



Title: *"Playful Tide"*

Description: A very small land/sand-slide created a tiny cliff for the incoming tide to crash against, creating some lovely shapes.

Photographer: Nicola Pye

Where, when: Tomahawk Beach, Dunedin, August 2020

Sustainability? This area of coast is troubled by erosion, particularly wind erosion, and also subject to the ever-controversial sand-mining. The desire of humans to live near the coast and have it conform to their demands can't always be easily (or successfully) achieved. Luckily, this area isn't as heavily populated as a little bit further up the coast, and wildlife seems a bit safer and more comfortable here. Humans too are nurtured by the rhythms, textures, sounds and smells of a beach and sea – they are public places for play, or retreat and contemplation from busy lives. It's no accident that many of our larger settlements are on the coast – after all, sea provided the main roads for transporting goods for the earliest colonisers of Aotearoa New Zealand. A walk by the sea is therefore hugely important for people's health and wellbeing, and where many people contact 'nature' in their weekly and seasonal routines.

The foam captured in this photograph is formed by air bubbles and decaying organic matter, probably mainly dead algae that are suspended in sea water that has been aerated by being churned by wind and wave action. A soup of fats, detergent, protein, salts, and dead algae can make more foam in heavily polluted waters, but thankfully this is not common in Aotearoa. The foam photographed here is a tohu, a sign, of a healthy and productive ocean ecosystem. The algae are the base of the food chain in the sea, like the plants on land. They feed the zooplankton (microscopic animals), ...

that feed the smaller fish ... that feed the bigger fish and the birds and whales ... a chain of connected lives!

Seeing a healthy froth of foam on my beach walk makes me happy.

Photo notes: *Camera:* OM-D E-M5 Mark II. *Lens:* Olympus M.Zuiko Digital ED 12-40mm F2.8 Pro. *Settings:* f/7 1/1250 sec ISO500 40mm.

On this day, things felt quite light-hearted as the tide slowly came in and hit the little ledge of sand, creating these beautiful foamy splashes. I used a fairly fast shutter speed to catch the shapes, as they're a bit quick for naked eye, but the glimpses I caught meant I knew they were there!

Digital specs: 3244 x 2280 pixels (4.46 MB).

Key words: Beach, shore, erosion, tides, ocean, sand, froth, Nicola Pye, 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 Dunedin Night Shelter Trust
<https://dunedinnightshelter.co.nz/>

The Dunedin Night Shelter trust is the only night shelter in Dunedin, and offers free temporary emergency accommodation for anyone in need. They provide warm meals, showers and somewhere for people to wash their clothes, and they assist people in need to find more permanent homes. They do all this with no central government assistance, but rely almost completely on grants and donations, many from the local community. I've chosen this charity for this image as many of my landscapes are taken during winter months, when it can get seriously cold out photographing. However, I've usually come from a warm bed, and have a cosy home to go back to afterwards - I can't imagine living and sleeping rough during a Dunedin winter. I'm very glad we have this option in our city for those in need.

Image Ref: NP#008 (Please refer to this reference in orders and correspondence).

Nicola Pye
March 2022