



Newsletter – 20 January 2006

This is the 80th 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. A Small Au Revoir

We begin a new year at the IIML by noting that Stephanie de Montalk is about to end her term as the Victoria University / Creative New Zealand writer in residence. 2005 turned out to be a very productive time for her – there were poems, essays, and – lo and behold! – a novel, *The Fountain of Bakhchisaray*, which will be published by Victoria University Press. Meantime, her remarkable essay “On Pain” graces the latest issue of *Sport*. Some of it can be read on the *Sport* website – <http://sportmagazine.org/sport33/>.

The 2005 issue of *Turbine* also features an interview with Stephanie de Montalk, and a very brief extract from her forthcoming novel. She also makes walk-on appearances in a feature called “The Reading Room”, where excerpts from last year’s MA students’ Reading Journals are posted. See <http://www.nzetc.org/iiml/turbine/Turbi05/index.html>.

We have loved having Steph with us at the IIML, and wish her all the best for her future work.

2. Victoria University SchoolFest

This year's SchoolFest includes for the first time the New Zealand Post Writers and Readers Schools' Day, in which outstanding international and New Zealand writers such as Armand Marie Leroi, Simon Armitage, Tusiata Avia, James Brown, Briar Grace-Smith, and *Bro Town's* Oscar Kightley and Dave Armstrong will make presentations to senior high school students. There are also special presentations for primary and intermediate schools, plus the opportunity of a two-day writing workshop with Kate De Goldi.

More information and registration details are posted below as item 10 of this newsletter.

3. Fundraising

There was a great flurry of fundraising activities in the dying days of 2005 as we sought to raise by the 31 December deadline the NZ\$1,000,000 which the IIML's founding patron Glenn Schaeffer has promised to match with US dollars. (The final sum will become an endowment for student scholarships.) We are enormously grateful to all who contributed to the challenge gift, and we think we will soon have some good news to report. Watch this space!

4. Toilet Door Poetry

Australian poets have been invited to submit work to Qantas for display on the backs of toilet doors in domestic terminals. "We're interested in poems of craft, quality, and imagination, that reflect the opinions and ideas of the poet's world." Appropriately enough, the opportunity is available to emerging poets only – and to emerging artists, who will design the text on to the doors. Poets have been asked not to "submit poems built on toilet humour unless they are outstanding." More information at <http://www.redroomorganisation.org>

5. Going Global

We are getting used to globe-trotting New Zealand writers. The Meridian Energy Katherine Mansfield Fellowship has been taking writers to Menton, France, for over 30 years, and there is also now a writer's residency in Berlin, as well as the International Writing Program at the University of Iowa.

Two other overseas residencies have just been announced.

The novelist Laurence Fearnley has been awarded a special "Antarctic Writers' Festival" residency. The four-week residency is attached to the 23-25 June Antarctic Writers' Festival in Hobart, **Ice Cold Words**, organised by the Tasmanian Writers'

Centre. See <http://www.tasmanianwriters.org/content/view/72/86/>. Fearnley's novel based on her own trip to Antarctica is expected from Penguin later this year.

Novelist and historian Ann Beaglehole has been awarded a 2006 residency at Ledig House. "Ledig House International Writers Residency is located approximately two and a half hours north of New York City in the town of Omi, in the scenic Hudson River Valley. Writers and translators from all fields are encouraged to apply for a residence lasting anywhere from one week to two months. Up to 20 writers per session - 10 at a given time - live and write on the stunning 300 acre grounds and sculpture park that overlooks the Catskill Mountains." The New Zealand writer Beryl Fletcher held a residency at Ledig House in 2005. See further <http://www.artomi.org/>

There are also a number of international writers' residencies available in Europe. Two we have recently heard of are Passa Porta in Brussels <http://www.passaporta.be/site/?page=schrijversflat> and Recollets, a central Paris residence for foreign artists and writers <http://www.international-recollets-paris.org/index-en.htm>

6. Are Angels OK?

For those who missed the Te Papa presentations last November, there's a chance on National Radio this Sunday to hear the debate between writers and physicists.

