

889.2M

MATTHEW ROBERT JOSEPH

This book is dedicated to me again because I started it really, really late and had to once again push myself to finish it. Well done me, again.

Hey.

FYI it is Xmas day and I am editing last year's intro so if it seems familiar, eat me. I somehow managed to slap this together in less than two days.

If you are wondering about the title of this book, obviously it's not a year but it is actually a percentage of the year. I kind of worked it out and I only really gave a shit about photography for 44% of this year. 889.24 is 44% of 2021. I'm still running out of ideas for how to represent years, if you have any ideas please contact me.

Welcome to the 11th year of this Xmas photo book/brag book/description of how broken I am!

We thought 2020 was an absolute shit filled dumpster fire of a year.

Onec again the book really, really nearly didn't happen because I just couldn't be fucking bothered. No enthusiasm for much of anything this year, especially photography and somehow managed to get made permanent at work. Fuck all drawing. And more eating!

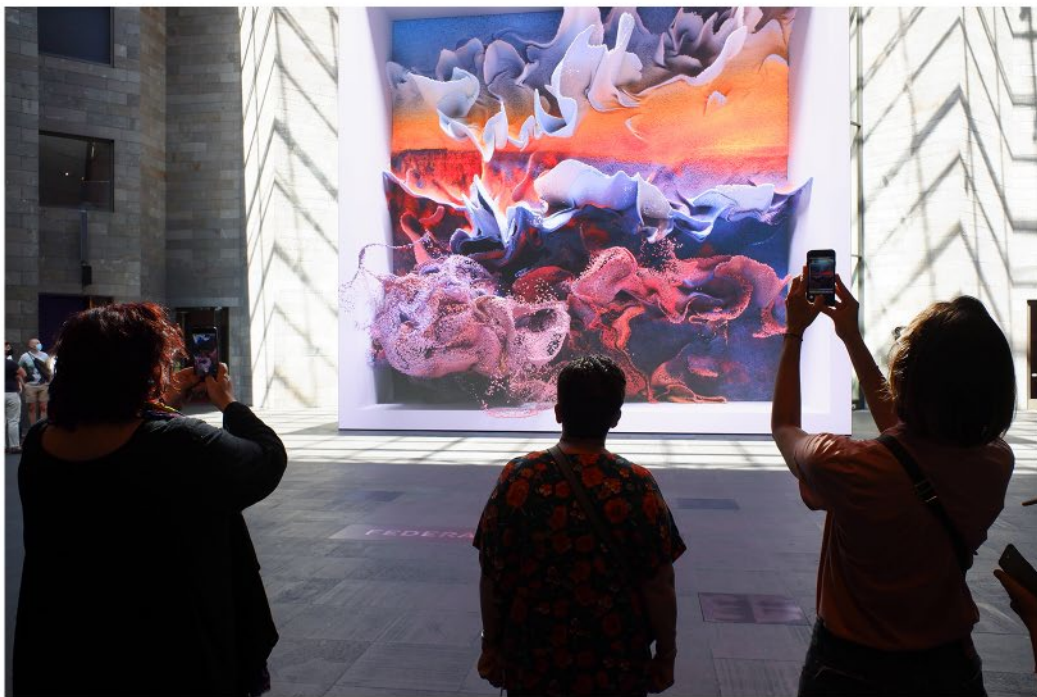
Highlights of this year included: NOTHING. Joking not joking. Highlights of this year included: Eating, not much drawing, playing too many video game on my new gaming laptop and fucking loving it, getting angry, finally getting a Noblex, photo walks with Kaaren and Simon, going to Apollo Bay, Photo walks with Melissa, Night photo walks with heaps of people, Going to Phillip Island and missing being a part of that outbreak by one day, going to the hot pools, going to Bendigo for one night, lockdown, getting out of lockdown, going back into lockdown, getting out of lockdown slowly this time, getting made permanent at work, going to Apollo Bay again, more photo walks and going to Ballarat with Melissa. And of course, not catching or being killed by Covid.

So what sort of photos should you expect this year? No hard rubbish! (wow I am surprised myself) anything within 5km from my house, panoramas, no dead things, people at the art gallery, me, trees, more panoramas, buildings, the wooden thing at Elwood and other shit.

