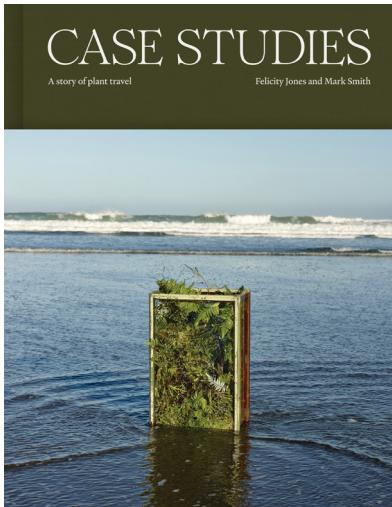




Case Studies

A story of plant travel

FELICITY JONES AND MARK SMITH



\$85

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A BEAUTIFUL BOOK FOR ALL WHO LOVE PLANTS AND THEIR STORIES

In 1829, London physician Dr Nathaniel Bagshaw Ward sealed a plant inside a glass container — a simple experiment that helped change the way plants were transported across the world, transforming gardens, ecosystems and lives in the process.

This book traces that story through photographs and essays, pairing striking contemporary images of cased plants — shot in New Zealand and in the United Kingdom — with reflections on the implications of plant transfer/movement. Across six essays by Gregory O'Brien, Dame Anne Salmond, Luke Keogh, Mark Carine, Markman Ellis and Huhana Smith, the book considers not only the scientific and colonial ambitions that drove botanical exchange, but also its consequences: ecological disruption, the spread of invasive species, and the marginalisation of Indigenous knowledge systems.

Case Studies also gives space to other voices — those speaking to mātauranga Māori, to tino rangatiratanga over native species, and to the ongoing work of conservation and reclamation. It is not only a record of historical movement, but also a reminder of the values and choices that continue to shape the land beneath our feet.

'Every one of the photos is a work of art in itself... There's layer upon layer of interest and meaning. I couldn't rate it highly enough and I'm so proud that they've published this in New Zealand' — Lynda Hallinan, RNZ

'The mix of image and text gives the book its breadth, its inquisitiveness and its instant and lasting appeal. It is gorgeously produced and will be a handsome and memorable gift' — Don Abbott, *Art New Zealand*

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Felicity Jones has led a wide-ranging creative life as a musician, gardener and botanical artist. She came to her work as a floral designer from an organic gardening background and is a strong advocate for sustainability, challenging the many environmentally damaging aspects of traditional floristry.

Mark Smith has been making photographs since the late 1970s. His work has appeared in many national and international publications, as well as in galleries. His 2022 book *HomeGround* with Simon Wilson was about the Auckland City Mission's city residence.

SALES POINTS

- Another lavish and beautiful hardback book from Massey University Press
- The perfect gift for all who love plants and their stories
- Written by a team of luminaries
- Gorgeous design and superb images



I have been following Dr Rangi Te Kanawa's and her vision for a karakope fibre fabric industry, and while our kaitiaki of Kaha have a long track record of research and development in this area, we have not pursued it for years. There has been a significant move already to this direction in our current research project. Our kaitiaki and collaborative research projects are leading to results having full support of sustainably processed karakope to access muka fibre, achieving thread that requires no chemical processing, just water, and which can be woven into interior fabrics, or into hats, bags, and other items that are both functional and decorative fabrics. Our thermal insulation and insulation processes are dedicated to this area, therefore, Ngāti Maru Tangata, Te Ati Awa, Ngāi Rauru, Ngāi Taahuna, Ngāi Tūhoe, the Māori members of the research team reach forward again to the challenges of our environment, guided by our diverse hūārahi (people). We share these learnings with our other colleagues as they share their technical or scientific expertise with us.

The recent years of this harakeke journey for our largely mana wahine-led team of fibre-making textiles and processing experts have consolidated and focused our efforts on ensuring we reach the goal of a highly sustainable, ancestral-quality thread.

efforts on ensuring we reach the goal of a highly sustainable, appraised-quality thread that is presented by tikanga or customary practice and supported by ancestral Māori knowledge.⁶ All in all, we have navigated a unique developmental research journey via a series of *wānanga* and actions that investigated new sustainable directions for this versatile natural resource that has increased potential to develop renewed, sustainable and beneficial industries that improve Māori-led economies for ancestral farms and returning landholdings.

remaining land holdings. In undertaking this interdisciplinary research through this *kaupapa* framework, we continue to engage with the cultivation of natural fibres in revitalised wetlands. Our research remains action-oriented, with approaches led by *taatauranga Māori* where appropriate, and we remain determined to be place-based, relational and ecosystems focused. The team continues to foster authentic benefits for the communities and Indigenous/Fest Nation groups involved. Mark Smith and Felicity

communities and Indigenous/First Nations groups involved. Mark Smith and Felicity Jones' *Case Studies* work with handweavers links these emerging applications as a conceptual reapparing or makeover of the case, according to persistent traditions and innovations determined long ago by karakeke fibre specialists, and as expert weavers of many generations before the case was invented.

perspective heralds a renewed journey to reconnote and expand this taonga or treasured resource, to return it back to ancestral wetlands and waterways for the benefit of iwi and hapū Māori, Te Taiao, returning – by extension – hapū or wellbeing to all communities. We are not at the long lead-processing part of the research that finesse appard-quality harakeke fabric, so our innovations with harakeke have not yet reached their destination, but thankfully we are not far away.

Oscillations and following waves. *Hemelbœuf, De Haas, 2023*

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