



# A question bigger than a hawk

## Jan FitzGerald

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RRP \$25 • 148mm × 210mm • 72pp • poetry

- Hawke's Bay author and artist
- author was involved in literary scene in NZ as Jan Coad in the 1960s and 1970s but didn't release her first collection until 2005
- poems about growing up in the 1950s and a love of the natural world



Jan FitzGerald is a full-time artist and poet who lives in Napier. She is the author of three previous poetry collections, the most recent being *Wayfinder* (Steele Roberts, 2017), and she has been shortlisted twice in the Bridport Prize poetry competition.

Questions burrow through the fourth poetry collection by Jan FitzGerald. An only child until a brother appears in a cradle one day, she wonders about the circumstances of her birth and delves into the memories she has of a childhood in 1950s Tauranga – making traps for birds that she cares for in her bedroom, raiding feijoas, shelling peas at Christmas and befriending kuia waiting for their train.

The poet marvels, too, at the world around her – from her beloved birds to the wildness of storms – and is angry at the mess we've made of it. Then, like everyone, she is aghast when nature turns, as it has done with the pandemic, and shows a different face – one we have no manual for. In *A Question Bigger than a Hawk*, Jan FitzGerald writes with urgency and compassion, allowing little to escape her keen and restless eye.

*Chased by a question  
bigger than a hawk,  
I raced like a rabbit  
in fields without cover,  
searching for a bolt-hole  
among blackberries and hedges.*

