



INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF  
**MODERN LETTERS**

*Te Pūtahi Tuhi Auaha o te Ao*

## Newsletter – 20 October 2005

This is the 76th 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](mailto:modernletters@vuw.ac.nz).

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### Mastering page and script at Victoria

A final reminder that the application deadline for next year's MA in Creative Writing is 1 November.

In 2006 we are accepting 20 students for the pagewriting stream with Damien Wilkins and Bill Manhire, and ten for the scriptwriting stream with Ken Duncum.

The MA at Victoria now has an international reputation, and its graduates have won every major New Zealand literary award. The most recent *Lonely Planet* guide to New Zealand writes: 'The centre of New Zealand's literary universe now is undoubtedly the creative writing course at Victoria University, which has produced most of the country's prominent writers in the past decade.' You can see a list of Victoria's creative writing graduates here:

<http://www.vuw.ac.nz/modernletters/about/graduate-links.aspx>

And see the following note in the *Guardian*:

<http://books.guardian.co.uk/news/articles/0,6109,991536,00.html>

The scriptwriting stream accepts writers for stage, television, film, and radio. Notable work has come from the scriptwriting workshop including the hit television drama *The Insiders Guide to Happiness*:

<http://www.tv.com/the-insiders-guide-to-happiness/show/29490/summary.html>

The pagewriting stream accepts novelists, short story writers, poets, and writers of various kinds of non-fiction, including memoir and book-length travel writing. Each year one pagewriting graduate is awarded the Schaeffer Fellowship which takes him or her to the famed Iowa Writers' Workshop. Recent Schaeffer Fellows include the novelists Paula Morris and Tracey Hill, and the poets Anna Livesey and Emily Dobson.

More information about our MA programme and how to apply for it is on the downloadable application form here:

<http://www.vuw.ac.nz/modernletters/documents/application-postgraduate.pdf>

If you would like the application form posted out to you, please email [modernletters@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:modernletters@vuw.ac.nz), or phone (04) 463-6854

### **The expanding bookshelf (1)**

Two Schaeffer Award winners (from 2000 and 2001) have new books out. Paula Morris has recently blown back into New Zealand while she waits for her home in New Orleans to become habitable, and she appears on *Frontseat* (TVOne) this Sunday to discuss her second novel, *Hibiscus Coast* (Penguin). Tim Corballis (seen recently on *Frontseat* detailing the advantages of being an outsider in Berlin) intertwines the historical story of Walter Mantell's journey down the South Island setting aside reserves for Ngai Tahu with the contemporary tale of a woman on a South Island farm in his third novel, *The Fossil Pits* (Victoria University Press).

### **Welcome home**

*Migrant Birds*, a volume of Ahmed Zaoui's prison poetry, is launched in Auckland tonight at 7 pm in the Crypt of St Benedicts Church, 1 St Benedict St, Newton. The poems, in Arabic and English, are Ahmed Zaoui's response to his two years in prison, one for each month he was locked up, with a foreword from his lawyer Deborah Manning, and an introduction from Bill

Manhire, which quotes Auden's elegy for Yeats: 'In the prison of his days / Teach the free man how to praise.' The launch includes tea and food (to break the fast at sunset in respect of Ramadan) followed by readings by Bill Manhire, Riemke Ensing and Ahmed Zaoui. All proceeds from the sale of this book will go to support Ahmed Zaoui's family. For further details see <http://craigpotton.co.nz/Products/published/Books/BookArtsCrafts/grantbirds24contemplations>

### **Schaeffer Writers and Readers Series**

And in Nelson this evening Te Mata Poet Laureate Jenny Bornholdt reads at the Morrison Street Café as part of the Glenn Schaeffer Writers and Readers Series in the Nelson Arts Festival. Other authors to appear over the next four days include Rachel McAlpine, Celia Lashlie, Claire Finlayson, Hinemoana Baker and Kevin Ireland. The full Festival programme is at [www.nelsonfestivals.co.nz](http://www.nelsonfestivals.co.nz)

### ***Turbine* deadline**

A reminder that the deadline for submissions to the IIML's annual online literary magazine *Turbine* is tomorrow, 21 October. See [www.vuw.ac.nz/turbine](http://www.vuw.ac.nz/turbine) for full submission guidelines.

### **Snorkel 2**

The second issue of trans-Tasman journal *Snorkel* ([www.snorkel.org.au](http://www.snorkel.org.au)) goes online this weekend. Contributors include Stephen Oliver, Michael Farrell, Belinda Diepenheim, Mary Macpherson, Andrew Jackson, Frederick Pollack, Iain Britton and Kiri Piahana Wong. Editor (and not-so-secret list-lady) Cath Vidler was one of the collective who edited the inaugural issue of *Turbine*. She says, 'I'm really excited about this issue of *Snorkel* - I think it's a bit like those bags of mixed firecrackers one used to enjoy as a kid (they're now illegal here, not sure about NZ) and I'm hoping that people get a lot of joy out of reading it.'

