From the collection

In 1986 Auckland University Press published (jointly with Oxford University Press) a collection of ten poems by Allen Curnow titled *The Loop in Lone Kauri Road* (poems 1983-5). The cover illustration echoes the title and features a circular gleam of blurred metal in motion. The image is in fact a photo of Len Lye’s kinetic sculpture Roundhead, which includes a whirling wedding band at the centre.

Curnow would have seen Roundhead (a version of which now resides in The University of Auckland Art Collection) when he visited Lye’s 20-year-old student and poet. At this stage, what was left of the West Coast’s grand kauri forests would have been not much more than the seeds of the recently felled trees, now predecessors to a significantly regenerated landscape. It is around these circular motifs of return, regrowth and repetition that Simpson traces his essay, also observing that Lone Kauri Road’s loop returns from the coast to the Piha Road under a different name, as Karekare Road.

From this exhibition, The University of Auckland acquired the title work, which is overlaid with the poet’s own jottings and a wet texture that reinforces the text’s damp imagery. Another text enlarged for the exhibition is “A Fellow Being”, which is printed with the texture of kauri bark in the background. Just as the West Coast’s Kauri Forests were also influential on Colin McCahon in the 1950s, these same locations continue to provide an evocative setting for a new generation of artists with Alex Monteith and Sarah Munro now living on Lone Kauri Road and many others, including Joyce Campbell, living not far away.

Andrew Clifford

As noted by the University of Auckland’s Director of Development, Sam Elworthy: “The Press minds and big ideas seems to be paying off,” says AUP Director, Sam Elworthy. “The Press enjoyed some major achievements in 2010: Alan Bollard’s *Crisis* soaring up the bestseller list; Paul Millar’s biography of Bill Pearson, *No Fretful Sleeper*, and C K Stead’s *No Fretful Sleeper: A Life of Bill Pearson*. To celebrate a big year in publishing Auckland University Press (AUP) is offering all staff 25 percent off 2010 history and biography books for orders received by 3 December 2010.

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Books that are part of the special deal include:

- *Crisis: One Central Bank Governor & the Global Financial Collapse* $29.99; UoA price $22.50
- *No Fretful Sleeper: A Life of Bill Pearson* $59.99; UoA price $45
- *South-West of Eden: A Memoir 1932-1956* $45; UoA price $33.75
- *Blue Smoke: The Last Dawn of NZ Popular Music, 1918-1964* $59.99; UoA price $45
- *Shear Hard Work: A History of New Zealand Shearing* $45; UoA price $33.75
- *The Treaty of Waitangi Companion* $49.99; UoA price $33.75

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