



## ***A Pukeko in a Ponga Tree* - adapted by Kingi M Ihaka**

**Published by Penguin, RRP \$25 with CD.**

A new edition of a Kiwi version of "The twelve days of Christmas". The traditional rhyme is given a fun twist for New Zealanders. Kingi Ihaka has adapted the familiar verse and translated it to a down-under setting:

"On the first day of Christmas my true love gave to me a pukeko in a ponga tree."

A wonderful array of gifts follow. There's twirling poi, fat pigs, huhu grubs, eels, fish heads, kumara, sacks of pipi, and many other local delights. The twelve-day countdown builds anticipation and excitement with each addition.

Dick Frizzell's illustrations are timeless. Each double-page spread gives close-up attention to the growing list of presents. Earthy colours highlight the gifts of nature and the abundance of available food. The red-beaked pukeko adds flashes of bright colour with his blue and green feathers.

An accompanying CD enhances the original melody with a strumming guitar and rich vocals. Invite the family to join in a festive season sing-along.

**Reviewed by children's book author, Jean Bennett.**

