



INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF
MODERN LETTERS

Te Pūtahi Tuhi Auaha o te Ao

Newsletter – 22 July 2005

This is the 72nd 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. Nice morning for it, Vincent

Victoria University Professor Emeritus Vincent O'Sullivan's *Nice morning for it, Adam* has won the Poetry category in the Montana New Zealand Book Awards 2005, it was announced this morning. The judges (Graham Beattie, John McCrystal and Laura Kroetsch) said that O'Sullivan was an extraordinary voice in New Zealand literature, and perhaps, only perhaps, this is best seen in his poetry. *Nice morning for it, Adam*, published by Victoria University Press, competes with the winner of the Fiction category for the ultimate prize, the Deutz Medal for Fiction or Poetry. The winner will be announced, along with the winners of the fiction and all non-fiction categories, at a gala dinner at the Town Hall in Wellington on Monday.

2. Writers on Mondays: NZ Poetry Abroad

In June, poetry packed a suitcase and went on its OE. An anthology of NZ poetry in Russian was launched in Moscow, and Gregory O'Brien and four other poets took their work to festivals in Antwerp and Rotterdam, where audiences could read them in translations by Wellington-based poet and neurobiologist Jan Lauwereyns. This month VUP releases *The Colour Of Distance: New Zealand Writers in France, French Writers in New Zealand* and a new poetry collection by O'Brien. This Monday, 25 July at City Gallery (1 -2pm), Lauwereyns and O'Brien read their work and discuss the experience of translating and exporting NZ poetry. Free admission, no bookings required. Presented by the IIML with the support of City Gallery.

3. Real Men Do Read Poetry

Six talented young writers have been shortlisted for this year's Bell Gully National Schools Poetry Award. At the announcement on Tuesday this week, the shortlisted poems were read by All Black Conrad Smith, Black Cap selector Dion Nash, poet Bill Manhire, author Lloyd Jones, inaugural award winner Mia Gaudin and Bell Gully chairman David Simcock.

The shortlisted poets are:

Jessie HENDY, Year 12, Taradale High School, Napier
LIU Guanting, Year 13, St Cuthbert's College, Auckland
Selina POWELL, Year 13, Wellington High School, Wellington
Melissa CHEN, Year 13, Epsom Girls Grammar School, Auckland
Russell KALE, Year 13, Karamu High School, Hastings
Kirsti WHALEN, Year 12, Epsom Girls Grammar School, Auckland

'The six poems short-listed all have plenty of energy,' said Award judge, Canterbury poet Bernadette Hall. 'The language in them is alive, sparkly with dialogue and imagery, with wit and surprise. As an editor, I would happily send all of them on their way, out into the world to be published. And I know they would hold their ground.' The award winner will be announced on 19 August at a function in Wellington to open the third Bell Gully National Schools Writing Festival, a two-day programme of writing workshops which will be held over the following weekend at Victoria University. The shortlisted poems can be found with a number of other Montana Poetry Day contributions at <http://www.booksellers.co.nz/eventf.htm>

4. Main Trunk Lines

A lively and visually engaging exhibition of New Zealand poetry opened last night at the National Library Gallery in Wellington. Amongst the many treasures on display are Baxter's famous 'wallpaper' poems, a number of Hotere paintings and a terrific selection of fine press books. Congratulations to Jenny Bornholdt and Gregory O'Brien for putting together such a good-looking and wide-ranging survey of New Zealand poetry past and present. The exhibition runs through to October.

5. Street-level poetry

The New Zealand Poetry Society has created a journey of twelve poems and poetry extracts that are chalked on the pavement in Wellington's CBD today. They'll also be handing out free Poetry Postcards on the street between 12 to 2pm. Here's where to find the poems:

1. *Today*, Dinah Hawken Top of Cable Car
2. *July, July* - Vincent O'Sullivan, Main Quad, Victoria University
3. *Ghost Ships* - Chris Orsman, Queens Wharf
4. *The Desperadoes* - Iain Sharp, Molesworth St, front of National Library
5. *My Lost Youth* - Bill Manhire, Bottom of Cable Car
6. *Energy Crisis* - Rachel McAlpine, Cuba Mall
7. *Wellington* - James K Baxter, front of Railway Station
8. *New View* - Andrew Johnston, front of Te Papa
9. *Round Oriental Bay* - Lauris Edmond, front of Freyberg pool
10. *Instructions for How to get Ahead of yourself While the Light Still Shines* - Jenny Bornholdt, Civic Square
11. *After Glover* - Harry Ricketts, Courtenay Place bus depot
12. *The Basics* - Geoff Cochrane, front of Unity Books

