

Pōwhiri

My sadness is
I have never known
a kuia fold me
in her arms

My sadness is
that what I know
was not told me
by my kaumatua

My sadness is
that I don't have the reo
that what I feel
can't be fully told

but I hear the call of my tupuna
the strongest karanga I know

I bow my head
with respect for them
and from them I draw strength
they walk with me
as I take my first steps
towards all that is theirs

ka tangi te titi
ka tangi te kākā
ka tangi hoki ahau
Tihei mauri ora!

ki ngā mate kua haere ki te pō
ka tangihia e ahau i tēnei wā