Upturned
Kay McKenzie Cooke

To be released June 2020
rrp $25 • A5 • 98pp • Poetry

SELLING POINTS
• Fourth poetry collection from a much-loved, award-winning Dunedin poet.
• A poet with Ngāi Tahu and Pākehā whakapapa.
• Poetry with a southern sensibility and global reach.

Eaved things

On suburban hills under Dunedin’s fickle skies the houses take whatever is dished out, sitting there like bonnets, kettles, frogs, shoes. Lost or flung pieces from Monopoly, such little eaved things, easy pickings, like apples or eggs able to be plucked still warm from sunlight or feathers. What wild joy keeps them? What kind, engineered worlds?

Kay McKenzie Cooke chronicles life as it comes to her – the quotidian happenings in and around her home in Dunedin and further south where she grew up, and not-so-ordinary upturned world she experiences when she visits her son in Berlin. And then there are those things that seem ordinary enough until the poet flips them over so she can locate the beating heart.

Whānau and tūpuna (Kay is Ngāi Tahu and Pākehā) and the natural world are the places Kay is happiest and she writes with candour about grief and joy, loss and discovery. What comes through time and again in her work is a deep resilience born of always having one eye on the great mountains and rivers of the south and the other on the small things people hold close to make sense of an increasingly perplexing world.

“It is her patient, adroit precision with imagery, as much as her gift for hitting the right note, that bring such shine to the ordinary ...” VINCENT O’SULLIVAN