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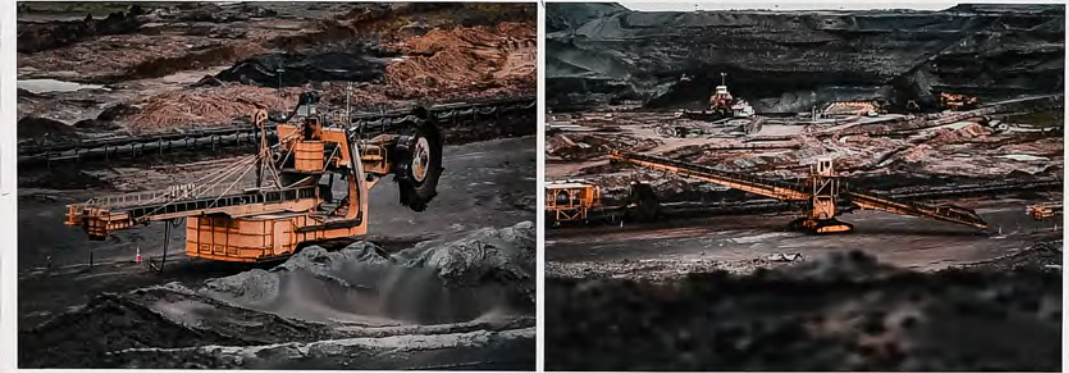
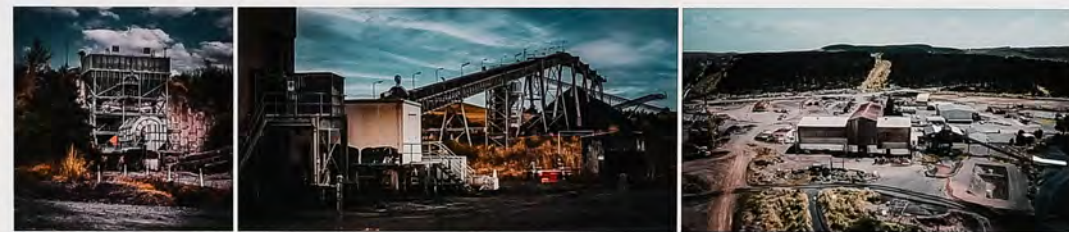
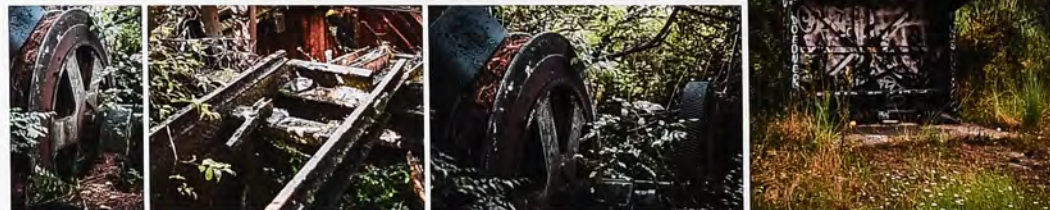
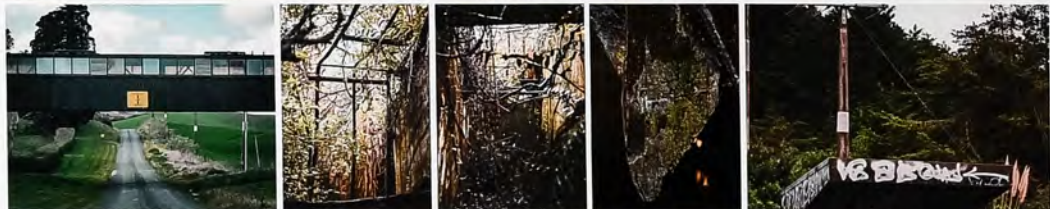
# Scholarship Visual Arts 2023

