

SING TO ME OF HOME



KEITH WESTWATER
NEW AND SELECTED POEMS

Keith Westwater began writing poetry in his early fifties and has five published collections as well as a volume of new and selected work out in 2026. He was a member of the Tuesday Poem collective, has had work selected for anthologies – including *Manifesto Aotearoa: 101 Political Poems* and *Leaving the Red Zone: poems from the Canterbury earthquakes* – and received or been shortlisted for poetry awards in New Zealand, Australia and Ireland.

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New and Selected Poems

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RRP \$30 • 150mm × 190mm • 180 pp • poetry

- Long-standing award-winning Hutt Valley poet
- Poems from 25 years, including the poet's life in the army
- The third book in Keith Westwater's 'Home' series following *No One Home* and *Home Base*

Today, for a heartbeat of time
the day mutes rain's tattoo
unravels a sodden skein
from the sullen blanket of sky
lets through a quaver of white.

*Not enough blue sky to make
a sailor a pair of pants
your father would say
before his proud heart surrendered
to time's savage pecking.*

The story of the poet's motherless and peripatetic childhood is told in the poems of *No One Home*, followed by his time as a boy soldier in *Home Base*. *Sing to Me of Home* gathers the best of those poems into one volume along with work from three earlier collections and other poems published and new.

Keith Westwater's work teases apart his own life with honesty, compassion and wry humour, and applies that same lens to life in Aotearoa. Rugby, the Christchurch earthquakes, colonialism's impact on native birds and the plight of Pōneke rough sleepers jostle each other alongside poems that exalt the everyday and celebrate those places we call home and all the ways they carry us.

'The bread and butter of Keith's poetry are stories told in simple, restrained phrases, often as tidy as a list, the items gathering line by line to deliver a gut-punch as the meaning becomes clear. What is left unsaid is where the power lies.'

—Mary McCallum, in the foreword to *Sing to Me of Home*



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