

Maris O'Rourke

Tangi Time

My sons will scatter my ashes on Ruapehu.
Follow my footsteps.
Walk up the Whakapapa glacier from Knoll Ridge.
Add ash to ash in the Crater Lake
with a Karakia.

Drink a Steinlager. "Cheers, Mum"
Eat a marmite, bacon and onion sandwich.
Maybe, climb Tahurangi, Te Heuheu or Paretetaitonga
leftovers on the old worn-down tooth
she has become.

Speak of Maori legends I told on chairlifts.
Throw more ash to my young self on Taranaki
brooding silently to the west
contemplating the once beautiful young maid
who left him.

Ski down together
cutting perfect powder eights. Mine.
In tune, in time.

Pakeha: Ruapehu is one of the world's most active volcanoes and the largest active volcano in New Zealand. It is the highest point in the North Island and includes three major peaks: Tahurangi (2,797 m), Te Heuheu (2,755 m) and Paretetaitonga (2,751 m). The deep, active crater is between the peaks and fills with a crater lake between major eruptions.

Maori: Ruapehu, the beautiful maid, was married to Taranaki. One day, while her husband was away hunting, she was wooed and won by Tongariro. When Taranaki returned at the end of the day he surprised the guilty pair. A titanic battle ensued in which Taranaki was defeated. He retreated towards the west coast, carving out the course of the Wanganui River as he went.