Have an ok Xmas and an ok New Year!

Cheers,

MRJ.



Hi. As you know the protocol for the book is to put the photos that I took after the last book was made at the start of this book. I took this one at the NGV's Triennial exhibition in late 2020. I was going to include more shots from the country Victoria trip but I feel like they were taken way too long ago and I am sick of looking at them so they are not here.



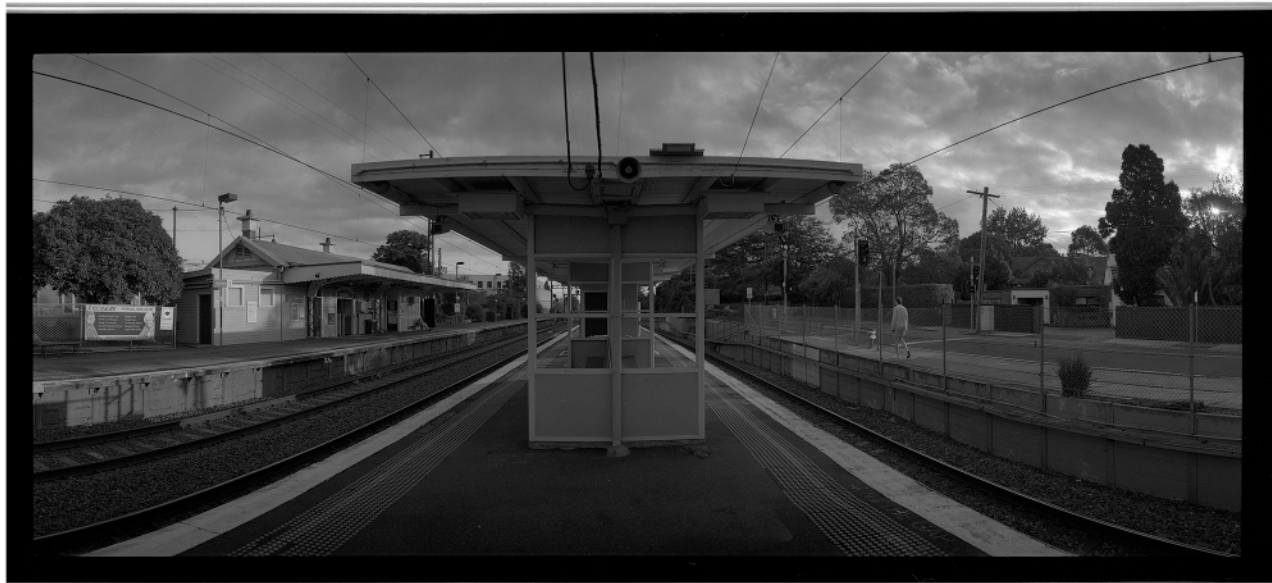
This is the first proper photo that I took in 2021 and it was March.
I may have actually taken it before March but I didn't upload it until March. I'm not sure why I didn't give a shit about photography until then, well maybe half a shit.



I decided to organise a photo walk in the CBD at night, we weren't in lockdown so the timing was perfect. A few people who read this book came on the walk so here are the shout-outs: Hi Richard, Hi Melissa, Hi Kaaren, Hi Simon, Hi James, Hi Alex, Hi Dale. If I forgot you I am sorry. This guy got on a tram and started writing on one of the tram signs and then walked past me as I was taking a photo of the Westpac sign so I decided to take a photo of him writing on the Westpac window, some people on the photo walk were amazed and a little shocked at how close I got to him to take this photo.



Ok so after decades of trying I finally bought a Noblex aka The Big Nob. What the fuck is a Noblex? I hear some of you ask, well it's a panorama camera that uses medium format film i.e. Big negs and the lens rotates to make these freakishly long and wide panorama photos. I bought it off a guy who didn't even know how to load it properly.



So here is one of the first shots I took with the Big Nob down the road at Mont Albert Station. From this shot you can't really tell how much wider it is than the Xpan but it definitely is. It is hard to describe but the middle third is somewhat normal and it is especially wider in the first and last third of the frame.



