



Newsletter – 6 August 2001

This is the 3rd in a series of occasional newsletters from the Victoria University centre of the International Institute of Modern Letters. For more information about any of the items, please email modernletters@vuw.ac.nz.

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1. Prizes

Congratulations to Stephanie de Montalk, whose *Animals Indoors* (VUP) won the Jessie Mackay prize for best first book of poetry at last week's Montana New Zealand Book Awards. Steph took Gregory O'Brien's Poetry Workshop at Victoria in 1997, while last year she completed Victoria's MA in Creative Writing. The fruits of last year's work will be found in *Unquiet World: The Life of Count Geoffrey Potocki de Montalk*, which publishes in October.

Other 2001 Montana prizewinners associated with the Institute of Modern Letters are Charlotte Randall (*The Curative*) and Damien Wilkins (*Nineteen Widows Under Ash*), who were joint runners-up for the Deutz Prize for Fiction, and Gregory O'Brien, co-editor of *Parihaka: The Art of Passive Resistance*, which was co-winner with Michael King's biography of Janet Frame in the History and Biography category. Charlotte is the 2001 Writer in Residence at Victoria University. Damien and Greg convene, respectively, our Short Fiction and Poetry Workshops.

2. Summer Workshops

Victoria's 200-level Short Fiction and Poetry Workshops are both being offered this summer through the International Institute of Modern Letters. Class times and fuller course descriptions are available on the IIML website at <http://www.vuw.ac.nz/modernletters/timetable.html>.

Applications close on **1 September**, and application forms can be downloaded from the website or picked up from 16 Wai-te-ata Road. Victoria's full summer trimester programme is available from (04) 463.5374 or freephone 0800-842.864.

3. The Prize in Modern Letters

Applications for this NZ\$60,000 award for emerging writers closed on 31 July. In all 32 authors, with work published by 14 different publishers, were nominated. Over half of the entrants were fiction writers, but there were a large number of poets, along with non-fiction writers and dramatists. In mid-October the New Zealand selectors will forward a shortlist of five or six authors to the American judging panel, whose decision will be announced during Writers and Readers Week in March 2002.

4. Turbine

As announced, the online journal being developed by students taking Chris Price's Creative Writing in the Marketplace workshop has begun to turn in the wind. Information about manuscript submissions is now available from the turbine website: <http://www.vuw.ac.nz/turbine>

5. Ursula Bethell Exhibition

This exhibition about the life and work of the poet Ursula Bethell opens at the National Library Gallery in Wellington on 17 August. A number of associated events are scheduled, including 'a musical and literary celebration of the work of creative colleagues Rita Angus, composer Douglas Lilburn, and poets Ursula Bethell and Denis Glover'. Further events information is available at <http://www.natlib.govt.nz/en/services/events/>

6. Thanks

Many thanks to Wellington publisher HeadworX, who have generously donated a complete set of their current poetry and fiction titles to the IIML's class library. We are also most grateful for gift subscriptions from *New Zealand Books*, the *New Zealand Book Council*, *Sport*, and *Landfall*.

7. Readings

Visiting Australian poet Michael Sharkey will be reading at the Space in Newtown on Friday August 10, with support from musician Chris Palmer and Wellington poet Simon Sweetman. The event begins at 8.30, and there is a \$5.00 doorcharge.

Poetry Café: August Meeting

Poet Glenn Colquhoun reads at Selby Sports Café, Porirua, at 7.30 p.m., Sunday 19 August. Glenn's books include *The Art of Walking Upright*, which won the best first book award at the 2000 Montanas.

8. Performing Words

Musician Ross Mullins has just released a CD, Tidemarks, which features settings of work by a range of New Zealand poets including Robin Hyde, James K Baxter, A.R.D. Fairburn and Alistair Te Ariki Campbell. Copies can be ordered from <http://www.rossmullins.com/>, where you can also listen to tracks from the album.