

**Hugh Derham** 

## The call of the hills



After the first Christchurch Earthquake in 2010, the house in Bexley was home no more.

This book tells a personal and visual story about how a house in the hills became home.

This book also asks you at the same time, to consider what it is about the high country and mountains that calls to you.

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The front cover is Lake Coleridge viewed from the eastern end looking westwards.

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Bee on the native Kowhai flower





As you drive towards the mountains and reach the top of the rise, you see the hills and the rivers appearing in front of you.



The mountains are often the first to greet the morning sun. As the sun reaches the horizon, the mountain tops light up with an orange glow. The glow descends the mountain and it is morning for everyone. Every sunrise is different. What will be different for you today?



You can walk past this range several times a week, not particularly noticing its beauty. Then one day it suddenly seems incredibly beautiful as the snow, the clouds and

the light all work together in a way not seen before. Is it the ever changing views that make you want to be here?



Lake Georgina in winter





The Wilberforce River in winter





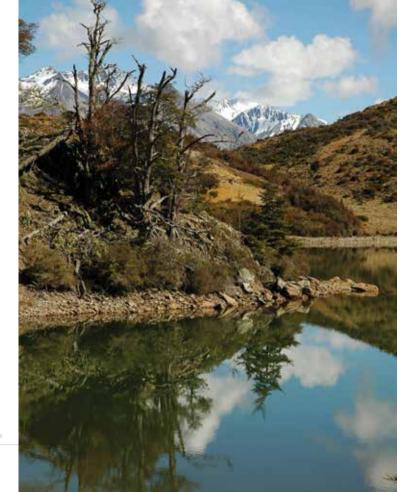
A river, often ferocius, made famous by the book "A River Rules My Life". Now would be a good time to cross it, or walk to its source. The man made canal you can see, feeds water from the Wilberforce into Lake Coleridge for the Power Station at the other end of the lake. Did you know there are over 40 consents the power company has to keep to preserve the environment?

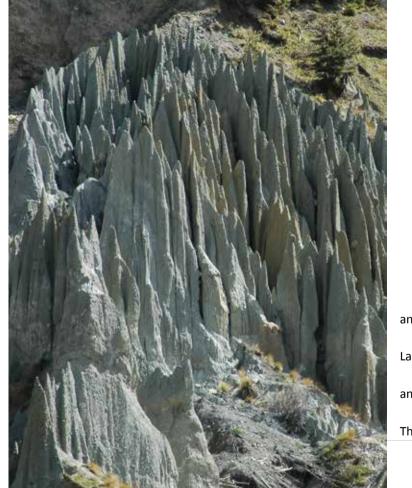


On the Clay Range looking west



The track over the Clay Range



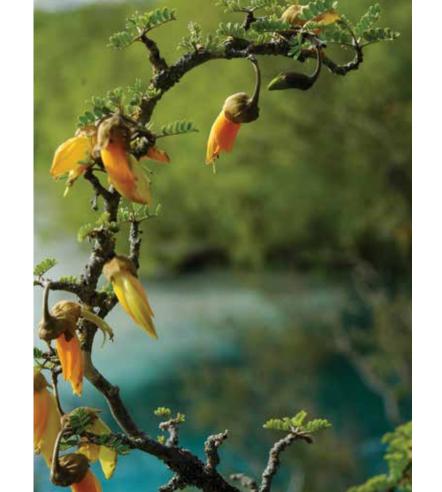


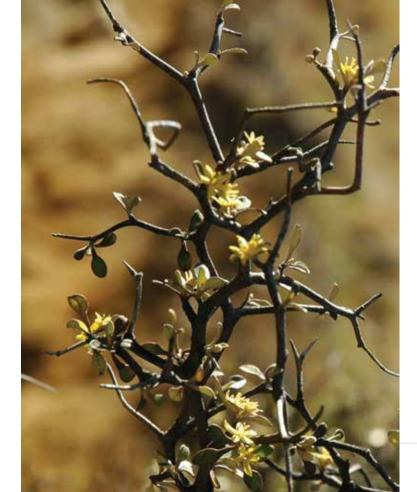
and you reach

Lake Mystery,

and then

The Pinnacles.





and along the way you see many small pleasures:

The Kowhai tree shaped by the wind and

The Corokia Cotoneaster in flower.