Another Big Nob shot at one of my favourite places! The Wooden Thing in Elwood! Believe it or not this was the only time we went to/were able to/wanted to go to Elwood beach this year. I cropped this one a bit, as you can see because the lens rotates it means that if your horizon isn't in the middle it will be bent.



Another Big Nob shot of one of my favourite places to shoot, the food court in Box Hill.



I took this one right after the food court one. This guy was running oddly and tripped just after the crossing and even slid a little when he hit the ground, while he was on the ground he looked back and just kept looking at me and the woman sitting down as if to say "Did you trip me?" I thought he was going to cry. He got up and kept running.



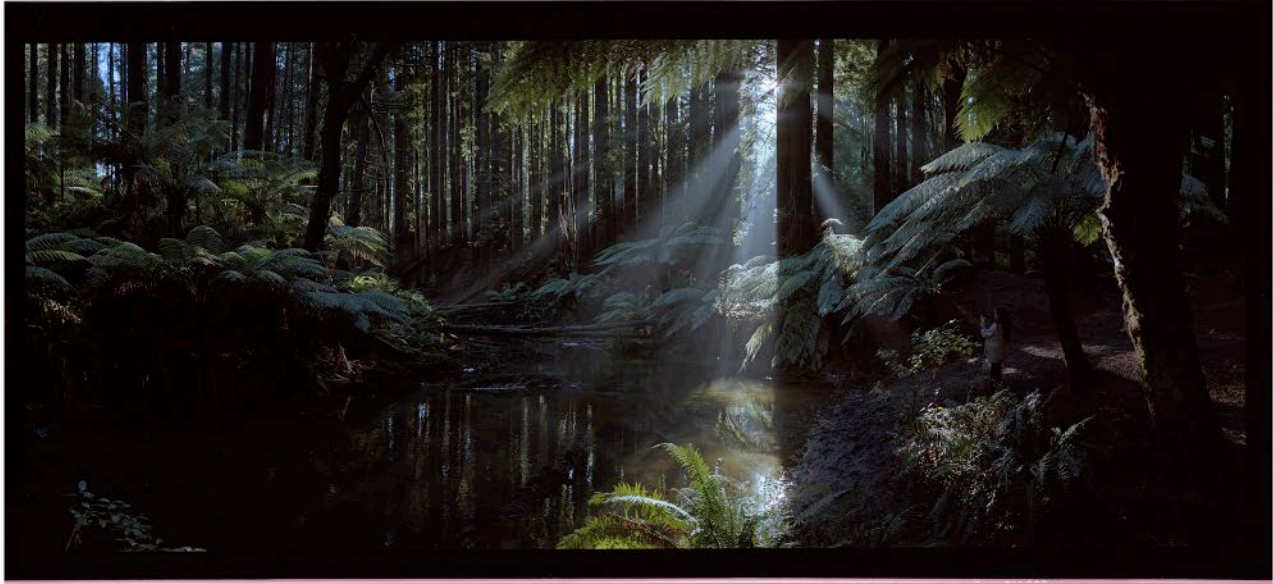
I did something odd this year, I bought a novelty film, Lomography Purple and when we went on a short trip to Apollo Bay I did something else odd, I loaded it in the Xpan and to top it off something else really odd happened, I fucking liked the results. There is something really wrong with me, and this was before the two (or three?) big lockdowns this year.



Here is a shot of taken with Lomochrome Purple in the Xpan, there is a vertical photo of this lighthouse that I like more but vertical panoramas in this book are pointless.
Fun fact: This is the lighthouse from the 90s Australian TV show Round the Twist. Have you ever? Ever felt like this?



In the middle of nowhere down a shitty unsealed road in the Otways there is a Californian Redwood forest and it is amazing just to be in, you should go there. This photo was taken on the Xpan using the purple film and it won 1st place in one of Matt Loves Cameras (Hi Matt) contests, maybe it was 2nd or 3rd? I don't remember, it doesn't matter, I won.



This photo was taken in the exact same Redwood Forest, in the same spot but with the Noblex aka Big Nob and using Lomography 800 film. This photo was the first photo of mine to be popular on Reddit and will probably never happen again. If you don't know what Reddit is, it's the place your little brother and uncle hang out and argue about shit.



