



Newsletter – 21 July 2006

This is the 90th 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. Poetry Award lifted

Congratulations from the rest of the IIML to Bill Manhire, who was this morning announced as winner of the Montana Poetry Award 2005. "*Lifted*," says Emeritus Professor Lawrence Jones, convenor of the judging panel, "is a short but packed book, the work of a major poet who continues to develop his art and his vision in ways that are consonant with what he has done before but that at the same time surprise and gratify us." *Lifted*, published by Victoria University Press, goes on to be judged alongside the winner of the Fiction category for the ultimate prize, the Deutz Medal for Fiction or Poetry. The winner will be announced at an awards ceremony in Auckland at Sky City on Monday. Bill Manhire will be presented with a prize of \$5,000 as winner of the Poetry category at the gala dinner.

2. Poetry Day all day

Wellingtonians can catch Bill Manhire reading with James Brown, Hinemoana Baker and Kate Camp from 5.30 pm tonight at the Museum of Wellington City & Sea

tonight, in an event which includes a performance by Boutique Opera of NZ poems set to music. Those intrepid enough to brave the big weather currently being experienced should look out for the street posters featuring New Zealand poetry (selected by Bill Manhire) that went up today around Auckland, Wellington, Dunedin and Christchurch. For Montana National Poetry Day events happening nationwide, visit: http://www.booksellers.co.nz/mpd_main.htm

3. Bell Gully National Schools Poetry Award finalists announced

The poets of the future also stepped forward this week with the announcement of the shortlist for the Bell Gully National Schools Poetry Award at a function in Wellington on Tuesday. Poems by the ten finalists were unveiled by Elizabeth Knox and Bill Manhire, poet/songwriter Hinemoana Baker and Bell Gully staff, and Wellington finalist Sarah Wilks delivered her poem in person. The shortlisted poets will be flown to Wellington in August for a poetry masterclass at the Institute of Modern Letters. In addition, each shortlisted poet will receive a 12-month subscription to the literary journal *Sport*, a 12-month membership of the New Zealand Book Council, \$50 Booksellers Tokens and \$100 cash. The winner will be announced at an award ceremony in Wellington on 18 August.

And the finalists are: Andrew Aitken-Fincham and Dora Sharpe-Davidson (St Andrew's College, Chch), Lisa Cochrane, Sophia Graham and Lilian Yong (Epsom Girls Grammar, Ak), Chaturika Jayasinghe (St Cuthberts College, Ak), Graeme Ninness, Awatapu College, Palmerston North), Jennifer Niven and Sarah Wilks (Samuel Marsden Collegiate, Wgtn), and Alisha Vara (Rangi Ruru Girls' School, Chch).

Dora Sharpe-Davidson and Alisha Vara read their shortlisted entries at UBS Canterbury's 'Poetry a la carte event' today at 12.30 as part of Montana National Poetry Day.

The short-listed poems can be found at:

<http://www.vuw.ac.nz/modernletters/activities/schools-poetry.aspx>

4. Mondrian (and more poetry) on Monday

Wystan Curnow is our guest at City Gallery this Monday 24 July at 1 pm, reading from his fourth collection *Modern Colours* and discussing his work with Mark Amery. Curnow is the twelfth in our dozen of the 'best New Zealand poets' presented in the first two Writers on Mondays events: his long poem 'Mondrian's Restaurant' was selected for Best New Zealand Poems 04, and another poem from *Modern Colours* appears in the 2005 edition. (See www.vuw.ac.nz/modernletters/bnzp)

5. Rejecting Patrick White

Last weekend *The Australian* reported that it had sent a number of publishers and literary agents a chapter of a novel by Nobel-Prize-winner Patrick White, commonly regarded as the most distinguished fiction writer in Australian history. The newspaper revealed that, 'Not only did they all reject chapter three of White's 1973 novel *The Eye of the Storm*, all but one of them was shameless in their defiance that this had been a reasonable thing to do at the time, a number of them saying words to the effect of "who cares about Patrick White anyway?".' The work was submitted with the title *The Eye of the Cyclone* and the author's name was given as Wraith Picket, an anagram of Patrick White. Writing in yesterday's *Australian* Peter Craven remarked that 'anyone of middling intelligence who knew the title of the book (as one can safely assume at least hundreds of thousands of moderately educated Australians and even a few publishers and agents do) would have had a fair chance of cottoning on to the hoax even if they were devoid of literary judgment.' He calls the incident 'a minor national disgrace' that 'suggests not only negligence or oversight but an entrenched philistinism and a quite hapless lack of expertise.'

<http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,20867,19845822-7583,00.html>

6. Turbine keeps spinning in 06

A good southerly blast has reminded us that it's time to call for submissions of fiction, poetry and creative non-fiction for the 2006 issue of *Turbine*, the online literary journal published by the Institute of Modern Letters. The submission deadline is 20 October. Back issues and submission guidelines are available at

www.vuw.ac.nz/turbine

Online publishing can certainly lead to some interesting cybertravels: we've just received word from Nola Borrell that her poem 'Tuatara', first published in *Turbine* 01, has just appeared in the Ukrainian journal *Vsesvit* ('Universe'), along with translations of work by Simon Williamson, Mark Young, Riemke Ensing, Lauris Edmond and James K. Baxter (*A Pair of Sandals*). If you're curious to see what the word 'tuatara' looks like in Russian, visit:

http://www.vsesvit-journal.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=160&Itemid=41

7. Retelling tales

Writers currently working towards their MA at the Institute of Modern Letters will read work written in response to the Museum of Wellington City and Sea's Wellingtonia exhibition next Friday 28 July at 1 pm in the Museum's exhibition space. Polish immigrants, stuffed lions, and the Futuna Chapel are just some of the city's facets explored by the writers. Admission is free, all welcome.