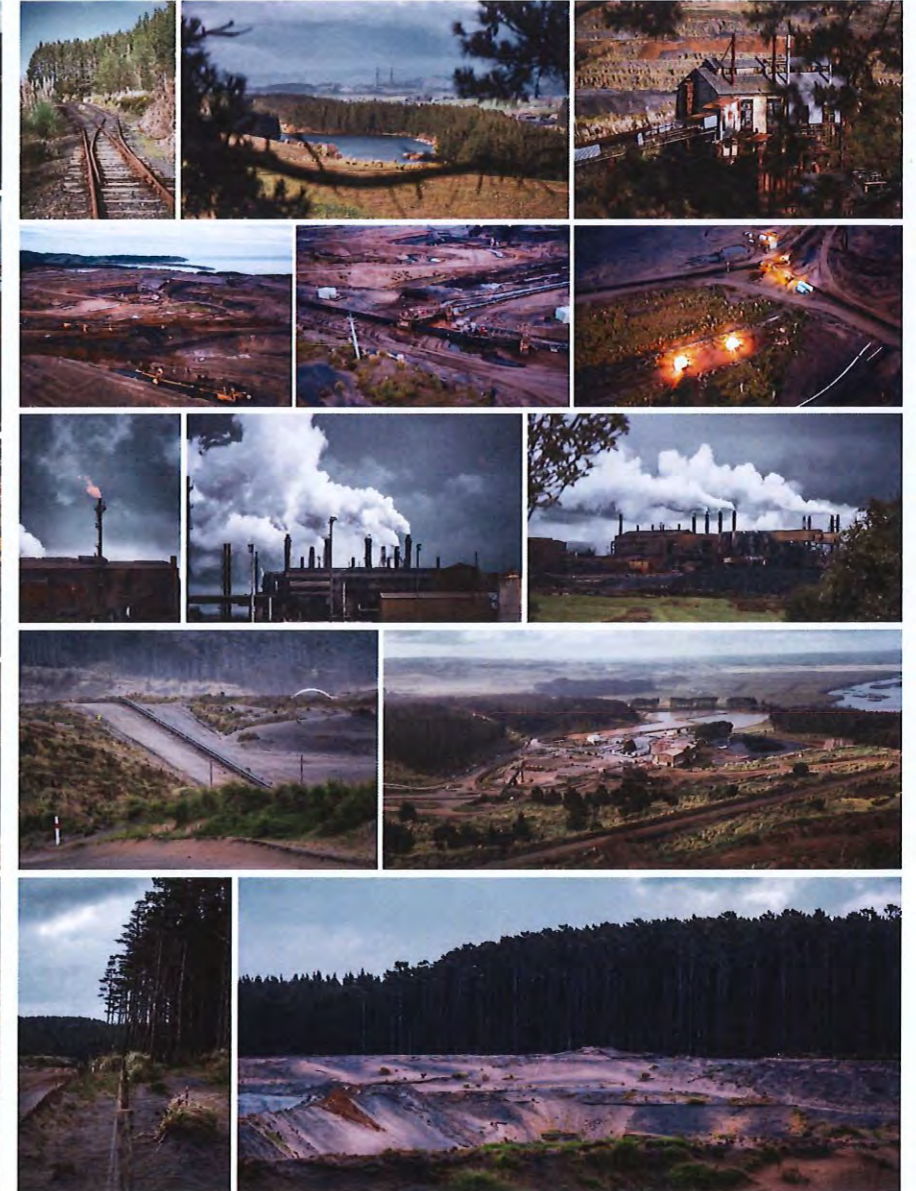
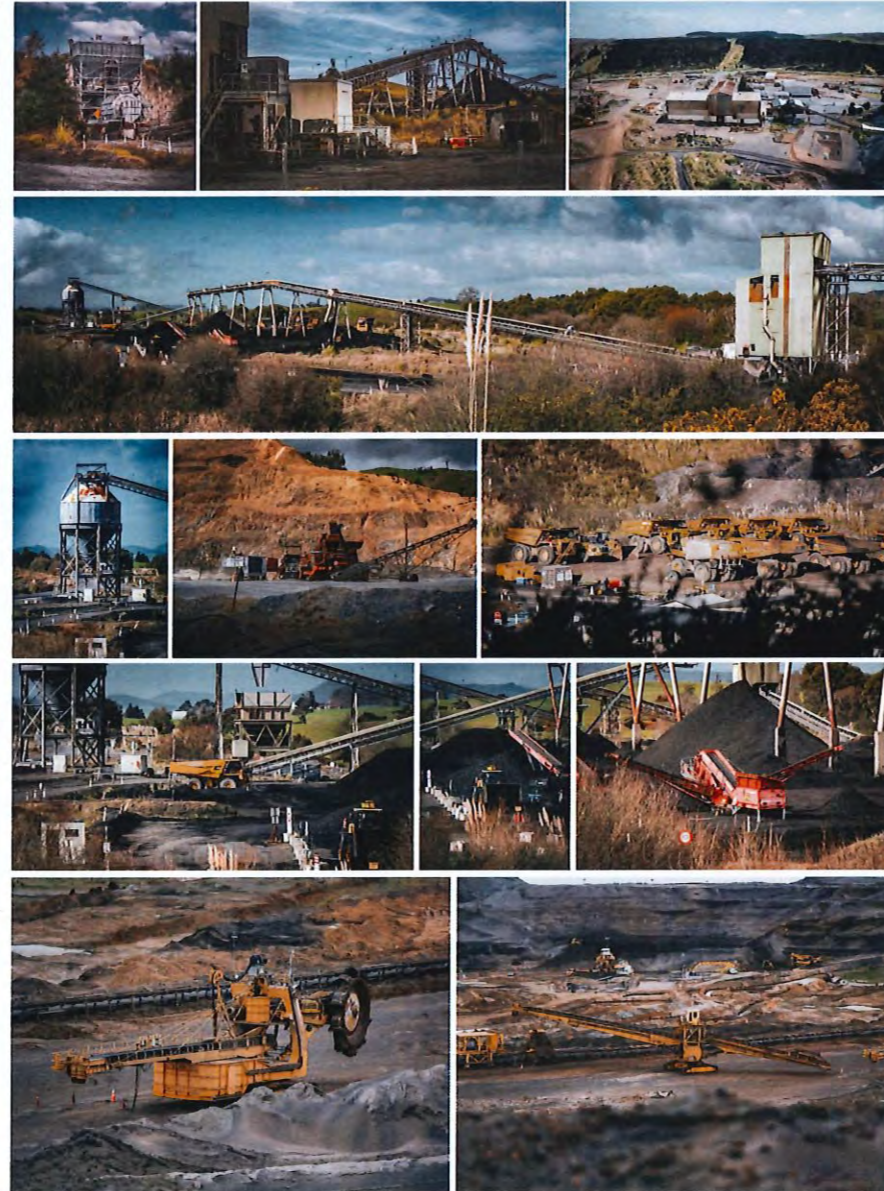
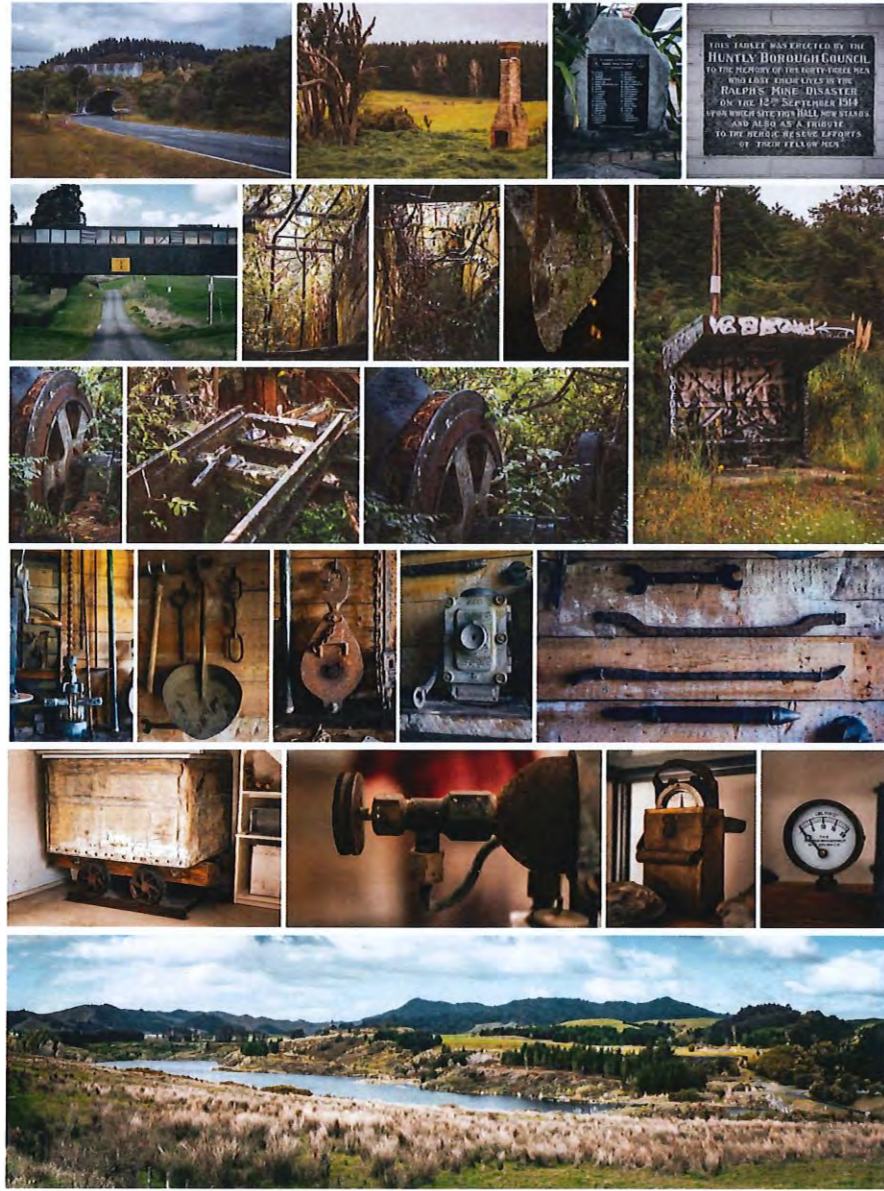
93310 Photography

