

Inside the Shell

M C Usher

Foreward

This series has been created around the coastal community of Ngawi (pronounced 'naa-wee'). A small fishing village which is located just five kilometres from Cape Palliser, the southernmost point of New Zealand's North Island. Known for having more bulldozers per capita than permanent residents this project scratches the hard-male surface and discovers what is holding the community together, the very backbone under the shell.

The location is exposed, with intense and prolonged periods of high winds and heat during the summer months. With very few trees, what kind of person is prepared to endure these conditions? Only the strongest it seems.

Through eight women who live in this remote location I have explored the relationship between the land, space and the community. I have tried to capture a feeling of the location through landscape, portraits and still life, showing the hard conditions and the environment which gives a feeling of isolation, hardship, but also the softer side. The women that through their own strength hold the community together by making do and sticking together to support each other.

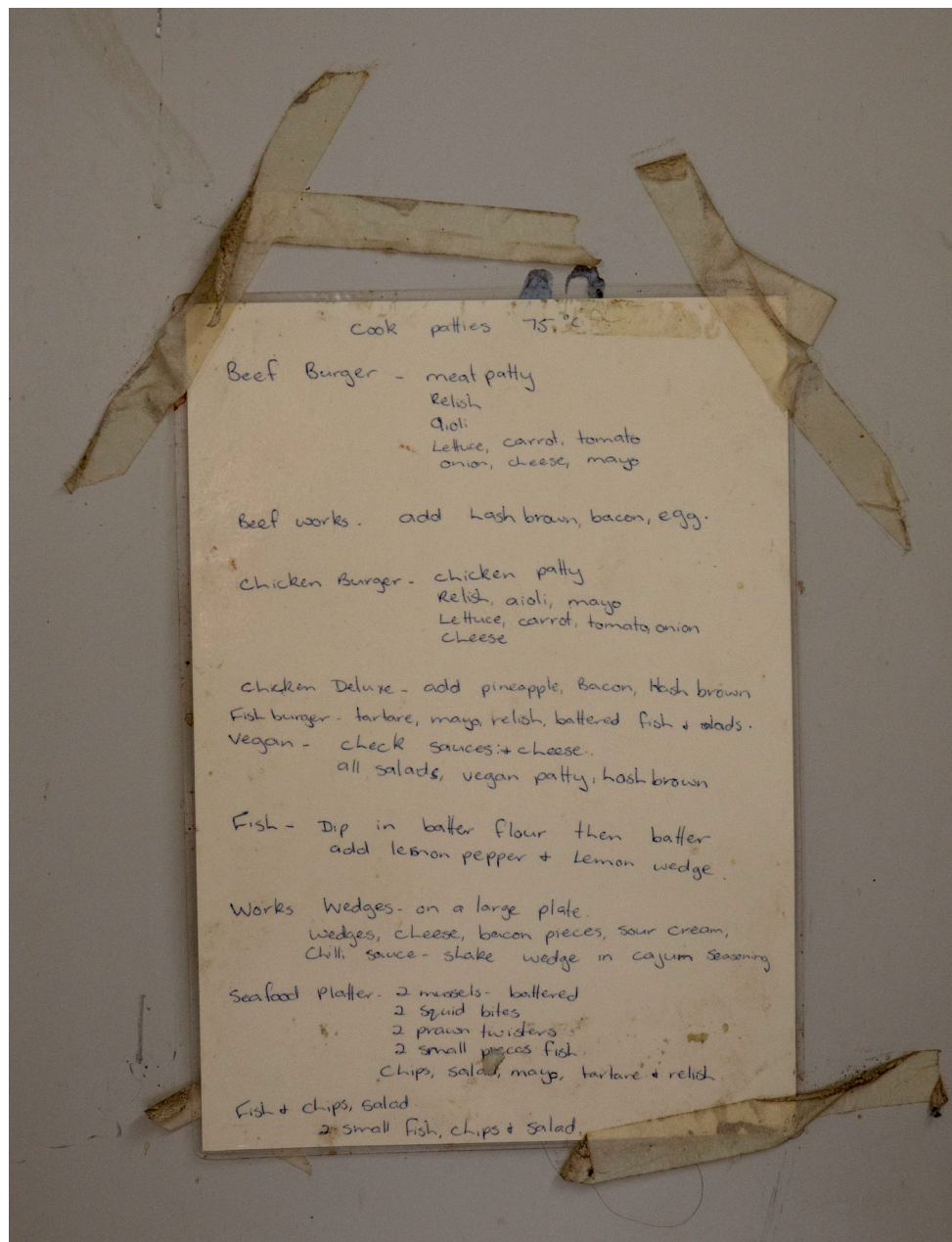
































Acknowledgement

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