

## Reflection

# FROM TE TAI TOKELAU, REGARDING TE TAI TOKA: NOHOAKA NOTES

**Vicki Lenihan**

Ngāi Tūāhuriri, Kāti Huirapa

### 1. On Being in Two Places at Once

Immediately following installation at the old-new camp

I ride the waka North to the new-old camp

Seasonal worker: same kaupapa, different nohaka toi

With your basket and my basket, our arts are healthy

### 2. The Dripline

These rock shelters along the motu all look alike

photographed from the same angle

On that side a curtain of rain and behind the dripline

it is bone dry

### 3. A Recipe for Success or Disaster Averted

Take one Declaration of Independence, one Treaty of Waitangi and one Kemp's Purchase

Finely sift, keeping the promises and discarding all the rhetoric

Reserve the mahika kai; sift again to thoroughly aerate

Make a well in the centre and pour in wai ora

Knead until pliable

Set aside to rest for 8 years

Knock back, and again in 20 years

Rise again for 129 years

Fold in 72 nohoaka and a generous grinding of tribal titles

Shape into desired form

Let prove for a further 20 years; sprinkle with wai māori to encourage a healthy crust, and bake in the heart of the ahikā

Share amongst all

### 4. Hue and Cry

Pōua Bones declares Hey girl! it's been ages and we breathe together

He leaves behind his poupou to keep me company

Ngāi Tahu/Kāi Tahu

Here we are whānui, staying over at he akoraka toi

### 5. Relational Aesthetics

from the valley a murmur, movement echoes up to the shelter

I've spent years here filling my baskets

the night Eagle circles cluttered terrain and I'm keening for home