

RE
MEM
BER
ME

Poems to Learn by Heart
from Aotearoa New Zealand

Edited by
Anne Kennedy

A sparkling anthology of New Zealand poems to learn by heart.

‘To remember a poem is to carry it with you always – the poem a distillation of thought, feeling, sound. To remember a poem is to go freely, without your keys, your bag, your baggage, yet to possess a valuable taonga. It’s the ability to speak a poem out loud, to yourself, to the air, to your folks. There’s a reason we say ‘off by heart’ when we commit words to memory: to remember a poem is to hold that poem close to your heart.’

– from the introduction by Anne Kennedy

In haka and waiata, sea shanties and ballads, in the words of Sam Hunt and Selina Tusitala Marsh, Hone Tuwhare and Hera Lindsay Bird, the rhythms of poetry have carried our sounds and stories, our loves and losses for generations. Now Anne Kennedy brings together for the first time a selection of over 200 poems from Aotearoa to learn by heart – whakataukī and odes, poems of love and of nature, of whānau, history and politics.

For weddings and funerals, for a day at school or an evening at home, *Remember Me* will be a lively poetic companion for years to come.

Recipient of a Prime Minister's Award for Literary Achievement, **Anne Kennedy** is the author of four novels, a novella, anthologised short stories and five collections of poetry. She is the two-time winner of the New Zealand Book Award for Poetry, for her poetry collections *Sing-Song* and *The Darling North*. Her latest book, *The Sea Walks into the Wall*, was shortlisted for the 2022 Ockham New Zealand Book Awards.



AUCKLAND
UNIVERSITY
PRESS

\$45

Flexibind, 198 x 130 mm

256 pages

ISBN: 9781869409562

19 October 2023



9 781869 409562

RE MEM BER ME

Poems to Learn by Heart
from Aotearoa New Zealand

Edited by Anne Kennedy

With Robert Sullivan,
consulting editor te reo Māori

AUCKLAND
UNIVERSITY
PRESS



First published 2023
Auckland University Press
University of Auckland
Private Bag 92019
Auckland 1142
New Zealand
www.aucklanduniversitypress.co.nz

© Anne Kennedy, and individual authors as credited, 2023

ISBN 978 1 86940 956 2

Published with the assistance of Creative New Zealand



A catalogue record for this book is available from the National
Library of New Zealand

This book is copyright. Apart from fair dealing for the purpose of private study, research, criticism or review, as permitted under the Copyright Act, no part may be reproduced by any process without prior permission of the publisher. The moral rights of the authors have been asserted.

Book and cover design by Floor van Lierop
(thisisthem.com)

Printed in China through Asia Pacific Offset Group Ltd
This book was printed on FSC® certified paper



Contents

- 1 Introduction: Love the Poems

THE POEMS

Whakatauki / Wisdom

- 8 James K. Baxter — HIGH COUNTRY WEATHER
- 9 James K. Baxter — *From* JERUSALEM SONNETS (1)
- 10 Airini Beautrais — CHARM FOR THE WINTER SOLSTICE
- 10 Airini Beautrais — CHARM TO GET SAFELY HOME
- 11 Arapera Hineira Blank — DREAMTIME
- 13 Jenny Bornholdt — INSTRUCTIONS FOR HOW TO GET AHEAD
OF YOURSELF WHILE THE LIGHT STILL SHINES
- 14 Jenny Bornholdt — THE OX CLIMBED A FIR TREE
- 15 Sarah Broom — HOLDING THE LINE
- 16 Cadence Chung — CONFESSION BOX
- 17 Glenn Colquhoun — AN ATTEMPT TO PREVENT THE DEATH
OF AN OLD WOMAN
- 19 Mary Cresswell — EVENSONG
- 20 Allen Curnow — WILD IRON
- 21 Rangi Faith — UNFINISHED CROSSWORD
- 22 Bernadette Hall — REALLY & TRULY
- 23 Mohamed Hassan — THE GUEST HOUSE
- 25 Dinah Hawken — FAITH
- 26 Andrew Johnston — HOW TO FLY
- 27 Rachel McAlpine — LETTING GO
- 28 Cilla McQueen — HOMING IN
- 29 Bill Manhire — LITTLE PRAYERS
- 30 Te Kumeroa Ngoingoi Pēwhairangi — KAUA RĀ HEI HURI NOA /
DO NOT TURN AWAY
- 32 Kiri Piahana-Wong — THIS IS IT

