



**Title:** "Pounawea Temple"

**Short Description:** Wharf pilings at Pounawea, Catlins

**Photographer:** Tim Heath

**Where and when:** Pounawea, March, 2018

**Sustainability:** Images are a powerful stimulant to memory. This one reminded me strongly of Japan, the colours, deep shadows of the temples and a forest of columns. Despite that memory, Pounawea itself has a history that is hard to resist.

The immigrant ship Surat was wrecked nearby on New Year's Day, 1874. It is suspected that crew and captain had overdone New Year's Eve "stimulants" (whiskey?) played a part, but all 270 passengers got ashore safely. Pounawea was a busy port during the late 19th and early 20th century, around the time the first post office was established there in 1899. The sea and rivers were the roads of that time.

Nowadays the crumbling wharfs around our coasts mainly serve recreational fishers. Fishing is the main sport of New Zealand if you measure it by participation rates – it is something of an assumed birth right that everybody

has a right to hunt and fish. In southern parts, like the Catlins where this photo was taken, there is very little recreational fishing pressure, partly because there are fewer people, but partly also because the rough seas and relatively few safe ports indirectly protect the fishery. In northern parts like the Hauraki Gulf, recreational fishing pressure is partially responsible for depleted fishing stocks.

Recreational fishers have steadfastly resisted attempts to create a licensing system for better monitoring of recreational fishing harvesting levels. The Quota Management System created a private ownership model for commercial fishing in 1986 – otherwise we start from the premise that the seas are a “commons” – a habitat that is owned by no-one. This invites two contrasting sustainability perspectives: a “Tragedy of the Commons” argues that without governance or ownership, there is no guaranteed access to the resource in the future and so no vested interest in sustaining the fishery; a common ownership might secure the resource by excluding short term commercial exploitation and create an army of defenders to protect our nearshore ecosystems.

**Photographer's notes:** iPhone 6+

**Exposure:** 1/1250s, f/2.2, 4.15 mm, ISO 32

**Digital specs:** 2,448 x 2,448 (6MP)

**Key words:** Tim Heath, Aotearoa, New Zealand, Ecosystems Photography, Sustainability.

**Price:** \$100 donation. Visit [www.ecosystemsphotography/sales](http://www.ecosystemsphotography/sales) for details & to order, or to get a quote if you want a high-quality print.

**Donation:** The price is made up entirely of a \$100 donation to a sustainability organisation or project of your choice, or otherwise for Heritage New Zealand <https://www.heritage.org.nz/>

I recommend that the donation goes to Heritage New Zealand because they are a not-for-profit organisation that relies on donations to help its work to preserve iconic historical structures like the Tolaga Bay Wharf. Celebrating our history, including built landmarks, reminds us where we have come from and who we are. If we look hard, it also may help us see better future options.

**Image Ref:** TH#010 (please use this reference in all orders and correspondence).

**Tim Heath**

9 December 2021