Another purple photo from the Xpan that I like, this was a cool little place that we stopped at on the way to Apollo Bay and I just realised that this photo is out of order and I don't care.



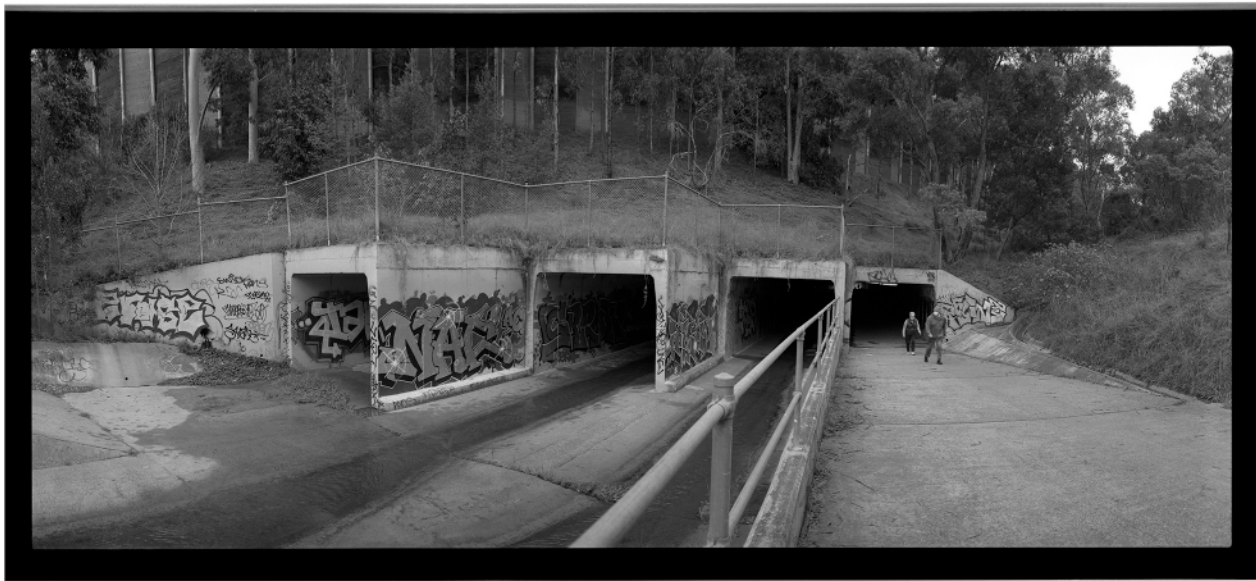
You know I love a from above photo and this one I took from a lighthouse, yes another one, in the Otways.



This was the most popular photo that I took this year, The 12 Apostles, taken on the Xpan, and no that is not a giant fly like a photo I took last time I was there, it's a helicopter.



Some more apostles taken on the Big Nob, this photo is exactly the reason why I bought this camera, tourists being tourists.



I am pretty sure this photo was taken during mandated exercise during one of the lockdowns, we went walking around one of the Waverleys with Kaaren and Simon. Kaaren is still dealing with her camera buying problem but is making up for it by uploading urban landscape photos from the suburbs she visits. Another Big Nob shot.



This was photo was taken on the same photo walk as the last one but on the Xpan. Two high end panorama cameras is one high end pano camera too many when walking.



I went on another CBD photo walk with Melissa aka @foxfins but for a change it was not at the end of the year and not because I was in a panic to get content for the book. This was not taken during a lockdown. As you can see I need to get a lot closer to my subject with this camera, a lot closer.



This was taken on a CBD photo walk and look, I'm not going to name names but as to who thought these bike stand shadows looked like dicks, I won't say because I wouldn't want to bring her them any embarrassment. I 100% take responsibility for Photoshopping in the pee holes but only because the other party thought it would be funny.



This photo was taken the day after the photo walk with Melissa ;) When the sun is right it's hard to go wrong with a nice shot of the Webb Bridge, taken with the Big Nob.
For the record I haven't worked on this book since Sunday and it is now Xmas Day and I can't believe how much I have to force myself to do this.



