

Coracle

by Peter Stuart

Submarine poetry (Mākarō Press)

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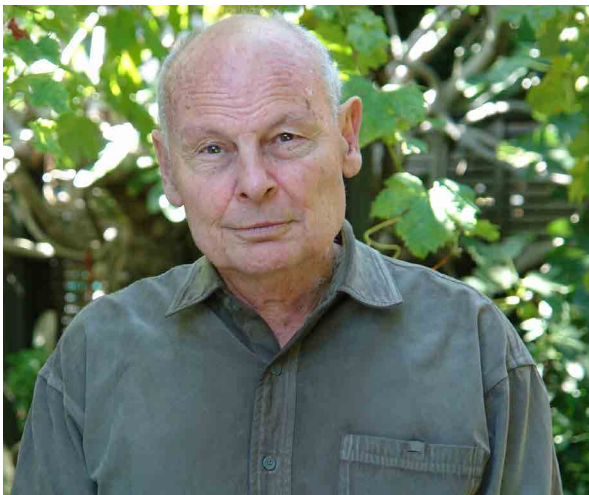
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A CORACLE is a small boat of wickerwork but in the poems of Anglican priest, Peter Stuart, it becomes the ribs of a dying man, and the means by which another makes his way into the next life, having kept vigil 'at eternity's rim'.

A coracle is also a kayak taking Peter and his wife, Julia, into Ōkarito Lagoon and the beauty of the natural world which – on the wings of a kōtuku – carries the reader eventually to the white robes of the monks at Kōpua, and further to the white invasion of an aboriginal sacred site, and a barbecue at Auschwitz with a bunch of money changers. For these poems are angry, too, and political, and take delight in the joyous and sensual. A singular first collection that poses as many questions as it answers.



*Cocooned, we slide
into a newly elongated world
a wet horizon encircling us*

Ordained as an Anglican priest in 1963, Peter Stuart has a Masters in Theology from Oxford University, and in History from the University of NZ. He has served as university chaplain, parish priest, and Canon Theologian, and in his 'retirement' continues to work and travel widely. Peter supports local churches in their care for the environment, and lay people drawn to the Cistercian spirituality lived at Southern Star Abbey, Kōpua. Peter's love of tramping finds less ambitious expression these days, but the hills and beaches of Eastbourne – where he lives with his wife, Julia – continue to beckon.