



# DAWN RAID

PAULINE (VAELUAGA) SMITH

## What is an overstay?

Like many 13-year-old girls, Sofia's main worries are how to get some groovy go-go boots, and how not to die of embarrassment giving a speech at school!

But when her older brother Lenny starts talking about marches and protests and overstayers, and how Pacific Islanders are being bullied by the police for their passports and papers, a shadow is cast over Sofia's sunny teenage days. Through her heartfelt diary entries, we witness the terror of being dawn-raided and gain an insight into the courageous and tireless work of the Polynesian Panthers in the 1970s as they encourage immigrant families across New Zealand to stand up for their rights.

- Pauline Smith (née Vaeluaga) writes with an authentic voice, coloured with many 70s references to fashion, music, pastimes etc
- The escapades of Sofia's scallywag younger brothers provide levity
- Some of the Polynesian Panthers (eg Tigilau Ness, father of musician Che Fu) were interviewed and feature as real characters in the book
- Launch activities have been planned, to include Tigi Ness, Che Fu and King Kapisi, in both the author's hometown of Invercargill, and in Auckland

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Lexile	TBC

**Pauline (Vaeluaga) Smith** is of Samoan, Scottish and Irish descent and was born in 1963 in the small town Mataura in the lush green Southland of Aotearoa NZ. She has been a classroom teacher, university lecturer and events manager. The 'magic' or best parts of her life are during weekends and holidays at the family crib (known as a bach to North Islanders) in the gorgeous seaside town of Riverton, where she spends time with her husband Geoff, daughters, grandchildren and the extended whanau, and where everyone fights over the hammock chair under the tree.

*My New Zealand Story: Dawn Raid* is her first book.