6. Radical Reminder

A reminder that the application deadline for the Radical Revision Poetry Workshop presented by US poets Nick Twemlow and Robyn Schiff is 5 August. This workshop focuses on the dynamic possibilities of the revision process. It will, say the poets, 'forego mere tinkering in an effort to offer each poem presented in the workshop profound opportunities to transform its very strategies, meanings and intentions.' Enrolment is limited to eight people – for further details email modernletters@vuw.ac.nz

7. Taking the Plunge

'Plunge' is a world of dance, aerial circus, live music and poetry inspired by Wellingtonians' relationship to the sea. It's directed by Tom Beauchamp, and the live music is supplied by Leila Adu, and the poetry by Alice Miller, who is currently completing an MA at the IIML. Plunge runs from 26 - 30 July, 8.30pm (& 3.00pm Sat 30th) at Te Whaea Theatre in Newtown. Bookings: (04) 389 9056, \$15.00 / \$10.00.

8. South Pacific Press calls for submissions

South Pacific Press is a new educational publisher based in Wellington. They are looking for writers able to supply scripts for a series of books for schools in the United States and Canada focusing on the benefits of reading fluently aloud. The type of script they are looking for is known as 'Reader's Theatre'. For further information and submission guidelines, including a sample script, email the publishing manager Don Long (don@southpacificpress.com). The closing date for scripts is 15 August.

9. Kikia Te Poa

Recently opened at BATS Theatre is *Kikia Te Poa*, a play about a legendary game of rugby played in the middle of the Boer War written by Matthew Saville. *Kikia Te Poa* had its first outing (in extract form) in last year's Writers on Mondays series, as it was written while Matthew Saville was completing the MA in Scriptwriting with Ken Duncum last year. It runs until 30 July; bookings at book@bats.co.nz, or tel 802 4175.

10. Insider's flat

Playwright Peter Cox, joint winner of the Buddle Findlay Sargeson Fellowship, has recently taken up his tenure at the Sargeson flat in central Auckland. Peter is the creator of the hugely successful television drama, *Insider's Guide to Happiness*, which has received 11 nominations, including best drama and best script of a drama series, for the Screen Directors' Awards 2005. A second season, this time titled *The Insider's Guide to Love*, screens later this year on TV2. Cox, who completed the MA in Scriptwriting at the IIML in 2003, plans to work on a new play and film script during his tenure.

11. Poets & Writers

The Institute now has a set of the US magazine *Poets & Writers* in its library. Our thanks to Cherie Pinner, who donated them.

12. Are Angels OK?

Writers throughout the country are wrestling with the laws of physics under the auspices of a project supported by the Smash Palace fund and managed by the Royal Society and the International Institute of Modern Letters. 'Are Angels OK?' was launched by physicist Paul Callaghan at an event broadcast on National Radio in June. The project teams up writers Margaret Mahy, Witi Ihimaera, Dylan Horrocks, Lloyd Jones, Chris Price, Elizabeth Knox, Catherine Chidgey, Jo Randerson, Glenn

Colquhoun and Vincent O'Sullivan with some of New Zealand's leading physicists to collaborate on a variety of projects that will eventually be published in book form, as well as featuring on radio and in a series of events to be held at Te Papa in November. Among the many works in progress, Jo Randerson is writing the monologue of a mad scientist and Glenn Colquhoun is working on turning physics equations into poems.

13. From the whiteboard

'If we knew what we were doing, it wouldn't be called research, would it?' (Albert Einstein)

14. More Mansfield

New Zealand filmmaker Olivia Lory Kay will attend the Wellington premiere of her short film about the life and writing of Katherine Mansfield, based on the Mansfield story by the same name 'An Indiscreet Journey', at the New Zealand International Film Festival tomorrow. 'An Indiscreet Journey' screens with the Moving Image Centre's Homegrown programme at the Paramount, 4.45pm on Saturday. The film weaves Mansfield's life with her fiction, in a surreal and fantastical way. It tells the story of Mansfield's affair with a soldier, based on Mansfield's actual journey to the French German border at the outbreak of the war to meet her lover, the Parisian poet Francis Carco. The film was made in Germany, with German actors and crew. The filmmaker recently graduated from Britain's prestigious National Film and Television School and is currently living between London and Berlin. For more information about the Telecom 34th New Zealand Film Festival : <http://www.nzff.telecom.co.nz>

15. The expanding bookshelf

It's been a big week for poetry in Wellington. New collections of poetry by Gregory O'Brien (*Afternoon of an Evening Train*) Bill Manhire (*Lifted*) and 2004 Adam Prize winner Emily Dobson (*a box of bees*) were launched at Unity Books on Monday. And Elizabeth Isichei has published her first poetry collection – *Stoptide* - with Steele Roberts. Elizabeth was Reader in Religious Studies at Victoria from 1985 to 1992, and did the IIML summer poetry workshop with Greg O'Brien in 2002.

