



INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF
MODERN LETTERS

Te Pūtahi Tuhi Auaha o te Ao

Newsletter – 11 May 2006

This is the 86th 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. Bell Gully National Schools Poetry Award

Poetry is not always put forward as the best option by the school careers adviser, but to prove that poetry can take you places, this year's Bell Gully National Schools Poetry Award will give up to ten talented young writers a trip to Wellington. Judge James Brown will select the top 10 poems, and all the shortlisted entrants will have the opportunity to attend a masterclass with top New Zealand poets at the International Institute of Modern Letters in August (airfares and accommodation included for those who live outside the Wellington region). In addition, shortlisted writers will receive book tokens from Booksellers NZ, and the author of the winning poem will receive a cash prize of \$500 plus subscriptions to literary journals Sport

and Landfall and a year's membership of the New Zealand Book Council and the New Zealand Society of Authors. The winner's school library will receive a book grant of \$500. The deadline for entries is 16 June, so now's the time for students to get writing. Entry forms were mailed to secondary schools last week; copies are also available from the IIML (tel 04 463 6854) and from our website at:

www.vuw.ac.nz/modernletters/activities/schools-poetry.aspx

2. Poetry, creative non-fiction and writing for children

For those wanting inspiration at tertiary level, a reminder that the deadline for applications to all these second trimester undergraduate writing workshops is 1 June. The trimester begins on 10 July. Applications must be accompanied by a writing sample, and forms are available from the International Institute of Modern Letters at 16 Wai-te-ata Road, tel 04 463 6854, or from our website:

www.vuw.ac.nz/modernletters

3. Dirty windows at Hay

Damien Wilkins is off to one of the world's largest literature festivals, thanks to the New Zealand Book Council's International Writers' Exchange programme. He will appear in one of the 398 events scheduled to take place between 25 May and 4 June in the small Welsh border village of Hay-on-Wye. The gods of the Guardian Hay Festival ('the Woodstock of the mind', according to the Bill Clinton byline on the website) have decreed that he will appear on a panel with Lemony Snicket (aka Daniel Handler), who will be launching 'his polyphonic and brilliant meditation on love, *Adverbs*.'

Like Handler's, Wilkins' most recent book also has a one-word title: *Chemistry*. Perhaps this brevity was a reaction to the repeated confusion surrounding the title of his previous novel, *Nineteen Widows Under Ash*. The Hay programme is the latest in a string of places to misprint it as *Nineteen Windows Under Ash*. Also on the panel is novelist Rachel Trezise, whose latest book title stretches to two words (*Fresh Apples*). The full festival programme can be found at www.hayfestival.com.

4. Best New Zealand Poems 06

The 2006 edition of Best New Zealand Poems is being edited by Hawai'i-based poets Anne Kennedy and Robert Sullivan. If, like some publishers, you want to ensure that poetry published during 2006 is considered, copies of books and journals may be sent to Best New Zealand Poems 06, c/- International Institute of Modern Letters, PO Box

600, Wellington. In the meantime, Best New Zealand Poems 05 (edited by Andrew Johnston) is available for browsing at www.vuw.ac.nz/modernletters/bnzp.

5. Niki Caro at the Paramount

Internationally acclaimed New Zealand filmmaker Niki Caro talks with NZ Actors' Equity about creating fine performance for film in this week's Cameo@Paramount. The director of *Whale Rider* and *North Country* will be interviewed on stage at the Paramount Theatre on Friday 12 May at 6pm, followed by an audience question and answer session and then drinks in the bar. Tickets (\$20/\$10 concession for Equity and other industry guild members) are available at the theatre. For further information contact Barbara Woods, (027) 548 7053 or email msbarbarella@hotmail.com.

6. Not rocket science?

The experiment that has put some of New Zealand's top writers and physicists together in a test-tube and shaken them up achieves lift-off on 31 May with the launch of the book *Are Angels OK? The parallel universes of New Zealand writers and physicists* at the Paramount Theatre. Kim Hill will introduce project editors Paul Callaghan and Bill Manhire and writers Catherine Chidgey, Glenn Colquhoun, Dylan Horrocks, Witi Ihimaera, Lloyd Jones, Elizabeth Knox, Margaret Mahy, Vincent O'Sullivan, Chris Price and Jo Randerson will talk about their adventures in the world of physics. The occasion begins with a glass of wine at 7.15 pm, and tickets (\$12) are available from the Paramount Theatre, Courtenay Place (tel 04 384 4080).