One of my favourite signs and car park uppers to take a photos of at Doncaster.



During the year my photo friend in the US Denise (@deniseg316, Hi Denise) joined the very exclusive film panorama shooters club so we decided to do another double exposure film swap but this time with panorama (double width) frames. I think she shot inside some kind of museum and I shot an abandoned car yard in Doncaster.



So this is the 2nd trip we managed to take this year, this was taken on Philip Island and yes we got to see penguins again. The Noblex version of this photo was very popular but I actually prefer this one taken on the Xpan. As you can see I need to up my developing game still. Taken in July and I have still done nothing about it in December.



OMG I just realised this is a Big Nob shot of The Nobbies! That's too much nob for one photo. The Nobbies is that island out there where the seals and penguins live.



I'm pretty sure this was still Philip Island. I'm not sure if someone actually lives there or if it's just made to look like someone lives there. It had that "Someone is living here" smell about it. Shit, I'm talking about shit, it smelt like shit.



I think this was probably one of my favourite shots that I took this year. Shot on the Noblex it had a very Wes Anderson vibe to it and I was hoping that the Noblex didn't fuck it up. I took this when we were on our way from Philip Island to Fingal, where we stayed for a few nights and went to the hot pools a lot.



Remember a couple of years ago when I had that centrefold spread of that panorama I patched together of those beach huts? Well here they are again! Nob shot.



Here are some guys cleaning the art at a fancy outdoor art gallery and winery called Point Leo. I took a lot of average photos of art here. After we were here we went to an amazing Greek Cafe called in Red Hill called Food on the Hill, it was so good, you should check it out if you are down that way.



This is a Noblex shot of one of my favourite houses in the Mornington peninsula area. I first took it on the Mamiya 7 and a couple of years ago on the Cameradactyl (Hi Ethan)
I took one photo on the Cameradactyl OG this year which is a poor effort, I promise I will take more than one photo on it next year.



Here is a photo of Ambre crocheting? on the ferry from Sorrento to Queenscliff. The ferry was smaller than the normal one that does the trip. No exciting Police boarding training like what happened a few books ago but there was something cool in the water...



DOLPHINS! As far as I could tell there were about 6 of them and they were having the best time, doing barrel rolls and swapping sides. I know they are the jerks of the sea and a bit rapey but they are fun to watch. After the ferry we drove from Queenscliff to Bendigo for the Sheep and Wool Show.



When we got to Bendigo lockdown was announced for midnight that night. The show was cancelled. We went out and had an amazing dinner, stayed at our creepy accommodation with a confessional in the room overnight and we were kicked out the next day and we had to drive home. This was one of the last Pizza Hut restaurants in Australia.



I took this photo on the Big Nob as we were crossing the Bolte Bridge in the car, you get a good impression of how fucking wide the thing shoots. It might be too wide. Shocking to hear I know but it's true.

So!

From this point on there is not a lot of photography and I honestly can't explain it, well that's not entirely true, as I am about to explain it as best I can, I think. I don't think I was depressed but maybe I was, maybe I still am. I like to think that I am just a bit broken and I think I blame the lockdowns and the whole covid situation. I don't disagree with the lockdowns but I feel like they have affected me and probably thousands of others not permanently but possibly for a long time.

I really had to force myself to shoot two rolls for Jack in Alaska (Hi Jack!) so that we could do some double exposures together and it took me a month or so to do so. They are still sitting on the shelf waiting to be posted.

I didn't even really take photos on my mobile phone.

One of the other reasons I didn't shoot much was because I fucked up most of the B&W rolls from the Phillips Island to Bendigo trip. I really need to work on my developing process and use proper chemistry and not that crap from Cinestill. Like I wrote earlier, I haven't done anything about that yet.

I did however buy a gaming laptop in September so there is another reason I haven't shot much since then. It is so fucking good and I fell like I have deprived of something as a console gamer for the last decade or so.

I can kill people a lot better from far away with a keyboard and mouse.

I have well and truly joined The Master Race, no that's not a Nazi thing, it's what PC gamers call themselves on Reddit.



