

# Keep It Up

A farmer asked me  
if I was working  
and added  
he didn't mean  
writing.

I said

I was sawing  
and stacking wood,  
tidying the shed,  
pruning the hedge.

'Is that work?'

'Yes,' he said,

'keep it up.'

Photo: © Grahame Sydney



**Brian Turner** is a distinguished New Zealand writer, born in Dunedin in 1944. He has been publishing poems since the 1960s. His many books include collections of poetry, including *Footfall*,; best-selling sports biographies, the autobiographical *Somebodies and Nobodies: Growing up in an extraordinary sporting Family*; *Timeless Land* (with Grahame Sydney and Owen Marshall). His most recent books are the best-selling *Into the Wider World* (shortlisted for the 2009 Montana Book Awards) which focuses on his love of, and concerns for, the future of this country's natural environment, and *Just This*, a collection of new work containing many poems set in Central Otago.

Turner has won many awards and scholarships, and was awarded 'The Prime Minister's Award for Literary Achievement in Poetry 2009'.

He lives in Oturehua, a small town in the Ida Valley, Central Otago. He sees himself as a southern New Zealander who, while having grown up in Dunedin, and lived in Christchurch and Wellington, has spent a great deal of his time in the outdoors – tramping, cycling, climbing, and sailing.

More information can be found at: [www.bookcouncil.org.nz](http://www.bookcouncil.org.nz) and [www.randomhouse.co.nz/](http://www.randomhouse.co.nz/)



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