



Mauriceville Muster | by Darren Henderson

P A S T O R A L P H O T O G R A P H Y

Mauriceville, New Zealand

May 5th & 6th 2017



Mauriceville Muster

p h o t o g r a p h s b y D a r r e n H e n d e r s o n

f o r e w o r d b y R i c h a r d L y o n s

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FOREWORD

I'm not a well-travelled man. Whether this is a fault I'm not entirely certain but in an age of cosmopolitanism it is often made to seem so. Home is important to me and for better or for worse I've always had a strong sense of it.

Whilst deprived of worldly experience, I have been fortunate in finding urbanity and sophistication amongst my friends, two of whom invited me to accompany them on a trip to New Zealand in 2017. I have known Darren for many years. He spoke highly of the country following a recent visit he and his wife had made to the North Island to attend the wedding of one of Alexandra's friends and held forth at length on the hospitality they'd been shown and the degree to which he and his wife had enjoyed their time away.

Both he and Alex also spoke of Deb and Lee McKinstry with whom they shared a table at this auspicious event. With unparalleled generosity, Deb & Lee were kind enough to offer their North Island Beach House in Ngawi for several weeks where the three of us would be able to read, write, walk and think — and where Darren would be able to ply his trade on fresh subjects.

Prior to our journey to the coast we were invited to stay with the McKinstry's at their farm in Mauriceville where the photos in this book were taken. As you can see the McKinstry's property is a picturesque working farm in a truly idyllic setting. What you may not be able to see is the warmth and hospitality we were shown during our time with Deb and Lee.

More than just pride and a desire to show off what they'd done on their patch of ground, there was also a kind of commitment to the tradition of the honoured guest at play and which, for me at least mitigated some of the difficulty of accepting such astounding generosity. This was the way I was taught and the way my Mother always behaved toward guests in our home. Indeed I quickly discovered that I shared a lot of values with our New Zealand friends and we ceased being strangers in a very short space of time.

I will not attempt to express my gratitude to Deb and Lee here and will only say that should you ever find your way to Australia, I will do my best to offer you the kind of home away from home that I feel I found on your wonderful farm in your amazing country.

R Lyons August 2017







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