



**Title:** *"Red Lines"*

**Description:** Tulips, Southland.

**Photographer:** Henrik Moller

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

**Sustainability?** Crops produce amazing patterns on the landscape, like these rows of tulips at Triflor in Southland. The regularity of the rows and convergent lines draw the eye through the landscape and help provide perspective. The gaps between the rows are traversed by tractors to plant, spray and later extract the bulbs. A cloth mesh is laid under the rows at planting so a machine can lift the cloth to wrench the bulbs out of the ground.

This regularity of human-made landscapes contrasts with the more abstract and non-linear features of 'nature'. We sometimes say "Engineers like it smooth, ecologists like it rough"! What is a mess to a road builder or tractor operator, is a glorious tangle of life and opportunity to an ecologist. Farmers seem to fit somewhere in the middle.

Many farmers see a farm with straight lines and no weeds to be a sign of order and efficiency, a testament to their land care and a source of pride. The same goes for passers by who peer over the boundary fence from the roadways. Others seek a wildness in nature and find the linear features of a landscape to be a sign of interference and imposition. A tidy farm can be a relatively quiet and dead place. The ecological riot of say an organic farm is pleasing to some, and a sign of slovenly land management to others. As farmers decide on the land use of around 60% of New Zealand's surface, these deep seated beliefs about beauty in landscapes will have a huge influence on biodiversity, as well as farm efficiency and economic resilience in Aotearoa's future.

I think most people will find this red lined hill beautiful (I sure did), but our deeper emotional responses to landscapes is perhaps underscored by how much we appreciate and are comforted by seeing the human touch, or how much we think that the human touch has spoiled the scene in front of us.

**Photo notes:** I took this photo at Triflor, a tulip farm near Edendale in Southland. It's a stitch of 4 images, each exposed for 1/80s using a zoom lens at 53 mm, f/9 and ISO-100.

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

**Digital specs:** 11,795 x 3,978 pixels (47 MP).

**Key words:** Farming, rural landscape, tulips, flowers, red, tidiness, linear features, human touch, Henrik Moller, Aotearoa, New Zealand, Sustainability.

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

Visit [www.ecosystemsphotography/sales](http://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](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#026 (Please refer to this reference in orders and correspondence)

**Henrik Moller**

29 November 2021.