

Touring Photographic Exhibition + Book Launch

[www.inthefoldsofhill.com](http://www.inthefoldsofhill.com)

## In the Folds of Hills

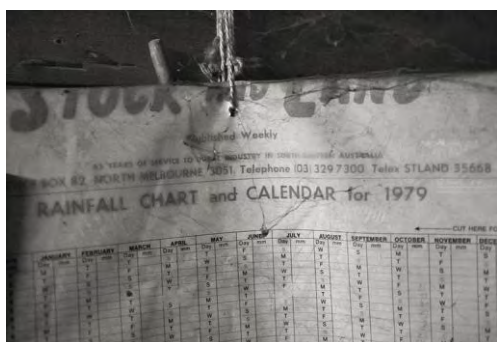
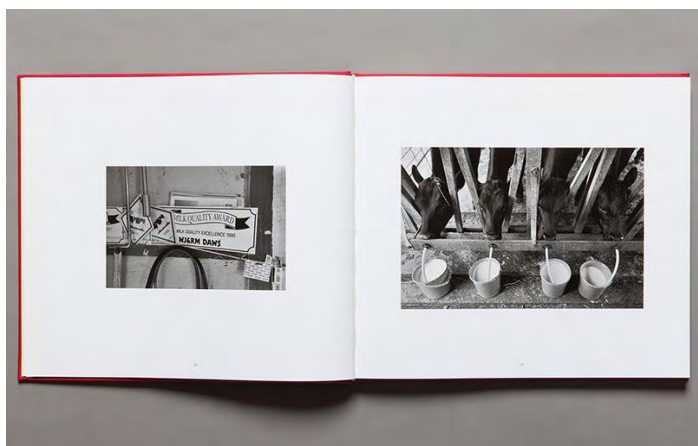
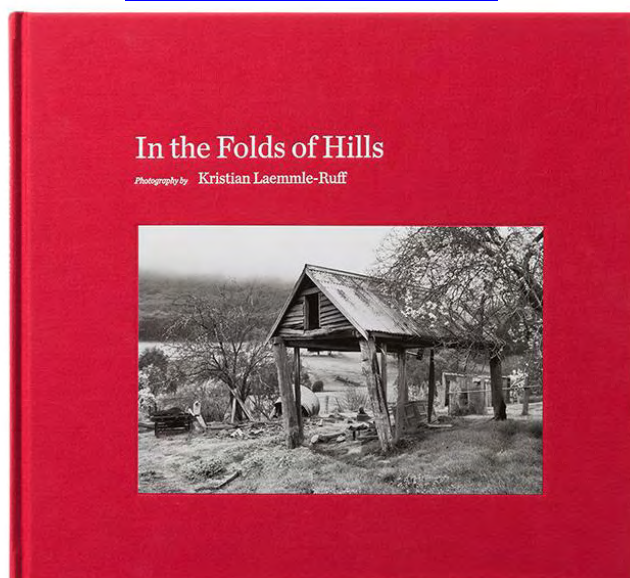
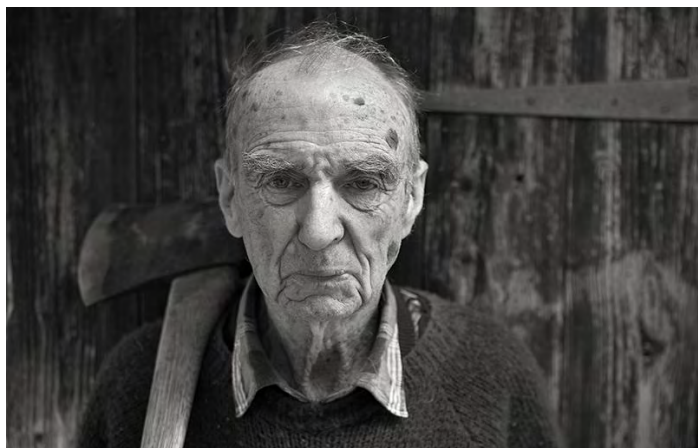
Photographs by Kristian Laemmle-Ruff

Stories by Charlotte Laemmle

Introduction by Rt Hon Malcolm Fraser AC CH

Essay by Robert McFarlane, Photographer & Writer

Published by Pearce Press, Australia



Above Left. Ralph Pearce. Ralph was born in the house he now lives in, some 90 years ago. His father bought 100 acres in 1900 and married a local girl named Mary Warnock. The family lived off the land. Ralph's brother married and moved away from the farm years ago. Ralph never married and had no desire to leave the farm.

