

Where stolen cars go to die

Aaron Claringbold

The industrial estates are strewn with burnout marks; some so thick in places the roads look black.

Google Map somewhere you haven't been before along the waterways of Melbourne's north, take a camera; find access round the fences on the edge of the estates on satellite view. Follow the shells of burnt out cars, torched mattresses and beer cans, like an Easter egg hunt of stolen and forgotten belongings. RIP.

I found someone's CD collection next to a burnt car door and a child's jumper, all of the *So Fresh* 2002-2004. Turns out the Crazy Frog techno remix still works after months in the rain.

A mate had his much-loved car taken from Coburg last year, we listened as he told us about the ambivalence of the police. Weeks later they caught a guy driving it to work, reeked of ice. Couple of months later someone took it again. Same thing happened to my aunt, though this time the police found it after she spotted the car being driven two blocks from where it was taken. The police called her to tell her where it was, and left the car without arresting anyone or taking the keys.

"Acing Senior Sergeant Dean Pickering, of Fawkner Highway Patrol, said hoon gatherings were common in the area, with police breaking up one a week on average."
- The Age, Jan 26, 2016

A man dies in December 2016 after a blue Ford Focus clips the white Nissan coupe it is racing at 1am on Pascoe Vale Road, which flips and explodes after hitting a power pole. The driver of the Ford Focus is 19. The week before another man is killed in similar circumstances in Wantirna South while street racing.

"Melbourne hoons on notice after 16 arrested over northern, southern 'skids' street racing meets". - ABC News, 3 Feb, 2016.

Two teenagers come off a bridge in Keilor, January 2016. Dragging with some P-platers at 160km/hour their car breaks the guardrail and explodes into flames on the embankment 100 meters away. Earlier in the night they were seen at a local meet up in Campbellfield.

#northernskids

Under the same bridge, months earlier, we found a shredded sex doll, cut into bits and left in the bush by the edge of a sweaty, stagnant pond.

Words by Rebecca McCauley

First Site Gallery 2, May 2017. This work was created and shown on the unceded land of the Boon Wurrung and Wurundjeri people.

Room Sheet

Clockwise from entrance

'As yet untitled..'

Found bluestone remnants, found bricks, found ply, 68pp artist book in folder, string;
1570 x 570 x 370 mm
Ed. 1 of 1

'Who the f**k washes a stolen car?'

Collaborative work with Louis Kennedy
8:55 audio, looped projection onto printed tyvek;
1170 x 1470 mm
Ed. 1 of 2

'In camera accidental double exposure (entrance)'

Giclée Print on 320 gsm Hahnemhle Pearl;
980 x 610 mm
Ed. 1 of 3
\$220

'Evidence from online notice boards'

Digital Prints on Card (x2);
195 x 1370 mm

'First light looking north east towards the mountains past the quarry.'

Giclée Print on 320 gsm Hahnemhle Pearl;
680 x 545 mm
Artist Frame
Ed. 1 of 3
Framed \$300
Unframed \$150

'Looking into the quarry (cooled lava swapped for heated metal)'

Giclée Print on 320 gsm Hahnemhle Pearl;
400 x 320 mm
Artist Frame
Ed. 1 of 3
Framed \$200
Unframed \$100

'Site of a former bluestone quarry, looking east.'

Giclée Print on 320 gsm Hahnemhle Pearl;
680 x 545 mm
Artist Frame
Ed. 1 of 3
Framed \$300
Unframed \$150

'Untitled'

Digital print mounted to MDF (x4)
200 x 200 mm
Ed. 1 of 2
\$10 each

'Untitled'

Digital prints mounted to stone cut MDF (x5)

260 x 200 mm
Ed. 1 of 2
\$15 each