

YOUTH PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION 2026

Finalists



COMMUNITY VISION

The Town is a progressive, respectful, sustainable local government supporting a connected, flourishing community. We exist to deliver quality services for Claremont today and to build the foundation for the future.

308 Stirling Highway,
Claremont WA 6010

MAYOR'S FOREWORD



The Town of Claremont's 2026 Youth Photography Competition asked young people aged between 12-18 years old who reside in and/or go to school in select western suburbs to capture something 'Close to Home'.

This competition gave young creatives the opportunity to use technology to experiment with cameras and phones and showcase something close to home – whether that be a person, place or feeling.

Of the 45 entries received, these 20 shortlisted photos will be on display at Claremont Museum between 12 – 20 May for the People's Choice Award.

Thank you everyone who submitted a photograph and congratulations to our winners.

Please remember to vote for your favourite for the People's Choice Award, which can be done at the Claremont Museum or online by scanning the QR code.

Peter Telford, Mayor



THE JUDGES



Cr Ryan Brown

I thoroughly enjoyed judging the Youth Photo Competition. It was inspiring to see the creativity and talent displayed by the young local participants. It was fascinating to see the different lives of today's youth through their lenses, providing a glimpse into their world and experiences. Initiatives like the Youth Photo Competition are vital for the Claremont community as they provide a platform for young individuals to express themselves and share their talents. These events foster a sense of belonging and encourage creativity, which is essential for personal and community growth.



**Bianca Venturi –
Presbyterian Ladies' College**

With 25 years of teaching media studies at Presbyterian Ladies' College, I specialise in both film studies and photography. It was a pleasure to serve as a judge in this year's competition, where I was inspired by the creative interpretations of the theme and the impressive photographic talent of the young participants. I believe photography competitions and exhibitions play a vital role in encouraging artists to share their work beyond the digital realm. These platforms foster a deeper appreciation for traditional exhibition formats and the storytelling power of visual art.



**Rob Di Giallonardo –
John XXIII College**

I've always been a hobbyist photographer and have been teaching Media at John XXIII College for 7 years now. When I was invited to judge this year's competition, I couldn't say no. Judging was an absolute pleasure – each image told a story, pushed a boundary, or offered a fresh viewpoint. Initiatives like this are vital because they give aspiring photographers a platform to share their vision, foster peer learning and strengthen our creative community. Seeing such thoughtfulness, creativity and technical skills leaves me confident that our region has a bright future in photography and visual storytelling.

ADELAIDE SOO



'Small Gestures'

Home isn't always a place you can point to. It's a feeling I can get when I'm surrounded by the right people or pets. In this photo, that feeling is captured in a simple, unspoken moment: a hug.

AMARNI KRAHE



'Big Blue World'

In October a family of wood ducks wandered down our street and into our backyard looking for a home to raise the ducklings. We rang Sea Bird rescue who advised us to let them access the pool for their first swim and they would come and rehome them. I love that we could help get them to a safe new home and they adorably hung out in our backyard!

ARIELLE KOAY



'Home, Sweet Home'

I flipped the switch on the battery box. The house is filled with a warm cozy glow. That's when I realized, isn't this a perfect object for my photo? A lovely little home sits between the trees.

GEORGE KANE



'Chilvers Kelpie'

It is significant to me because I live here, I love spending time with my dog and this is a blend of the beauty of this house, heritage and how beautiful my dog is.

EBONY DJANEGARA



'A Whisker Away'

This photo is significant to me as it reminds me of my home. My cat, Nala (in the photo), is an affectionate and warm cat. She greets me every day when I get home and is the family member I think of when I am homesick. This image captures her warmth. When I am far from home, I remember how she is only 'A Whisker Away'.

HARRIET HOCKINGS



'Where We Land'

'Where We Land' represents returning home after a long day of work in the country, spending time with some of the people I love most. Although I am drawn to the bustle and brightness of the city, it is here, in these small, everyday moments on the farm that I feel most at home.