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On another day you just have to walk to the top of the hill you see every day from the lounge window. The mountains tower high above the lake, creating weather patterns, and giving turbulent skies.



Lower Glenthorne Station and Ryton Bay



Castle Hill

Sometimes you stumble upon places "out of this world".

Here are limestone rocks which were once at the bottom of the sea.



The Rakaia



The confluence of The Rakaia and The Mathais. The Rakaia is the left branch.









The river is too high to cross, the only option to get to the source is over a mountain, the consolation is the view.

The Lyell and Ramsey glaciers in adjacent valleys, are the sources of the Rakaia. Today it is cloudy, do you have to climb again on a better day?



The Ramsey Glacier at the head of the Rakaia

Each glacier, black with all the accumulated shingle on its surface, slips into a lake, one frozen, one just full of ice cold water.





The Rakaia

The Northwest wind and rain can change the picturesque valley into a torment of dust and water. The clouds are black, the rain comes down in torrents and the snow shimmers on the peaks.







Autumn in Lake Coleridge Village









On top of Cottons Sheep Range





The hoar frosts gradually build up their influence on the plants making them sparkle in the sun.

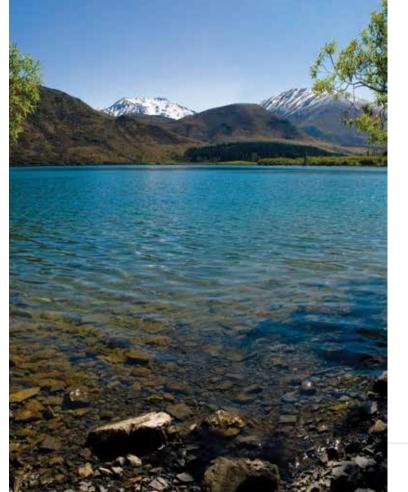
What are the influences on your life?



As the snow recedes, the mountains in front of you throw down the gauntlet. Climb and see the beautiful views at the top. Is it this challenge that brings you back?







Down at the lake the water looks so inviting, you just have to go to the water's edge.

In the distance you see the winter playground of Porter Heights ski field.

In the crystal clear water you find trout enjoying the ice cold fresh water.

What would you enjoy here?



As the snow disappears, you take up the challenge of the hills. This three hour climb is worth every moment of effort.



Looking up The Rakaia from the Dry Acheron walkway.





Lake Georgina

There are so many rivers and lakes around, that a quiet day brings a multitude of reflections.









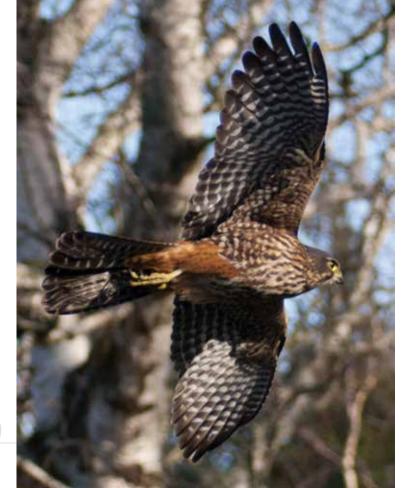








The wax eyes that come in their hundreds during winter, and completely disappear in spring.





The native falcon, who when hungry during the winter, pops in for lunch...if it can be caught!



The kea who likes some company,



The banded dottrel

The banded dottrel runs with you as you walk by the lake's edge. It lays its eggs in a hollow in the shingle bank.

The babies hatch, and run around. You can barely distinguish them from the stones.





This book has been written and produced by Hugh Derham.

The photographs were taken by Hugh Derham in the Lake Coleridge and Rakaia Basin in Canterbury, New Zealand.

Hugh came to live permanently in Lake Coleridge Village after his house became uninhabitable after the first large earthquake to hit Christchurch in September 2010.

All photographs in this book are available on canvas or photographic paper, mounted or unmounted in a range of sizes. If you would like any of these pictures, please contact:

Hugh Derham

CMB 22, Lake Coleridge

RD2 Darfield

Canterbury 7572

New Zealand

www.alpinescene.co.nz hugh@alpinescene.co.nz

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The Hutt Range