**TOP SCHOLAR**



THIS TABLE WAS ERRECTED BY THE HUNTLY BOROUGH COUNCIL TO THE MEMORY OF THE FORTY-THREE MEN WHO LOST THEIR LIVES IN THE HALPIN'S MINE DISASTER ON THE 12<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 1914 UPON WHICH SITE THIS HALL NOW STANDS AND ALSO AS A TRIBUTE TO THE HEROIC RESCUE EFFORTS OF THEIR FELLOW MEN





## The WHY of MY THEME

One morning, I stumbled upon a Stuff article detailing a disaster that occurred only a 45-minute drive from my house, resulting in the tragic loss of 11 lives. I could not help but wonder why I had never heard of this event before. I asked my family—Mum, Dad, even Nan—and none of them had any knowledge of it either. As I delved deeper into my research, I came across another incident that claimed the lives of 39 people, dating back just over a century. These were momentous events that had profoundly affected the local area, yet they remained lost in history.

This realisation sparked a sense of urgency within me. I felt compelled to uncover the untold stories hidden beneath the surface. That very day, I embarked on a journey to explore the remnants of the area affected by these disasters. It motivated me to share these stories because I believed they needed to be heard, and I was also curious about the taboo coal mining industry.

In today's world, where sustainability and environmentalism are key, New Zealand seems quick to point out the cons related to the coal mining industry. Yet, this industry played a vital role in powering not only the region I called home but also the entire Auckland area. I was determined to learn about the declining coal mining industry in the Waikato and shed light on a story that had remained hidden for far too long.

## MY PASSION FOR ART

My journey into the world of art and filmmaking began with creating humorous skits and videos on YouTube. Although I had an interest in the technical aspects of photography and filmmaking, storytelling remained a challenge for me. My true passion has always been in the technical and documentary aspects of these mediums, rather than the realms of fiction, dragons, or dungeons.

In 2021, I discovered a newfound love for 3D art, crafting pieces in Blender such as living quarters of a space station to architectural visualizations and a racetrack animation, with self-modeled F1 cars. The satisfaction of creating finished pieces that exceeded my expectations while also conveying intricate stories through small details reignited my artistic drive.

Around the same time, I rekindled my interest in photography. Borrowing a camera to capture the cars on display at a car show, I found immense joy in preserving moments that could later be printed and proudly displayed on my wall. This experience led me to invest in my own camera and embark on adventures, often before sunrise, to capture breathtaking scenes.

One of my greatest passions in photography is freezing moments in time to remember forever. While I sometimes wish I could go back in time to photograph these mines when they were still operational, there is a unique beauty in how they appear now, as they will be completely different in five years. Photography allows me to immortalize the beauty of a sunrise, making it last forever instead of just 20 fleeting minutes. Event photography, on the other hand, brings me immense satisfaction as it captures the smiles and memories of incredible events.

The ability to create and share artwork has brought me joy, confirming that this is my true calling. Over time, I ventured into event photography, working closely alongside race teams at the track. This year, I embarked on the Coal Mining project, where my love for photography, desire for learning, and passion for unveiling untold stories converge. These vast and contentious landscapes, in their unique beauty, have become a remarkable source of inspiration for me.

