



Title: "Arrival of the Brass Monkeys"

Description: Motorbike riders arriving at Oturehua for the Brass Monkey Rally

Photographer: Henrik Moller

Where, when: Oturehua, Maniototo, June 2021

Sustainability? Two thousand bikers converged on Oturehua, a small rural town in Central Otago, from all round New Zealand for the 40th and final "Brass Monkey Rally" in May of this year. I share their love for that country. The long open horizontals of the Maniototo are ringed by mountains, including Mount Ida in the background of this photograph. A similar themed photograph called "*Easy Riders Through the Pigroot*" shows the rally participants navigating the Pig Root pass earlier that day.

Town and country depend on each other. Stupid "us or them" divisions undermine our collective resilience – 'and' is a much more useful word than 'or' when it comes to most sustainability discussions. It scares me that 89% of voters live in towns, but over 60% of our national income comes from the biological industries out in the countryside.

Increasing urbanisation means we understand each other's lives and challenges less and less every year. Events and excursions like the Brass Monkey Rally build much needed connections between town and country mice!

The Otago Motorcycle Club, the organisers of the Brass Monkey Rally, donated proceeds from the event to *Otago Community Hospice*. We warmly *tautoko* (support) that choice of recipient in view of the amazing and loving support that organisation gives to the terminally ill and their grieving families. "Tautoko" is doubly appropriate choice of word in this instance – it means to support, assist and give comfort. It is an expression of the Māori values of *manaaki* & *tiaki*: to support and take care of, to guard and protect. This is exactly what the hospice does for people at a time of extreme need.

Manaaki and *tiaki* are core values needed for building sustainability and community resilience.

The Otago Community Hospice used the proceeds from the rally to buy a 4x4-wheel-drive vehicle to serve their rural community clients. It is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain rural services on which our farming families rely, so this gift of funds from the townies attending the Brass Monkey Rally helps sustain the country people. How's that for reciprocity and cross-country *manaakitanga* (care)?

Photo notes: I constructed these images by first stitching a panorama of the landscape with an empty road from about 40 images, each exposed for 1/125s, at f/14 and ISO-100. Then I snapped the oncoming bikes at 1/600s, f/11, ISO-500 to cope with their (freaky) speed. I painted the two sets of images into one image using Affinity Photo software. Keeping the tripod and focal length (100mm) exactly the same throughout the series is key to being able to combine them later.

Is that overkill by a novice photographer, or a way of capturing the grandeur and texture of the landscapes with a medium format camera?

Digital specs: 35,004 x 6,894 pixels (241 MP).

Key words: Motorcycles, rally, road trip, Oturehua, Maniototo, rural sustainability, 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 *Otago Community Hospice* <https://otagohospice.co.nz/>.

Image Ref: HM#043 (Please refer to this reference in orders and correspondence)

Henrik Moller

4 December 2021