

Brendan Nicholl lives in Central Victoria, is trained as a traditional sign writer, who these days prefers to paint landscapes in oils, not signs in enamels. After studying Visual Art at the Frankston College he soon realised there is no better subject to paint than the immediate surroundings with all its familiarities and interesting narratives, whether intended or not.

*"My inspiration to paint comes directly from nature. I paint on site, close to home and ideally. I can spread my stuff out and settle in for a time. I'm reminded of my childhood. With a drink and a sandwich I'd go roaming for somewhere to cubby hole and look out from. What can one see from here? Later I trained as a sign writer in the old school mode and developed a keen sense of sign layout, so today I am always keeping my eye out for an arresting shape or angle that will appeal and help project the scene onto the canvas. I like to depict the distances involved in seeing, what it's like to be an observer. I live in Central Victoria which has a pleasing mix of both natural and cultivated environments. The various plant forms and structures that surround us, make it feel like home. I appreciate its beauty and uniqueness. From the ground up to the sky, there is much to explore and document by painting here."*