Two Worlds. With Margaret Mahy, Elizabeth Knox, Bill Manhire, Paul Callaghan, Tony Signal and Phil Butler. Chaired by Kim Hill. 1:06 PM
Sun 22 Jan 2006.

The anthology of results from the **Are Angels OK?** project will be published in late May. Look for astonishing new work by Witi Ihimaera, Dylan Horrocks, Catherine Chidgey, Lloyd Jones, Vincent O'Sullivan, Elizabeth Knox, Chris Price, Jo Randerson, Glenn Colquhoun, and Margaret Mahy.

7. White Fungus

New Wellington-based experimental arts magazine *White Fungus* is now on sale at locations throughout New Zealand. The magazine first began as a one-off publication during the 2004 local body elections to protest against Wellington's inner-city bypass and the treatment of the arts community by the council. It has since evolved into a broad arts magazine covering the experimental arts in New Zealand and beyond. Now it is on sale for the first time at bookstores Unity, Parsons (Auckland) and University Book Store. It is also sold at art galleries Govett-Brewster and Adam Art Gallery, as well as a number of small independent businesses including hairdressers, clothing stores and a bicycle shop.

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8. Recent web reading

Pine

<http://www.design.otago.ac.nz/news/index.htm?articleid=144>

Zugzwang: a serial novel

<http://observer.guardian.co.uk/print/0,3858,5369265-102280,00.html>

A London writing competition

<http://www.writersinc-london.org.uk/competition.html>

Ian Finch's Venn poems

http://thediagram.com/5_6/finch.html

How to write about Africa

<http://www.granta.com/extracts/2615>

Interesting clouds

<http://www.cloudappreciationsociety.org/>

The world literature tour

http://blogs.guardian.co.uk/culturevulture/archives/2006/01/10/all_around_the_world.html

Editors

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,923-1957204,00.html>

Best Scottish Poems 2005

<http://www.spl.org.uk/best-poems/index.htm>

Kadare short story

http://www.newyorker.com/fiction/content/articles/051226fi_fiction

Address to a hot haggis

http://www.spl.org.uk/poets_a-z/murray.html

Laurie Duggan's diary

<http://www.austlit.com/a/duggan/d7-melb-brisb.html>

Not a bad poetry anthology

<http://galileo.stmarys-ca.edu/bhillman/graduate.htm>

An amazing medical breakthrough

<http://panexa.com/>

Rejections (check out the poem)

<http://rejectionline.com>

Zombies

<http://www.urbandead.com/>

Literary hoaxes

<http://www.cbc.ca/arts/books/hoaxes.html>

Literary deaths

http://www.class.uidaho.edu/english/sigmataudelta/games/literary_deaths_quiz.htm

The fine art of obituaries

<http://tls.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,25336-1930077,00.html>

Clive James on sludge fiction

<http://tls.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,25338-1930109,00.html>

Philip Hensher on great last lines

<http://www.arts.telegraph.co.uk/arts/main.jhtml?xml=/arts/2005/11/20/bohensher.xml&sSheet=/arts/2005/11/13/bomain.html>

Carl Shuker

<http://www.varsity.co.nz/features/articles.asp?id=5057>

Odd titles

<http://www.thebookseller.com/?pid=2&did=18169>

9. Great Lists of Our Time

Should you ever find yourself booking seats on-line for a show at London's Royal National Theatre, here are some of the designations you can cheerfully choose from:

Mr

Mrs

Miss

Ms

Doctors

Dr and Mrs

Dr and Mr

Prof and Mrs

Prof and Mr

Brigadier

Captain

Canon

Colonel

Commander

Comtesse

Countess

Dame

Earl
Father
Honorable
Hon Mr
Hon and Mrs
His Honour
Judge
Lt
Lt Cl
Lady
Dowager Lady
The Hon Lady
Lord
Lord and Lady
Major
Major General
Marquis
Rabbi
Reverend
Reverend Mrs
Sir
Sir and Lady
Sister
Venerable
Very Reverend
Viscount
Viscountess

10. Victoria University SchoolFest (the full story)

February 24 to March 19, 2006

The 2004 SchoolFest programme reached over 15,000 students from around New Zealand. Following on from this success, Victoria University SchoolFest 2006 will, once again, bring the world of the arts closer and provide access to top-quality events and unique workshop opportunities at special schools prices.