Above Right. Cover of the book, In the Folds of Hills. Above Middle. Pages 20-21 from the book. From the story on Rosie and Wally Daws – one of seven beautifully told personal stories. Dairy farmers all their lives and working their farm since the 1950s, where once 12 families made a living from their farms in this valley, now only 2 remain.

Bottom row L-R. Photos from the series on Ralph Pearce. Old rainfall chart; dried flowers in vase; Ralph's oven.

**An extraordinary achievement of documentary photography.**

**These beautiful, engaging and heart warming stories are told with dignity, passion, care and respect.**

**Photographs and personal histories that could represent every small rural farming town across Australia.**

**DETAILS OF Book Launches, Touring Exhibitions, Project Background & Bios on following pages.**

*Cluttered domestic interiors, farm sheds, wide-open landscapes engulfed me;  
all of these environments were full of memory, full of visual symbols waiting to be captured.*  
**Kristian Laemmle-Ruff, 2013**

**BRIEFLY ABOUT IN THE FOLDS OF HILLS – New Book Release & Touring Exhibition**

**In the Folds of Hills** depicts life in the secluded valleys around Lima, a rural area a little over 100 kms northwest from Melbourne, Victoria.

Beginning in 2009 this unique project grew out of a collaboration between young photographer, Kristian Laemmle-Ruff and his mother, Charlotte Laemmle. The family had visited this area for many years, having a house on the Moonee Creek Co-Operative Farm not far from where many of the featured characters live.

For four years Kristian and Charlotte would head to the country to photograph and interview. Many conversations were had over hundreds of cups of tea, countless biscuits and slices of cake, sitting in familial kitchens, public halls and even the old Swanpool Cinema. The project was finally completed in 2013.



**Moorngag Hall, Moorngag**

**Malcolm Fraser wrote in the foreword:** *Kristian Laemmle-Ruff not only has great technical control of his craft, but translates this skill into truly artistic photographs. His images of ordinary objects from everyday life invite the viewer to slow down and contemplate. These photos create a narrative that offers us insight into the way these people live.*

*The portfolio focuses on individuals who have lived most, if not all their lives in this area. They are all hard-working and modest in their possessions. Their individual characters shine through the photographs with a rugged determination and strength.*

**In the Folds of Hills** will come to have historic significance because it captures aspects of Australian rural life, which in many parts of this country are fast disappearing. Rt Hon Malcolm Fraser AC CH

**PHOTOGRAPHER'S NOTE. Kristian Laemmle-Ruff**

***This project began with a curiosity to discover something that is quietly going unnoticed.*** As our cities grow and society increasingly relies on technological advances, there remain those older generations whose lives are still rooted in a past era: the early to mid 20<sup>th</sup> century. This was an era where small-scale labor-intensive livelihoods could thrive. In the face of changing needs and corporate competition these kinds of livelihoods, such as the family-owned farm, are disappearing.



**Fresh milk from Rosie & Wally Daws' Dairy**

**Susan Sontag wrote in her book *On Photography*** that “a beautiful subject can be the object of rueful feelings because it has aged or decayed or no longer exists ... Photography is a twilight art.” This photo-series also lingers in some kind of twilight zone and has a sense of urgency; indeed one person has passed away since being photographed.

***I first intended to capture day-to-day life and work in these secluded rural valleys.*** With subject matter so steeped in romanticism, I felt a need to explore beyond the ‘countryside’ clichés and idealisation common in the attitudes of city people. After meeting the subjects and gaining their trust, I sensed personal stories that needed to be told.

***To my surprise these stories were told not so much in the words spoken, but rather in the person’s material surrounds.*** Domestic interiors scattered with objects became allegories for human experience. These environments were full of memory. It wasn’t uncommon for someone to still live in the house they were born in. An empty chair, a leaning barn, a clock ticking on the wall: these once mundane objects became potent symbols of their owner’s past, their hopes and their reality. Some objects suggested loss and melancholia, others embodied feelings of pride and even humour.

