

AWATERE HARRY BROAD

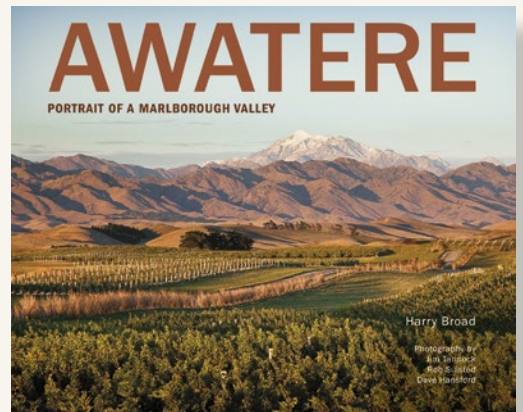
The sequel to Harry Broad's bestselling book about high country station *Molesworth*, *Awatere* focuses on the great high-country stations of the Awatere Valley and its flourishing vineyards; the second largest wine-growing sub-region in New Zealand.

On one level, Harry Broad's book is about the great characters of the Awatere, like John Shirtliff, known to all as 'Shirty of the Muller.' Shirty farmed that rugged landscape for 50 years, but was not a good staff manager, boasting that he had 30 staff working for him at any one time; ten coming, ten out on the property and ten going because they'd been fired! Or the redoubtable Peter Yealands who, when he first started planting his 1100 hectares of grapes at a place rightly nicknamed Siberia, commented that "the wind was fine because it just blew all the diseases away from the valley."

Awatere also traverses beyond merinos and marinated grapes. There are two outstanding gardens in the valley, one of which, Barewood Garden run by Carolyn Ferraby, was named in the top 20 gardens in the world. There is even a story about a couple of olive oil growers who produced a beautiful, high value product, but couldn't match the subsidised overseas glut which has flooded the local market.

On a deeper level, *Awatere* holds valuable lessons for other rural districts in New Zealand experiencing diminishing industries and population decline. With imagination and resources, the people of the Awatere have created a blueprint for rural regeneration, not least in successfully attracting their talented young folk back from the cities to work on the land.

This mix of farming and wine has given the Awatere its own unique flavour and character, captured both in Harry Broad's stories and stunning images from esteemed photographers, including Jim Tannock, Rob Suisted and Dave Hansford. *Awatere* is a unique and beautiful portrait of an iconic Marlborough valley.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

HARRY BROAD has worked both sides of the fence as an award-winning lifelong journalist, having been a former farm magazine editor, and a pest control advocate for conservation. Author of *Molesworth: Stories from New Zealand's largest high-country station*, which has sold over 10,000 copies and won the 2014 NZ Post Booksellers' Choice Award, Harry has had a long interest in the history of the South Island's rural and high-country areas.

HARRY BROAD IS AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW / EXTRACTS ARE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

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