



## Newsletter – 7 October 2005

This is the 75th 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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### **1. MA / Iowa workshop application reminders**

A reminder for all those contemplating applying for the MA in Creative Writing (Page or Script workshops) that the deadline for applications is 1 November. All Victoria postgraduate scholarships close on the same day (see <http://www.vuw.ac.nz/scholarships> for details). For those who can't quite commit to a whole year of writing, the summer trimester Iowa fiction and poetry workshops have a deadline of 11 November. For information about applying for all IIML courses and deadlines phone (04) 463 6854 or go to <http://www.vuw.ac.nz/modernletters/creative-writing/undergraduate.aspx>

### **2. Writers on Mondays**

A big thank you is due to all those who have supported the IIML's 2005 Writers on Mondays series, including Chen Palmer & Partners, who helped us to bring Robert Dessaix, and both City Gallery Wellington which hosted the

events, and the National Library of New Zealand, which supported the poetry events in the series. Writers on Mondays wrapped up on 26 September with a conversation between Fergus Barrowman and Damien Wilkins to mark the impending publication of *Great Sporting Moments: The Best of Sport Magazine 1988-2004*. Barrowman confirmed that *Sport* is now an annual rather than twice-yearly publication, but gave no indication of any plans to shut up shop.

### **3. Where the alphabet ends**

Literature-related events are still coming at City Gallery, however. This Thursday, 13 October, curator Gregory O'Brien shines his torch on the 'outer limits' to explore New Zealand literature that takes us beyond the boundaries, most particularly the writing of Janet Frame. His lecture 'Where The Alphabet Ends' will look at Janet Frame's writing in relation to the 'Small World Big Town' exhibition. As well as including personal reflections and memories of Janet Frame, O'Brien will look at specific works from the exhibition in the light of Frame's speculation that 'we are a nation of piano tuners rather than pianists'. The lecture takes place at 5.30 pm. Admission free.

### **4. Typography at the edge of the universe**

Wellington designer Catherine Griffiths recently gave a presentation about her work on the Wellington Writers' Walk and the Wairarapa house 'wrapped' in a Jenny Bornholdt poem at a conference of international typographers in Helsinki. Her talk was titled 'I live at the edge of the universe', after the Bill Manhire plaque on the Walk. She will give a version of this talk, now retitled 'Passion, Disappointment and Hope', on Friday 14 October, 12.10 pm at City Gallery as part of the lunchtime series, Designers Speak. Admission free.

Some comment on Griffiths' Helsinki presentation appears on

[http://www.atypi.org/news\\_tool/news\\_html?from=http://www.atypi.org/07\\_Helsinki/10\\_news/index\\_html&newsid=322](http://www.atypi.org/news_tool/news_html?from=http://www.atypi.org/07_Helsinki/10_news/index_html&newsid=322)

### **5. E tuhi winner**

Congratulations to Whiti Hereaka, who won the New Zealand Film Commission Award for best script for a short film with *Unclaimed Luggage* at the 2005 E tuhi! Get Writing awards, announced in Wellington on 1 October.

Whiti Hereaka completed her MA (Scriptwriting) at the IIML in 2002. For the full list of award winners, see <http://www.huia.co.nz/pubabout02.aspx#Event>

## **6. A cottage in Wellington**

The Randell Cottage Writers Trust is once again calling for applications from New Zealand writers for the 2006 Creative New Zealand Randell Cottage Writers Residency. The tenure will be from early April 2006 to mid September 2006. The successful applicant will receive a monthly stipend for the six months of the residency, and reside in the historic Randell Cottage located in Wellington's central city suburb of Thorndon. For further information, application forms and guidelines visit the website ([www.randellcottage.co.nz](http://www.randellcottage.co.nz)), email [Randell@writerstrust.co.nz](mailto:Randell@writerstrust.co.nz) or write to The Secretary, PO Box 11-032, Wellington. Applications close on 19 November.

## **7. More drinking games**

"If my father died, would you know? Would I tell you? Probably not. Not if it fell in the middle of the month. In a non tennis-playing week, I wouldn't." After a successful rehearsed reading in the Adam Playreading series at Downstage in August, Damien Wilkins' play about four old school friends who meet once a month to play social tennis gets a run in Auckland this weekend. The Auckland Theatre Company Literature Unit is presenting a staged reading of *Drinking Games*, directed by Rachel House at the Maidment Studio on Saturday 8 October 7.30 p.m. and Sunday 9 October 2pm. The cast are Phil Grieve (recently seen in our Short Sharp Script events here in Wellington), Craig Hall, Stephen Papps and Gareth Reeves. All performances are free, but seats are limited

## **8. Border crossing**

It seems things are set for a shake-up at one of New Zealand's most venerable literary institutions. 'Glottis' editor Nick Ascroft has been in charge of Landfall 210, due next month, and we have just received the following newsflash concerning issue 211: "It is a flood, it is a flood." - Rt Hon Winston Peters. The abandoned Landfall citadel has been besieged and looted by marauding barbarians. They don't look right. They don't talk right. They climbed in through the windows. Now the silverware is bent, the hinges are

missing, the lips cross-stitched, and all the early Madonna has been recovered.' Submissions for the Borderline Landfall may be sent to guest-editor Tze Ming Mok by 10 January 2006, or earlier (preferably before Christmas). Submission guidelines are here:

<http://www.bookcouncil.org.nz/community/media/landfall.html>.