***In the Folds of Hills*** is an exploration of the wisdom and rich humanity found in the characters living and working on this land. In celebrating and acknowledging them and their stories, the photo-narratives also offer a somewhat poetic insight into their inner worlds.



## PRESS RELEASE For immediate release 06.04.14

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Photography, b&w photography, Australian rural history, oral history, rural stories, documentary



### BIO(s):

**Kristian Laemmle-Ruff** 0412 675 004 [www.kristianlaemmleruff.com](http://www.kristianlaemmleruff.com)

Born in 1988, Kristian began photographing at an early age, first learning from his father in the Tasmanian wilderness and continuing to gain professional experience in a highly regarded commercial studio in 2007. He has travelled extensively in Morocco, Mexico, Cuba and Europe; living in Berlin in 2010. This was a time of exploration and creative experimentation where he concentrated on photographing social challenges, as seen in his work 'Cuba' and 'Homeless in Berlin', as well as more recently his portraits from Fukushima, Japan.

Naomi Cass, Director of the Centre for Contemporary Photography in Melbourne, found his most recent series 'Littoral' to be a "beautiful yet terrible" expression of humanity's effect on our landscape.

He has shown his work in both solo and group shows; his work has been published in numerous magazines; and his work is held in the collection of the Queensland Centre of Photography, Brisbane.

Kristian now continues to practice in both documentary and conceptual photography. Kristian lives in Melbourne.

### Charlotte Laemmle

Charlotte Laemmle is a medical practitioner with a farming background that goes back many generations. She was brought up on a dairy farm in Gippsland. Regular visits to the Lima area with her family over many years sparked a desire to get to know the people who worked this land. Making her first short film in 2007, some of it filmed on the Daws' farm, opened a door to the extraordinary history and richness of this secluded farming pocket of Victoria - a landscape still steeped in a bygone era.

Charlotte has a strong interest in personal histories. She and her son, Kristian, have worked collaboratively on several film and photographic projects.

### KEY DATES RE BOOK LAUNCHES AND EXHIBITIONS:

#### MELBOURNE Book Launch & Exhibition Opening

Thursday 1st May 6.00pm – 8.30pm. Launch Event date.

1st – 8th May. Exhibition dates.

[The Compound Interest](#), 15-25 Keele St, Collingwood, Victoria

**Keynote Opening Night Speaker -**

**Robert McFarlane**, eminent Australian Photographer & Writer

#### SYDNEY Exhibition & Book Sales

Part of the 2014 [Head On Photo Festival](#)

12th – 18th May. Exhibition dates.

[Tap Gallery](#) (Gallery One), 1/278 Palmer St, Darlinghurst, NSW  
(close to National Art School, Darlinghurst)

#### SWANPOOL Book Launch & Exhibition Opening

[Swanpool is approx 3hrs northwest of Melbourne](#)

Friday 23rd May 7.00pm – 8.30pm. Launch Event date.

23rd May – 19th June. Exhibition Dates.

[Swanpool Cinema](#), 2386 Midland Highway, Swanpool, Victoria

### BOOK DETAILS

**Title:** In the Folds of Hills

**Author:** Kristian Laemmle-Ruff

**Publisher:** Pearce Press **Designed by:** Chris Conole Design

**Distribution:** Perimeter Distribution

**Book size:** 30cm wide x 27cm high x 2.5cm thick

**Pages:** 152 + Cover

**ISBN:** 978-0-646-91384-1 **Plates:** 109

**Price:** AUD \$60 **Release Date:** 1st May 2014



**PEARCE PRESS** is a small, independent publishing company based in Melbourne Australia. It focuses on publishing books with a unique and inspiring outlook on the medium of photography. Pearce Press is the publishing arm of contemporary art gallery [Edmund Pearce](#).  
**Contact:** Jason McQuoid, Director 0433 463 003



Top to bottom: Card night at Moorngag Hall; Jim Renkin (Liz & Jim Renkin story) in the Bedford; Old tins on the mantelpiece at Graham Jensen's house (Graham Jensen story)

Available through [Pearce Press](#), [Perimeter Distribution](#) and all good bookstores nationwide.