



Title: “Sandymount Sheep”

Description: Sandymount, Otago Peninsula, Dunedin

Photographer: Trevor Douglas

Where, when: Otago Peninsula, Dunedin, January 2021.

Sustainability? This was an incredibly foggy day on the Otago Peninsula and we were hoping to capture some shots of the fog enveloping the tall trees through the path to Lover's Leap. On the way back I started photographing these tortured trees and then three sheep wandered into the frame. At first I thought *oh no not sheep*, but I think they have added to the image. Their resilience captures the mood of that wind-swept and sodden landscape in what the Scots call 'dreich' conditions.

Having some shelter in farmland is important for the stock, but also for biodiversity and ecosystem functioning. In Europe there are strict regulations for retaining a minimum level of woody vegetation in the landscapes (e.g. 7% minimum in Switzerland). Revegetating New Zealand's lowland agricultural landscapes is the main way we can restore biodiversity and the ecosystem services. More hilly country like that on Otago Peninsula, has a higher proportion of woody vegetation, but the less fertile soils and colder conditions natural constrain biodiversity compared to the warmer and flatter terrain.

The long grass in the foreground of this photograph provides habitat for insects, which in turn are foods for birds. Unfortunately, the grass seeds and insects also attract mice, which in turn attract stoats. The stoats are difficult to control, especially in the spring time when protection of nesting birds is most beneficial. Lots of wonderful work is underway on Otago peninsula to replant some area with more diverse native species and to eradicate pests from the entire Peninsula. As the base of the Peninsula is sealed off by houses and city development, the Peninsula can act as a type of “mainland island” refuge if the pests can be eradicated entirely. Possum eradication

started at the tip of the Peninsula in 2011 and has worked its way south to near Dunedin – a real community conservation effort.

Photo notes: Exposure 1/150s at 32 mm focal length, f/8 aperture and ISO-200.

Digital specs: 4,896 x 3,264 pixels (16 MP).

Key words: Otago Peninsula, Otago Peninsula, Sandymount, Sheep, Fog, Dunedin, Trevor Douglas, 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 Peninsula Biodiversity Group (OPBG)* <https://www.predatorfreepeninsula.nz/>

I recommend that the donation goes to *OPBG* because of their amazing energy and success in planting and controlling introduced predators on Otago Peninsula.

Image Ref: TD#007 (Please refer to this reference in orders and correspondence).

Trevor Douglas, 23 November 2021.