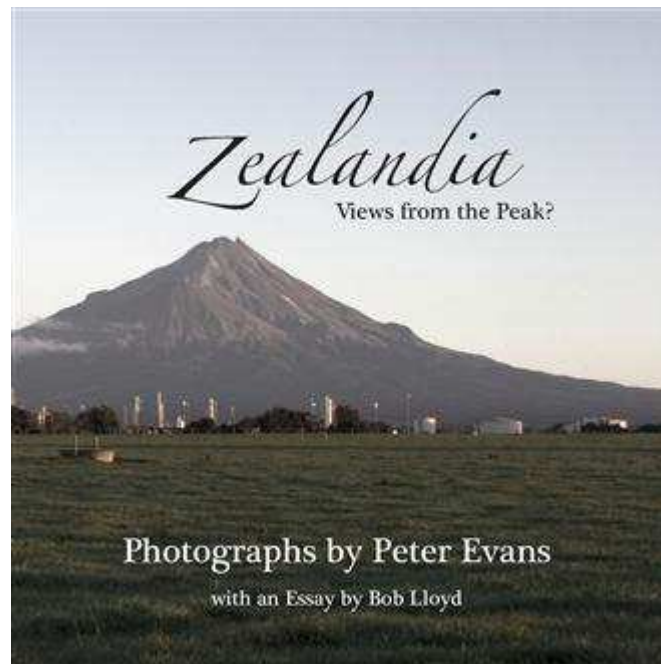


## PETER EVANS

### **Zealandia:** Views from the Peak?

A publication accompanies this exhibition



Marsden B Power Station in the process of being dismantled, Marsden Point, 27th August 2011



Site of the former Marsden B Power Station, Marsden Point, 24th August 2012



Horopito Motors, Horopito, 21st July 2012



The Peak of Mt. Taranaki and Shell Station, Inglewood, 15th April 2012



Kupe Natural Gas Field (unmanned Wellhead Platform), Tasman Sea, 20th July 2012



Production Station & Gas Treatment Plant, Kapuni, 16th April 2012



Pohokura Production Station, Motunui, 18th April 2012



New Plymouth Power Station, Port Taranaki, New Plymouth, 17th April 2012

Photographed on Kodak 160 Portra 4x5" analogue film  
Digitally scanned to become Pigment ink photographs printed on Hahnemuhle PhotoRag 308gsm

*Zealandia: Views from the Peak?* is an extensive photographic study, which documents the current oil and natural gas industry landscape of New Zealand. The discovery and wide use of oil and natural gas, which are essentially trapped remnants of ancient life forms, has transformed human society, enabling the insatiable growth of the industrialised world and has made a globalised society possible. It has become common knowledge that today for every three barrels of oil we consume, only one new barrel is discovered. Meanwhile the demand for oil and gas continues to grow. This is an unsustainable practice in the long-term and has led many to believe that we are at the peak of oil production, and that given oil is a finite resource, global oil reserves are approaching an age of terminal decline. This raises critical issues for the future of the economy, transportation and food production worldwide.

New Zealand is a mass of land that protrudes above sea level from an otherwise submerged continent known as Tasmantis or Zealandia. Zealandia is known to contain large amounts of oil and natural gas, some of which is already being exploited in the Taranaki region, whilst exploration in other areas of Zealandia are currently underway with more expected to be discovered.

The oil industry is a hot topic in New Zealand at the moment and presents highly political, economic and environmental issues, which will unfold over the coming years. My goal in photographing the oil industry is certainly not to attack the industry. That would be hypocritical as I like all other New Zealanders are dependent upon industry within the landscape. The purpose of this project is to document the current oil and natural gas landscape in New Zealand for contemporary contemplation and historical reference.