



**Title:** “Pond Dancing”

**Short Description:** Pond with reed reflections in Huangshan, China.

**Photographer:** Tim Heath

**Where and when:** October, 2018. Huangshan, People’s Republic of China

**Sustainability:** Water has a universal magic. Apart from being essential for our existence, water has been used since time immemorial in parks, gardens and landscapes to exhibit the many moods. Moorish Gardens in the Middle East and Spain treat water as a beautiful and precious commodity. Which of course it is. But also, at the Hill Gardens in Italy and the formal gardens throughout Asia, India and Japan, water has the capacity to anchor place and mood, to create feelings of tranquillity and peace.

In many cities in China urban parks commonly feature lakes. Here recreation includes the playing of musical instruments, morning and evening exercises and meditation. This photograph captures only some of the magic and dance. I took it while working in Huangshan to design buildings for a World Ecological Reserve near Mt Huangshan, one of the five sacred mountains in PR China. We regularly visit a pond just like it on our kind neighbour’s farm at Pūrākaunui.

Wetlands are also important elements in ecological landscapes – they clean water, trap nutrients and act as carbon sinks to help mitigate climate change. They harbour an array of native water birds, insects, and fish, some of which are threatened.

The Canterbury Mudfish has a conservation status of Threatened (Nationally Critical) under the NZ Threat Classification System. Like many of New Zealand's fauna, it has weird and wonderful powers – this one can survive months of drought without running water. They hunker down under cover of logs, tree roots and wetland plants and then wait it out by slowing down their metabolism and absorbing water through their skin.

Our magnificent and mysterious eels are in trouble due to combined effects of drainage, damming of waterways and commercial harvesting. The eels are masters at surviving in water with low oxygen levels. Introduced trout and salmon can't survive there, so some wetlands are refuges for native species that are elsewhere threatened by trout.

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

**Exposure:** 1/15s, f/2.2, 4.15 mm, ISO 50

**Digital specs:** 1,280 x 1,280 (1.6MP)

**Key words:** Reeds, reflections, magic dance, wetlands, mud fish, trout, 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 is made up entirely by a \$100 donation to a sustainability organisation or project of your choice, or otherwise for *The National Wetland Trust* <https://www.wetlandtrust.org.nz/>.

We recommend that the donation goes to *The National Wetland Trust* to support their work on raising appreciation for wetlands. They are a Not-for-Profit organisation that is run by volunteers and donations. They have a Discovery Centre at Rotopiko near Hamilton, but also support education, outreach and policy for wetland conservation, recovery and creation.

**Image Ref:** TH#009 (please use this reference in all orders and correspondence).

**Tim Heath**

9 December 2021