In August my Nana died. She was 99 years old. She had been like a mother to me since Mum died 22 years ago. This was one of the last photos I took of her back in 2016. I wrote her a eulogy and I just had the bright idea of putting it in here, I think it's one of the best things I have ever written.

Hi my name is Matthew Joseph, I'm Ian's son. I wish I could be there but I live in the Covid ravaged city of Melbourne and we are currently in day 4 of lockdown number 6, it's only a 7 day lockdown, so it should be over in a month or two. But hey things could be worse, I could be living in Sydney.

My earliest memories of Nana were at the old family home at 113 Smith St in Woolston. Sitting in the lounge on the carpet by the fireplace playing with my Transformers watching her knit. Now some of you might be thinking "Aww Matthew, what a lovely memory you have of her!" but what you cannot see in your mind's eye is the look on my 5 year old face. It's a look of curiosity and also dread. "What is she knitting?" I would think to myself. "Did someone have a baby? Are they baby booties?" "Oh my god is that a sleeve?" Don't get me wrong, I love my nana but what I didn't love back then was wearing knitted garments. The fake smile I would have to put on as I received said knitted garment. The scratching of my pristine youthful skin as I put it on. The uninterrupted itching as I wear it for the one heavily negotiated visit to my grandparents house. And then when I got home, pushing it away, way back into the dark recesses of my wardrobe, so far back Mr Turnus would find it in Narnia.

I spent a lot of time with her and my grandfather Harold a.k.a. "Gugg" during school holidays at the Kairaki Beach Motor Camp at the mouth of the Waimakariri river where they had a caravan for fishing season. She taught me how to play cards, I taught myself how to cheat and we played tiddly winks and did jigsaw puzzles late into the night. One morning we watched the Berlin Wall come down on TV while eating bananas on toast. At home there was always plenty of baking in the cupboard in the large clear Tupperware containers or the tins with the map or photo of the golden retriever on top. Her baking was the best: Louise cake, hedgehogs and afghans, only surpassed maybe a little by her sister Shirley, but we won't talk about that.

As an adult I discovered a passion for photography. Nana also had a passion, a passion for not wanting to have her photo taken. An immovable force meets an unstoppable object. I had to develop photo taking techniques to be able to take a photo of her without her knowing. I spent stupid amounts of money on cameras that were silent so that she wouldn't hear the shutter, they still weren't quiet enough. I would cough to mask the sound of the camera and look surprised if for some unknown reason the flash just suddenly went off. You can see some of my attempts on the photo board. After moving to Melbourne when I visited Christchurch she was always the first and last person I would visit. The last time I saw Nana was when I visited Christchurch in 2016, at first she didn't really know who I was but when I took my camera out of my bag she said "Oh it's you Matthew". I took a photo of her "putting on her face" as she was about to go on an outing and then another of one of her standing with her walker. Ironic that they are the best and also last photos I took of her.

I will miss you Nana. You were there for me when my Mum Julie died 22 years ago. I will miss our sneaky lunches when I would pop in with treats from Woolston Bakery. I will not miss your boiled corned beef and scratchy cardigans. Sorry about that. I will miss your finely chopped, crisp lettuce, to this day I don't know how you did that. I won't miss hearing you and Gugg snore in the caravan. I don't believe in Heaven but I know you did, so if you're right, maybe another hand of cards one day? I promise I won't cheat. Love, Matthew



It happened, an Xmas miracle happened. Ambre decided to have a Xmas Day nap and I decided to scan some films from our 2nd trip to Apollo Bay we took after lockdown ended. I just realised, now that Nana has passed I can swear a lot more in this book! How liberating! Here we go! FUCK CUNT FUCK SHIT FUCK CLUNGE SCOTT MORRISON