8. From the whiteboard

Only the knots which tie and untie inside the characters give the film its movement, its true movement. (Robert Bresson)

9. Playwrights' Studio 2006

Playmarket has completed a cycle of Playwrights' Studio 2005 that saw writers meet for 10 weeks then present excerpts from their work. These were presented in Auckland at THE EDGE© and in Wellington at Downstage, and Write Out Loud, the Dunedin Studio readings, will be presented this weekend, July 22nd and 23rd. There's now just a week left to get an application in for Playwrights Studio 2006, which commences in September. In the four main centres under the guidance of a leading playwright and tutor, writers will meet one evening a week over a 10-week period. The Studio is aimed at giving playwrights community, an opportunity to develop their craft skills through tinkering under the bonnet to examine how great plays do and don't tick, and exploring their own individual voices. At the end of the 2006 Studio writers will be given the opportunity to write a draft of a full-length play for selection for presentation in a New Zealand professional theatre, as part of Playmarket's National Script Development Programme. Applications must be made in writing (by email or mail) no later than 27th July 2006 to scripts@playmarket.org.nz. Your application needs to be any play you've written of at least an hour in length.

10. Last chance to see Lovepuke

Duncan Sarkies 'seriously sexy comedy' *Lovepuke* ends its run at BATS tomorrow night. *Lovepuke* won awards at the International Youth Playwrights Festival and took out "Best of the Fringe Festival" in Wellington, NZ in 1993, and since then has travelled to Sydney, Singapore and Edinburgh. For this return to the Wellington stage it's been revived by director Lyndee Jane Rutherford. Duncan Sarkies took the Short Fiction workshop with Bill Manhire some years ago— where his short story collection *Stray Thoughts and Nose Bleeds* started life. He is currently working on his second book. *Lovepuke* is on at 6 pm. Bookings: 04 802 41 75 or book@bats.co.nz , \$16 / \$12 (www.bats.co.nz).

11. Subantarctic writing

A forum of writers on the subject of the Auckland Islands and other subantarctic islands will be convened in the Stout Research Centre seminar room at Victoria University on Saturday 19 August 2006 from 10 am. The forum is one of a series of events to be held in Wellington during the period 17-19 August 2006 to celebrate the bicentennial of the European discovery of the Auckland Islands by the sealer

Abraham Bristow on 18 August 1806. Located some 500 km south of the South Island the Auckland Islands are a UNESCO World Heritage site. The forum will include presentations by eight authors of recently or soon to be published books and other writings on the islands. Among the presenters are historians, journalists and retired scientists. The writings range widely from natural history to fictional accounts, and cover topics such as the shipwrecks, castaways, sunken treasure, clandestine occupation of the islands, and experiences from the coast watchers of the secretive World War II Cape Expedition.

12. Recent web reading

My bookshelf, myself

http://online.wsj.com/public/article/SB115109622468789252-_D0End_0yQM_jR4NjKrHd4WwEbM_20070627.html?mod=blogs

Antarctic literature

<http://www.islandmag.com/105/essay.html>

Global dancing

<http://wherethehellismatt.com/>

A highly hopeful man in Nelson

<http://anovelmillion.com/>

The trailer of the book (of the film of the story...?)

<http://www.cbc.ca/arts/media/viewtothrill.html>

Disguises

<http://www.benmarcus.com/disguises.htm>

Bell jar movie

<http://enjoyment.independent.co.uk/film/features/article1170352.ece>

Elizabeth Smither review

<http://jacketmagazine.com/30/birns-smither.html>

Sing a poem

<http://www.andover.edu/english/jgould/singingmuse/sillysets.html>

Neologisms

<http://esa4.rice.edu/~ling215/>

Free downloadable books

<http://www.free-new-books.com/>

Au revoir, punk

<http://msnbc.msn.com/id/13907199/>

Anna Smaill review

<http://salient.co.nz/index.php?a=2221=30>

The trouble with book reviewing (requires registration)

<http://www.tnr.com/doc.mhtml?i=20060724&s=franklin072406>

BBC Get Writing

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/getwriting/>

The Underground Literary Alliance

http://www.believmag.com/issues/200307/?read=article_bissell

A brief history of rock music

http://www.believmag.com/issues/200606/?read=article_collins

A giant

<http://www.poetryfoundation.org/dispatches/gallery/ba.booklyn.2.html>

13. Great lists of our time

(A small) selection of items available on Ebay.com that contain the word "outrageous".

- 1) OUTRAGEOUS CARVED TURQUOISE EAGLE STERLING BRACELET
- 2) China Glaze Nail Polish - OUTRAGEOUS!
- 3) Mixed Peppercorns At Outrageous Discounts
- 4) Outrageous 1940's Lilly Dache Hat Feathers Flowers
- 5) BEER Drinking Card GAME - Outrageous FUN PARTY
- 6) DOUBLE Peacock Eye Bead Earrings - OUTRAGEOUS!
- 7) Bernat Brand Yarn Frenzy 2 "outrageous orange"
- 8) Outrageous LONG FRINGE & Tapestry Trim Hippie Pants
- 9) SET OF OAK OUTRAGEOUS CARVED DINING CHAIRS - Best Offer
- 10) OUTRAGEOUS TALL BEARDED IRIS ~BEWILDERBEAST~
OUTRAGEOUS BUTTERFLY
VELVET BOW TIES-----NEVER USED
- 11) VINTAGE JAEGER CONCRETE MIXER TOY OUTRAGEOUS
- 12) World's Most Outrageous Weddings (2000, DVD)

13) Quirky Australian Gardens - Weird, Outrageous art form

14) FARTING WATCH...4 outrageous farting sounds!!! NEW !!!

15) OUTRAGEOUS Mid Century POODLE Fabric 1950s 60s