



**Title:** “From the Bedroom Window in Winter”

**Short Description:** Morning mist viewed from Osborne, Pūrākaunui

**Photographer:** Tim Heath

**Where and when:** Pūrākaunui, May, 2021

**Sustainability:** These shelterbelts are beautifully silhouetted on the ridge line. The trees are the ubiquitous champions of pioneering Otago, *Cupressus macrocarpa*. Shelterbelts are also important “ecological corridors”. They connect different parts of production landscapes, harbour birds, insects, and a whole range of native spiders that are in turn good food for birds. When shelterbelts are made up of native species, unsurprisingly there are more native insects. These woody strips help with animal welfare and divert little productive ground from sheep or beef stock production.

In many places in Europe there are strict rules about what farmers can and cannot do with their shelterbelts, or “hedgerows” as they often call them. Vegetation cover is mapped from satellites and the hedgerows are coded Red (not to be altered), Blue (some limited modification allowed) and Green (do what you like). Many of the European farmers resent this level of regulation and control, and New Zealand farmers simply won’t tolerate it.

There is a middle ground. We all talk about Otepoti as a wildlife capital. To make that a sustainable reality we need to plant more native spp for habitat and food. Let’s start with landscape strips and corridors. Let’s ask DCC and NZTA to look harder at street tree planting and road verge planting. We need to focus on native species. Let’s incentivise farmers and share some of the

cost for protecting and connecting patches of bush that will lead to a greater biodiversity.

**Photographer's notes:** iPhone 6+

**Exposure:** 1/3200s, f/2.2, 4.15 mm, ISO 32

**Digital specs:** 3,264 x 2,176 (7MP)

**Key words:** Mist, landscape, shelterbelts, agricultural landscapes, biodiversity, spiders, birds, Tim Heath, Aotearoa, New Zealand, Ecosystems Photography, Sustainability.

**Price:** \$100 donation. Visit [www.ecosystemsphotography/sales](http://www.ecosystemsphotography/sales) for details & to order, or 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 Halo Project <https://www.haloproject.org.nz/>.

We recommend that the donation goes to *The Halo Project*, Dunedin because they are working hard to create native forest habitat to receive the “spill-over” of birds flowing out of the Orokonui Ecosanctuary where predators are controlled. Their “Sources to Sea” (*Ki uta, ki Tai*) is a particularly valuable approach to restore whole landscapes with planting and predator control,

**Image Ref:** TH#005 (please use this reference in all orders and correspondence).

**Tim Heath**

9 December 2021