

**Morena, tena koutou e te whanau  
Ko Elizabeth Dooley toko ingoa  
No Airangi oko tipuna  
Kei te nohu au ke Wakatu  
Tena koutou, tena koutou, tena tatou katoa**

**I thought we in Nelson recognised we had reached a tipping point. With rising Global gas emissions, memories of the lockdown and the rising cost of fuel, the only way for this Smart Little City to go is toward more density in town. We need to live locally, near schools, doctors, theatres, galleries, libraries, hospital and no longer be dependant on the private motor vehicle. That's what towns and cities in New Zealand can do to lower emissions from transport.**

**In my, admittedly inexperienced opinion, to propose urban sprawl is so unfortunate and unnecessary. It shows a lack of engagement with the mahi we all face to leave future generations with some hope. So far the Maitai Valley Road has been a demarcation line between urban and rural and breaching that line feels disastrous. Why stop there? Why not fill the whole valley?**

**There are plans to build a science park at the port which will hopefully attract and retain intelligent young people who would choose to live in town and walk or cycle to work and entertainment. This is the lifestyle we need to embrace.**

**I came to New Zealand in 1974 and settled in Auckland. Because of Climate Change, I decided to look for a place where I could live without a car as part of lowering my carbon footprint. I had tramped around the Nelson province for years, so I moved to Nelson from Auckland over 15 years ago and bought myself a bicycle. I am doing as much as I can personally do to live lightly on this earth. When I walk or cycle the busy city streets, I'm rather anxious. The people around me are anxious. Too many people seem unable to leave their cars at home. I am not able to tramp any more but I need a peaceful place to restore my soul and the Maitai is that place. I can walk out of town and into Nature.**

**Someone said the Kaka Valley was unproductive land. No land is unproductive. Kaka Hill could hold as many trees as Botanical Hill and play its part in maintaining our ecology. If it remains in pasture, it still provides a buffer and some filtering for the Maitai, sheltering us from the incessant noise and pollution of busy, congested streets.**

**Karen Armstrong's book "Sacred Nature" talks of humanity's broken relationship with Nature. I quote "Hearts and minds need to change if we are to once more learn to revere our beautiful and fragile planet, and to stop polluting it. For this to happen we need to reconnect". To quote further "Spending a few minutes each day quietly**

**absorbing the sights and sounds of nature can help remind us that we are part of the world around us and depend on it, as a child depends on its mother."**

**When I turn away from the city and and walk along the Maitai, I walk away from stress, cars, noise, pollution and enter a place of renewal.**

**Nature folds itself around me  
trees sway, leaves talk with the wind**

**Birds cry out or sing**

**water gossips over the stones**

**Each October, the Shining Cuckoo arrives.**

**If we encroach upon and eventually overwhelm this valley - we can never get it back. The Maitai and I share a common ancestor. We are entirely reliant on Papatuanuku - sacred Nature.**