



Title: *“Barn on the Brae”*

Description: Canola crop and old barn, Hook, South Canterbury.

Photographer: Henrik Moller

Where, when: Hook, South Canterbury, October 2021

Sustainability? The primary attraction of the canola crop for me was the splash of yellow in an otherwise green landscape. But this dilapidated barn, propped up on its green pedestal, added surprise and pleasure for my colour-blind eyes, as well as a tinge of sadness.

New Zealand’s rural landscapes are sprinkled with crumbling farm buildings. Although rustic and a testament to the past contributions of families that worked the land, their abandoned nature also signals rural decline. With fewer people living in the countryside, it gets harder every year to keep the local school and playcentre going. With improved roads and cheaper transport, more people choose to live in towns and cities, even though they provide essential services to keep the country communities and farm activities going.

Rotting buildings also reflect more efficient and concentrated farm practice – I’m not sure what would have been kept in this barn in the past, but these days hay is not stored in small barns, horses are hardly used and farming stock is less diversified. These days contractors are more likely to come onto the land, large areas of crop like the canola in the photo dominate the local area and the farm operations are less self-sufficient in the sense that production, harvesting and processing is less often managed entirely on the property.

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, rural decline, depopulation, cultural services, canola, oil-seed rape, cropping, estuary, yellow, 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#006 (Please refer to this reference in orders and correspondence).

Henrik Moller

29 November 2021.