



Newsletter – 3 October 2001

This is the 8th 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.

1. Double De Montalk.....	1
2. Allen Curnow.....	1
3. Ian Wedde Reading.....	2
4. Oklahoma!.....	2
5. The Stepmother Tree.....	2
6. Gladiator	2
7. Fresh Talent in the City.....	2
8. Manawatu Festival of Women's Words	3
9. London!.....	3
10. Two Poetry Readings.....	3
11. Burns Fellow	3
12. Radio New Zealand / Spectrum	3

1. Double De Montalk

Stephanie de Montalk's fine memoir of her cousin Count Geoffrey Potocki de Montalk is published this week by Victoria University Press. For more details about *Unquiet World*, which was written in the 2000 MA workshop, click [here](#).

The launch itself is at Unity Books, Thursday 4 October, at 6.00 p.m. All welcome.

2. Allen Curnow

Shirley Horrocks's documentary about the late Allen Curnow – *Early Days Yet* – screens on TV1 on Sunday October 7 at 10.15 pm. The poet himself was very pleased with the documentary, and deeply moved – ‘hammered’ was his word - by the way in which it condensed and articulated the patterns of his life and work. The Guardian's obituary for Allen Curnow, written by his English publisher Michael Schmidt, can be found [here](#).

3. Ian Wedde Reading

Ian Wedde has published little poetry in recent years. As part of our 'Writers on Monday' programme he will read and talk about the poems in his new collection, *The Commonplace Odes*. 'This marvellous book is not just a vibrant renewal for Ian Wedde but for his grateful readers, too.' – Peter Simpson, *NZ Listener*.

Free entry. All welcome.

Date: Monday October 8

Time: 1.00 p.m.

Place: Stout Research Centre, 12 Waiteata Rd

4. Oklahoma!

In mid-October Bill Manhire, director of the IIML at Victoria, travels to Oklahoma as one of eleven international jurors for the Neustadt International Prize for Literature. The US\$50,000 Neustadt Prize which is awarded every second year is the first international literary award of its scope to originate in the United States, and is one of the very few international prizes for which poets, novelists, and playwrights are equally eligible. Jurors each nominate an author, and then meet over a period of several days to agree on a single recipient. A full list of jurors and their candidates can be found [here](#).

5. The Stepmother Tree

James McNaughton's first book of poetry, *The Stepmother Tree*, will be launched at 6.00 p.m. on Wednesday 24 October at Wellington's Unity Books. All welcome. James, who is returning from Japan for the event, completed Victoria's MA in Creative Writing in 2000.

'Forget about absinthe, alcohol, bungy-jumping and eastern mysticism - if you really want to see things, this object in your hand isn't a book, it's a box of seeds. Now, sit down or lie back and watch them grow.'

Gregory O'Brien

6. Gladiator

Wellington writer Michael Laws, graduate of the 2000 MA in Creative Writing workshop, is launching *Gladiator - the Norm Hewitt Story* on Tuesday 23 October. James McNaughton (see above) will also read from *The Stepmother Tree* at this free event.

Venue: Whitcoulls Lambton Quay

Time: 6.00 p.m.

7. Fresh Talent in the City

To celebrate World Book Day Aotearoa talented new Wellington writers Tim Corballis, Kate Duignan, Victoria McHalick and Rebekah Palmer will read from and discuss their debut works with chair Damien Wilkins.

Date: October 14th

Time: 2.00 p.m.

Venue: City Gallery, Wellington

Tickets \$5 available from Unity Books Wellington.

A full list of events planned for World Book Day Aotearoa can be found [here](#).

8. Manawatu Festival of Women's Words

This Palmerston North event runs for a week from Saturday 6 October. Guest writers include Patricia Grace, Fiona Kidman and Te Mata Estate Poet Laureate Elizabeth Smither. Stephanie de Montalk, Kate Camp, and Kate Duignan read at the City Library at 2.00 p.m. on Sunday 7 October. Further programme information from the City Library, (06) 351.4100.

9. London!

Congratulations to writer Philip Braithwaite, who is completing an Honours degree in the School of English, Film, and Theatre. Phil has just won the BBC World Service International Radio Playwriting Competition. The prize consists of 2,500 pounds, a trip to London to watch the play being recorded, and a general introduction to London's theatre world. Phil's play is called 'Blood' and is 'a sort of monologue-cum-docudrama (sorry I can't explain it any better than that) about a guy who's a mixture of white English and Maori.'

10. Two Poetry Readings

Fleur Adcock

Poet Fleur Adcock reads at the Porirua Poetry Café.

Date: Monday 8 October

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Venue: Selby's Sports Café, Selby Place, Porirua.

Brian Turner

Poet Brian Turner – whose new collection is published by VUP later this year – reads at the October meeting of the New Zealand Poetry Society. (Preceded by an open reading.)

Date: Thursday 18 October

Time: 8.00 p.m.

Venue: Turnbull House

11. Burns Fellow

Reliable as well as unreliable rumours reveal that the 2002 Burns Fellow at the University of Otago will be Wellington novelist and poet Alison Wong. Alison took Victoria's Original Composition course with Damien Wilkins in 1995; other workshop members that year included Kate Camp and Catherine Chidgey.

12. Radio New Zealand / Spectrum

Doug Coutts's documentary, covering a day in the life of the Johnsonville railway, will be broadcast in National Radio's Spectrum slot at 12.30, Sunday 7th October. The documentary was produced as part of Doug's work for Chris Price's course, 'Creative Writing in the Marketplace.'

