

nzphotoart



PHOTOGRAPHY BY STUART MACDONALD



nzphotoart



PHOTOGRAPHY BY STUART MACDONALD



# nzphotoart



PHOTOGRAPHY BY STUART MACDONALD

# nzphotoart



PHOTOGRAPHY BY STUART MACDONALD

# **nz**photoart

Landscape and Fine Art Images from New Zealand

Photography by Stuart Macdonald

To the memory of my mother and father, who loved Central Otago,  
and spent most of their lives there.

To Suzie and Lachlan for their encouragement and support.

Published by Stuart Macdonald  
Copyright © Stuart Macdonald, 2014  
[www.smphotoart.co.nz](http://www.smphotoart.co.nz)  
[stuartmac@paradise.net.nz](mailto:stuartmac@paradise.net.nz)

The right of Stuart Macdonald to be identified as the author of this work in  
terms of section 96 of the Copyright Act 1994 is hereby asserted.

Photography by Stuart Macdonald  
Introduction by Stuart Macdonald

Designed by Anna Egan-Reid  
Typeset by Sophia Egan-Reid  
Produced by Mary Egan Publishing  
[www.maryegan.co.nz](http://www.maryegan.co.nz)  
Printed in New Zealand

All rights reserved. Without limiting the rights under copyright reserved above, no part  
of this publication may be reproduced, stored in or introduced into a retrieval system,  
or transmitted, in any form or by any means (electronic, mechanical, photocopying,  
recording or otherwise), without the prior written permission of both the copyright  
owner and the above publisher of this book.

ISBN 978-0-473-28479-4

CONTENTS

Introduction	5
List of Side Images	6
List of Main Images	7
Images	8-171

## INTRODUCTION

This book is a collection of New Zealand photographs, taken over the last 10 years or so, that spans landscapes, still life, macro photography and buildings (for example, churches). There are also images of a more documentary nature that comment on our way of life – what I call ‘social commentary’. All these images are deliberately mixed up through the book to give you variety and a sense of New Zealand as you turn the pages . . .

We live in a country where many beautiful and special places are easily accessible. There are no vast distances involved in going from the misty bush on the slopes of Mount Taranaki to the open expanse of places like the desert road. Or from the bush clad shorelines of the South Westland lakes to the flat plains of the Maniototo. I think New Zealanders are very privileged to be living in such a varied and beautiful place, and this book is my attempt to capture that specialness and beauty.

Although some of these images will be of places or things already familiar to you, my aim has been to look at our country, including everyday things, from a different angle. The images in here will, I hope, evoke in you the reader the same sense of wonder, peace, spirit and beauty that I have experienced being there.

The larger ‘main’ images are on the right-hand pages as you go through, and are designed to be removed from the book, if you wish, for framing or simply pinning to the wall. Each image has a short ‘story’ which might say where it was taken and how you find the place, or may be about the process involved in getting that ‘shot’. All the landscapes are identified by location so that you can also go there if the mood takes you.

I have been fascinated by photography from a very early age. Like many people the requirements of everyday life meant that I did not really follow my passion until my time ‘freed up’ later in life. I have used a range of cameras over the last 10–12 years, and of course digital photography has progressed in leaps and bounds during that time. I now use a Nikon D800 (my ‘magic brick’!) but some of the images here were taken in earlier days, with a Canon compact camera. Whilst a good camera makes a difference I have always believed that most of the artistic value in any image is down to the photographer, not the equipment. This reminds me of the old photographic maxim – it is better to have some form of camera (and tripod) with you, and capture the moment, than to have left the expensive camera at home because it was too big and heavy! My website also includes a few older film images scanned to digital format.

The techniques involved in obtaining these images vary. For a landscape it is often a matter, having found the site or scene, of waiting for the ‘right’ light. This is often early or late in the day when the low sun creates a beautiful contrast of colours, but equally for a bush scene an overcast day might be needed to avoid harsh contrasts of light. The still-life images in this book, particularly those ‘painted’ by Maglite torch, were a patient exercise in taking a range of shots, often 30–40 or more, to get the right lighting and effect. This is where digital photography really helps – the photographer can experiment with different angles and settings, review on camera, and try again. Even outdoor shots can benefit from different exposures, and refining your composition.

It is worth thinking about photography (at least the type of photography in this book) as being like fishing! A particular image may involve several visits to that place to get the light or circumstances you want, and there will be times when, despite hours patiently waiting, no good shot emerges. This is an exercise in patience, like catching the fish. But a powerful consolation is just being there . . . in that place, that moment. Many of the scenes in this book should be experienced in their own right for their beauty or peace – whether a photograph is taken or not.

