



A Coffee with Wes
Acrylic on canvas

Wes Moule explodes from the pages of bush folklore legend. His energy is like a force of nature; body and mind unable to sit still for a moment. Every meeting is a potpourri of ideas, tales of getting lost, history and facts about Northafagus that would leave Kerouac simmering. Wes is known as the “Air Truck” carrying food drops to the remotest parts of this island for commercial expeditions, and for his work in cancer charity. It is easy to find this image of the man; enormous backpack, legs scratched, struggling through the button grass.

I met Wes while working as a guide for World Expeditions. I wanted to capture a different side of his life so I visited him in his home near Sheffield for a coffee. A defining

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feature of Wes making a coffee is that it takes a long time. Everything must be ground, poured, preheated, heated, frothed etc, and distraction is never far. The whole spectacle beats with Wes’ eclectic narration.

I struggled to know how to show Wes in this element. I relinquished to chaos and the painting evolved; a hand here, a face there, many doomed to be painted over, until finally I felt I was having a coffee with Wes.