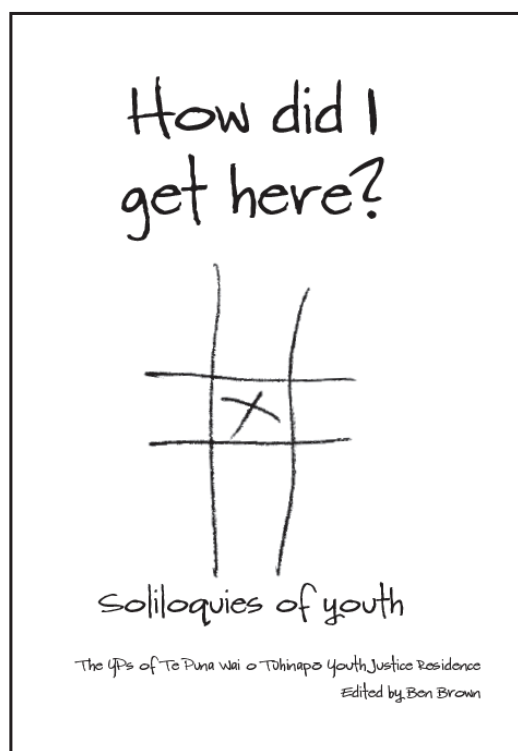


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# How did I get here?

## Soliloquies of youth

The YPs of Te Puna Wai o Tūhinapō  
Youth Justice Residence

Edited by Ben Brown

ISBN 978-1-98-859534-4

170mm x 230mm • 106pp • RRP \$25

poetry • illustrations

Available December 2020



### About the editor

**Ben Brown** (Waikato–Tainui) is a poet, performer, fiction and non-fiction writer, and children's author. He's published numerous books and his work has appeared in anthologies and other publications. Born in Motueka, he lives in Lyttelton by the sea.

In January 2020 poet Ben Brown took a box of biros, an A4 ream of paper and a question to 28 YPs – young people – living in Te Puna Wai o Tūhinapō, the Oranga Tamariki youth justice residence next door to Rolleston Prison, south-west of Christchurch.

The question was: 'How the fuck did I get here?'

Over four days of kōrero and collaboration, tautoko and awhi, the young men aged 13–18 wrote their answers as poems, which have been collected in a book, with illustrations by two of the participants.

The workshop and the book are part of a Read NZ Te Pou Muramura programme. Ben Brown will deliver the 2020 Read NZ Te Pou Muramura Pānui (formerly the Book Council Lecture) in November.

*If nobody listens then no one will know.* —Andre



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