



Title: *“Paeora”*

Description: Canola crop, Paeora, South Canterbury.

Photographer: Henrik Moller

Where, when: Paeora, South Canterbury, October 2021

Sustainability? The primary attraction of the canola crop for me was the splash of yellow in an otherwise green landscape. I was delighted by the variety of textures and colours of crops I saw in the country landscapes of Scotland where I lived and studied for 4 years. Apart from around Canterbury, cropping is a relatively uncommon land use in New Zealand. I think one reason why New Zealanders tend to not notice and revel in their rural landscapes is the predominance of green and pasture, and in some areas, clearance of nearly all the woody vegetation.

The broken pine trees along the riparian zone in the foreground of this photo illustrate a growing opportunity and dilemma for New Zealand pastoral farming – how to manage the vegetation along the margins of fields, rivers and streams. Trees take up space, intercept sunlight and absorb water and moisture that could otherwise be used to grow food and fibre. But they also provide important shelter for stock, stabilish soil along waterways and provide habitat for birds and insects. Many of the shelterbelts and riparian plantings in New Zealand are now mature macrocarpa and pine that increasingly are being felled. What will we replace them with? I hope we learn how to manage the “ecological succession” needed to gradually replace them with slower growing native species that are particularly valuable for native invertebrates and birds.

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 23 exposures for 1/50s, 77 mm focal length, f/20, ISO-100.

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

Digital specs: 22,616 x 8,226 pixels (186 MP).

Key words: Farming, rural landscape, ecosystem evaluation, ecosystem services, cultural services, canola, oil-seed rape, cropping, estuary, yellow, grey, Henrik Moller, Aotearoa, New Zealand, Sustainability.

Price: \$200 (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#005 (Please refer to this reference in orders and correspondence).

Henrik Moller

29 November 2021.