- 34 essa may ranapiri — HAVE YOU GONE OUT AT NIGHT IN YOUR
FAVOURITE DRESS AND THEN FELT LIKE SHIT?
- 35 Helen Rickerby — WOOD / SPRING
- 36 Keri-Anne Stephens — WAI ORA
- 38 Robert Sullivan — KARAKIA WHAKAKAPI
- 40 J. C. Sturm — UNTITLED
- 40 J. C. Sturm — LET GO, UNLEARN, GIVE BACK
- 41 Apirana Taylor — HAKA
- 42 Tayi Tibble — A KARAKIA 4 A HUMBLE SKUX
- 45 Anthony Tipene-Matua — HEI WHAKAWĀTEA I TE ARA
- 46 Brian Turner — SKY
- 47 Arielle Walker — KAWAKAWA
- 48 Sue Wootton — WHAT CAN'T BE FORGIVEN

Odes

- 50 Tusiata Avia — MY DOG
- 51 Tusiata Avia — ODE TO DA LIFE
- 52 Ursula Bethell — *From* AT THE LIGHTING OF THE LAMPS (VI)
- 53 Jenny Bornholdt — IN THE GARDEN
- 54 Geoff Cochrane — CONSOLATION PRIZE
- 55 Eileen Duggan — THE SONG OF THE KINGFISHER
- 56 Sia Figiel — *From* SONGS OF THE FAT BROWN WOMAN
- 58 Paula Green — AFTER MODERNISM
- 59 Dinah Hawken — PURE SCIENCE
- 61 Nicole Titihuia Hawkins — AHO
- 62 Keri Hulme — THE BOND OF BEES
- 63 Keri Hulme — WINESONG 27
- 64 Sam Hunt — *From* FOUR BOW-WOW POEMS (3)
- 65 Kevin Ireland — A NEW TUNE
- 66 Erik Kennedy — THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE THE INTERNET
IN SPRINGTIME
- 67 Michele Leggott — WHAT IS
- 68 Anna Livesey — AUTUMN DAY
- 69 Bill Manhire — HUIA
- 70 Bill Manhire — KEVIN
- 71 Gregory O'Brien — SONG
- 72 Bob Orr — SONG TO CHELSEA WHARF

- 73 Vincent O'Sullivan — THE SENTIMENT OF GOODLY THINGS
 74 essa may ranapiri — SILENCE, PART 2
 76 Michael Steven — AFTER TRAKL
 77 Hone Tuwhare — HAIKU (1)
 78 Hone Tuwhare — RAIN / UA
 80 Hone Tuwhare — SUN O (2)
 81 Oscar Upperton — CHILD'S FIRST DICTIONARY
 82 Richard von Sturmer — BASO IS UNWELL
 82 Richard von Sturmer — *From* SPARROW NOTEBOOK
 83 Bryan Walpert — SONG
 85 Ian Wedde — ABAT-JOUR
 85 Ian Wedde — *From* SHADOW STANDS UP (6), (18)
 87 Briar Wood — PADDLE CRAB

