



TOWN OF  
VICTORIA PARK

# LOCAL HISTORY AWARDS

• 2025 •



## 101 Car Yards in Vic Park



**Pat Saunders**

**Category**

**Original Poetry or Performance Work**

# 101 Caryards in Vic Park

By Pat Saunders



in their floodlit compounds  
insects whirring 'round and 'round  
headlights stare at the highway  
bumpers gleaming grin  
deserted, no passing traffic now

from the footpath  
occasionally a duck beneath the chain  
or scissor legs  
browsing, shuffling  
unashamedly window shopping  
after dark  
car yard style

fingers slide the length of new ones  
trailing through the very best polish  
boots kicking tyres of used ones  
hands pressing panels  
that may or may not have been damaged  
and/or repaired at some stage

fluro windscreens scream  
LOW KMS  
ONE OWNER  
FINANCE AVAILABLE  
uninvited curious faces  
fogging clinically clean glass  
admiring immaculately detailed interiors  
manual or auto?  
k's?  
does that match the card on the dash?

different during daylight hours  
sunlit sweaty, smarmy salesmen  
you wouldn't purchase

a game boy from  
let alone a four-wheel drive  
they see you coming  
looking the ladies up and down  
a pre-purchase inspection?  
suit and tie ones  
sir this, madam that  
in-betweeners  
where everyone's their mate  
keen to see you in the driver's seat  
knowing  
a test-drive will seal the deal

close of business, down the pub  
regaling the day's successes, excesses  
the best sell  
the one they thought they'd never shift  
at home, family time  
perhaps, even, already in bed

these people these places  
not for me  
interested only in A to B  
take your stylish, zippy  
cool summer colour  
give me something  
that gets me where I wanna go  
on a journey  
down the highway  
a changing landscape  
past cafés, hotels, bars  
all language eateries  
ever smaller in my rear view mirror  
i'm leaving Vic Park's 101 car yards behind