

Waiting on an Island for the Missing Balloonist

breathe the business of
memory from his clothes

build a cairn to
detain his shadow

with the weta¹
plant harakeke²

phormium tenax
a shield from

wind fire injury
weave a kete³

to feel close to the sky
your waking a

kind of landing there
will be time for feasting

the new net has gone
fishing you do not need

a map or compass it is
waiting that does the finding

Kerrin P Sharpe is a teacher of creative writing and a published poet whose writing has “re-flowered” in recent years as her family has grown up. She has been published widely in *Best New Zealand Poems 2008* (forthcoming April 2009), the *New Zealand Listener*, *Poetry New Zealand*, *Takahe*, *Snorkel 5 and 6*, *Turbine 07*, *Bravado 13* and *The Press* (Christchurch). In 2008 she was awarded the New Zealand Post Creative Writing Teacher's Award from the International Institute of Modern Letters and attended the Sydney Writers' Festival in May 2009.

- 1 Weta or wētā – a large insect found in Aotearoa/New Zealand
- 2 Harakeke – flax/phormium tenax
- 3 Kete – basket