

Craft 5 : Editorial

This Craft is personal. *Letters to My Brother* refers to me. Yet it is, along with its familial handle, Catherine Smith's very well-informed, road tested, experienced and committed account of practical hope. Hope here is conjured in the New Zealand and Antarctic environment, settler and Maori communities, in governments and in pressure on them, in families and churches. This is an artistic, hopeful and thoughtful reflection on a life-time's practical engagement by Catherine. It is local but much more.

You might say: how can you talk about Antarctica without howling like an Antarctic wind about climate change? The answer is that her/our focus is practical hope. Such practical activity will operate at all levels. It wouldn't be either-or, here or there but everywhere, if not without reflection as to the best results. We want 'bang for our buck' but it will come just as Catherine relates, by exploring different terrain, respecting differences, recognising limitations and possibilities and through not pretending to know the answers beforehand. We too are practical about practice and theory.

I am biased. This is my sister's work. Nevertheless you might at least say at the end that this pen and wheel barrow pusher is lucky to have such a sister, as now we also are more informed. I hope you say : "this gives us positive ideas" or "well that's definitely the way to go" or, of course: "that's the wrong way to go about it!"

In all cases you are welcome to join our discussion forum. We hope you do. Tell us about your own projects in Craft –a peer to peer magazine.