



**Title:** “*Haere atu ra* (Farewell)”

**Description:** Urupā (Māori cemetery) at dusk

**Photographer:** Henrik Moller

**Where, when:** Koputauki, 10 km north of Coromandel township, New Zealand, December 2020.

**Sustainability?** Last December I spent three evenings and mornings trying to photograph the Koputauki Urupā, about 10 km north of Coromandel township. The urupā (Māori cemetery) sits in a bare paddock, right on the edge of a beach. It was a profoundly moving and spiritual place.

Why did that place move me so much? Nothing speaks to me more of occupation, roots and *whakapapa* (knowing who you are and where you belong) than an urupā (Māori cemetery). To come to know and love a place is a huge motivator to defend it for yourself, your family and community. True, some environmentalists are fighting for the planet, but for many of us it is more about defending home. Sustainability is a transgenerational gift from our ancestors and to the future people of our place.

I was shocked to learn later from the *mana whenua* (owners of that place) that they are fighting to stop the Koputauki Urupā from being eroded away because of climate change causing sea-level rise. How distressing and unjust to have to protect their *tupuna* (ancestors) from a threat coming from far away, and well beyond their control as *kaitiaki* (environmental guardians) of that sacred place. Some aspects of sustainability challenges are unjust.

**Photo notes:** Panorama from 3 exposures, 1/50s, 40 mm focal length, f/16, ISO-250.

A similar photograph was taken the following morning (“*Morning has broken*”) and is included in this gallery.

**Digital specs:** 14,000 x 3,500 pixels (50 MP).

**Key words:** Place, Sea-level rise, climate change, urupā, Māori, cemetery, dusk, sea, spiritual, environmental justice, Aotearoa, New Zealand, Sustainability.

**Price:** \$200 (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 WWF-NZ.

We recommend that the donation goes to WWF-NZ because of their action to mitigate and adapt to climate change

[https://www.wwf.org.nz/what we do/climateaction/new\\_zealand\\_impacts/](https://www.wwf.org.nz/what_we_do/climateaction/new_zealand_impacts/).

They apply evidence-based environmental advocacy and support education and community-led action. A strong Treaty of Waitangi commitment makes them especially ideal for receiving a donation for the subject of this image.

**Image Ref:** HM#031 (Please refer to this reference in orders and correspondence)