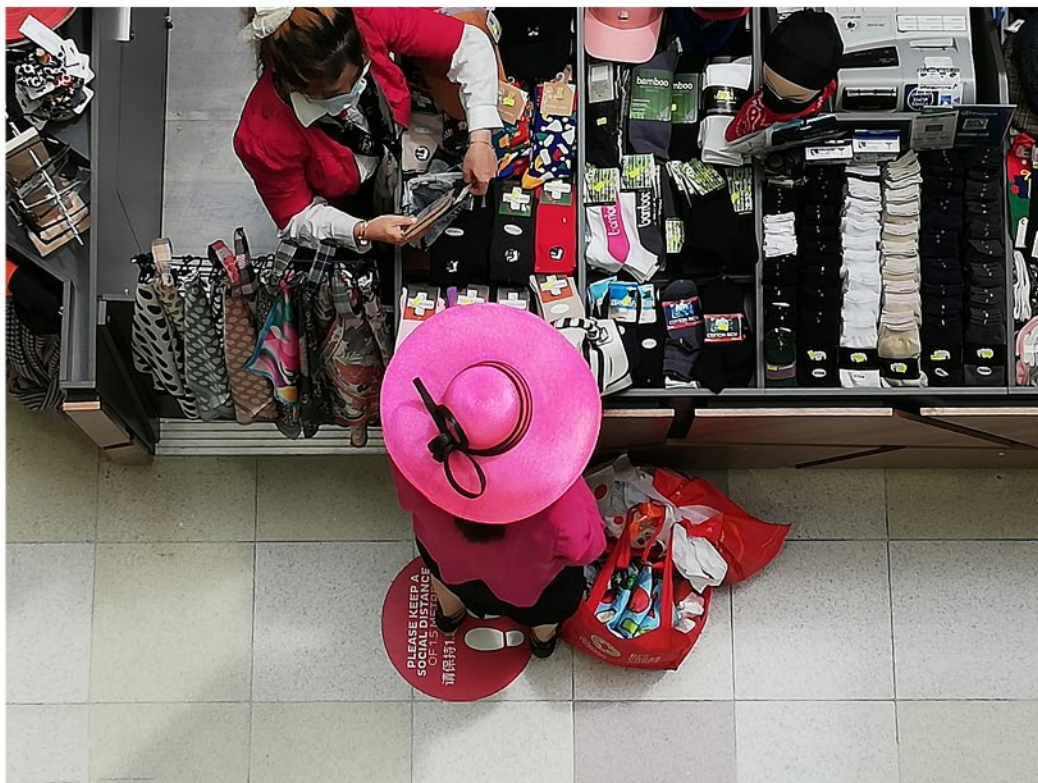
This photo lined up almost perfectly with last years:
NOW LET'S PLAY EVERYONE'S FAVOURITE GAME "WAS IT TAKEN ON A \$7.5K+ GOLDEN GOD FILM CAMERA OR A \$10 PLASTIC TURD WITH A SHUTTER BUTTON?"



We went back to the redwood forest and we had a bit of a walk and just sat and hung out there, it was pretty amazing. Unfortunately Totoro did not visit us but that is ok. Ambre found this graffiti and the other one under the bridge there. Pretty cool for in the middle of a forest and miles from any other flat vertical surface. Shot on the GA645V.



Here is the other side of the bridge. The forest reminds me a lot of when I used to hang out in a pine forest near the mouth of the Waimakariri River in Christchurch as a kid.



I took this photo after getting my hair cut in Box Hill. Unfortunately I only had my phone with me. I must now carry at least two cameras on me at all times.



Photos that almost didn't make it into the book:

Left: So this jerk uploaded a blurry photo (and not blurry in a good way) to Twitter and I replied with that gif of George and you can see what he replied with. I'm obsessed!
 Top Right: Selfie taken with my phone of me holding the Big Nob in the lift of one of my favourite car park buildings.
 Bottom Right: I don't deserve friends like this. Jack sent me some Lomography Purple film and Matt in Brisbane (@Matllovescameras) send me a Disderi Robot camera.



And last but not least a photo of Ambre. This was taken in Apollo Bay and she had just had a swim in the ocean. The next morning she gave me one of the biggest frights of my life. If you want to know more ask. Needless to say she has been quite unwell for the last few months and is only just starting to feel better now.



Melissa took this photo of me when we went to Ballarat to check out the Foto Bienale last Saturday.

This is a collection of my favourite images that I have taken this year, 2021.

The title of the book, 889.24 is 44% of 2021, which is the percentage of the year I gave a shit about photography.

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