

Market days captured for posterity

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DANDENONG photographer Sharyn Meade always meant to photograph the Dandenong Stock Markets "one day".

When she heard the markets were to disappear, "one day" became "now".

So in 1998 she kept market hours and captured the people and the place for posterity. Her collection of photographs is currently on show at the Monash Gallery of Art, Wheelers Hill.

The people, she recalls, were wonderful, but so was the light at 7.30 on wintry morn-

ings. Sharyn, who is currently teaching English at Holmesglen, describes herself as "an old Dandenong girl."

Her passion is to document our heritage before it disappears.

When the Dandenong Town Hall was to be redevelped she approached council about photographing its transition. She was able to get inside and record the old halls.

"It was a sad building at the end," she said. "It hadn't been maintained and didn't serve the community effectively. Why have something if it's not working? I hope the

new development will be more vibrant."

Sharyn also hopes council will commission her to photograph the new building as it grows, particularly if Dandenong people are working on it to record their contribution.

So what happens to the collection of market

photographs after the show?

Sharyn is proud to say some have been acquired by the State Library of Victoria and the National Library, Canberra.

"It would be wonderful if a selection was held here too," she said.

An ideal collection to be on permanent exhi-

bition in the new arts centre?

The exhibition, Dandenong Stockmarkets by Sharyn Meade, is at the Monash Gallery of Art, 860 Ferntree Gully Rd, Wheelers Hill, until August 22.



**The Dandenong Stock Market:
Moving Forward – Looking Back**
A decade of change from Dandenong Stock Market to Metro Village 3175

Photographer Sharyn Meade

Sharyn Meade is a photographer fascinated and moved by people and the places they inhabit and the identities they create. A documentary photographer with more than twenty year's experience, she has applied a photographer's observant approach to events and elements of everyday life in Australia that would otherwise be lost within a rapidly changing society.

Working closely with the City of Greater Dandenong Heritage Coordinator she spent a year at the Dandenong Saleyards prior to their closure, meticulously photographing the working lives of the auctioneers, buyers, sellers, stockmen and women who were part of a unique and disappearing culture. The final works were the subject of two exhibitions (City of Greater Dandenong 1998 and Monash Gallery of Art 2004) and acquired by the State Library of Victoria and the National Library of Australia.

Other projects acquired by the State Library of Victoria and the National Library of Australia include: the Old Castlemaine Gaol (1993); the Maryborough Gift and the ANZAC Day Parade, Melbourne (1996); and the Silvertop Taxi Café (1997).