Poem

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AN ODE TO MY MENTORS

Vicki Rangitautehanga Murray
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Dual pods as different as she and thee
Chiselled pōhutukawa; staunch; breathlessly peaceful
Umbrella kōwhai tree; dashing; daring
Flowers full bloom with scents; intoxication!
Flow tenderly thine wisdom afore me
Each and every season nurtures creativity
Lo make envy the ako journey
Both heart and mind do bend your whim
To reach ever-high horizons extend
How lucky charms befall my course?
Not one but two; fill kete sacred
Tuakana-teina spirits inestimable
Woven threads to reach assigned destination
Quite soon sweet closure divined
He mihi aroha my deepest gratitude for-ever-more
Forevermore ...

AUTHOR’S NOTE

“Ahakoa he iti, he māpihi pounamu” (although it is small, it is a prized treasure) is akin to saying “a picture paints a thousand words.” Mentors are an essential component to success in many aspects of life including academic study. “An ode to my mentors” is a brief but heartfelt acknowledgement by one fortunate Doctor of Professional Practice learner to her two magical mentors, Dr Martin Andrew and Dr Kelli Te Maihāroa.

GLOSSARY OF MĀORI WORDS

pōhutukawa – a tree with red flowers native to New Zealand
kōwhai – a tree with yellow flowers native to New Zealand
ako – to teach / to learn
kete – a basket (in this context it refers to the baskets of knowledge)
tuakana-teina – senior / junior or teacher / student
he mihi aroha – warm greetings or acknowledgement
Ko Vicki Rangitauhanga Murray ahau, he uri nō Ngāti Pūkeko me Ngāti Awa. Vicki is a tutor, and provides mentoring, cultural training and tangata whenua supervision to Māori clinicians working within therapeutic communities of practice in iwi health organisations and rehabilitation facilities. Vicki is also a director, trustee and committee member for her ahu whenua trusts and marae. Her doctoral research will consider Māori instruments of practice as guides to inspire Māori leadership to thrive in times of dynamic change. Further, she is a learner on the Doctor of Professional Practice with Te Kura Matatini ki Otago.