

## Making the most of Mondays

From mid-July each year, the International Institute of Modern Letters, home of Victoria University's renowned creative writing programme, runs a series of events highlighting writers active in and around Wellington, as well as guests from overseas. This year the popular series will be hosted by the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa.

From *The Hobbit* to *The Angel's Cut*, from Baxter's Jerusalem to UK poet Christopher Reid's Martian poetry, the 2009 programme offers an exciting and varied line-up of writers for screen, page and stage. September is dedicated to the writers of the future, with four events that showcase the talent coming through the MA (Script and Page) programme at the IIML.

Writers on Mondays is a stimulating way to start the working week – and it's free!

**Time: Mondays, 12.15-1.15pm**

**Venue: The Marae, Level 4, Te Papa**

*Please note that no food may be taken onto The Marae.*

## Programme

### 13 July: Dare, Truth or Promise - Paula Boock

Victoria University Writer in Residence Paula Boock talks with **Kate De Goldi** about her novel-in-progress and her work as both an award-winning writer for young adults (*Dare, Truth or Promise*), and as a scriptwriter whose credits include *Insiders Guide to Love, bro'Town* and the recent tele-feature *Until Proven Innocent*.



### 20 July: Best New Zealand Poems

[www.victoria.ac.nz/bestnzpoems](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/bestnzpoems)

As a curtain-raiser for Montana Poetry Day, we present readings by writers whose poems appear in the 2008 online anthology of *Best New Zealand Poems* (edited by James Brown), including Emma Barnes, Amy Brown, David Beach, Cliff Fell, Chris Orsman, Lynn Jenner, Tim Upperton and Johanna Aitchison. They are introduced by **Chris Price**.

### 27 July: Poetry and Publishing - Christopher Reid

Award-winning British writer Christopher Reid is the author of 13 collections of poetry and a former editor at Faber & Faber, where he edited the *Letters of Ted Hughes* and worked with many major poets. He is often cited as co-founder with Craig Raine of the 'Martian School' of poetry, which employs exotic and humorous metaphors to defamiliarise everyday experiences and objects. He talks with **Bill Manhire** about his career.

### 3 August: This Place You Return To - Kirsty Gunn

Kirsty Gunn's 1994 novella *Rain* catapulted her to literary prominence, and in 2007 *The Boy and the Sea* won Sundial Scottish Arts Council Book of the Year Award. Although she has lived and worked for many years in the UK as a writer, reviewer and writing teacher, Kirsty Gunn's work continues to be informed by her New Zealand past. She's back in Wellington as Creative New Zealand Writer in Residence at the Randell Cottage, and appears in conversation with **Bill Manhire**.

### 10 August: First Fictions – Anna Taylor & Sue Orr

Anna Taylor's *Relief* (2009) and Sue Orr's *Etiquette for a Dinner Party* (2008) are début short-story collections that have been praised by New Zealand critics for their sharp observation of human frailty. The two writers talk with **Damien Wilkins** about the art and craft of short fiction, and why it's their genre of choice.

### 17 August: Angel in America – Elizabeth Knox

Elizabeth Knox's best-selling novel *The Vintner's Luck* is soon to hit the big screen as a film directed by Niki Caro. *The Angel's Cut*, Knox's sequel to *The Vintner's Luck*, relates the further adventures of the fallen angel Xas as he passes through late 1920s Hollywood and beyond. She reads from and talks about the novel with **Jane Stafford**.

### 24 August: Baxter in Jerusalem - John Newton

John Newton's book *The Double Rainbow: James K. Baxter, Ngati Hau and the Jerusalem Commune* is 'a work of cultural history that aspires to be a work of bicultural history'. He talks with publisher **Fergus Barrowman** about his pilgrimage to uncover what life was really like for Maori and Pakeha communities in Baxter's Jerusalem.

### 31 August: Screen Dreams - Philippa Boyens

Philippa Boyens, MNZM, co-wrote the screenplay for the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy with Peter Jackson and Fran Walsh, for which the trio won an Oscar in 2004. She also worked on the screenplay for *King Kong* and the adaptation of Alice Sebold's novel *The Lovely Bones*, and is

collaborating on *The Hobbit*. She talks to **Ken Duncum** about her scriptwriter's dream run.