## THE ARTICLE THAT STARTED IT ALL:

This article served as the catalyst for my investigation. The photos and text within it emphasized the challenge of discovering a place that has faded into obscurity: *'But it's all forgotten about. People drive past - the road used to go through Glen Afton, but you bypass it now - and people have no idea what they're passing.'*

In my own experience, I found this sentiment to be particularly accurate. After reading the article, I set out to explore the area but unknowingly drove past it twice because it blends into the landscape so unobtrusively. I embarked on this journey with the hope of encountering remnants of the mine, memorials, or any tribute to the mining history and the tragedies it bore. However, I encountered none of these.

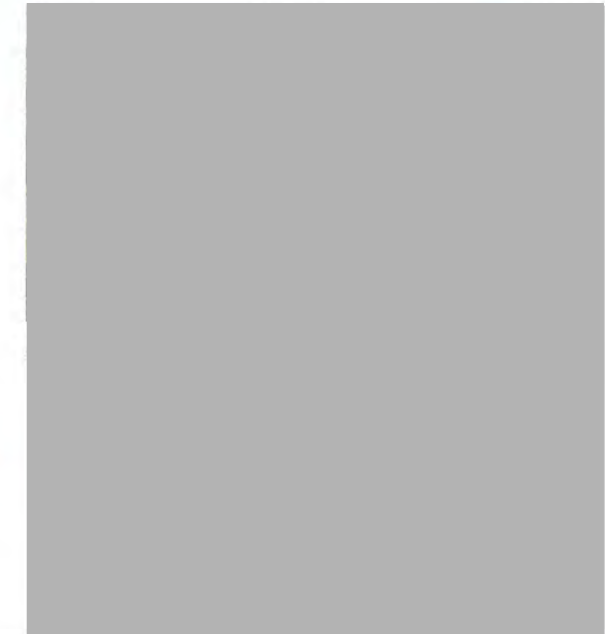
*'This is a leftover, really. It's a small fragment of Kiwiana that has vanished.'* Glen Afton is now a forgotten town, inhabited by just 150 people. Most left when their fathers and husbands died in the disaster, while the remaining few departed when the mines closed.

Stuff

national

### Glen Afton: Faded memory of a town 80 years after disaster

Ruby Nyika · 05:00, Sep 14 2019



## Without history, does a place exist?

I believe that preserving the history of a region holds great significance. To paraphrase the well-known saying, *"A person is only gone once they are forgotten"* I think a similar principle applies to the history of a place. The coal mining industry is in a state of decline, and there will come a time when it vanishes completely. *If we fail to keep this history alive, we risk losing not only the positive aspects but also the less favorable ones forever.* It seems as if the stories don't wish to be told. In my research on this subject, I've encountered significant challenges in discovering information, despite extensive online searches, collaboration with the Huntly Mining Museum, and the help from [redacted] and [redacted] who are associated with the Huntly Mining Museum and the Lions Club, it has been tough to do my research.

[redacted] and [redacted] have been instrumental in my journey, guiding me through the area and sharing their knowledge. [redacted] lent me his collection of books on the topic. *It seems that without the dedication of these few individuals, the industry would cease to exist forever.*

The goal with my board is to share this history further, to a larger group of people. *I have had countless conversations with people about my photos, each one of them learning something new, or reminiscing on a past memory from a family member that was involved.*

### David Cook's Book, Lake of Coal and its effect on me

[redacted] lent me a collection of his mining books, all based around the discrete events of New Zealand's history. There was one book that stood out to me, because it was so relevant to my project. *Lake of Coal, by David Cook.* It was about the town of Rotowaro, shut in the 1980s because the coal company State Coal wanted to turn the area into an opencast pit.

[redacted] worked with the Waikato Museum of History and Art to photograph this town that was being slowly evacuated. He documented the journey from the perspective of the people who lived there, while being an outsider himself.

Although I felt like I was many years too late to do that myself, *I still took huge inspiration from how he did it. It taught me to be less pedantic with my photography, as I was used to creating wall art, and not documentaries.* It taught me to photograph the emotion and goings-on around me, not the pretty pictures when the lighting is perfect. His book of photographs *inspired me to document the industry as it is in 2023, knowing it will change drastically in the coming years and become unrecognizable in a few decades.* It taught me that the *photos I am taking are valuable and precious.*

### The Glen Afton Disaster

Saturday, 23 September 1939. A small fire was found in the underground tunnels of the Glen Afton mine. It was put out, but never reported. Later that day an electrical fault was traced back to the mine but was left for tomorrow to deal with. On Sunday morning, two electricians and two deputies went into the mine to fix an electrical issue. They realized that the fire had reignited, and the carbon monoxide levels were high because the fans were not running overnight. The fan was activated above ground, causing the air to push carbon monoxide towards the mine entrance. The rescue team hurried in to search for the missing men, finding the smoke and carbon monoxide blocking their path. All 11 men died, that were in the mine that day.

This disaster left the community devastated. Over 1000 people were affected by these deaths, whether their fathers, brothers, sons. The weekends were reserved for the married men to gain more overtime to support their families.

The town only houses 150 residents now, with no evidence of the mines or any disasters to be seen. *This disaster was what hooked me into this project, because it was such a big event that devastated so many people but is so unheard of where I live.*

### The 'Carbo Plant'

The Carbonization Plant, established in the 1930s, was designed to convert low-quality coal from nearby mines into carbon briquettes for heating homes. Unfortunately, in the 1980s, it was shut down due to two fires and an explosion, along with fines for polluting the nearby water.

In 1991, the Waikato Council initiated a cleanup operation. Before the cleanup, the site ranked as the 7th most toxic location in New Zealand, with pollutants seeping into the Awaroa stream. Since then, the area has remained abandoned, largely inaccessible due to the dense gorse bush surrounding it, with the building deteriorating rapidly and becoming structurally unstable.

This place holds huge controversy from years past, with it polluting the nearby water streams, horrible working conditions, making the local area smell bad. Lots of residents want it gone, but with a lack of ownership, that seems unlikely.