### **An international book-map**

*Incommunicado* is a one-off publication that aims to collect writing from around the Commonwealth in a foldable book/world map format – read it, then stick it on your wall. Focussing on the theme of miscommunication, *Incommunicado* will bring together political and personal stories. It will be published in English, but written in distinctive local voices, with a glossary explaining uncommon words and phrases. *Incommunicado* will be published in March 2006, in Australia, as part of ‘Empire Games’ – the theme of the Youth Program of the Cultural Festival of the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games, presented by Next Wave. The publishers are inviting 250 or 500 word stories, poems and anecdotes about people trying – and failing – to communicate from Commonwealth citizens aged 30 years old or under. The submission deadline is 30 November, and a fee of A\$50 is offered. For more information about submitting to *Incommunicado*, go to [www.expressmedia.org.au](http://www.expressmedia.org.au)

### **Eleven Eleven {1111}**

Eleven Eleven {1111}, the annual journal of literature and art based at California College of the Arts, seeks fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction, visual and literary criticism, and visual art for the 2006 issue. Eleven Eleven {1111} describes itself as ‘a forum for writers and artists to risk, experiment, and find answers.’ Prose writers may submit up to 7,000 words of hard copy; poets should limit submissions to five poems or five pages of hard copy. Each page of your submission must include your name, and submissions should be postmarked no later than 31 January 2006 and sent to

Eleven Eleven {1111}  
California College of the Arts  
1111 Eighth Street  
San Francisco, CA 94107

Questions may be sent to [elevenelevencca@cca.edu](mailto:elevenelevencca@cca.edu) or visit [www.cca.edu/1111](http://www.cca.edu/1111)

### **The expanding bookshelf (2)**

A launch at Unity Books last week saw two new books of poetry hit the shelves. Harry Ricketts teaches Creative Non-Fiction here at the IIIML, but his book *Your Secret Life* is his eighth poetry collection. Sharing the launching pad was Robin Fry (who took the undergraduate poetry workshop back in 1997), with her first book, *Daymoon*. Both books are published by HeadworX, and were launched by Stephanie de Montalk. In the territory of younger readers, MA (Script) graduate Fifi Colston's new pre-teen novel *Janie Olive*

(Scholastic) will be launched on 29 October at the Brooklyn Firestation in Wellington, and New Zealand Post Book Award winner Kate De Goldi (also coordinator of the IIML's Young Adult writing workshop) launches another quirky picture book *Uncle Jack* (Trapeze) with illustrator Jacqui Colley at Unity Books on 3 November.

### **Young and Hungry playwrights commission 2005**

Young and Hungry Arts trust is currently seeking to commission playwrights of any age to create work that is acted, designed and admired by 15-25 year olds, and that they'll consider for production in the Young and Hungry Festival of New Works 2007. They will select five playwrights from the overall submissions to write a 60-minute play based around the theme AMBITION to the first draft stage. The play must have at least six characters and a special appeal to people aged 15-25. They will provide the five playwrights with a dramaturge to mentor them from their initial submission idea to the development of their first draft. A panel of four industry practitioners assesses the first five drafts scripts, and three playwrights will then be commissioned to a final draft. Submissions are due on 31 October. For more information about how to make a submission visit [www.youngandhungry.org.nz](http://www.youngandhungry.org.nz) or phone producer Angela Meyer on 04 385 8227.

### **From the whiteboard**

'Drama is life with the dull bits cut out.' (Alfred Hitchcock)

### **International poetry**

The third Wellington International Poetry Festival runs from 3-6 November 2005 with events from Upper Hutt and Porirua to downtown Wellington. The festival has as its central theme Disarmament and Peaceful Dialogue. US guest Sam Hamill has been in the news recently for his work with Poets Against the War, and he will introduce a feature-length documentary film called 'Poetry in Wartime/Voices in Wartime' at Te Papa on 5 November. Most festival events are free of charge, and the full guest list includes Hinemoana Baker (NZ)/ Prabal Basu (India)/ Grant Caldwell (Australia)/ Jim Christy (Canada)/ John Deane (Ireland)/ Doc Drumheller (USA-NZ)/ Andrew Fagan (NZ)/ Olivia Macassey (NZ)/ Ban'ya Natsuishi (Japan)/ James

Norcliffe/Vincent O'Sullivan (NZ)/Angelina Polonskaya/ Elizabeth Smither(NZ)/Carmen Tafolla (Mexico-USA)/Tendo Taijin (Japan)/Denys Trussell (NZ) & Ahmed Zaoui (Algeria). The programme can be found at <http://www.poetryfestival.org.nz>

## Recent web reading

Whatever happened to poetry?