16. Recent web reading

E Tuhi! Get writing! finalists

<http://www.creativenz.govt.nz/news/whatsnew.html?record=1700>

Book award corruption

<http://books.guardian.co.uk/news/articles/0,6109,1516201,00.html>

Fiendish (needs broadband)

www.makingfiends.com

Language and empire

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/features/lifestyle/chi-0507050258jul06,1,1103767.story?coll=chi-leisuretempo-hed&ctrack=1&cset=true>

Marketing poetry

http://www.poetrymagazine.org/magazine/0705/comment_171212.html

London

<http://books.guardian.co.uk/departments/politicsphilosophyandsociety/story/0,6000,1528271,00.html>

Artists to Antarctica

<http://www.creativenz.govt.nz/news/whatsnew.html?record=1713>

121 New Zealand Poems

http://www.nzherald.co.nz/index.cfm?c_id=6=10335056
<http://www.nzherald.co.nz/index.cfm?c_id=6&ObjectID=10335056>

Classic novels

<http://biz.yahoo.com/prnews/050713/clw074.html?v=15>

The reviews of Mister Quickly

http://www.amazon.com/gp/cdp/member-reviews/A2752XIGJY2YH6/ref=cm_cr_auth/102-1590094-5084153?%5Fencoding=UTF8

American road signs

<http://www.seashanty.org/telltale/>

New Sappho poem

<http://books.guardian.co.uk/news/articles/0%2C6109%2C1513491%2C00.html>

Harry Potter haters

http://www.thebookstandard.com/bookstandard/news/author/article_display.jsp?vnu_content_id=1000977846

A caged writer

http://www.centerforbookculture.org/pages/news/news_zivkovic.html

17. Great lists of our time

Cowboy Belt Buckles (fair dinkum and for sale):

Bodacious Montana Silversmith

Big Texas Star

Barrel Racer With Stones
Montana Silversmith Border Patrol
Old Fort Days Brass
Rookie of the Year
Five Hearts & Horse Head
Eagle Head
Black Horseshoe And Horse
Eagle In Flight
Horse Head and Flag
Crumrine Steer Head and Barbed Wire
Destination Dodge City Days
Missouri Foxtrotter Fair
Montana Silversmith Texas to the Bone
Montana Silversmith Buffalo Skull and Nickels
Montana Silversmith Cowboy Up
Prairie Schooner
Bronco Rider - Four Steer Head
Antique Finish Longhorn Steer
Montana Silversmith Galloping Horse
Crumrine Mexican Flag
Crumrine Two Running Horses
Mid Valley Paint Horse Club
Cheyenne Frontier Days
Remembering Lane Frost
Spanish Springs Ranch
Indian Bull Rider
Western Saddle
Diablo Sterling
Historic Providence Mint Pony Express Commemorative
Beef Empire Days
Dodge City Days
Winchester Repeating Arms
Colt Revolvers
Oval Pony Express
Queen of the West
Wells Fargo Pony Express
Buffalo Bill's Wild West Brass
Tombstone Ladies Class Winner
Ladies Border War Winner
Lucky Horseshoe
Goat Tying
Large Mexican Decorative
Cutting Horse Champion
Mule Days
Jack Daniels Rectangular
Cactus And Moon
Howling Coyote
End of the Trail
Mountain Scene
Bud Light Cup Ride The Rage

Senior Western Pleasure
Tuff Hedeman World Champion Bull Rider
Don Gay World Champion Bull Rider
Bullfighter - American Rodeo Legends
Montana Silversmith Pack Animals
Montana Silversmith Eagle
Montana Silversmith Steer Skull
Montana Silversmith Wolf
Montana Silversmith Bull Rider and Stars
Montana Silversmith End of the Trail
Montana Silversmith Horsehead in a Circle
Coral and Black Howling Coyote
Blue Moon, Cactus and Howling Coyote
Blue Stones and Cactus
Sand Cast Howling Coyote
Montana Silversmith Horseshoe & Scorpion with Stones
Montana Silversmith Bucking Cowboy with Corner Flowers
Montana Silversmith Bucking Horse with Four Stars
Don Ricardo Steerhead
Brass Buffalo Bill
Brass Billy the Kid
Brass Wyatt Earp
Brass Wild Bill Hickock
Brass Doc Holiday
Crumrine Windstorm
Mexico with Pyramid
Sunset Trails Horse
Don't Mess With Texas
Bronze Lane Frost

<http://bealscowboybuckles.com/>