



Title: “Shelter Me”

Description: A very small hut is completely dwarfed by the bare landscape around it.

Photographer: Nicola Pye

Where, when: Hawkdun Runs Road, Saint Bathans, August 2017

Sustainability? The Hawkdun Range creates a stark boundary between North Otago and South Canterbury. This tiny hut sits between the Manuherikia River and the ranges under a dark and massive shadow.

The image brings to mind the Dunedin Night Shelter. It 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 and deal with the bigger shadows that have overtaken their lives. I took this photograph as it really highlights to me how small and insignificant we are in so many ways, and how vulnerable to our changing environment.

Too often we define sustainability in environmental and economic terms – the idea that we can carry on using things in a place for ever. Social sustainability is just as crucial, and the wellspring from which we can make just and enduring decisions. So indirectly, the way we treat each other as human beings is a keystone of sustainability and resilience. A loving and sharing society is better able to find lasting solutions for the benefit of us all, and if we have enough food and a warm shelter and security, space remains to think long term. This is sometimes expressed in a Māori whakatauki (saying) – *Ka ora te whenua, ka ora te tangata* – *if the land is healthy, the people are healthy*. It’s just as important to think of it the other way round .. if the people are healthy the land will be healthy. Providing a night shelter for people in need speaks of a community that can make long-term decisions to support us all.

Photo notes: *Camera:* OM-D E-M1. *Lens:* Olympus M.Zuiko Digital ED 40-150mm F2.8 Pro. *Settings:* f/6.3 1/4000 sec ISO1250 110mm.

Making it monochrome helped to simplify the image so that the tiny hut looked even more exposed.

Digital specs: 4608 x 2930 pixels (9.05 MB).

Key words: Landscape, mountains, tramping, monochrome, contrast, conservation, Otago, 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 is run by a trust. They have 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#010 (Please refer to this reference in orders and correspondence).

Nicola Pye
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