded mattress frames from Australia's largest homelessness centre, Ozanam House. The structure is, in the artist's words, "...a home that offers no protection from the elements, no shelter from the storm." This could be said of Australia in these uncertain times. Many people seeking asylum, including the person pictured, are currently experiencing insecure and precarious housing since losing their jobs recently due to Covid-19. They receive little or no government assistance, making it difficult or impossible to pay rent.

Footscray is known as an inclusive and welcoming community, unashamed to bare it's ethnic and gender-diverse colours. Despite the current issues, this image is ultimately about endurance and a celebration of Footscray, the resilient underdog full of heart.



Jean-Paul Lilipaly
Solidarity of Strangers

The intersection of Leeds St and Paisley St is one of my favourite parts of Footscray. It's a place where I can sit for a good period of time, just to enjoy my coffee in the sun while the rich variety of the Footscray crowd passes by. And now July 2020, with an invisible enemy taking its casualties around the globe, the daily street image has changed. Around the globe and in Footscray, humanity stands in solidarity to fight off this pandemic.



Martin Ryan
Ready for the pandemic

Residents of a house in Eleanor Street, Footscray are famed locally for their topiary figures in their front yard. This one was their response to COVID-19 and their way of showing support to workers at Footscray Hospital.

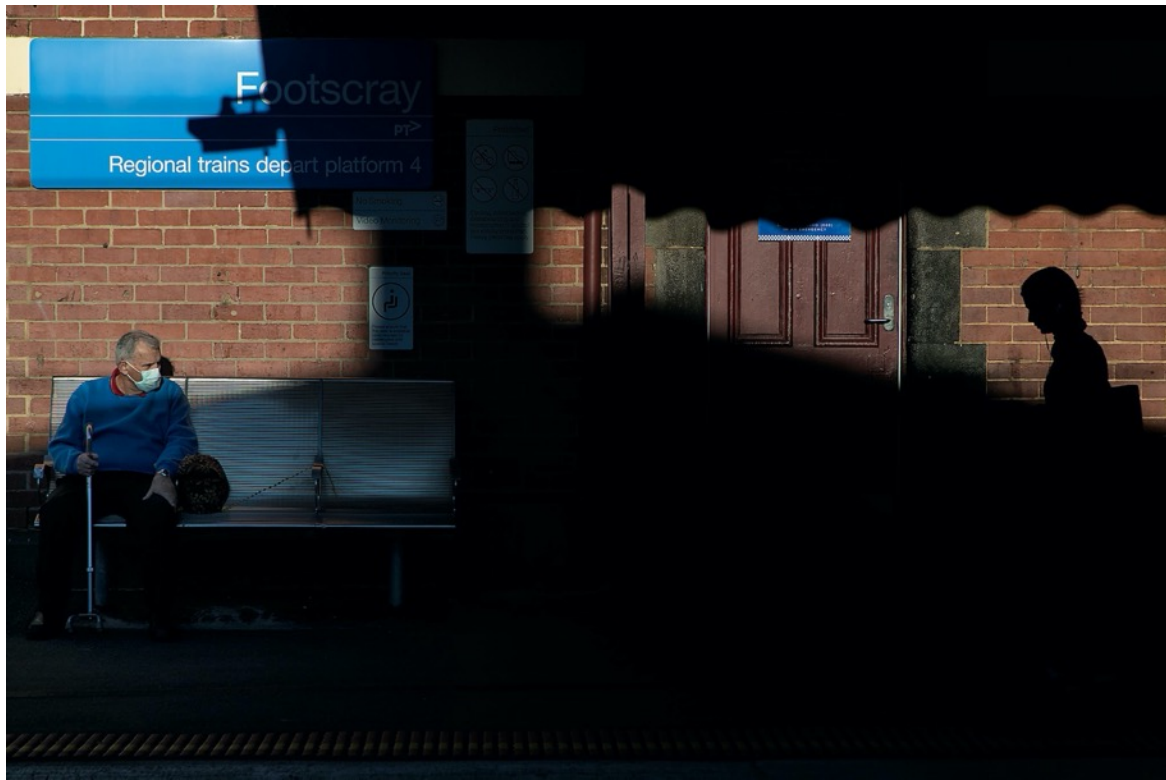


Brodie Clark
Fragmented

For those of us who travel by train, this scene looking out to the market through the staggered windows is a unique and interesting welcome to Footscray; one that is iconic and instantly recognisable to repeat visitors.

This shot was taken before the lockdowns came into effect, but it was almost as if the moment was a taste of things to come.

Mental health has taken a hit for many people during isolation. We stare out our windows, yearning for normalcy while seeking out light to brighten our darkened days during uncertain times. Hearts, minds, and lives have been damaged, but there is light at the end of the tunnel – however fragmented it may be.



