



INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MODERN LETTERS

Te Pūtahi Tuhi Auaha o te Ao

Newsletter – 14 October 2010

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This is the 162nd 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.

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1. **Bonjour, Menton!**

We are wondering if we should move our workshops to the South of France. For the second consecutive year an IIML staff member has been awarded the prestigious [New Zealand Post Mansfield Prize](#). MA workshop convenor [Chris Price](#) was announced winner of the 2011 Prize at a ceremony in Wellington on Monday night, and next year will work in Menton, France, where Katherine Mansfield once lived and wrote. She follows in the footsteps of colleagues Jenny Bornholdt (2002 winner), Bill Manhire (2004), Damien Wilkins (2008), and Ken Duncum, who is currently hard at work in Menton. Chris's primary project is to research and write a book based on the life of the wonderfully eccentric English poet and anatomist Thomas Lovell Beddoes. She also aims to complete a new collection of poems. We are hugely proud of her. She is the 42nd recipient of the Prize, whose previous winners include such luminaries as Janet Frame, Allen Curnow, Lloyd Jones and Elizabeth Knox.

2. Professor William Manhire, FRSNZ

Whether by virtue of applied science or pure magic, on 6 October IIML director Bill Manhire was one of 12 top pure and applied science and humanities researchers to be elected as Fellows of the Royal Society of New Zealand. The [press release](#) announcing this new honour describes Professor William Manhire of the International Institute of Modern Letters as ‘an internationally distinguished poet, essayist and writer of short fiction’, adding that ‘His critical, teaching and entrepreneurial skills have made him the foremost figure in developing New Zealand writing.’ Bill’s newly elected colleagues include experts in statistical models, algorithmic information theory, volcanic ash and rhizobium-legume symbiosis. As Ken Duncum put it in his congratulatory message - ‘in amongst the algae and the algorithms Creative Writing sedately waves its fronds.’

3. Macmillan Brown Prize

We’re also delighted to hear that Cate Palmer, a member of this year’s MA (Page) workshop, is winner of the 2010 Macmillan Brown Prize for the best folio of creative writing by a student or recent postgraduate in a New Zealand university. Cate receives a cash prize of \$2500 for her award-winning fiction manuscript. In 2009 the Prize was won by MA (Page) workshop member Ashleigh Young.

4. 2011 course deadlines approaching

If you’ve been thinking about whether to apply for the [2011 MA programme](#) at the IIML, now’s the time to act, as the deadline for applications falls on 1 November.

The [Iowa Workshops](#) (CREW 258 and 259) in Fiction (with Thomas Fox Parry) and Poetry (Alan Felsenthal) run in the summer trimester (January and February), offering intensive stimulus and feedback from some of the Iowa Writers’ Workshop’s top graduates. Apply by 9 November.

Fiction writers keen to take advantage of an opportunity to hone their craft with one of the US’s leading writers are reminded that our 2011 first trimester masterclass in [Advanced Fiction](#) (CREW 351) with [David Vann](#) has only 10 places, and they’re sure to be hotly contested. Applications should be made by 10 December.

5. The expanding bookshelf

Last week the creative component of Laurence Fearnley’s PhD made its official entrance into the world when it was launched at the Dunedin City Library. *The Hut*

Builder is Laurence's seventh novel, and Penguin's Publishing Director Geoff Walker is clearly very pleased with it, to judge by his comments in the advance publicity material: "This is powerful new territory for Laurence Fearnley and marks her emergence into the very front rank of New Zealand fiction writing. *The Hut Builder* is without question her best novel yet, combining her proven story-telling skills with her passionate love of the mountains, the wilderness and the sky." [Early reviews](#) seem to concur.

6. Page to script

Kelly Joseph, a member of the 2008 MA (Page) workshop, is one of six writers selected from a field of over 90 applicants to participate in Script to Screen's inaugural Short Film Lab. Participants in the workshop will be mentored by experienced industry practitioners who have excelled in short filmmaking, including producer Ainsley Gardiner (*Boy, Eagle vs Shark, Two Cars One Night, Tama Tu*), writer/director Mark Albiston (*Run, The Six Dollar Fifty Man*), and screenwriter, producer and academic Shuchi Kothari (*Firaaq, Apron Strings, Coffee and Allah*). The writers will workshop their short film ideas during the full-day lab on Saturday 6 November in Auckland.

7. A verse in your ear

Poets from the current MA workshop read their work tonight at the Watusi Bar in Edwards Street, Wellington from 8.30pm. It's a busy week for these eight writers – they're reading again in a 'Poetry Pick'n'mix' event at the Terrace Bar (13 Dixon Street, 8 pm), where they'll be joined on stage by MA workshop convenor (and 2011 Mansfield Prize winner) Chris Price. After that, just a small matter of polishing up their folios before hand-in date...