Motorcycling is another ‘passion’ of mine and a fair proportion of these images resulted from me ‘seeing’ something whilst travelling down the road, and then belatedly stopping to backtrack . . . I find that always having a camera with me is a great incentive to truly observe – to ‘see’ the beauty or uniqueness of what is around me.

Through my website at [www.smphotoart.co.nz](http://www.smphotoart.co.nz) all these images can be obtained as prints, and most are available up to quite large sizes. On the website there is also information about photography – for example, ‘how to’ articles that you can use to improve your photography.

I hope you enjoy these images as much as I have enjoyed the journey capturing them.

*Stuart Macdonald*  
March 2014



## SIDE IMAGES

Floral Art	8	Old House Near Motueka	64	Tekapo Canal at Dawn	120
Wanaka Tree 3	10	Old Bones, Patea	66	River Mist	122
Drink Steinlager Pure	12	Angels, Oamaru Cemetery	68	Winter Leaves Mono	124
Apartments	14	Purple Shadow	70	Standing Still	126
Castle Hill 4	16	Screwed	72	Point Halswell, Wellington	128
Resting Place	18	Castlepoint Lagoon	74	Near Benmore	130
End of Day	20	Spears	76	Goblin Forest 2	132
Near Lake Sylvan	22	Call Me	78	Soft Flowers	134
Mount Taranaki 2	24	Get Well Pill	80	Kaitoke Bush	136
Maheno Cemetery	26	Golden Clouds	82	Pure Sugar	138
Near Old Dunstan Road	28	Hearts	84	Shipwreck, Wairau Lagoon	140
Towards Glendhu Bay Wanaka	30	Petals 2	86	Hope Gibbons Building	142
Milford Sound 2	32	Baring Head 2	88	Green Blue	144
Angel 2	34	Queen Victoria	90	Reading	146
Ripples	36	Teen Boys Drink This	92	Blue Lake	148
Shipwreck	38	St Patrick's Basilica 2	94	Silver Peaks	150
Golden Tree	40	Tulips	96	Hunter's Cabin	152
Car Junkyard	42	Tree Stump in Ureweras	98	Near Lawrence	154
Looking Across Lake Wanaka	44	Real Vodka	100	St Paul's Cathedral, Dunedin 2	156
House and Sky	46	Tokaanu Pier	102	Golden Towers	158
Marlborough Sounds	48	Phone Box, Marokopa	104	Old House Near Gladstone	160
Flower in Mono 2	50	Angel	106	Old Freezing Works, Patea	162
Old House Mono	52	Misty Day	108	Buy Jif	164
Angel 1, Porangahau	54	Lake Edge	110	Cathedral of the Holy Spirit 2 Detail	166
Capsicums	56	Lake Taupo Mist	112	Baubles	168
Coffee Robot	58	Cape Foulwind 4	114	Feathers	170
Female	60	Cape Foulwind 3	116		
Mist	62	Jesus Christ Is Lord	118		

## MAIN IMAGES

Goblin Forest	9	Halcombe	65	Lake Alexandrina	121
Wanaka Tree	11	Patea Wharf at Dusk	67	Tulips	123
White Cliffs	13	Hokitika Gorge	69	Lake Ohau	125
Manaia Rotunda	15	Letterboxes	71	Clay Cliffs	127
Ahuriri Valley	17	Near Lake Alice	73	V	129
Dart River Towards Southern Alps	19	Castlepoint Lighthouse	75	Lake Benmore	131
Lindis Hills Early Morning	21	King and Queen	77	St Patrick's, Waimate	133
Southern Alps from Lake Matheson	23	Sunlight	79	Danseys Pass	135
Mount Taranaki at Dusk	25	Stony Beach	81	Hawkdun Range	137
The Fallen	27	Near Ngawi	83	Maniototo Dawn	139
Pyramid	29	Cape Palliser	85	Key Summit Wetland	141
Ship Creek	31	Across Palliser Bay	87	St Patrick's Basilica, Oamaru	143
Milford Sound	33	Baring Head	89	Petals	145
Marokopa Falls	35	Wainuiomata River Mouth	91	Queen Charlotte Sound	147
Mount Ruapehu from Jerusalem Road	37	Hostess	93	Blue Lake Reflection	149
Autumn Leaves	39	Forest Mist	95	Alexandra Autumn	151
Lake Taupo at Dawn	41	Wellington at Dusk	97	Poolburn Reservoir	153
Pylons Near Desert Road	43	Alleyway	99	Towards Lammerlaw Range	155
Lake Moeraki Mist	45	Otari Stream	101	St Paul's Cathedral, Dunedin	157
Viaduct	47	Scrap	103	Old Pier, St Clair Beach	159
Urewera Mist	49	Pool	105	Tunnel Beach	161
Maniatoto Winter	51	St Mary of the Angels	107	Arrowtown Autumn	163
Aloe Vera	53	Boulder Bank	109	Flower in Mono	165
Te Mata Peak	55	Marbles	111	Cathedral of the Holy Spirit	167
Towards Cape Kidnappers	57	Riverbank Stones	113	Whakaki Lagoon	169
Art Deco	59	Cape Foulwind 1	115	Hooker Glacier Lake	171
From Te Mata Peak	61	Cape Foulwind 2	117		
Clean Teeth	63	Lake Pearson	119		



