



Title: *"Forgiveness"*

Description: White tulips, Southland.

Photographer: Henrik Moller

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

Sustainability? White tulips are said to symbolise forgiveness, respect, purity and honour.

Action for sustainability is constantly plagued by a blame-game. We point fingers at whom we think is most responsible for the mess, or who has most opportunity to make the immediate sacrifices and investments to put things right again. In reality, we are all in this together and not everyone can respond as well as others.

Many environmentalists are understandably frustrated by lack of action. Some think that attacking the person they consider responsible will make them change. It's an arrogant and self-defeating assumption. Actually, when an attack is personalised, people are less likely to respond. We are born with two ears and one mouth ... maybe sometimes we can do better by first listening. We can talk more once a relationship and respect has been established.

Sustainability is complex – we tend to see the world differently, yet we need to reach an agreement where individual opportunities for immediate individual gain does not trump the group's need for restraint so that collective wellbeing is secured in the longer run. If we start by respecting each other more, we are much more likely to collaborate and find lasting solutions.

There is now a huge body of research on environmental justice and 'co-management' of the environment. A recurring conclusion is that everyone wants to be included and feel heard. Decisions for sustainability will only endure where people's identity, knowledge and role has been recognised. But first we have to forgive each other for our part of making a mess in the first place.

Maybe we should adopt white tulips a symbol of the ecological restoration, or better yet, for biocultural restoration then?

Photo notes: I used focus-stacking to maximise depth of field and a polarising filter to reduce flare from morning dew. Exposures 1/125s, 31mm focal length, f/18, ISO-100.

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

Digital specs: 5,328 x 3,555 pixels (19 MP).

Key words: Farming, rural landscape, tulips, flowers, white, forgiveness, blame, respect, collaboration, 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#024 (Please refer to this reference in orders and correspondence)

Henrik Moller
29 November 2021.