#### 7 September: The Next Page (1)

In September we take a look at the talent emerging from the 2009 writing workshops at the IIML. This week ten writers read from poetry, fiction and memoirs in progress: Carol Cromie, Claire Brunette, Pat White, Kay Corns, Joanne Davy, James Purtill, Helen Heath, Frances Mountier, Breton Dukes and Elizabeth Russell are introduced by **Damien Wilkins**.

#### 14 September: The Next Page (2)

Readings by another ten MA (Page) students from the IIML: Emma Martin, Lindsay Pope, Susannah Goodman, Bill Nelson, Fiona Mitford, Hannah Jolly, Emile Hofstede, Megan Knott, Ashleigh Young and Melissa Reid take the stage to entertain you, introduced by **Chris Price**.

#### 21 September: Short/Sharp/Script (1)

One hour, five different dramas: actors perform rehearsed readings of work produced by MA (Script) students at the IIML. This week **Ken Duncum** introduces scripts by Amy Rountree, Sugu Pillay, Matthew Nagel, Gwyneth Hyndman and Colin Hodson.

#### 28 September: Short/Sharp/Script (2)

Five more funny, fast and furious scripts by MA (Script) writers from the IIML are delivered in rehearsed readings. Richard Finn, Wendell Cooke, Deborah Carr, Chris Brougham and Arnette Arapai provide the lines.

Writers on Mondays is presented by the International Institute of Modern Letters with the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa



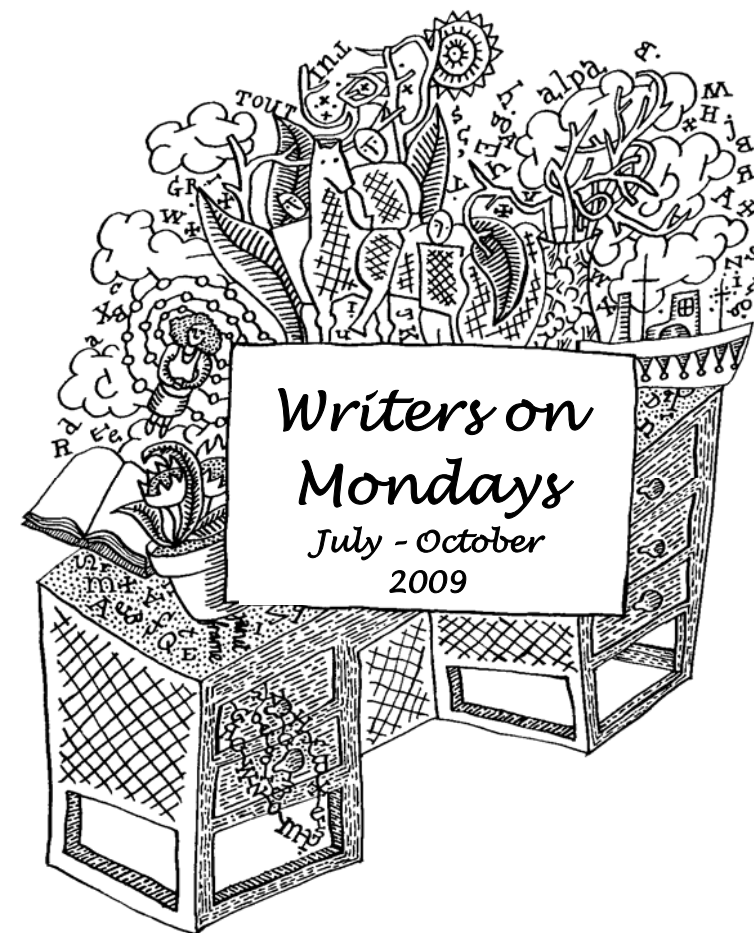
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*Cover drawing of the Janet Frame Desk  
by Gregory O'Brien*



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