The School Fest programme this year offers a wealth of opportunity for students looking to be inspired and challenged by the written word.

Leading the programme is the inaugural New Zealand Post WRITERS AND READERS SCHOOLS' DAY.

Outstanding International and New Zealand Writers feature in this exclusive, one day schools programme.

Topics cover a broad range and include presentations from Scientist and writer Armand Marie Leroi who talks about biology and genetics in a riveting session

chaired by teacher and writer Bernard Beckett, leading UK poet Simon Armitage and New Zealand poets James Brown and Tusiata Avia who will lead an interactive and energetic session on Poetry and *Bro Town*'s Oscar Kightley and Dave Armstrong (who also scripted the Festival show *King and Country*) join playwright Briar Grace-Smith to share their secrets on scriptwriting.

In addition to the Writers and Readers programme, we are particularly excited to be able to offer sessions in Primary and Intermediate schools with prize-winning UK children's and young persons' writer Jan Mark, author of numerous titles including *Fur*, *Mr Dickens Hits Town*, *The Midas Touch* and *Thunder and Lightnings*.

For senior students with a flair for writing we have a fantastic two day workshop available with Kate de Goldi who will guide students in sourcing ideas, becoming hyper-observant, and metaphor, the guided missile in the writer's arsenal – students should be prepared to write hard for two days!

Schools can access our programme in a number of ways:

- Subsidised tickets to main programme shows and special schools performances
- Workshops drawing on the expertise of touring companies
- Attending the special schools intro to the *Earth from Above* exhibition

The Victoria University SchoolFest programme was circulated to all schools in the greater Wellington region and beyond in early November. Tickets can be purchased only through schools.

Teachers can register online at www.nzfestival.telecom.co.nz for SchoolFest newsletters and further information about the entire Festival programme. To sign up for student newsletters, reviews and competitions, go to www.vuw.ac.nz/schoolfest

For enquiries, please contact the Victoria University SchoolFest Coordinator.

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Creative Writing Workshop with Kate de Goldi

Jenny Bornholdt's poem "*In the garden*" offers a beautiful metaphor for writing and the wild life of language. Words, the poet suggests, are like "thin streamers partying down through the soil...hooking into other systems/forming the network." This workshop is about just such 'partying' and 'networking' with language. Kate will guide students in sourcing ideas, becoming hyper-observant, and metaphor, the guided missile in the writer's arsenal – be prepared to write hard for two days!

WHEN: Sun 12 & Mon 13 Mar

PRICE: \$80.00 (*Included in the price, students will receive passes to the New Zealand Post Writers and Readers Schools' Day on 14 March.*)

SUITABILITY: Senior writing students Yr 11-13

Kate de Goldi is a prize-winning writer of adult and young adult fiction. Her first YA novel, *Sanctuary*, won the Senior Fiction prize in the 1997 NZ Post Children's Book Awards, and the Esther Glen Medal. Her second, *Love, Charlie Mike*, was shortlisted in both 1998 awards, and her third, *Closed, Stranger*, was published in 1999. Kate was named as an Arts Foundation of New Zealand Laureate for 2001

Kate has written children's fiction for the School Journal, for television, and for several anthologies. She regularly takes writing workshops in schools around the country and has a popular children's book review slot on National Radio. She hosted television's *Bookenz* show.

Kate's latest publication and winner of the New Zealand Post Book Award for Children and Young Adults, Book of the Year 2005, is *Clubs: A Lolly Leopold Story*, illustrated by Jacqui Colley and published by Trapeze in 2004.