Whenua, Moana, Rangi / Earth, Sea, Sky

- 90 James K. Baxter — BLOW, WIND OF FRUITFULNESS
 91 Ursula Bethell — DETAIL
 91 Ursula Bethell — TIME
 92 Ben Brown — PŪRIRI
 93 Alistair Te Ariki Campbell — THE RETURN
 94 Geoff Cochrane — OUR CITY AND ITS HILLS
 95 Geoff Cochrane — THE SEA THE LANDSMAN KNOWS
 96 Ruth Dallas — MILKING BEFORE DAWN
 97 Eileen Duggan — THE TIDES RUN UP THE WAIRAU
 98 David Eggleton — EDGELAND
 99 Rangi Faith — KARAKIA TO A SILENT ISLAND
 100 Rangi Faith — SPRING STAR
 101 Denis Glover — HOME THOUGHTS
 101 Denis Glover — THRENODY
 102 Denis Glover — THE MAGPIES
 103 Dinah Hawken — DRAMA
 104 Jeffrey Paparao Holman — *From* THE LATE GREAT BLACKBALL
 BRIDGE SONNETS (XXIII)
 105 Keri Hulme — THE WINE-RICH ARTERIES
 106 Robin Hyde — THE LAST ONES
 107 Cilla McQueen — OUT THE BLACK WINDOW
 108 Karlo Mila — MANUHIRI

- 109 John Newton — BEETLE
 110 Bob Orr — SONG TO RANGITOTO
 112 Kiri Piahana-Wong — AFTER THE SUN
 113 Elizabeth Smither — HERE COME THE CLOUDS
 114 Brian Turner — *From* FACES IN THE WATER
 116 Hone Tuwhare — RAIN REIGN / ŪA UAU
 118 Briar Wood — PAEWAI O TE MOANA

Love Songs

- 120 Fleur Adcock — COMMENT
 121 Te Awhina Rangimarie Arahanga — POHUTUKAWA PLAYS
 THE BLUES
 122 Nick Ascroft — CORPSE SEEKS SIMILAR
 124 Hinemoana Baker — MATARIKI, E
 125 Serie Barford — A MATTER OF TIME
 126 Ursula Bethell — COMPENSATION
 127 Hera Lindsay Bird — I HAVE COME BACK FROM THE DEAD TO
 TELL YOU THAT I LOVE YOU
 128 Peter Bland — THE CABIN
 129 Behrouz Boochani — FORGIVE ME MY LOVE
 131 Jenny Bornholdt — WEDDING SONG
 133 Bub Bridger — WILD DAISIES
 134 Robbie Burns — TO MARY IN HEAVEN / KI A MERI I TE RANGI
 137 Alistair Te Ariki Campbell — ROOTS
 138 Jacq Carter — E NOHO RĀ
 140 Glenn Colquhoun — A SPELL REFUSING TO CONSIDER THE
 MENDING OF A BROKEN HEART
 141 Ruth Dallas — A GIRL'S SONG
 142 Eileen Duggan — THE BUSHFELLER
 143 Bernadette Hall — LIVING OUT HERE ON THE PLAINS
 144 Nicole Titihuia Hawkins — HE PIKO
 145 Sam Hunt — PORIRUA FRIDAY NIGHT
 146 Kevin Ireland — EACH DAY WOULD END
 148 Anna Jackson — THE TREEHOUSE
 149 Gregory Kan — [WHEN YOU MOVE]
 150 Michele Leggott — WILD LIGHT
 151 Jiaqiao Liu — TO A FUTURE YOU (I)

- 152 Jiaqiao Liu — THAT HAND IS FOR HOLDING
- 153 Gregory O'Brien — A PATRIOT OF THE TIME OF DAY
- 154 Gregory O'Brien — A VISITING CARD
- 155 Joanna Margaret Paul — THE DILETTANTE
- 156 Ruby Solly — HOW TO MEET YOUR FUTURE HUSBAND IN
HIS NATURAL HABITAT
- 157 Robert Sullivan — AROHANUI
- 158 Paraire Hēnare Tomoana — PŌKAREKARE ANA / THE WATERS
OF WAIAPU
- 160 Hone Tuwhare — NOCTURNE / ORIORI O TE PŌ
- 162 Albert Wendt — IN YOUR ENIGMA
- 163 Sue Wootton — MAGNETIC SOUTH
- 164 Ngati Whakahemo — HE WAIATA AROHA / A SONG OF LOVE