Submissions may also be emailed directly to [tzemingdynasty@gmail.com](mailto:tzemingdynasty@gmail.com) in RTF format. Recent mentions of the Borderline Landfall in the global news:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/worldlatest/story/0,1280,-5305416,00.html>

[http://www.chinapost.com.tw/i\\_latestdetail.asp?id=31207](http://www.chinapost.com.tw/i_latestdetail.asp?id=31207)

[http://www.indianexpress.com/full\\_story.php?content\\_id=78827](http://www.indianexpress.com/full_story.php?content_id=78827) Tze Ming Mok is an Auckland writer who has previously worked as a refugee status officer in New Zealand, and as a refugee legal advocate in Cairo.

## **9. The erotic lure of cold hard cash**

Serious novelists and poets have often turned their hand to other genres in order to keep the wolf from the door. Christopher Logue and Alexander Trocchi, among others, penned sexually explicit books for Maurice Girodias, the original publisher of James Joyce's *Ulysses*. For those who fancy themselves equipped to follow in their footsteps, *Cosmopolitan* magazine has launched an erotic writing competition (in association with Harlequin Enterprises) in its November issue. They are offering five readers the chance to be published in the magazine, but the winner will also receive a \$10,000 cash prize for their submission. The action needs to be all over in no more than 800 words, which makes for a very healthy rate per word. They are actively seeking participation from students currently enrolled in writing courses or degrees and have offered to provide publishing hints, tips and advice from Harlequin and Cosmo for submissions. The competition deadline is 19 December, and relevant materials and guidelines can be obtained from [modernletters@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:modernletters@vuw.ac.nz)

## **10. From the whiteboard**

'In poetry, you must love the words, the ideas and the images and rhythms with all your capacity to love at all.' (Wallace Stevens)

## **11. Recent web reading**

Bridget Joneskaya

<http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/international.cfm?id=1991042005>

google v publishers

<http://www.spiked-online.com/Printable/0000000CAD73.htm>

UK Book Festivals

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0%2C%2C923-1792735%2C00.html>

A Crime Writing Festival

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0%2C%2C923-1792734%2C00.html>

New broom at Paris Review

<http://www.suntimes.com/output/entertainment/sho-sunday-paris02.html>

Yoruba Proverbs

<http://libtextcenter.unl.edu/yoruba/index.html>

Main Trunk Lines

[http://www.leafsalon.co.nz/archives/000780mainlining\\_words.html#more](http://www.leafsalon.co.nz/archives/000780mainlining_words.html#more)

UK National Poetry Day

<http://www.poetrysociety.org.uk/npd/npdindex.htm>

## **12. Great lists of our times**

List Lady's picks from the 1811 Dictionary of the Vulgar Tongue by Captain Grose et al. The whole dictionary is well worth the read and may be viewed at the home of Project Gutenberg ([www.gutenberg.org/dirs/etext04/dcvgr10.txt](http://www.gutenberg.org/dirs/etext04/dcvgr10.txt))

**BAG OF NAILS.** He squints like a bag of nails; i.e. his eyes are directed as many ways as the points of a bag of nails.

**BEAU-NASTY.** A slovenly fop; one finely dressed, but dirty.

**CAP ACQUAINTANCE.** Persons slightly acquainted, or only so far as mutually to salute with the hat on meeting.

**CATCH FART.** A footboy; so called from such servants commonly following close behind their master or mistress.

**DEW BEATERS.** Feet.

DITTO. A suit of ditto; coat, waistcoat, and breeches, all of one colour.

GLUEPOT. A parson: from joining men and women together in matrimony.

HUMS. Persons at church. There is a great number of hums in the autem; there is a great congregation in the church.

IDEA POT. The knowledge box, the head.

INEXPRESSIBLES. Breeches.

MAY BEES. May bees don't fly all the year long; an answer to any one who prefaces a proposition with, It may be.

NIT SQUEEGER, i.e. SQUEEZER. A hair-dresser.

NOISY DOG RACKET. Stealing brass knockers from doors.

OWL IN AN IVY BUSH. He looks like an owl in an ivy bush; frequently said of a person with a large frizzled wig, or a woman whose hair is dressed a-la-blowze.

PHRASE OF PAPER. Half a quarter of a sheet.

PUZZLE-TEXT. An ignorant blundering parson.

QUEER NAB. A felt hat, or other bad hat.

QUIZ. A strange-looking fellow, an odd dog.

RATTLE-TRAPS. A contemptuous name for any curious portable piece of machinery, or philosophical apparatus.

RUNNING SMOBBLE. Snatching goods off a counter, and throwing them to an accomplice, who brushes off with them.

SCHISM MONGER. A dissenting teacher.

SCREW JAWS. A wry-mouthed man or woman.

SEA LAWYER. A shark.

TICKLE TEXT. A parson.

TRANSLATORS. Sellers of old mended shoes and boots,  
between cobblers and shoemakers.

TRAVELLING PIQUET. A mode of amusing themselves,  
practised by two persons riding in a carriage, each  
reckoning towards his game the persons or animals that pass  
by on the side next them, according to the following  
estimation:

A parson riding a grey horse, witholue furniture; game.

An old woman under a hedge; ditto.

A cat looking out of a window; 60.

A man, woman, and child, in a buggy; 40.

A man with a woman behind him; 30.

A flock of sheep; 20.

A flock of geese; 10.

A post chaise; 5.

A horseman; 2.

A man or woman walking; 1.

WHISKER SPLITTER. A man of intrigue.

WORD PECKER. A punster, one who plays upon words.

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