7. The expanding bookshelf

Sarah Quigley has just published *Write: a 30 day guide to creative writing* (Penguin). In it she shares tricks of the trade and provides 30 tips for kick-starting writing including formulating ideas, inventing characters and dealing with time, pace, setting and structure. Sarah Quigley was a member of the 1996 Original Composition workshop at Victoria University, and has gone on to publish three novels, a collection of stories and a volume of poetry.

8. From the whiteboard

'... the difference between the almost-right word and the right word is really a large matter. It's the difference between the lightning-bug and the lightning.'
(Mark Twain)

9. Reading and writing at the Museum

Several writer events are on the May programme at the Museum of Wellington City and Sea, Queens Wharf. At 10.30 am this Saturday and Sunday Tusiata (Donna) Avia reads poems on 'Wild Dogs and other dangers' as part of the Wellington free arts weekend, the Big Look-See. On those days the Museum is also offering children's writing workshops aimed at 10-12 year olds with Lloyd Jones (phone 472 8904 to book). And on Monday the Museum opens 'Re-Telling Tales', a display of poetry and prose by current MA students at the International Institute of Modern Letters, inspired by the Telling Tales exhibition – 100 tales of Wellington over the 20th Century.

10. Closer literary relations

Trans-Tasman literary journal *Snorkel 3* has recently gone live at www.snorkel.org.au. Contributions from this side of the ditch include poems from Bob Orr and Elizabeth Smither, and a sneak preview of Kate de Goldi's young adult novel-in-progress, *The 10pm Question*.

Melbourne-based Ilura Press is inviting submissions of short stories, poetry, essays, art, and photography for the first issue of its literary journal *Etchings* (deadline 30 June). The press is also running a competition for writers with a novel-length manuscript. Two writers will receive a contract and advance of AU\$5000. Submissions close 31 July 2006. Full details and entry forms can be found on the website www.ilurapress.com.

Wet Ink is a South Australian magazine of new writing which is currently accepting submissions of poetry, fiction, and nonfiction for its spring issue. Previous and forthcoming issues include work by such writers as Gail Jones, Nigel Krauth, Frank Moorhouse, Thomas Shapcott, and Michael Wilding, along with a wide variety of new and emerging talent. The editors suggest looking at previous issues of the magazine to get a sense of their editorial preferences. Submissions should be sent to Wet Ink Magazine Inc. PO Box 3162, Rundle Mall, SA 5000, Australia (Visit www.wetink.com.au for submission guidelines.)

11. Mansfield Short Story and Copyright Licensing Awards

On this side of the Tasman the long-running BNZ Katherine Mansfield Short Story Awards are calling for entries by 30 June. Entry terms and conditions are at http://www.bnz.co.nz/About_Us/1,1184,3-34-482-2514,00.html. And the Copyright

Licensing Awards, which give two New Zealand non-fiction writers the opportunity to produce new work, are calling for applications from established writers by 15 July. Writers with interests in the sciences, Maori and Pacific Studies, the arts and beyond are welcomed. Full application details are available at www.copyright.co.nz or by phoning 09 480 2711.

12. Aspiring to greatness

In 1949 four major figures on New Zealand's cultural landscape got together to climb a mountain. In a forthcoming *Listener* article, Gregory O'Brien writes, 'Photographer and cinematographer Brian Brake, aged 24, had twisted a few arms at the National Film Unit to get an unorthodox documentary [about Mt Aspiring] off the ground. The collaborative film project was also to involve poet James K. Baxter, aged 22, composer Douglas Lilburn—aged 34 and the elder statesman of the group—and the 18-year-old artist John Drawbridge.' Over half a century later O'Brien has scripted the documentary that tells the story of that expedition. It screens on Sunday 4 June at 10.30 in the Artsville slot on TV1.