Whānau

- 168 Fleur Adcock — FOR A FIVE-YEAR-OLD
- 169 Tusiata Avia — HELICOPTER
- 170 James K. Baxter — CHARM FOR HILARY
- 171 Alistair Te Ariki Campbell — FRIEND
- 172 Janet Charman — THE PRESENT TABLE
- 173 Glenn Colquhoun — A SPELL TO BE USED WHEN ADDRESSING
THE BIRTH OF A CHILD
- 174 Sam Hunt — MY FATHER SCYTHING
- 175 Sam Hunt — MY FATHER TODAY
- 176 Anna Jackson — CATULLUS FOR BABIES
- 177 Anna Jackson — JOHNNY'S MINUTE
- 178 Cilla McQueen — JOANNA
- 179 Fardowsa Mohamed — TUESDAY
- 180 Gregory O'Brien — THE LOCATION OF THE LEAST PERSON
- 181 Roma Potiki — BIG SUSANAH
- 182 Jessie Puru — WHĀNGAI
- 183 Robert Sullivan — VOICE CARRIED MY FAMILY, THEIR NAMES
AND STORIES
- 184 Albert Wendt — SON
- 185 Haare Williams — KOROUA
- 187 Ashleigh Young — TRIOLET WITH BABY

Histories, Stories

- 190 Johanna Aitchison — MISS DUST LOSES HER KEY
191 James K. Baxter — LAMENT FOR BARNEY FLANAGAN
193 Ben Brown — THE BROTHER COME HOME
195 Ben Brown — TRUE HORI STORY
196 Janet Charman — *From* HIGH DAYS AND HOLY DAYS (8)
197 Allen Curnow — HOUSE AND LAND
199 Allen Curnow — THE SKELETON OF THE GREAT MOA IN THE
CANTERBURY MUSEUM, CHRISTCHURCH
200 Ruth Dallas — TINKER, TAILOR
201 Murray Edmond — MR WAT
202 Fiona Farrell — CHARLOTTE O'NEIL'S SONG
203 Bernadette Hall — EARLY SETTLER
204 Sam Hunt — WE HAD A HORSE
205 Andrew Johnston — HYPERMARKET
206 Erik Kennedy — THE CLASS ANXIETY COUNTRY SONG
207 Bill Manhire — AN INSPECTOR CALLS
208 Ria Masae — PAROUSIA
210 Tuini Ngāwai — NGĀ RONGO / THE NEWS
212 Janet Newman — THE SHEARER
213 Nina Mingya Powles — LAST ECLIPSE
214 Jessie Puru — MATARIKI
215 Elizabeth Smither — MIRIAM'S WEDDING DRESS
216 Robert Sullivan — WAKA 99
218 Apirana Taylor — POEM FOR A PRINCESS
219 Chris Tse — [ON SUNDAY]
220 Tim Upperton — SPACE
221 Richard von Sturmer — MONDAY 26 JUNE
222 David M'Kee Wright — SHEARING'S COMING

Politics

- 224 Hana Pera Aoake — *From* PERHAPS WE SHOULD HAVE STAYED
225 Behrouz Boochani — THE BLACK KITE
226 Jacq Carter — AROHA
228 Janet Charman — THE LECTURE ON JUDY GRAHN
229 David Eggleton — MY INNER AOTEAROA

- 230 David Eggleton — PICTURES OF HOME
231 David Eggleton — PRIME TIME
232 A. R. D. Fairburn — IN THE YOUNGER LAND
233 Fiona Farrell — THE THREAD
234 Gregory Kan — [THERE'S A ROOM]
235 Anne Kennedy — I WAS A FEMINIST IN THE EIGHTIES
237 Anne Kennedy — THESE SCHOLARS AT THE PICNIC ONE DAY
239 Rachel McAlpine — *From* SOMEWHERE A CLEANER (7)
240 Cilla McQueen — TIMEPIECE
241 Selina Tusitala Marsh — CALABASH BREAKERS
242 Courtney Sina Meredith — BROWN GIRLS IN BRIGHT RED
LIPSTICK
244 J. C. Sturm — HE WAIATA TENEI MO PARIHAKA
246 Robert Sullivan — OLD GOVERNMENT HOUSE
247 Leilani Tamu — HOW TO MAKE A COLONIAL CAKE
249 Apirana Taylor — SAD JOKE ON A MARAE
250 Chris Tse — SUPER MODEL MINORITY — REINCARNATIONS
251 Hone Tuwhare — NO ORDINARY SUN

