

Stewart Island

Through Foveaux Strait
the sea shows us
where Stewart Island lies.
The sea opens a door
to this peaceful place.
On this clear day
a Tui reminds the spotty's
how clean their homes are.

At the ageing wooden wharf
I feel the spirits
of the historic sealers
and whalers wrestle the waves.
Now they warn me
to respect the sea
and all it holds.

As I cast my line
into the protective ocean,
it twitches and I hook
a spotty. I reel it in
and see its silver body
glisten in the summer sun.
Behind me, my parents
call, "come back to the bach"

We stroll around the village
and lick hokey pokey ice-creams
and watch the seagulls
crack open mussels
and settle on the hot rocks.
The colourful boat sheds
stand together like the Commonwealth.

This gentle island lies
off the bottom of the South Island
of New Zealand supporting
and protecting its wildlife.
It holds the Maori culture
and tribal values and is
a calm voice for New Zealand.

Please come to Stewart Island
my place of peace
Inspiring
Calm
Still
Precious

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