13. Among the bookmen

At the Stout Research Centre at 12.30 pm today (Thursday 11 March) Chris Hilliard will be discussing the activities of the historians, literary critics, librarians and journalists so prominent in intellectual life in New Zealand (and in Wellington in particular) before the universities became major forces in the humanities in the 1930s. This talk draws on Hilliard's new book, *The Bookmen's Dominion: Cultural Life in New Zealand, 1920-1950*, published by Auckland University Press.

14. Football and poetry

World Cup fans from 75 countries have made hotel reservations for about one million room nights in Germany, according to Associated Press. In amongst the carousing traditionally associated with the World Cup, the poetry of the game has not been forgotten. The 'beautiful game' will be sung in verse - by a computer. Following up an idea by German author and poet Hans-Magnus Enzensberger, a "poetry machine" will churn out a poem shortly after each of 64 World Cup games with the help of intelligent software. Herr Enzensberger reportedly predicts that some of the poems will be "brilliant," and others "frightfully awful."

15. Fame and football

Interesting Times is a seminar series run by the School of English, Film, Television and Media Studies in Association with The New Zealand Film Archive. Next Thursday 18 May film lecturer Sean Redmond will talk about the cultural phenomenon of fame in 'Intimate Fame Everywhere'. Redmond writes that 'Through the method of a star 'confessional' I will explore the fame of the footballer-celebrity, George Best, the Hollywood actress, Halle Berry, and the imaginary Leif Memphis (my 'alter ego').' Redmond is the co-editor of *Framing Celebrity: New Directions in Celebrity Culture* (Routledge, 2006), *Stars and Celebrities: the Reader* (Sage, 2006), *The Cinema of Kathryn Bigelow: Hollywood Transgressor* (Wallflower Press, 2003) and the editor of *Liquid Metal: the reader in science fiction film* (Wallflower Press, 2004). The talks run from 6-6.50pm at The Film Archive, 84 Taranaki Street, Wellington.

Other events in the series include

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| Thursday 1 June | Standing Alone: Reflections on the New Conditions of Stardom (Barry King) |
| Thursday 22 June | Spending Time with (a) Celebrity: Sam Taylor-Wood's Video Portrait of David Beckham (Cathy Fowler) |
| Thursday 6 July | Play At Your Own Risk: Scenes from the Creative City (Geoff Stahl) |

Full programme details are at http://www.vuw.ac.nz/seft/SEFTMS-news-events/Interesting_times.aspx

16. Show and Tell

The New Zealand International Arts Festival will once again run a Show & Tell to assist in the commissioning and producing of new work. They are currently seeking proposals for projects to be selected for the next Show & Tell, to be held during the first week of November 2006. Deadline for proposals is Friday 30th June. For more info, contact the Artistic Director, nzfestival@festival.co.nz or your local festival director.

17. Recent web reading

A literary party

<http://brothercyst.blogspot.com/2006/04/amis-at-urinal-awkwardness-with.html>

Ingenious or appalling?

<http://billknott.typepad.com/>

Orange Prize shortlist

<http://enjoyment.independent.co.uk/books/news/article360200.ece>

Betjeman beats

<http://arts.guardian.co.uk/features/story/0,,1762260,00.html>

Maurice Gee interview

<http://www.vuw.ac.nz/mywellington/people-city/MauriceGee.htm>

Branwen Millar interview

<http://www.vuw.ac.nz/mywellington/people-city/BranwenMillar.htm>

Laurie Duggan: a writer's life

<http://www.griffith.edu.au/school/art/text/april06/duggan.htm>

A poem about James Brown

<http://www.nzepc.auckland.ac.nz/features/oban06/lloyd.asp>

50-year Howl

http://www.poetryfoundation.org/dispatches/dispatches_reading.html?id=178113

http://www.boston.com/news/globe/ideas/articles/2006/04/30/the_legend_of_howl/?page=full

Writers, quit whining

<http://www.salon.com/opinion/feature/2006/05/03/keillor/index.html>

Novel twists

<http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/61096.shtml>

Fiction 'packaging'

http://www.observer.com/20060508/20060508_Sheelah_Kolhatkar_pageone_newsstory3.asp

