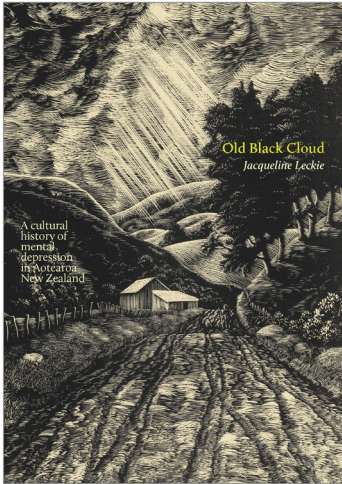




Old Black Cloud

A cultural history of mental depression in Aotearoa New Zealand

JACQUELINE LECKIE



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CATEGORY: Mental health, history, society

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A TIMELY CONTRIBUTION TO UNDERSTANDING MENTAL HEALTH

Mental depression is a serious issue in contemporary New Zealand, and it has an increasingly high profile. But during our history, depression has often been hidden under a long black cloud of denial that we have not always lived up to the Kiwi ideal of being pragmatic and have not always coped.

Using historic patient records as a starting place, and informed by her own experience of depression, academic Jacqueline Leckie's timely social history of depression in Aotearoa analyses its medical, cultural and social contexts through an historical lens. From detailing its links to melancholia and explaining its expression within Indigenous and migrant communities, this engrossing book interrogates how depression was medicalised and has been treated, and how New Zealanders have lived with it.

'Old Black Cloud is authoritative, erudite and highly readable. It should be mandatory reading for all those interested in the social and cultural dimensions of depression and mental health in Aotearoa New Zealand.' — Solomon Lewis, *North & South*

'Jacqueline Leckie marks an important (and poignant) milestone in tackling a subject which deserves more transparency.' — Jenny Nicolls, *Waiheke Weekender*

'Highly accessible, uniquely insightful, and in-depth exploration of mental depression as an intrinsic part of our national fabric.' — Allan McEvoy, *Kete Books*

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jacqueline Leckie is an adjunct research fellow with the Stout Centre for New Zealand Studies at Te Herenga Waka Victoria University of Wellington. She is also a conjoint associate professor at the University of Newcastle in Australia. Leckie taught for 26 years at the University of Otago, where she was head of the department of anthropology and archaeology for five years. She has had a leading role within multidisciplinary research networks in Asian studies, Pacific studies, migration and health. Her book *Invisible: New Zealand's history of excluding Kiwi-Indians* was published by Massey University Press in 2021, and her book *Colonizing Madness: Asylum and community in Fiji* was published by the University of Hawai'i Press in 2020.

SALES POINTS

- The first ever history of mental depression in Aotearoa New Zealand
- Written by a respected academic
- Well illustrated with historic images

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