



Title: *“The Walking Dead”*

Description: Tree stumps at Blueskin Bay

Photographer: Trevor Douglas

Where, when: Blueskin Bay, Warrington, Dunedin, May 2021.

Sustainability? We have been visiting this beach for 30 years and witnessed the erosion of the soil from beneath these trees over this time. Every high tide has removed some soil that the trees rely on resulting in the them becoming unstable and a risk to beach goers. So, many have been cut down and only the stumps left showing the level that they once stood. Climate change is causing sea-level rise and this, when combined with increased coastal surges during storms, is eroding many coastal margins.

Sustainability scientists often refer to “sinking baselines” – the idea that slow and persistent ecological change is not noticed and can be forgotten. Gradually we come to accept the degraded environment as the new norm and we under estimate the size of the threat we face. Ecological and environmental science can help measure the degree of change, but often the scientific record is quite short.

My photograph captures a small clue of the changes afoot if only we can read what we are seeing in environmental change terms. The stumps also evoke imagination and emotion - to me they look like some alien life form crawling across the sand towards the sea.

Photo notes: Exposure 1/200s at 18 mm focal length, f/8 aperture and ISO-200.

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

Key words: Blueskin Bay, Warrington, Beach, Climate change, Sinking baselines, Sea Levels, Erosion, Trees, 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 Blueskin Resilient Communities Trust (BRCT) <https://www.brct.org.nz/>.

I recommend that the donation goes to BRCT because they are working strongly at a local community level to both adapt to and mitigate climate change. They are also taking a holistic social-economic-environmental approach to promoting positive change.

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

Trevor Douglas, 23 November 2021.