

LET'S GO SHOPPING

Queen Victoria Market Photographs 1978



Polaroid image taken outside the Church Street Photographic Gallery

These black and white images of Melbourne's wonderful Queen Victoria Market, taken in July 1978, were among the very first photographs I ever created.

I had enrolled in a workshop at the Church Street Photographic Gallery and an excursion to the city was a component of the course. Being the middle of winter it was quite a cold day. After snapping away at the high-rise buildings, our little group visited the Queen Victoria Market and these photographs were the result. My camera was a second hand Nikon and the film was Kodak Plus-X Pan 35mm, 120 ISO. From memory the negatives were processed at the gallery and later I printed a small selection in my own, very basic darkroom. The negatives have been around the block a few times; it was forty three years ago since they were taken, and they have had quite a few homes in different boxes and cupboards. So please excuse the scratches, splodges and dust marks and the changes from B&W to a more sepia hue.

It is only this year that I used my scanner to upload more images. The results came as a surprise. At the time I hardly knew how to set the correct shutter speed on the camera but somehow managed to capture the vibrant market scene with intimacy and an innate sense of composition. I remember the stall holders generally being happy to pose (and that smoking seemed to be the norm). I felt excited by everything I saw. Looking through the camera lens that day led to a changed perception of my world.

These photographs of the market are a time capsule, a small vignette; in some ways an accidental homage to the egalitarian market community. In an interesting co-incidence date-wise, the market, which is part of the land of the Kulin Nations, was founded in March 1878 and the photographs were taken exactly a hundred years later. And the market is still playing a vital role in our community as it nears its 150th anniversary.

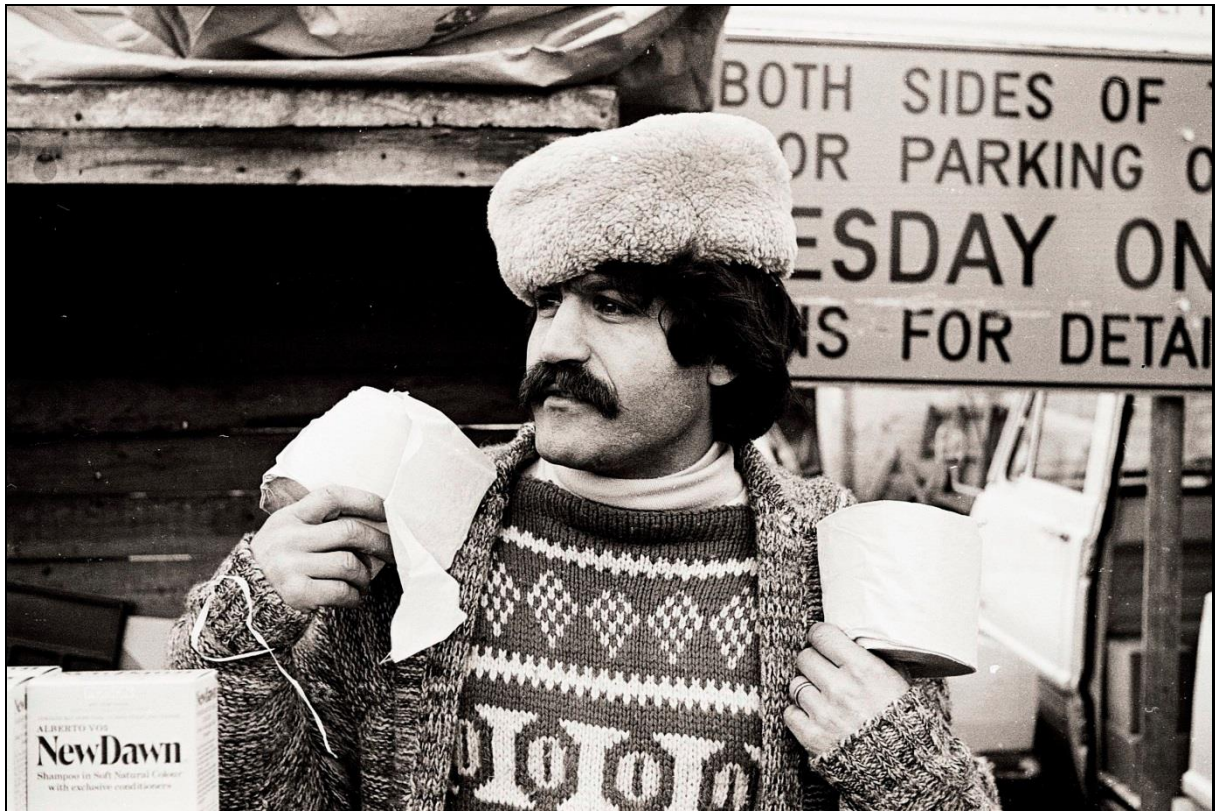






















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