Adrian Whear
Timeless

COVID is like a shadow, slowly spreading, the light desperately trying to hang on. An old man, vulnerable, concerned, with his mask, the last form of defence once the light has gone. Is that person a carrier allowing this vicious virus to hop over to me, he wonders?

YARRAVILLE



Trinh Le

Footscray in Lockdown

There are many things that I love about this photograph. There's the Footscray Market, where I usually shop for seafood and vegetables. There is also a line-up of Vietnamese and Chinese restaurants, which is very typical of Hopkins Street. And there's also a sense of social distancing during COVID-19, because the street is not as busy as it was before.



Kane Berry
Double Out

The vibrancy of Footscray and especially the markets is what I feel from this photo.



Ash Trickey
Boxes

The photograph shows what seems like hundreds of discarded boxes outside an Asian grocery store.

I feel like the photo captures an ordinary every day moment in what has been a not so ordinary time in our world.



William Ainger
Socially distant in Footscray

Commuters brave the morning fog of winter in an unusually sparse peak hour. They practice social distancing in protective attire in the face of COVID-19, a global pandemic.

The world has changed dramatically as lockdown restrictions, rising unemployment and illness impact our lives. It's important to take stock of these times and support each other as we move forward. This eerily quiet scene describes the 'new normal' of 2020. But hopefully soon it will return to a bustling hub.

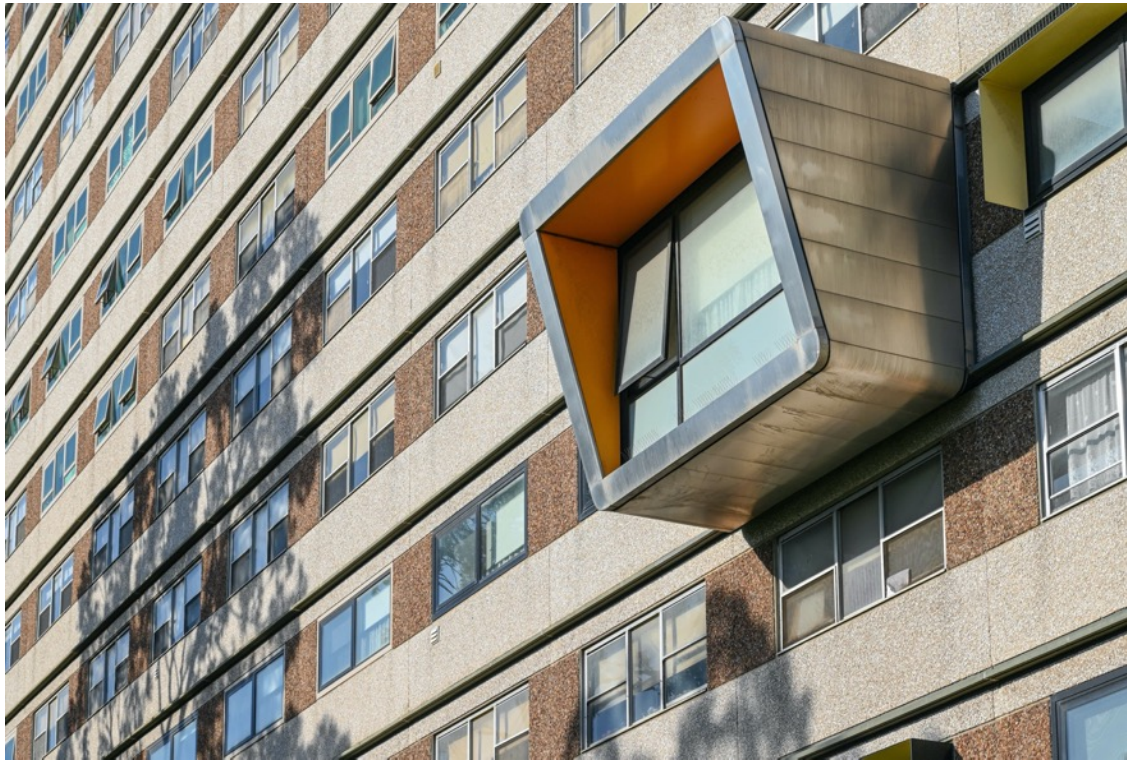


Chris Bowes

Mel and Chandler in Isolation

This image was captured during the first lockdown, and is of my partner and her cat. When restrictions came into place we decided to move in together, bunkering down at her place in the old Barkly Theatre.

Between the first and second lockdown I've spent much of my time living in Footscray within the walls of this apartment. Although isolation has been stressful, the disappointments we've faced have also come with new opportunities. We've managed to get through it so far successfully, supported with each other's help.