<http://www.salient.org.nz/index.php?a=1987=17>  
<<http://www.salient.org.nz/index.php?a=1987&c=17>>

A New Zealand poet abroad (pdf file)

<http://www.citylights.com/pub/ebroadsides/foster.pdf>

Wellington Writers' Walk

[http://www.leafsalon.co.nz/archives/000785talking\\_the\\_walk.html#more](http://www.leafsalon.co.nz/archives/000785talking_the_walk.html#more)

Royal Court turns 50

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/arts/news/story/0,11711,1590105,00.html>

Students foretell future of publishing

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/ArticleNews/TPStory/LAC/20051013/PUBLISH13/TPEntertainment/TopStories>

Tom Leonard website

<http://www.tomleonard.co.uk/>

Ern Malley website

<http://www.ernmalley.com>

Fantasy fiction

[http://www.boston.com/news/globe/ideas/articles/2005/10/16/into\\_the\\_woods/](http://www.boston.com/news/globe/ideas/articles/2005/10/16/into_the_woods/)

A first book

<http://www.nytimes.com/2005/10/17/books/17poet.html?th=th>  
<<http://www.nytimes.com/2005/10/17/books/17poet.html?th&emc=th>>

Stephen Fry on poetry

[http://observer.guardian.co.uk/uk\\_news/story/0,6903,1593317,00.html](http://observer.guardian.co.uk/uk_news/story/0,6903,1593317,00.html)

Autological words

<http://www.stanford.edu/~segerman/autological.html>

### Great lists of our time

Fathers and a mother- an exhaustive list from Abselon to Eno (and beyond):

Philip Abelson - The father of the nuclear submarine  
Nikolaj Abraham Abildgaard - The father of Danish painting  
George Agricola - The father of Mineralogy  
Mikael Agricola - The father of Finnish written language  
Eloy Alfaro - The father of Ecuadorian liberalism  
Steve Allen - The father of the television talk show  
Eric Allman - The father of modern Internet e-mail  
Sabino Arana - The father of modern Basque nationalism  
Peter Artedi - The father of ichthyology  
Philip Astley - The father of the modern circus  
Mustafa Kemal Atatürk - The father of modern Turkey  
Stephen F. Austin - The father of Texas  
Cyrus Avery - The father of Route 66  
Charles Babbage - The father of the computer / computing  
Stephen Moulton Babcock - The father of scientific dairying  
Johann Sebastian Bach - The father of music  
Leo Baekeland - The father of plastic  
George Bancroft - The father of American History  
□ José Celso Barbosa - The father of Puerto Rico's statehood movement  
Aaron T. Beck - The father of cognitive therapy  
Alexander Graham Bell - The father of the telephone  
Edward Bernays - The father of public relations - aka the father of spin  
Rómulo Betancourt - The father of Venezuelan democracy  
Lorenz Böehler - The father of bone surgery.  
Ben Botkin - The father of public folklore  
William Bradford - The father of American History  
Tycho Brahe - The father of modern astronomy  
Richard Bright - The father of nephrology  
Milton Brown - The father of Western swing  
James Busby - The father of the Australian wine industry  
Nolan Bushnell - The father of computer entertainment / electronic gaming  
Santiago Ramon y Cajal - The father of Neuroscience  
John Calvin - The father of Protestantism  
John Cassavetes - The father of American independent film-making  
Roman Baldorioty de Castro - The father of Puerto Rico's Autonomy movement  
Vinton G. Cerf - The father of the Internet

Jesus Colon - The father of the Nuyorican Movement  
Alan Cooper - The father of Visual Basic  
Nicolaus Copernicus - The father of modern astronomy  
W. L. Creech - The father of the Thunderbirds  
Hubert Critchlow - The father of the Guyanese labor movement  
Frank W. Cyr - father of the yellow school bus  
J.B. Danquah - The father of the political opposition of Ghana  
John Nelson Darby - The father of dispensationalism  
Nicéphore Niepce & Louis Daguerre - The fathers of the photograph  
Charles Darwin - the father of evolutionary biology  
William Morris Davis - The father of American geography  
Guy de Chauliac - The father of modern surgery and hospitals  
Lee De Forest - The father of radio  
Democritus - The father of atomic theory  
René Descartes - The father of modern philosophy  
Friedrich Diercks - The father of immigrants  
Diophantus - The father of Algebra  
Walt Disney - The father of the animation industry  
Tommy Douglas - A, or the, father of medicare in Canada  
Alberto Santos-Dumont - The father of aviation  
Allen B. Dumont - The father of modern TV  
Isadora Duncan - The mother of modern dance  
John Boyd Dunlop - The father of the modern tire  
Albert Einstein - The father of Relativity  
Ralph Waldo Emerson - The father of Transcendentalism  
Quintus Ennius - The father of Latin poetry  
Brian Eno - The father of ambient music

For a full alphabetical listing (through to Y, at least) see:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_people\\_known\\_as\\_the\\_father\\_or\\_mother\\_of\\_something](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_people_known_as_the_father_or_mother_of_something)