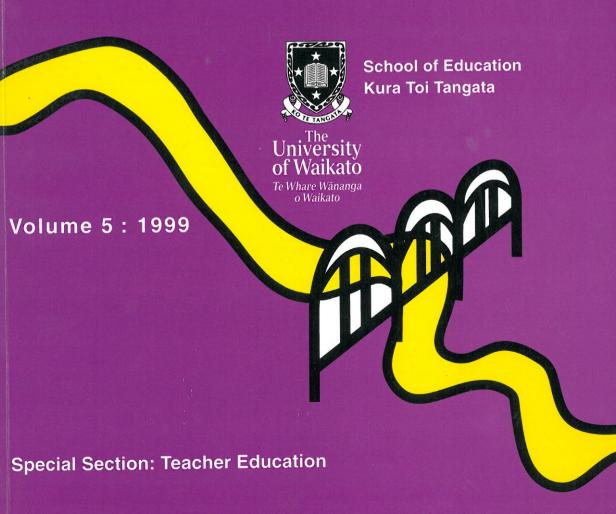
## Waikato Journal of Education

Te Hautaka Mātauranga o Waikato



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## **BOARDER'S LEAVE ENDING**

sun sinking signalling Sunday night return to school light dimming eyes brimming

seat leather creaks as body swings on highway corners tyres humming mind numbing

rhythmic sweep of windscreen wipers forces a clear view onward rain dropping smile stopping

each new song on the radio ticks the clock relentlessly forward time wends leave ends

approaching regimen of ordered, boarded community ethos cloying soul destroying

seeming loneliness though surrounded by so many class mates heart ache

losing individual freedom to communal dormitory and blackboard note taking spirit breaking

a prisoner of middle class aspirations for social mobility growing stunted thinking blunted

lacking daily personal touch, losing identity uniform love lorn

wondering which forgotten misdeed prompted parents abandonment high cost childhood lost

## Rachel Wood