HEIDI EARNEY



'Living Within the Pages'

When I hear the theme 'close to home', it's something very personal to me. When I am home, reading is a way I escape the world and let my imagination bloom and grow. Like a big tree spreading its branches, the characters come alive and I have fantastical adventures from the comfort of my bed. I've represented this with my sister whimsically walking across a table while I have my book in the foreground making it look like she is coming out of the pages. I love the visual effect of the story coming alive, the perfect afternoon warm light and the magic of having fun with my sister.

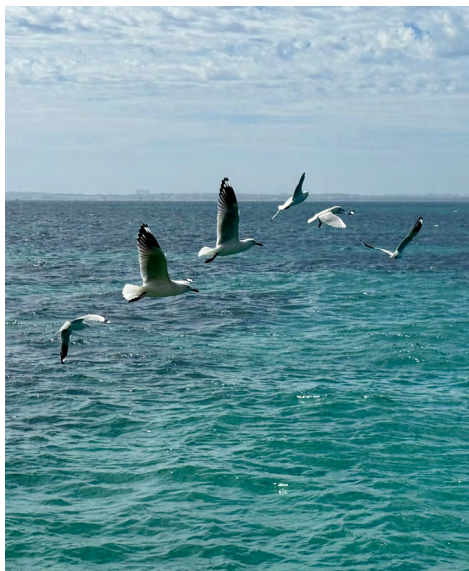
ISABELLA HILL



'Passed Down'

I chose to photograph my grandmother's hands with mine because they represent home to me. The contrast between us shows the year of love and support through the touch.

IMOGEN TEH



'Free as a Bird'

This photo is significant to me because of the way the seagulls are positioned. The arc of the flock over the sea captures the quiet beauty and freedom of nature, reminding me how lucky we are to be surrounded by it here in Perth. Moments like this feel almost magical, with the birds symbolising vitality and a sense of freedom. They remind me to cherish each moment and appreciate the place we call home- free, just like the birds.

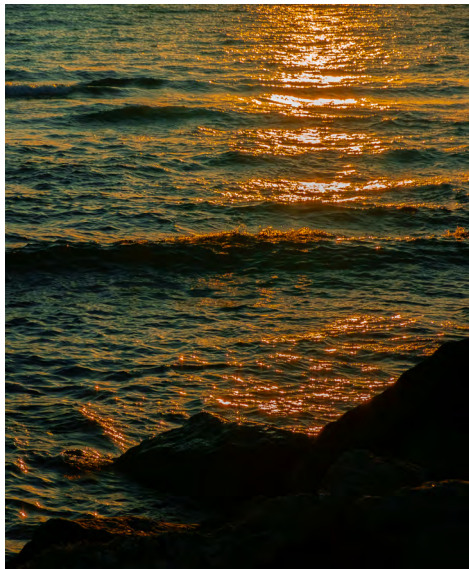
LOLA WEBSTER



'Sea's Creation'

This photograph was taken at the beach with collected starfish and shells. the beach is a significant place for me where I create memories with friends and family which is why it is 'close to home.'"

LUCINDA WALLMAN



'The Usual Spot'

The beach has always been my favourite place to decompress after difficult days or celebrate after the better ones with friends and family, or to spend some time by myself. This image reflects the feeling to me, and how grateful I am to be surrounded by the ocean, which is always close to home.

LINA KIM



'Where I Belong'

This photo captures a simple moment in my home that reflects both comfort and my identity. My cat sitting by the window is part of my everyday life. It reminds me that home is where small moments happen, and those moments often become the most meaningful. The door represents looking between two worlds. As a Korean-Australian, I often feel connected to both Korean culture at home and Australian life outside. My home is where language, food, traditions, and family values keep me close to my heritage, while the world outside reflects the wider community.

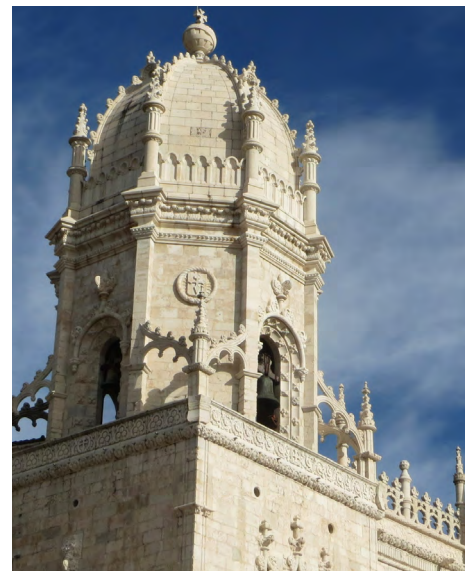
ROSELLA DRUMMOND



'A Field of Hydrangeas'

