



Title: Remote

Description: A remote high country station in the Maniototo

Photographer: Ann Wheatley [@ann.wheatley.photography](https://www.instagram.com/ann.wheatley.photography)

Where and when: Swinburn Back Rd, Kyeburn, South Island, 17 May, 2023

The Story: This high country station in Kyeburn, Maniototo used to be much less remote than it is now. In January 2021, an old wooden bridge over the Kyeburn River was heavily damaged by flooding during four days of heavy rain. Suddenly farm families living east of the Kyeburn found themselves much further away from the nearest town. Although more than half of the 177 bridges in Central Otago need replacement or major repairs, funding has so far been allocated only for the replacement of two. While individual extreme weather events cause serious disruptions, the very way of life of Maniototo farmers is threatened by the much wider social, political and economic consequences that inevitably follow in the wake of the crises affecting our atmosphere, climate, soils, waters, forests, biodiversity and health.

I spent a month here on a solitary, silent meditation retreat contemplating not just my inner world, but the landscape around me. Even as a visitor, I felt solastalgia, the pain and distress of knowing that a place you love is threatened by change.

I made this image using the twist/Petzval swirl effect with a Lensbaby Trio lens. For me, photography is a form of meditation.

Camera: Olympus OM-D E-M1

Lens: Lensbaby Trio 28 mm f/3.5

Exposure: 28 mm f/3.5 1/100s ISO 200

Digital specs: 4245 x 3184 pixels

Key words: New Zealand, Aotearoa, rural, farming, solastalgia, high country, Manioto, Petzval swirl, contemplative, visual storytelling, Ann Wheatley, Ecosystems Photography

Price: \$250 (incl. GST) for use of the digital image. Visit www.ecosystemsphotography/sales for details & to order, or to get a quote if you would like a high-quality print.

Donation: The price includes a \$100 donation to the [Nelson Tasman Climate Forum](#) or to a sustainability organisation or project of your choice.

Image ref: AW#005 (please use this reference in all orders and correspondence).

Ann Wheatley 5 Jul 2023