HOW TO MEMORISE AND RECITE A POEM

- 254 Zech Soakai: Verse, Vessel and Voice
258 Rosalind Ali: On Teaching, Learning and Performing Poetry

262 Contributors and Sources
273 Thanks

Introduction: Love the Poems

*I learnt to love the songs which my people sang to
suit any and every occasion of their social life.*

— NGĀ MŌTEATEA: THE SONGS, PART ONE¹

*When I began to listen to poetry, it's when I began to
listen to the stones, and I began to listen to what the
clouds had to say, and I began to listen to others.*

— JOY HARJO, US POET LAUREATE²

To remember a poem is to carry it with you always – the poem a distillation of thought, feeling, sound. To remember a poem is to go freely, without your keys, your bag, your baggage, yet to possess a valuable taonga. It's the ability to speak a poem out loud, to yourself, to the air, to your folks. There's a reason we say 'off by heart' when we commit words to memory: to remember a poem is to hold that poem close to your heart.

This book brings together a wide range of poems, all written by Aotearoa poets, which lend themselves to being memorised and recited. It suggests ways to read, learn and perform poetry, both historical and contemporary, for our times.

Poetry has its roots in the spoken – chants, rhymes, narratives – and even after hundreds of years of printing, it's remarkable that the thrill of poetry performance is as vital as ever. Over the last quarter century, oral poetry has had a huge resurgence globally via the internet and through the rise of literary festivals, poetry readings and poetry slams. Nowadays, the practice of performing

James K. Baxter

High Country Weather

Alone we are born
And die alone;
Yet see the red-gold cirrus
Over snow-mountain shine.

Upon the upland road
Ride easy, stranger:
Surrender to the sky
Your heart of anger.

Sarah Broom

holding the line

when I feel feverish
I take the full moon
and place it on my brow
like a flannel

it is so cool because it has just
been swimming in the sea

when I feel that my heart
is clapping out of time
I take it out and throw it
up among the stars

who know all there is to know
about holding the line

Michele Leggott

what is

it might be very early

it might be very late

fleecy marble the world

curve sticks out of

love's proper sphere

at the feet of the rider

stolen away for love

smoke touches the square

of the winged horse

and the lightfield explodes

blue flame and white

one handstand

for love stolen away

from the sooty altars

Bub Bridger

(Ngāti Kahungunu, Irish, English)

Wild daisies

If you love me
bring me flowers
wild daisies
clutched in your fist
like a torch
no orchids or roses
or carnations
no florist's bow
just daisies
steal them
risk your life for them
up the sharp hills
in the teeth of the wind
if you love me
bring me daisies
wild daisies
that I will cram
in a bright vase
and marvel at

‘To remember a poem is to carry it with you always – the poem a distillation of thought, feeling, sound. To remember a poem is to go freely, without your keys, your bag, your baggage, yet to possess a valuable taonga. It’s the ability to speak a poem out loud, to yourself, to the air, to your folks. There’s a reason we say ‘off by heart’ when we commit words to memory: to remember a poem is to hold that poem close to your heart.’

— FROM THE INTRODUCTION BY ANNE KENNEDY

In haka and waiata, sea shanties and ballads, in the words of Sam Hunt and Selina Tusitala Marsh, Hone Tuwhare and Hera Lindsay Bird, the rhythms of poetry have carried our sounds and stories, our loves and losses for generations. Now Anne Kennedy brings together for the first time a selection of over 200 poems from Aotearoa to learn by heart – whakataukī and odes, poems of love and of nature, of whānau, history and politics.

For a wedding, a tangi, for a day at school or an evening at home, *Remember Me* will be a lively poetic companion for years to come.



AUCKLAND
UNIVERSITY
PRESS