



Title: *"Passion"*

Description: Red tulips, Southland.

Photographer: Henrik Moller

Where, when: Triflor tulip farm, Edendale, Southland, October 2021.

Sustainability? Red tulips symbolise passion. I have been privileged to work with amazing environmental and community advocates and to assist ethical business over the past 40 years. What stands out is their passion for the sustainability and conservation kaupapa. It's heart work.

Conservation and sustainability advocacy often requires courage and stamina to stand strong in a semi-hostile political environment. Vested interests sometimes exhibit a strong antagonism towards those asking for more consideration of environmental care. It requires stamina to hang in there. In the end, the travail seems to feed back to build the passion all the more in the environmentalists so their grows out of adversity.

Over the years I have wondered what drives that deeper level of commitment. I hope nurturing is part of human nature. Several surveys show the women and more supportive of environmental care than men, but there are many passionate men in the field too! The young and the older cohorts are particularly mobilised and deeply committed to the environmental cause ... it's the middle years where some people lose their way as they battle through their week and month to work, pay the mortgage, raise the kids etc.

Care for the environment and for people is akin to a religious conviction – a spiritual belief. For some environmental advocacy may be filling a space and purpose that a generation or two ago was filled by organised religion and closer community bonds. Still others are motivated by an explicit religious creed. What matters is ‘pluralism’ – a need to find space and roles for all manner of beliefs and skills to welcome and accommodate a diversity of people to collaborate for a shared sustainability vision.

There are some that would argue that sustainability decision making must be rationale and considered because there may be many short-term penalties and harms to particular interests and the economy if planning and land use are dedicated to longer term goals. In my opinion we need both head and heart.

So I say, let’s give a big bunch of red tulips to each of the conservation and sustainability workers out there who are trying to secure the planet and our land, livelihoods and communities.

Photo notes: I used focus-stacking to maximise depth of field and a polarising filter to maintain the vibrant colour (it was real!) and reduce flare from morning dew). Exposure 1/125s, 50 mm focal length, f/6.3, ISO-100.

This is one of six photographs of the Triflor tulip farm presented in this gallery (HM#022 – HM#027).

Digital specs: 5,860 x 3,910 pixels (23 MP).

Key words: Farming, rural landscape, tulips, flowers, red, passion, 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 *Forest Hill Trust* based in Gore, Southland https://www.facebook.com/forced_account_switch?next=https%3A%2F%2Fm.facebook.com%2FForestHillFoundationTrust%2F&_rdr.

I recommend that the donation goes to the *Forest Hill Trust* because it is a not-for-profit coalition of local volunteers who are working to restore the 578 ha (1430 acre) Forest Hill Scenic Reserve. Forest Hill is the most significant remnant of forest surviving in the Southland Plains area. It is ideally suited to becoming a mainland island and would be an outstanding sanctuary for threatened species on the mainland. Forest Hill is surrounded by farm land making pest eradication and possible predator proof fencing a practical and cost-effective option. The vision for the project is: “To remove forever all introduced mammalian pests and predators from the Forest Hill Scenic Reserve and restore the forest to a healthy diversity of indigenous flora and fauna, many species of which have not been seen in the area in our lifetimes.”

Image Ref: HM#022 (Please refer to this reference in orders and correspondence)

Henrik Moller

29 November 2021.