### The Rotowaro Township

Rotowaro, meaning "Lake of Coal," was a rugged little village that once was the home to the region's miners. 70 of the town's 100 houses belong to State Coal, the company that owned the mine. Due to the town's unusual location on top of the underground mines, there was significant subsidence of the land.

To construct an open-cast mine, it was chosen to relocate the population and entirely remove the town in 1987. Economic considerations drove this change because it proved to be a more economically viable option. The Rotowaro mine remains the only operational mine in the region today.

David Cook, a lecturer at Massey University, *had an influence on my work and passion. He documented the town's closure and its major impact on residents, and I was influenced by his work and looked up to him as a photographer.*

### David's Photography

David Cook is a documentary photographer, taking most of these pictures in black and white, with an eye for telling the story of the era, the good and the bad, without holding back. He creates confronting images that inspire me to do the same.



The 'Carbo Plant' (my photo)



The tunnel that was Rotowaro (my photo)

The efforts from the Lions club to commemorate the lives lost during the Ralph Mine Disaster (my photo)



David Cook's Work



## Why is the industry declining?

There are several factors contributing to the decline of the coal industry. One major factor is the reduced demand for coal, thanks to the increased use of more sustainable sources of energy. Additionally, the price of coal has been on the decline, while the operating costs of mines have risen significantly in recent decades.

The Rotowaro mine, which is still operational, primarily serves the Huntly Power Station and the Glenbrook steel mill. However, changes are on the horizon. The government funded the steel mill with \$140 million to install an electric arc furnace, reducing their need for coal. This transition will put pressure on the Rotowaro mine.

New Zealand's political landscape has shifted towards environmentalism in recent decades. The coal industry is facing more scrutiny because of its harmful effects on the environment and landscape.

Furthermore, **coal is a finite resource** in the ground, and the cost of finding new mining sites is extreme. As a result, many miners have either migrated to Australia, where they are better paid with more job opportunities, or have retired.

The coal industry is facing a **perfect storm of declining demand, rising costs, and increasing environmental concerns, which have contributed to its downturn in New Zealand.**

## The Economical Effect

The decline of the coal industry can affect the local economy of areas like Huntly that heavily rely on it. The mines, Huntly Power Station, and the Glenbrook Steel mill provide employment to thousands of people. This employment leads to housing, local businesses, and the growth of the community. Towns such as Rotowaro, Glen Afton, Pukemiro, and Glenbrook owe their existence to these industrial facilities. As these industries decline, the community not only loses a source of income but also a part of its identity.

This impact is not limited to just Huntly; it extends to the broader Waikato region and even has national implications. For instance, the Steel Mill contributes 0.6% of New Zealand's annual GDP. Closing these industries reduces income for New Zealand and can lead to more imports and economic challenges.

## As an artist, what do I notice?

Huntly won the **Worst Town of the Year in 2019. Before that, it was in the top 3.** Why is that, and why does no one care to change that? Huntly used to be a prospering little industrial town, back in the 1950's. Now when I visit there, I see cars that have been burnt down, gang activity on the streets, houses that have broken windows, and the mining towns that have become a haven for drug farming, considering the police officers do not visit all too often. Since most of the mines have closed, Huntly is not doing too well for itself economically. **Many residents express a deep longing for the sense of camaraderie that once defined Huntly.**

Throughout my time there I felt on edge, a little unsafe walking around with my camera equipment. I wanted to shoot the community of the smaller towns such as Glen Afton, but felt unwelcome whenever I visited, which led me to never get closer. **I felt an outsider, who they did not welcome, especially one poking around with a camera.**

## Nature Reclaiming

The huge machines used to mine coal leave their mark on the land, making it almost impossible to remove all traces when mining operations close. **As a result, large pieces of machinery are often left hidden deep in the forest.** █ showed me one such spot, well hidden amidst thick bushes. To the untrained eye, it's invisible. This site contains a mineshaft with a winch pulley system, including a counterweight on a rail and two enormous winch wheels. **These sites, undiscovered for decades, bear witness to an ongoing struggle between industry and nature,** as vividly depicted in my photographs, with rust and vines steadily encroaching upon the metal structures.

Photographing these winches in the forest was an interesting experience. █ took me out, armed with a scythe for cutting through the dense untouched forest. When we got there, it was difficult to get to the vantage points I wanted, because so much of the ground was unreachable. I shot this sequence with my **50mm f2**, which isn't a favorite lens of mine, but allowed me more light, even then I was at 1/30th shutter speed, which was difficult without my tripod.

The **photos create a unique look at something that is hidden from everyone, and untouched for many years.** I received many accolades for these photos in the project, and no one recognized the winches, showing that I successfully told a story that was unknown.

## The Personal Effect

When we look at the decline of a town because of a decline in industry, we see less money spent on housing, fewer job opportunities, less gainful employment, and more crime. Huntly is a perfect example of this. People flock to job opportunities, working in the mines open in the area. We see miners wanting a house and a place to shop for groceries. When the mines are no longer open, the miners move to Australia or find different jobs working from Auckland or Hamilton. **When there is not employment for the people left, they try to get money from other means, which often become illegal.** Huntly has some of the highest drug possession statistics in New Zealand, with a heavy emphasis on methamphetamine. **Meth use can commonly be attributed to poverty and lack of opportunity.**



## My Perspective on the Mining Controversy

The coal industry is infamous for its pollution, both from mining and burning coal. This has sparked controversy regarding landscapes and carbon emissions. I see both sides, which I have shown throughout my project. Documenting the controversy is fascinating because both sides have amazing photos with powerful stories to share.

## Photographing the Carbonization Plant

The Carbo Plant is the most interesting place I have photographed, due to its incredibly industrial abandoned look, and the history behind it. The Carbo Plant borders the Rotowaro coal mine, and the dense gorse bush surrounds it, making it difficult to access. I spent a lot of time figuring out how to capture this building. Realizing I had to use a drone, I was worried about the security and getting into trouble. I contacted someone who posted a YouTube video exploring the building, and he suggested a place that I could fly the drone from.

