



Title: *“Matanaka”*

Description: Sandymount, Otago Peninsula, Dunedin

Photographer: Trevor Douglas

Where, when: Matanaka, Waikouaiti, June 2021.

Sustainability? I made this image late afternoon with the setting sun illuminating this Storeroom, one of several buildings at the historical farm site at Matanaka.

These buildings are some of the oldest buildings in New Zealand. The farm sits near to site of the Johnny Jones whaling station and the early missionary station of Reverend James and Hannah Watkin. James and Hannah arrived at Waikouaiti in 1840. Within weeks local Māori had ‘begun to abstain from work on the Lord’s day’ and by year’s end Watkin was taking two writing classes a day. James had a flare for languages and published one of the first books on the southern Māori dialect. Hannah was meanwhile working with the Māori women, passing on domestic skills like sewing. Watkin was replaced at Waikouaiti by Reverend Charles Creed in 1844. His first words to his successor were ‘Welcome to Purgatory, Brother Creed.’ Watkin moved to Wellington and then to Sydney where he died in 1886. Hannah survived until 1900 and died in her 94th year.

Our human history is intimately intertwined with our environmental history. We must not forget either of them. Partly they are clues about the way the land came to look the way it is today, and partly lessons about continuance and adaptation of both the land and the people. There are also important lessons from past mistakes of land use, and the way our relationship with our new places drives lasting ecological and bioeconomic change. Times back then were tough by today’s standards and we should not judge the decisions in hindsight of people just desperately trying to gain a foothold in a new and poorly understood land.

I was very pleased and moved by this simple storeroom and reminder of my Pākehā ancestors first steps on this land. We have a distant relationship with this area as my mother's great grandfather was born here in the days of Johnny Jones.

Photo notes: Exposure 1/80s at 18 mm focal length, f/11 aperture and ISO-200.

Digital specs: 3,093 x 3,093 pixels (9 MP).

Key words: Waikouaiti, Matanaka, Farm Buildings, Johnny Jones, Whaling, East Otago, Trevor Douglas, Aotearoa, New Zealand, Sustainability.

Price: \$300 (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 Waikouaiti Coast Heritage Centre <https://www.wchc.org.nz/>.

I recommend that the donation goes to Waikouaiti Coast Heritage Centre because it helps maintain our connection to the past.

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

Trevor Douglas, 23 November 2021.