Simon Clark
Gaskin Gardens

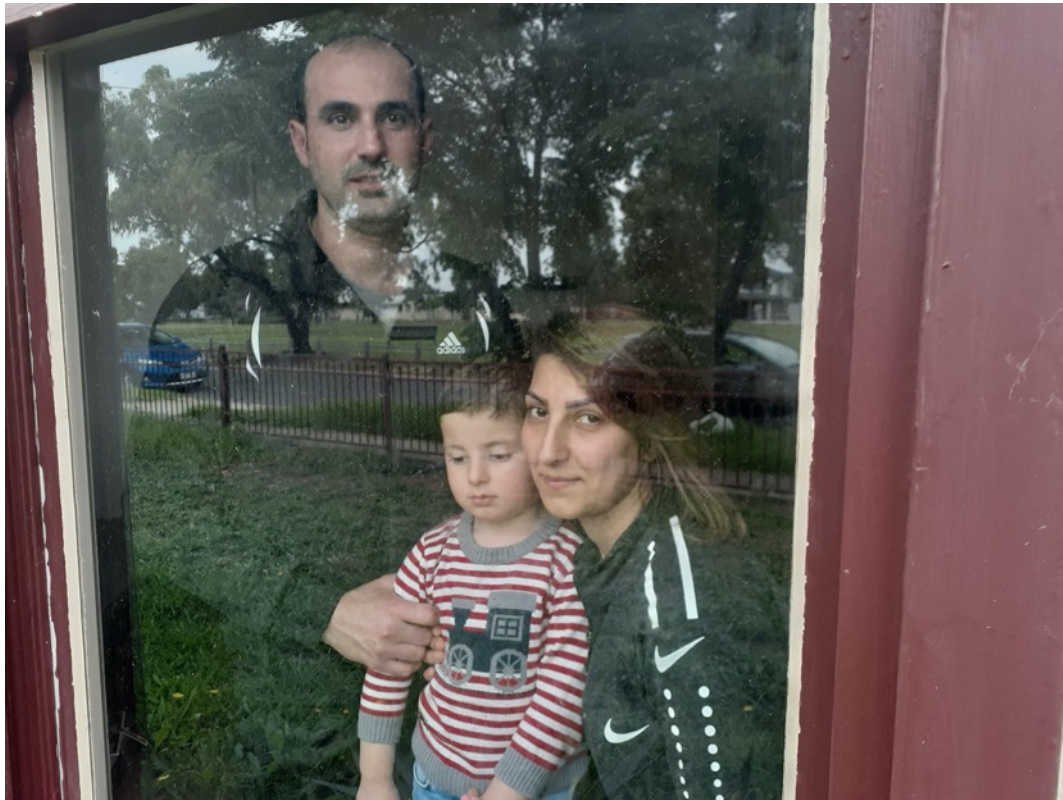
This photograph depicts the facade of Gaskin Gardens, a twelve-story residential housing commission complex for elderly residents, situated on Gordon Street, Footscray.

The building is an imposing and largely characterless tower except for this solitary cantilevered window balcony, which projects out from the West facing side of the building. Constructed from striking silver, orange and black materials, the balcony is the only one in the building and appears to be a single, brutalist flourish applied to the exterior. It's hard to ignore this building if you live near it and I've always been curious about that solitary, modernist balcony.



Sebastian Bourges
Who gives a crap

In a typical old fashion Footscray bathroom, 2 ladies are having a luxurious bath during the peak of the coronavirus lock down where toilet paper is a luxury item due to the panic shopping.



Laurie Nowell
Refugee family in iso

A family of Iraqi refugees complete two-weeks of self-isolation after arriving in Australia just after the March 15 COVID-19 pandemic curfew. Photographed behind the window of their Footscray living room and even at the height of fears about the pandemic, Revan, her husband Rafi and their three-year-old son Yusef are grateful and happy to have reached Australia and safety.



Jody Haines
Self Portrait 2020

This photograph is a self-portrait in the times of COVID-19, made in my studio down on the Maribyrnong River. A studio where I use to make collaborative portraits with amazing women, but now, in our "new normal" I have become my only collaborator.

This moment reflects craving my practice, missing my friends and yearning for the bars where we use to meet, laugh and share. Looking at this image and what's reflected at me, I see tiredness, a little fear, along with a determined resolve to see the other side.

Here's to a post-COVID haircut!



Indya Connley

A different kind of holiday 1/6

A tender and intimate photographic study of my partner in our West Footscray home, inspired by an abandoned holiday and unnerving restlessness in the midst of isolation.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to all 150 entrants into Picturing Footscray 2020. Each and every photograph was a unique representation of Footscray from a COVID-19 context. They made us laugh, cry, and smile. They made us reminisce, and look ahead to the time when Footscray's vibrancy will be reinstated.

We'd also like to thank our sponsors Ernest Studio, Prism Imaging and Two Birds Brewing, as well as Plakkit for printing and installing the posters.

Stay strong, stay safe. We look forward to seeing you all on the other side of this.

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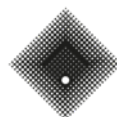
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