I parked my car exactly where I planned, and set off down an abandoned railway, drone bag in one hand, camera bag in the other. I took a picture of the railway and continued through a swamp. After passing the train axles and climbing a steep cliff, I saw the lake that used to be a mine pit, and the power station. Once I got to the takeoff point, I realized I forgot my iPad, and would have to shoot with my camera and my 70-200 mm lens.

I still think this was one of the most successful shoots I've ever done, and one day I would love to get back out there with the drone, successfully this time.



This key image to the left confronts the viewer about the definition of rehabilitated land. The blue lake is a backfilled mine pit, the trees covering the damaged land, and the glaringly obvious chimneys from the Power Station. This photo summarizes this board nicely, because it confronts the idea that backfilling the pits you dig is not the same as leaving it untouched.

## Capturing the Glenbrook Steel Mill Pollution

When people think of pollution, they think of smokestacks creating clouds of pollution, and that is exactly what the Steel Mill looks like. I enjoyed photographing the Steel Mill because it looks so industrious, and the smoke lends itself so well to my photography.

I attempted to reach out to multiple people throughout the year for a mill tour, but the strict security prevented any success. As a result, I had to settle for photographing it from the perimeter. I used a wide-angle lens to get the entire building and smoke in shot, as well as my 70-200mm to capture the smoke from close, capturing the detail.

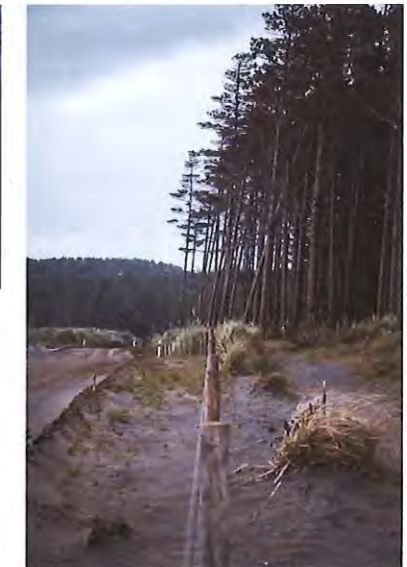
I tried long exposure photos with the smoke by attaching my ND filter over the lens, but I found the detail of the smoke was lost, so it was less effective than a high shutter speed photograph.



Fast shutter speed created a better image than long exposure

## Shooting the Waiuku Forest

I have been to photograph the Waiuku Forest about 5 times and have created images that are both for and against the industry. As a photographer, I love it there because it is such a vast landscape that is out of the ordinary for most people, and I want to capture that and share it. I found the most success shooting with my camera, where I can take close, highly detailed photos, which are more successful compositionally, using aspects such as leading lines. When I have flown the drone, while it created awesome perspectives that you couldn't get on the ground, I found the 10mm focal length led itself to wide angles but not capturing specific details, which I find doesn't fit my style.



Leading lines draw the viewers eye into the key subject of a photograph, and I used them here to highlight the stark cutoff point between the forest and mined land.



## The BEAUTY I see as a Photographer

Despite the politics of the issues, I think everyone can agree the pictures on my board are intriguing. Some may think the landscapes are ugly, some may think they are beautiful, a symbol of progress, and supporting our country. **As a photographer, I can see both the political side and the artistic side.** What drew me in was the artistic side, and what kept me passionate was both sides.

## Conor Clarke's Work

Conor Clarke photographs similar scenes to me that draw out the beauty. **Scars tell a story, serving as a compulsory reminder back to a time, whether good or bad.** Conor photographs the pits, the smokestacks, and the buildings as if they were picturesque landscapes. I draw on the way Conor photographs these things, trying to find beauty in things.

NZ operates with respect to land and nature than came before us, and **Māori have a deep spiritual connection to the whenua.** Each photo I take as part of this project is symbolic of how New Zealand runs, because each photo has a connection to nature. **Through my photography, I aim to educate and inspire, showing the beauty in learning from mistakes.**

These photos, selected because they inspired me with my work, show the beauty of the industry. She creates these warm and nostalgic photos, using lighting to light her subject in a way that portrays her thoughts.



## Photos that didn't make the cut



The Scale of the Glenbrook Steel Mill

The Impressive Machinery

The Reflective Pools



The Trainyard at the Mill

The Huntly Power Station

## The Waiuku Forest

As I mentioned in the last page, I have been to the Waiuku Forest many times, taking photos both for and against the industry. The idea came from seeing the sand deserts that bordered on the forest when I went there as a kid and knowing the Waikato North Head mine company worked with the Steel Mill, only a few kilometers away. When shooting photos of the machinery in action, **I prefer to use my camera, because it allows me to get close ups of the subjects, whereas the drone doesn't allow that.** I also like the quality from the camera, whereas the drone lacks dynamic range due to its smaller sensor, which can be a challenge when working with lots of grays, as seen at the forest. The drone also poses a problem if I wanted to photograph a machine close up, because the drone would have to fly in next to it, running the risk of being spotted. With my camera I can sit on the edge, and no one will see me.

Overlooking the pit, watching the machines move down below, the conveyor belts that snake through the land for seemingly forever, **give me a great sense of what I love about this project,** these innately not-human scenes, that so few know about. **Scenes that will be so different in a few years.** Every time I come to the forest I notice slight changes, trees have grown, some removed, some paths closed. **Reminds us that nature is a living and changing thing, and that the things we see aren't how they will always be.**



Machinery at the forest

## Starting and Ending my Project at Rotowaro

After I read the Stuff Article about Glen Afton, I hopped in the car, destination Glen Afton. I drove past a road, Coal Haulage Road, with a towering conveyor system in the distance. Having a further look down there, **I captured what I saw, what intrigued me the most, and what I fell in love with during this project.** The scale, the industrial, **the seeming unparalleled sights from the normal world.** I get this sense that these places don't exist in the real world, they can't do. But they do, and I love capturing that wonder that I felt from day one, and still do now.

