

CROSS ROADS

Davina Monds



MoMento

PhotoForum Members' Magazine
Issue 17, April 2015

Cross Roads is my personal, photographic response to Aotearoa/ New Zealand's ever unfolding post-colonial history. The series was created in 2014 to coincide with the bicentennial celebration of Christian beginnings in Aotearoa, marked by Samuel Marsden's initial sharing of the gospel with Maori on Christmas Day, 1814. Preached in English, Samuel Marsden's service was translated to Te Reo Maori by Ngāpuhi Rangatira Ruatara of Rangihoua Pā. Ruatara is now honoured as Te Ara mo te Rongopai – The Gateway for the Gospel. It was a cornerstone sermon in this country's history that has subsequently evolved into the various Christian communities existing in New Zealand today.

The Cross Roads collection is about the diversity and influence of these different communities and the individuals within them. These seemingly separate entities are made congruent by their mutual foundations within biblical faith. Personal identity is conveyed through individual actions that communicate their chosen lifestyles, derived from their beliefs and values. I am interested in both the traditional elements of a more structured Church-based faith and the attitudes of the streetwise modern-day Christian. My images are a conversation in iconography: lavish ceremonial Church robes; distinctive bike leathers; the slang of the suburban graffiti artist.

Exodus 17:15 Jehovah Nis'si; God is my banner.

Davina Monds 2015



Carved lectern at Saint Faith's Church. Rotorua 2015

Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Auckland, 2013



Tony Brooking, Ngāti Porou / Ngāpuhi



Reverend Tony Brooking, ordained October 2013



Oihi Bay, 2014

In 1907 the Marsden Cross was erected at Oihi Bay, to mark the historic inauguration of missionary work in Aotearoa and the beginnings of Christianity in New Zealand in a permanent form. This was also the place of New Zealand's first missionary settlement and school. Now in 2015, this noted historic reserve site is under the management of the Department of Conservation aided by the Marsden Cross Trust Board.



Christmas day 2014, marked the “New Beginnings”, bicentennial service at Oihi Bay. The poignant reference to the 200-year journey of The Cross in Aotearoa, New Zealand, was witnessed by Samuel Marsden’s great-great-great-grandson and namesake, Reverend Samuel Marsden from Cromwell, U.K. He was seated behind a New Zealand clergywoman, listening to the ceremonial address from the Bishop of Te Tai Tokerau, The Right Reverend Kito Pikoahu.



Ta Heke Marae, 2014



Anthem verse 2:

Men of every creed and race, gather here before Thy face. Asking Thee to bless this place, God defend our free land. From dissension, envy, hate and corruption guard our state. Make our country good and great, God defend New Zealand.



Ngaringari 2:

Ōna mano tāngata Kiri whero, kiri mā, Iwi Māori, Pākehā, Rūpeke katoa, Nei ka tono ko ngā hē Māu e whakaahu kē, Kia ora mārire Aotearoa.

Rangitihi, Ta Heke Marae, 2014



Ko Ihu Te Ariki



Moko

Mohinui Marae. Waiomio, Northland, 2002



Onerahi, Whangarei, December 2014

“Can we hold your Cross?”

“Yeah sure. It’s heavy though. I’ll hold it too.”

“Naa, it’s easy. I can do it! Come on R.J.”

(Now holding the cross by themselves.)

“See ... Easy.”

“Cool. Can I take your photo?”

“Yep.”

Mum says: “Yes,” too. “But what about their lollipop sticks?
Should they take them out?”

“No they’re ok with them. It’s who they are in the moment, all
good, they look great.”

Matthew 11:30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

Leohan & Raymond Junior with Ryan Craigs



Dargaville Burnout Comps, 2009



Holy Smoke



The Redeemed entry



First generation Samoan/New Zealander Amos Ale was a founding member of the notorious Head Hunters gang in the '60s



Now a Christian, Amos founded The Redeemed Christian Motorcycle Ministry in 1997, riding under the banner of Psalm 107:2

French-Scottish New Zealander



Dave, Redeemed member since 2008

Tūhoe, Maori



Ni, Redeemed member since 2014

Wainaro, Make My Day Charity Run/Outreach, 2008



Church of the Holy Sepulchre Auckland, Communion, 2013



J



Drury, 2008

G



Drury, 2011



The Redeemed are a Christian Motorcycle Ministry. Originating and centered in South Auckland, they now span New Zealand from Dunedin to Whangarei. Members are men and women from a wide range of ethnicities, social and economic backgrounds and of varied ages, united in the values of their Christian faith. Inspired by the scripture of Psalm 107:2 *Let the Redeemed of the Lord say so, whom he has redeemed from the hand of the enemy*, they actively participate in local and national events sharing their testimonies of transformation from affliction to freedom through the power of redemption.

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Exhibition *Davina Monds: Cross Roads* opens on 20 April 2015 at 6pm and runs from 21 April to 24 May 2015 at The Pah Homestead, TSB Bank Wallace Arts Centre, 72 Hillsborough Rd, Hillsborough, Auckland.





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