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Poem

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AN ODE TO MY MENTORS

Vicki Rangitautehanga Murray

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AN ODE TO MY MENTORS

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Dual pods as different as she and thee
 Chiselled pōhutukawa; staunch; breathlessly peaceful
 Umbrella kōwhai tree; dashing; daring
 Flowers full bloom with scents; intoxication!
 Flow tenderly thine wisdom afore me
 Each and every season nurtures creativity
 Lo make envy the *ako* journey
 Both heart and mind do bend your whim
 To reach ever-high horizons extend
 How lucky charms befall my course?
 Not one but two; fill *kete* sacred
Tuakana-teina spirits inestimable
 Woven threads to reach assigned destination
 Quite soon sweet closure divined
He mihi aroha my deepest gratitude for-ever-more
 Forevermore ...

AUTHOR'S NOTE

“Ahakoa he iti, he māpihi pounamu” (although it is small, it is a prized treasure) is akin to saying “a picture paints a thousand words.” Mentors are an essential component to success in many aspects of life including academic study. “An ode to my mentors” is a brief but heartfelt acknowledgement by one fortunate Doctor of Professional Practice learner to her two magical mentors, Dr Martin Andrew and Dr Kelli Te Maihāroa.

GLOSSARY OF MĀORI WORDS

pōhutukawa – a tree with red flowers native to New Zealand
 kōwhai – a tree with yellow flowers native to New Zealand
 ako – to teach / to learn
 kete – a basket (in this context it refers to the baskets of knowledge)
 tuakana-teina – senior / junior or teacher / student
 he mihi aroha – warm greetings or acknowledgement

Ko **Vicki Rangitautehanga Murray** ahau, he uri nō Ngāti Pūkeko me Ngāti Awa. Vicki is a tutor, and provides mentoring, cultural training and tangata whenua supervision to Māori clinicians working within therapeutic communities of practice in iwi health organisations and rehabilitation facilities. Vicki is also a director, trustee and committee member for her ahu whenua trusts and marae. Her doctoral research will consider Māori instruments of practice as guides to inspire Māori leadership to thrive in times of dynamic change. Further, she is a learner on the Doctor of Professional Practice with Te Kura Matatini ki Otago.