Later in the year, I went back there with Kevin, and stood on the edge looking in with my 70-200mm, with a better idea of what I was looking at. I captured the dump trucks, the diggers, a wide panoramic of the conveyor belt system, **really trying to express what I found interesting for other people to see.**



The organized chaos of the conveyor belt systems

One of the first photos I took for the project



## Net Zero Carbon by 2050

New Zealand aims to be carbon neutral by 2050, leading to changes in how we produce our electricity. If we want to keep these places operational, these facilities and mines will have to keep up with the changing times. We have the industry, the infrastructure, the trained personnel already, we will just need to adapt to not lose them.

The Huntly Power Station has a resource grant to burn coal until 2037. They are one of the largest burners of coal in New Zealand and provide electricity for most of the North Island. After the resource grant expires, the power station will need to think of a new way to produce electricity, or face closure.

The Government gave the Glenbrook Steel Mill \$110 million to reduce its carbon emissions by 45%. The Glenbrook Steel Mill is reducing its carbon emissions by 45% by converting two coal kilns into electric arc furnaces. This will reduce the mills' carbon emissions by around 800,000 tonnes a year. Electrification of the Steel Mill will ensure it has a future in this sustainable world.

The reduction of coal use is going to see a big strain on the coal mines, that are already struggling for demand. When the major burners of coal go electric, the coal mines will collapse, and we will lose valuable workers and infrastructure.



Waiuku Forest Headquarters

## It must be made somewhere, why not NZ?

Having a coal mining industry is a great source of income for New Zealand, which we have benefited from over the last century. Sourcing our coal to use in the production of our steel, and creating our power gives us economic benefits. It allows us to import less, therefore less expenses.

It also reduces the reliance on foreign nations, which in the face of a war or political upset, can be crucial for the security of NZ. If we import steel or coal, we lose control that we otherwise have. It may also lead to importing materials that may not be of as high quality, leading to problems with structural integrity.

Not producing our coal or steel here makes New Zealand seem greener, but shipping the coal over is worse for the environment than mining it here.

## The Industry Supports NZ

Glenbrook Steel Mill employs over 4000 people, 1400 being onsite. The Steel Mill alone produces \$900 million towards the NZ GDP every year and adds \$400 million dollars in value to the Auckland region.

The industry creates jobs and affordable housing for workers. Many of the towns such as Rotowaro, Glen Afton, Pukemiro, Glenbrook and, to an extent, Waiuku wouldn't exist without these industry locations that have workers that need to live somewhere.

## How do I document the industry going forward?

The work of David Cook inspired me, and I have always been looking for a way to do something similar. This has proven difficult and makes me think that **the best time to document this industry was a few decades ago**, when massive shifts were happening. This idea has flaws due to the current movements towards electrification and reducing carbon emissions.

When looking at the history, I tried to find anything that I could photograph, but there is so little evidence left now. All the underground mine entrances are hidden, the opencast mines have been filled in as lakes, everything has been removed, or is overgrown. **I found a challenge photographing anything.**

It's hard to capture the current state of the industry in photographs due to security restrictions and limited access. How can I document the industry throughout its big change to sustainability in the future? We know the industry is going to change, it has to if it wants to survive, but what does that look like?



## HOW I HAVE ALREADY PROGRESSED MY PROJECT FURTHER - Making my own Book

I went down to Wellington recently and spent a few days reading photography books by the likes of Sebastião Salgado. These books featured the confronting images of the gold rush, with people perched on the sides of cliffs, with 40kg on their back, just for the chance of making it big. I also read *Abandoned America, the Age of Consequences*, by Matthew Christopher, where he explores buildings that were 'too big to fail'. He explores the idea that the age of preserving and caring about architecture is behind us and gone for good.

I felt sad when the project was ending and **knew I had to do something to keep it going because I had invested so much time and was so passionate about it. I have decided to create a book, so I can reach out to a new audience about what I have found and can continue my mission of preserving the history.** It will take some time to finish because I want to write enough to go with the photos, and making a book takes time. However, I have already begun the project.

I am making the book through Queensberry, which is company based in Auckland, and is the company that hosts my website, which features client galleries and a print shop, where they print and frame the photos for me.