8. From the whiteboard: against sincerity

[Hawke's Bay Today](#) recently asked Bill Manhire what he thought the limitations of contemporary New Zealand poetry might be. The answer? 'Probably the dangerous belief, still fairly widespread in New Zealand, that being sincere is all you need to be a poet. I'm sure there are plenty of sincere rugby players out there, but it's not sincerity that makes Richie McCaw a great loose forward.'

9. Recent web reading

[All hail the Spider God!](#)

[When we touch / forests enter our bodies](#)

[Sarah Laing reviews Briar Grace-Smith's The Strength of Water](#)

[Dublin Poetry Review / Heroes Congress - many international poets here, including NZ - downloadable pdf](#)

[Pat White at the 2011 Watermark Literary Muster](#)

["A Method Whereby New Zealand Fiction Writers Could Actually Make a Reasonable Income"?](#)

[Professor Kathryn Walls](#)

[Don't Check the Box - Hinemoana Baker interview in Sampsonia Way](#)

[Where is the literary culture more interesting, America or Britain?](#)

[Marian Evans at the Branchage Directors Lab](#)

[Paul Henry, last year's model](#)

[Harry Ricketts on war poetry](#)

[Alison Wong's novel disappoints the Guardian's reviewer](#)

[Rave review for Christopher Reid's Song of Lunch](#)

[Craig Cliff livens up quite a few bus journeys](#)

[Pop stars' favourite poets](#)

[Mark Broatch's top 5 favourite books](#)

[Anna Taylor and Pip Desmond - take a bow!](#)

[David Suzuki returns to Wellington on 11 November](#)

['Development' Promo.](#)

[Science writers in Canada having a tough time with their government](#)

[Famous Seamus wins the Forward Prize](#)

['Call me Ishmael' - Michael Cunningham on translation](#)

[What it literally means when we say literally](#)

[The site all publishing editors should follow](#)

[Some not-bad poetry writing ideas for kids](#)

[Booknotes Winter issue](#)

[Lloyd Jones' new novel](#)

[Brian Boyd on the different strengths of science and storytelling](#)

[Lorrie Moore at The New Yorker Festival](#)

[Incantation for Dog Bite - listen to Babylonian poetry](#)

[W. H. Auden's Daydream College for Bards](#)

[The Guardian on Song of Lunch, plus other poetry in motion](#)

[Monkeys/organ grinders - NZ Herald on "TVNZ & its cynical use of racial comments to boost publicity and profits"](#)

[John Newton's cricket connection](#)

[The children of Ern Malley](#)

["What do you mean 'we,' paleface?"](#)

[Harvey McQueen's favourite NZ poems](#)

[Beat poet dolls](#)

["First fiction" the hardest genre to launch in UK?](#)

[Joy Cowley remembers Robin Dudding's kindness, and other things](#)

[How ink is made \(via Huffington Post\)](#)

[Good grief! Charlie Brown's 60th birthday](#)
[And here](#)

[Bow-Wow magazine](#)

[All you every wanted to know about Barry Crump: complete bibliography](#)

[Otago University researchers earn an Ig Nobel](#)

[Joy Cowley's advice for children's writers](#)

[Janette Turner Hospital tells it the way she sees it](#)
[And is parodied](#)

10. Great lists of our time

[Mammals of the Great Dismal Swamp](#)
Opposum

Least Shrew
Dismal Swamp Shrew
Eastern Mole
Starnosed Mole
Southeastern long-tailed shrew
Greater Short-tailed Shrew
Eastern Long-eared Myotis
Eastern Pipistrelle
Eastern Big-eared Bat
Evening Bat
Northern Red Bat
Little Brown Myotis
Hoary Bat
Eastern Big-eared Bat
Eastern Cottontail
Marsh Rabbit
Eastern Chipmunk
Gray Squirrel
Southern Flying Squirrel
Beaver
Marsh Rice Rat
Eastern Harvest Mouse
Cotton Mouse
White-footed Mouse
Golden Mouse
Southern Lemming Vole
Groundhog
Muskrat
Nutria
Meadow Vole
Gray Fox
Red Fox
Black Bear
Raccoon
Coyote
Mink
River Otter
Bobcat
Long-tailed Weasel
White-tailed Deer

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Supporting the IIML

The International Institute of Modern Letters was established at Victoria University in 2001 to promote and foster contemporary imaginative writing. Our founder, philanthropist Glenn Schaeffer, continues to contribute to IIML activities in a range of ways.

While not everyone is able to match Glenn's level of support, we value all those who have helped us to foster the development of emerging writers – for example through scholarships, prizes, and grants. We would welcome the opportunity to talk with you about continuing your support for the IIML, for example through a gift in your will.

All gifts are managed by the Victoria University Foundation, a registered charitable trust established to raise funds in areas of strategic importance to the University, such as the IIML.

For further information on how you can provide philanthropic support to the IIML, please contact our Director, Bill Manhire, Ph: 04 463 6808, Email bill.manhire@vuw.ac.nz, or Diana Meads, Fundraising Manager, Victoria University of Wellington Foundation Ph: 0800 VIC LEGACY (0800 842 534), Email: diana.meads@vuw.ac.nz