---

OPPOSITE PAGE

### Goblin Forest

The ethereal feel of the Goblin Forest only really emerges when the mist and drizzle swirl around the slopes of Mount Taranaki/Mount Egmont. This magical scene is on the Ngatoro Loop Track accessed via the North Egmont Visitor Centre.

Nikon D800, 24-120mm at f16 and 1 second. ISO 200. On tripod.

---

LEFT

### Floral Art

Taken in the dark with a torch 'painting' the flowers, it took (only) around 30 shots to capture the depth of colour, and get one that worked! The artistry is in the arrangement of the flowers...

Canon 7D, 15-85mm at f16 and 10 seconds. ISO 100. On tripod.





Goblin Forest



---

OPPOSITE PAGE

**Wanaka Tree**

This special tree (its shape and place) sits on the edge of Lake Wanaka just near the foreshore walk. Waiting until dusk produced this image – tinged blue as the light faded. The long exposure smoothes out the waters of the lake . . .

Nikon D800, 24-120mm at f9.5 and 30 seconds. ISO 100. On tripod.



---

LEFT

**Wanaka Tree 3**

This is another interpretation of the ‘Wanaka Tree’ – made from a shot of the tree taken in daylight with the lake waters quite still. Photoshop was used to turn it into a high contrast black and white image with an ‘infrared’ look. I wanted to create a moody dark feel . . .

Nikon D800, 24-120mm at f8 and 1/125sec. ISO 100.



Wanaka Tree






---

OPPOSITE PAGE

### White Cliffs

The White Cliffs are just north of Urenui in Taranaki. Whilst the track above the cliffs can be accessed any time it is the walk along the beach below the cliffs, just a couple of hours after high tide, that is special. This image was taken on a day with high cloud to avoid a harsh light . . .

Canon 7D, 15-85mm at f11 and 1/45sec. ISO 100.

---

LEFT

### Drink Steinlager Pure

A beer can 'still life' . . . Not the only iconic New Zealand beer, but the colour and design of the can lend themselves to art . . .

Canon G10 compact camera at f6.3 and 2 seconds. ISO 80.

On tripod.