This photo is special to me because I was walking into a restaurant in Yallingup on a small holiday with my really close family friends, our friends are so close they are basically like a second family to me, there were six kids and four parents, and we were walking past this beautiful field of hydrangeas and I felt close to home, they reminded me of all the memories I made, where there would be dozens of colourful flowers (hydrangeas) everywhere I look.

LUCY MORGAN



'Harsh Clarity'

The image feels close to home in the way it holds two worlds at once, the permanence of faith in the carved marble of the Jeronimos Monastery, and the openness of the deep blue sky beyond it. It reflects a personal tension I've grown up with, attempting to find where belief and the natural world meet, or don't.

MIA KITSON



'Reading the Blurb'

I imagine the couple quietly admiring the books while still acknowledging each other's presence. Their bond allows each person to express themselves. The books symbolise the chapters they've lived and those they will create together, reflecting life's milestones. This image connects to 'Close to Home' because home isn't just a place, but the people around you. No place truly feels like home without meaningful relationships. For this couple, home is found in each other's company as they sit in comfortable silence.

OSCAR NYLANDER



'Waterfall'

I love aviation and would love to be a pilot after I finish year 12. This is a photograph of a C-130 aerial firefighter (stationed in Busselton) dropping water for practice, so the crew are prepared to drop fire retardant on a real bush fire that may spread near Perth. I really love the framing that I used in this photo, as I got the aircraft in the centre of the shot without cropping.

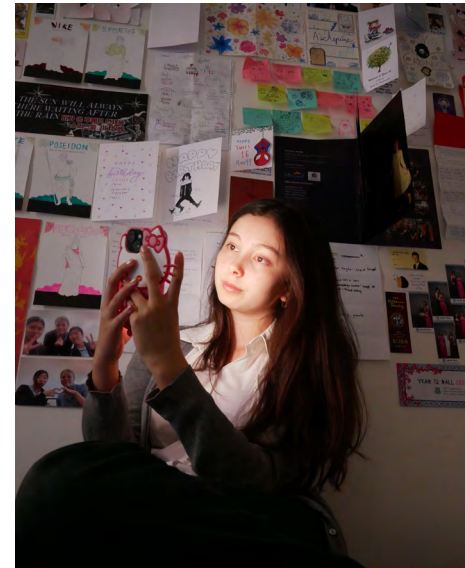
OLIVER TOMKINS



'The Other Rainbow'

The photo was taken on a rainy day in my backyard in Subiaco when I found a few rainbow lorikeets sheltering in a low tree. It is meaningful to me because it represents my love for birds and how the sense of peace I feel when photographing them can even be found very 'close to home.'

RAE PANICKER



'Ignored Past'

This photo depicts a teenage girl, entrapped in the light of her own phone while memories of her past and special mementos of her family and friends sit behind her, forgotten and left in the dark. It represents how many of us lose ourselves in a temporary end to the darkness within technology and social media when we could be reuniting with our pasts and spending time with nostalgia instead.

TOM DOWNE



'Sideways'

This photograph explores the theme of "close to home" using a car. Although it may seem ordinary, it holds personal meaning and represents my passion for cars.

I wanted to show that "home" is not just a place, but is the experiences and memories that shape how we see the world. It reflects the time I spend with my family at car events, giving it a strong sense of personal meaning and connection. It captures not just the car itself but the shared experiences, atmosphere and memories that come with those moments making it feel closely tied to my idea of home.

VIOLET DAVIS-ROHR



'Home Within Reach'

To me, a house is four walls and a roof, but a home is the people I feel safest with, it's the feeling of support, guidance and connection.

My photograph is significant to me as it shows the importance of family, it captures the beautiful moment as they guide each other, hand in hand, into the sunset.

The silhouette puts them in their own world creating the sense of belonging and comfort that a home creates. No matter how far they are from their physical house, they are always close to their home.