

POETRY



More of Us, edited by Adrienne Jansen with Clare Arnot, Danushka Devinda and Wesley Hollis (Landing Press, \$22), is a collection of poems by 46 migrants and refugees who call New Zealand home. It was published on Race Relations Day, 21 March, a launch made even more poignant by the tragedy in Christchurch just six days earlier. Available in bookshops, or online from landingpress.wordpress.com.

WHEN MY FAMILY IS ALL TOGETHER

Yazan El Fares

We sit in the courtyard
in the shade of the grape vines.
We put mats on the floor,
we have tea and fruit –
grapes and watermelon.
Sometimes we bring the TV outside
and we all watch our favorite drama.
Some are sitting, some are lying,
some are talking, some are listening.
They get into the talk, they discuss,
they get excited about their talking,
and when there are two sides, their voices go up.
At the end when we finish
it takes five minutes to say goodbye
and another five minutes
and another five minutes
and another five minutes.

• "I am at Mana College in Porirua. I have been a part of the student council in 2018, and I enjoy playing football. I am interested in going to university in the future to do dentistry. I am from Syria and have been in New Zealand for two years."

COFFEE BONES

Huberta Hellendoorn

All those years ago in a new country
I set off to town to buy some coffee.
They said there was good coffee at Stewarts
downtown in the Octagon.
Coffee meant home, coffee meant comfort.
But you had to go down the stairs.
I didn't like stairs, I didn't like the cellar.
I'd escaped from stairs that went into dark cellars.
'I want some coffee bones,' I said.
'You mean coffee beans,' the man said.
I went home and ground the bones
in our new coffee grinder.
Beans and other magic words came later.

• "I was born in the Netherlands in 1937 and have loved living in Dunedin since 1960. I began writing fiction and non-fiction in my late 50s. My stories have been broadcast on Radio New Zealand, and *The Madonna in the Suitcase* was published in 2009. Mākarō Press published *Astride a Fierce Wind* in 2017."