



INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF

MODERN LETTERS

Te Pūtahi Tuhi Auaha o te Ao

Newsletter – 20 July 2001

This is the 2nd 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. Prize in Modern Letters

Nominations for New Zealand's richest arts award, the \$60,000 Prize in Modern Letters for an emerging writer, close on July 31. Further information and entry form downloads are [here](#).

2. Turbine

This on-line literary magazine is being developed by members of Chris Price's Creative Writing in the Marketplace workshop, with the generous guidance of US Fulbrighter Elizabeth Styron. Fuller information will be available in a future newsletter; and contact and submission details will also be posted on the IIML's events webpage.

3. Poets at Play

The new North & South (August issue) includes a poetry feature in honour of National Poetry Day. A brief essay on the current New Zealand poetry scene is followed by profiles of 'six young poets currently establishing themselves as respected, award-winning literary talents'. The poets are Glenn Colquhoun, Anna Jackson, Nick Ascroft, James Brown, Kate Camp, and Richard Reeve. There is a rather alarming photograph of Kate Camp, which may well be worth the price of the issue.

4. Poets around the Table

A transcript of Naomi O'Connor's roundtable conversation with poets Kate Camp, Dinah Hawken and Bill Manhire is soon to be posted on Xtra's [Books pages](#) to mark National Poetry Day. The interview formed the basis for an article published in the Dominion on Saturday July 14. The three poets read at City Gallery, 6.30, Friday 20 July.

5. Rebecca Edwards Reading

Australian poet and visual artist Rebecca Edwards will be reading at the Stout Centre (12 Wai-te-ata Road) on Monday July 30 at 1.00 p.m.

Rebecca Edwards holds a degree in Japanese and has recently held a residency at Keio University. She is touring New Zealand under the auspices of the NZ Poetry Society, and will also be visiting Greg O'Brien's poetry workshop at the IIML. Some poems and a brief biographical note can be found [here](#).

6. Tim Corballis: Below

To date, at least five writers from Victoria's 2000 MA workshop have had manuscripts accepted for publication. The first to reach the bookshops is Tim Corballis's novel, *Below*, which won last year's Adam Award. Here is what the VUP blurbmeisters have to say:

'The intricate and arduous underground world of caving is the setting for this prize-winning first novel of quest and self-discovery. Todd has left his job and broken up with his girlfriend. He finds himself increasingly drawn into the underground world of caving, and especially into an ambiguous relationship with an experienced caver, Phil. Phil is in turn obsessed with retracing the steps of an expedition during which a young friend was lost. *Below* is a beautifully written and engrossing novel which comes to a spellbinding conclusion in the deep chambers of Deadman's cave.'

7. Jackie Davis: Breathe

Palmerston North writer Jackie Davis, who is a member of the 2001 MA Workshop, has just had her first novel, *Breathe*, accepted by Penguin New Zealand. Current publication plans are for a launch next March, perhaps at Writers and Readers Week. Meantime Jackie's second novel, provisionally titled *12 Months*, takes shape as her MA portfolio.

8. Library Donation

The IIML is slowly building a class library of contemporary literature for the use of students. Penguin New Zealand has generously donated a full set of their current fiction and poetry titles, and we are very grateful!

9. New Zealand Electronic Poetry Centre

The just launched *NZEPC* is to be a comprehensive electronic gateway to poetry resources in New Zealand and the Pacific. A trial site is online at <http://www.nzepc.auckland.ac.nz/> and includes author pages for eight well-known New Zealand poets. Each page contains samples of the poets' poems in written

and audio form, essays and commentary, bibliographical and biographical information, archival resources and links to other relevant sites.

The project is headed by Michele Leggott, poet and scholar and senior lecturer in the English Department of the University of Auckland, while the web site has been developed by Brian Flaherty, Networked Services Librarian at the University of Auckland and co-editor of the on-line literary journal *Trout*.