



Body Politic *Mary Cresswell*

To be released July 2020

A5 • 68pp • Poetry

ISBN 978-1-98-859522-1 • RRP \$25

SELLING POINTS

- American–NZ poet, internationally published
- Lockdown writing
- Kathleen Grattan Award runner-up 2010
- Environmental, political, satirical

They named it pandemic
blamed it on a virus
but it felt like a new
way of hearing

picking up sandy footsteps
extra notes of bird song
awareness of breath
the turn indicator clicking

all the tiny bits that
were there all along
suddenly everywhere
clear and unavoidable

Fifty years after she arrived in New Zealand from Los Angeles, Mary Cresswell's focus is unchanged. As a poet with a scientist's concern for detail she is still drawn to nature and what humanity has done with it. Seascapes are rocky and forbidding, landscapes are arid and treeless, and drones keep an eye on us. The few surviving animals—one frog and two birds—speculate on 'extinction' even as it is happening to them, just as the poet describes the strange paradox of the pandemic that on one hand threatens humanity and on the other allows the planet to breathe again. Mary uses word-play, satire and absurdity to tell her story, and puts the body politic centre stage as the cause of and agent for repairing the mess we are in.



Mary Cresswell is a Kāpiti poet who has published ecopoetry in New Zealand, UK, Australian and US journals after retiring from a career as a science editor. Her 2011 book *Trace Fossils* was runner-up for the inaugural Kathleen Grattan Award.



Sales / distribution: David Bateman

Bryce Gibson • bryceg@bateman.co.nz • 09 415 7664

www.thecubapress.nz • hello@thecubapress.nz • Box 9321, Wellington 6141