



Title: “Yellow Hook (3)”

Description: Canola crop, South Canterbury.

Photographer: Henrik Moller

Where, when: Hook, St Andrews, South Canterbury, November 2021.

Sustainability? I was attracted to this canola (oil seed rape) crop at Hook, 15 km south of Timaru, because of its arresting colour. My thoughts on the importance of appreciating our rural landscapes is outlined in the description for the image “Yellow Hook (1)” ; and its role in crop rotations is outlined in the description for “Yellow Hook (2)”.

In the 1970s canola was created through traditional plant cross-breeding by removing two things found in the rapeseed plant: glucosinolates and erucic acid. Erucic acid was removed because it was believed to be inedible or toxic in high doses. The newly developed plant was renamed “canola,” a combination of “Canadian” and “oil” (or ola) to make this difference apparent. This is an example of globalisation of food and seed stocks and the agribusiness marketing and sales for maximising production. New Zealand has so far avoided introduction of genetically modified food crops and instead relied on traditional plant breeding techniques. Proponents of genetic modification argue that selection can be more rapid and targeted than traditional methods, whereas opponents claim that the effects of genetic modification are unpredictable and potentially environmentally damaging.

New Zealand’s Royal Commission inquiry into Genetic Modification (2001) was in many ways a landmark process of consultation in that it gave strong voice to Māori opposition to modification on spiritual and ethical grounds. This was an early example of the growing voice of the kaitiaki to have a more meaningful say in land use and environmental decision making in Aotearoa. Finding cross-cultural accommodations

of different and deeply held spiritual beliefs will be increasingly important for enduring partnerships.

The canola crop at Hook is not only beautiful – it is also a testament to the financial and environmental success of sticking to non-genetically engineered crops.

This is one of 6 images of the canola crops presented in this gallery (HM#001 – HM#006). I was attracted to this canola (oil seed rape) crop at Hook, 15 km south of Timaru, because of its arresting colour. My thoughts on the importance of appreciating our rural landscapes is outlined in the description for the image “Yellow Hook (1)” and “Paeora Estuary”; and its role in crop rotations is outlined in the description for “Yellow Hook (2)”. The role of plant selection and Genetic Modification is explored in “Yellow Hook (3)” and aesthetic value in and “Paeora” and rural decline in “Barn on the brae”.

Photo notes: This is a panorama from 16 images, each of which was a focus stacked assembly of 5-10 exposures. Each exposure was 1/200s, 18 mm focal length, f/11, ISO-100. I took the image standing on a ladder within the tractor wheel tracks running through the crop.

Let's hope I have now got the yellow out of my systems for a while!

Digital specs: 10,947 x 6,690 pixels (73 MP).

Key words: Farming, rural landscape, canola, oil-seed rape, cropping, Genetic Modification, crop selection, yellow, Henrik Moller, Aotearoa, New Zealand, Sustainability.

Price: \$150 (incl. GST) for use of the digital image.

Visit www.ecosystemsphotography/sales for details & to order, and to get a quote if you want a high-quality print.

Donation: The price includes a \$100 donation to a sustainability organisation or project of your choice, or otherwise for the *Pareora Catchment Society*.

I recommend that the donation goes to the *Pareora Catchment Society* because it is a not-for-profit coalition of farmers and local citizens who are working to improve water quality and biodiversity in the Pareora estuary and river.

Image Ref: HM#003 (Please refer to this reference in orders and correspondence)

Henrik Moller
29 November 2021.