White Cliffs



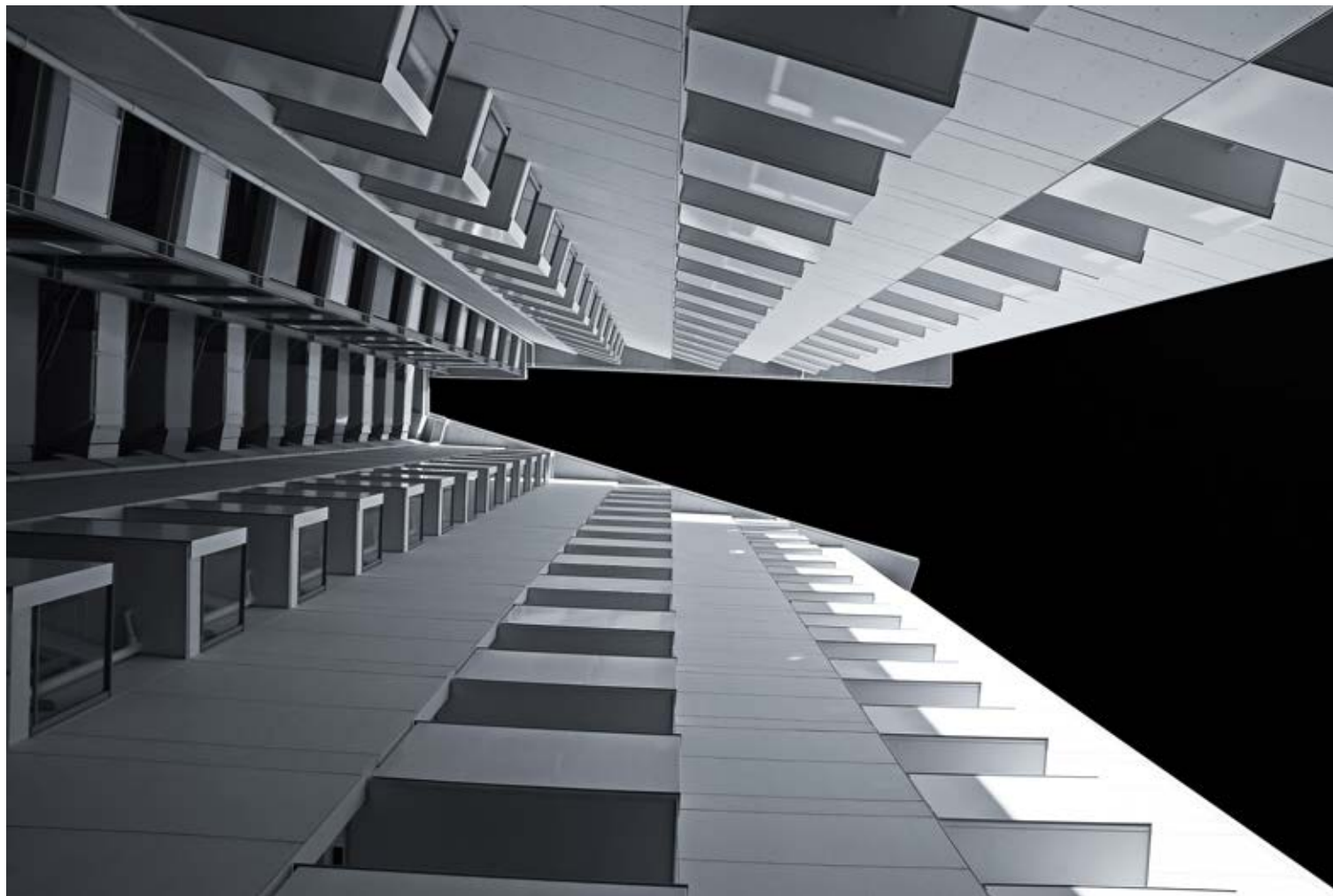
---

OPPOSITE PAGE

### **Manaia Rotunda**

Manaia is a small town just west of Hawera in Taranaki. The rotunda is in the central square with the bread factory on one side and the pub on the other. The names of local servicemen who gave their lives are placed around the rotunda, and the cenotaph on the other side commemorates their sacrifice.

Canon 7D, 15-85mm at f8 and 1/90sec. ISO 100.



---

LEFT

### **Apartments**

This Wellington accommodation building is used by students and travellers. Standing in the forecourt looking straight up, this is what you see. (In the black and white conversion the clear blue sky goes almost completely black.)

Canon 7D, 15-85mm at f11 and 1/90sec. ISO 100.





Manaia Rotunda





---

OPPOSITE PAGE

#### Ahuriri Valley

The Ahuriri Valley is a sparsely populated but not too remote place accessed by shingle road a few kilometres north of Lindis Pass. It evokes that wonderful sense of peace that comes from being in a vast, open, empty place (although you may see the occasional fisherman!).

Nikon D800, 24-120mm at f13 and 1/90sec. ISO 100.

---

LEFT

#### Castle Hill 4

Castle Hill on the Arthur's Pass road is where parts of the Narnia movies were shot. The rock formations are amazing and unique. I originally took this shot in colour but the conversion to black and white, and the darkening of the deep blue sky that resulted, transformed the image. Now the aligned shapes of the rocks at Castle Hill are clearly seen . . .

Nikon D800, 24-120mm at f16 and 1/60sec. ISO 100.





Ahuriri Valley



---

OPPOSITE PAGE

### **Dart River Towards Southern Alps**

North of Glenorchy are the Dart and Rees valleys, and the start of the Routeburn Track. It is a beautiful area. A sealed road leads to the bridge over the Dart River so it is easily accessible. In this early morning shot a small reflection of the Southern Alps is caught in the still side waters of the river. I had to climb under the bridge and get down to river level for this image.

Nikon D800, 24-120mm at f16 and 1/30sec. ISO 100.



---

LEFT

### **Resting Place**

This small Maori resting place has a special spiritual feel about it. The people here were clearly loved. If you are travelling south from Hawera this is on your left not far out of Whanganui.

Canon 7D, 15-85mm at f8 and 1/500sec. ISO 100.





Dart River Towards Southern Alps