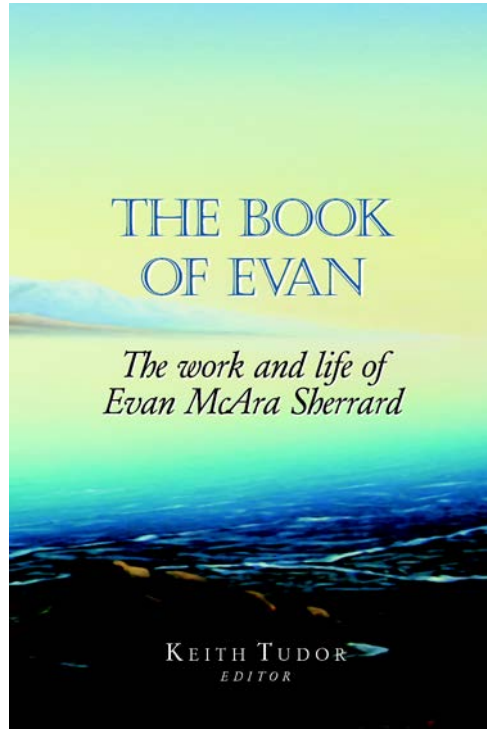


# The book of Evan: The work and life of Evan McAra Sherrard

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A reverie by Hamish Brown

Phil asked me to review *The Book of Evan* for our journal. I have found that I don't really want to review it. What emerges in me as I put it down having read it, is a reverie; a reflection on my life and development as it has unfolded and where it interconnects with Evan's work and life path as described in *The Book of Evan*. Probably, if you have been involved in psychodrama, counselling, pastoral care or psychotherapy in New Zealand over the last 50 years, then Evan's work has also affected you.

Evan was a TEP with Don Reekie and Dale Herron in the Auckland Training Centre for Psychodrama when I began my training in 1997.

After Don left Auckland, Evan became my primary trainer and supervised my thesis and preparation for practical assessment. He was my supervisor when I began seeing individual clients and running weekend psychodrama workshops somewhere between 2000 and 2002. The funny thing about working with Evan in this way, which seems remarkable in hindsight, was that I always felt like I could rely on something within myself even though I also felt uncertain a lot of the time. I'm sure this balance of confidence and uncertainty were partly a result of Evan's relationship with me.

*The Book of Evan* is full of descriptions of Evan's impact on the lives of people like me. As I have been reading, I have found myself appreciating how many people he affected and how similar the themes are. The photos of people then young now old are also a delight.

It was a joy to discover chapters relating to Evan's first career as farmer, his second career in pastoral care, and his third career in psychotherapy and psychotherapy education. He had a significant impact on the fields of pastoral care and counselling in Dunedin in the 1960's and on the fields of psychotherapy and psychotherapy education in Auckland after 1975. It is evident how the networks of people and organisations in Auckland fitted together and how they unfolded out of each other.

Evan's journey of learning and development through his life is described, as well as papers he wrote which are presented in their original context of Evan's life path. I found many of the papers meaningful. I woke up to particular areas of theory. I could see how they emanated from Evan's theoretical orientation. I found myself appreciating how his practice was informed and how this had affected me in my development with him. This was a very satisfying experience.