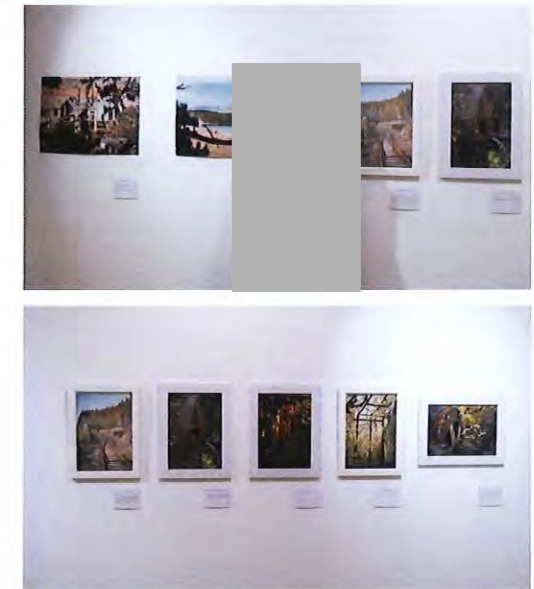
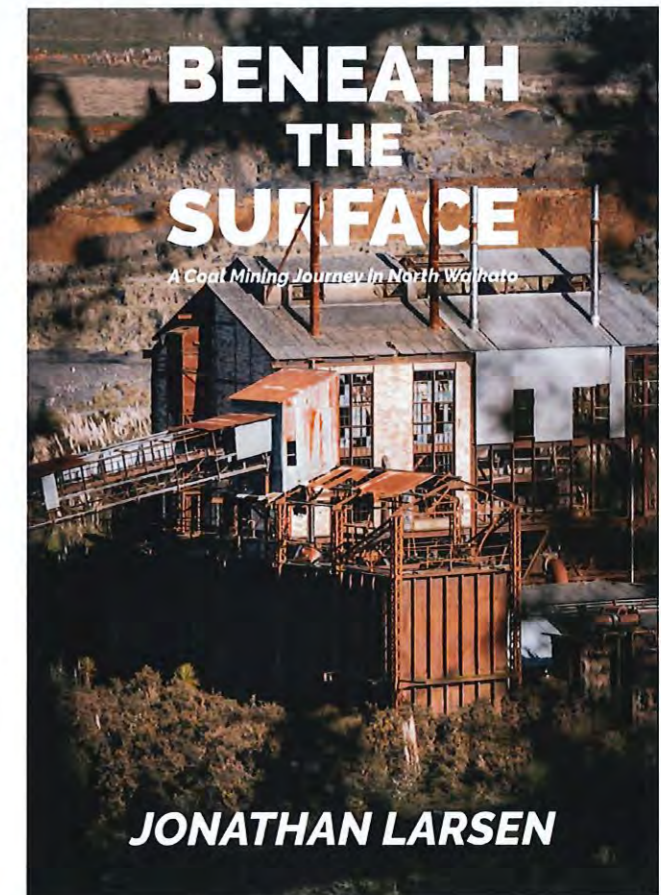
## Connection to Nature - Art Exhibition

From the 11<sup>th</sup> of October to the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November this year, I had the opportunity to put a sequence of work up in the Franklin Art Gallery, in the exhibition *Connection to Nature*, ran by [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The focus of the exhibition was about how we connect to nature, and **my focus was on connection through industry. I featured 6 photos,** shown below. I chose these photos because they all relate to abandonment and nature fighting back against the scars left by human intervention, in their own way.

## University Study

Next year, I will be studying Screen Arts at Massey University in Wellington, specifically doing Factual Production. **I have gained a deeper passion for Photography through this project** and exploring what interests me. I dedicated many hours to research and reading this year. I hope to either continue this project or find a new, even better one next year.



## Furthering my area of study

I have really focused my sights on the Northern Waikato, and its coal mining history. To continue this project, I want to investigate the Western South Island, who have an even bigger coal industry than the Waikato. I read 'Tragedy at Pike River Mine' by Rebecca Macfie and want to visit Pike River mine and other open mines along the coast. I started this year knowing nothing about the coal industry, and I hope to end next year with knowledge on the South Island history.

I would love to learn about the gold industry. I have explored the Karangahake gorge and the Martha gold mine in Waihi. I may also consider investigating gold mining in the rest of the Coromandel, South Island, and overseas where regulations are more lenient and working conditions are harsher than in New Zealand.

I have explored many forests in the North Island, including Whangamata, Onemana, and Waiuku. I found it fascinating to discover the Kauri dams and how they use water pressure to transport logs through the Karangahake Gorge. Forestry would be an industry I would be excited to learn about, because I don't know anything about it currently, but I know it holds controversy like mining coal.

## Creating Something Similar to David Cook's Lake of Coal

My goal is to create something like Lake of Coal. The artistic vision behind it, the documentary, the opportunity, and timing that went into it. The book inspired this project in lots of ways when it was stuck throughout the year, when I ran out of ideas. I would like to make something as personal as Lake of Coal. I would like to make a thorough analysis of a specific topic, looking at every side that goes into it.

Over the next few decades, mining coal will decline causing a situation like what happened in Rotowaro, where people lose their jobs and leave small towns. I would love to jump on that opportunity and document these stories, to create meaningful connections and create memories of what home was to people.

I admire how David got involved with the community, took photos, and was welcomed by the people during their difficult times. He mentioned it in his book that people were thankful he was there, photographing their time, or else they would only have memories in their head to go back to.



Martha Mine in Waihi



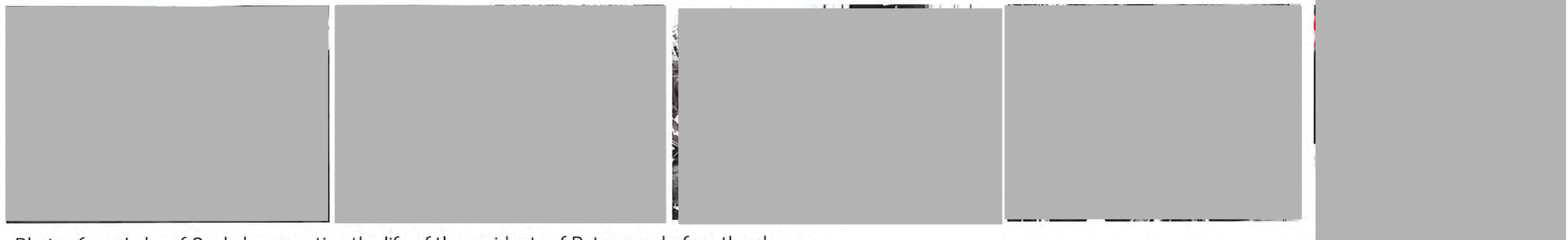
Karangahake Gorge Battery

## Following the Changing Industry

There are huge ongoing changes to the industry, with a shift towards sustainability. Next year I am doing a minor in Journalism at university, hoping to get an insight into that world. It inspired me to pursue this interest by the documentary journalism I have engaged in with this project.

I have found that I have a passion for discovering and researching a story, talking to and meeting new people, and educating and inspiring people. In the future, I want to be a journalist and cover advancements, attending conferences, installations, and working for companies like the Steel Mill.

Stuff = national



Photos from Lake of Coal, documenting the life of the residents of Rotowaro, before the closure