Translation politics

<http://www.philly.com/mld/inquirer/news/magazine/daily/14485201.htm>

Blurbing

<http://www.cbc.ca/arts/books/blurbs.html>

The Wallace Stevens mug

<http://www.wallacestevens.com/mug.php>

freedom and the writer

<http://www.nybooks.com/articles/18991>

George Saunders interview

<http://beta.boldtype.com/11995>

Language Log

<http://itre.cis.upenn.edu/~myl/languageelog/>

Editing Saul Bellow

<http://www.slate.com/id/2116502/>

Insulting verse

<http://www.slate.com/id/2140565/?nav=navoa>

18. Great lists of our time

Officially sealed in 1940, this time capsule is due to be opened in 8113. For more info see

http://www.oglethorpe.edu/about_us/crypt_of_civilization/inventory.asp

Inventory of the Crypt of Civilization

5 phonograph records (transcriptions)

2 bird records (songs of birds)

3 records in album

5 records (miscellaneous)

General Gannett and Acompo 8 records

1 transcription (Premier of Canada)

phonograph records in 2 boxes - History of Mines - 37 10" records, 2 12" records

1 container of beer (about one quart)

1 plastic bird, 1 plastic ash tray

1 beetle plastic ornament and bowl

1 vanity make-up mirror with light

11 miscellaneous recordings

6 recordings (Artie Shaw)

6 recordings (Richard Himber)

1 plastic savings bank

3 plastic pieces (miscellaneous)

1 plastic display case for watch

1 set Lionel model train (6 cars, 1 track)

1 cigarette holder

1 model air conditioner apparatus

1 box of eight plastic samples

1 set of scales (hand)

1 Ingraham pocket watch

1 Regen's cigarette lighter

1 Ingraham wrist watch (woman's)

1 sample of gold mesh

1 Gen-A-Lite flashlight

1 Toastolator (electric)

1 Monroe calculator
1 set Lincoln Logs (toys)
1 mannikin (female) in glass case
1 mannikin (male) in glass case
1 telephone instrument dial phone (desk type)
10 samples of textile upholstery
4 samples plated plastics
1 3-cell flash light
Audio Scriptions (2 records of Dr. Jacobs' voice)
1 pencil painting
1 cut and 2 illustrations from cut
1 set Helios (game board and pieces)
2 carved glass panels
1 set Bridgeomatic (game)
2 micro-film readers and 2 micro-films (Oglethorpe Book of Georgia Verse)
1 obstetrical model (2 pieces)
1 set graduates (sealed)
1 Micarta gear
1 package containing 6 miniature panties, 5 miniature shirts, 3 drawers
1 sample plastic radio case
2 Lennox china vases, 1 blue china bowl
1 Emerson radio
1 sample of aluminum foil
1 sample technicolor film on display card
1 abrasive wheel (Aloxite)
4 skeins of rayon, 1 electric iron
2 electric lighting fixtures and 2 acetate shades
1 set of binoculars in leather case
1 recording transcription, King Gustav of Sweden
6 transcriptions "We, the People" radio show
1 Kodak (small) camera
1 plastic drinking glass holder
1 sample of catlinite
1 Schick Electric Razor (set)
1 sample of Lucite
1 Comptometer, Ser. no. J246635
2 ashtrays, plastic forms of gears
1 package Butterick dress patterns
1 DuPrene glove (rubber substitute)
1 set silver plate 1847 Rogers, 1 knife, 1 fork, 1 spoon
1 copy of The New York Herald-Tribune (especially prepared copy)
1 Masonic deposit (5 badges, 1 metal plaque in case, sealed)
1 glass jar containing 2 pen holders, 3 pencils, 1 slide rule and instructions, 1 set colored crayons, 1 plastic ruler, 1 fountain pen and pencil set, 6 corks
1 glass refrigerator dish and cover
1 Mazda lamp exhibit (component parts)
1 model Edison's original and 1 Mazda lamp
1 package assorted wearing apparel
1 package samples of laces and ribbons

1 pair ladies stockings
1 package - 1 towel, 3 washcloths
1 framed painting (roses reproduction)
1 framed picture (reproduction, painting of a house)
1 package containing 6 wood and plastic pictures
1 raffia covered glass powder jar
1 sample of soap (figure of a bull)
1 package assorted hair pins
1 package containing 6 pieces, assorted costume jewelry
1 glass jar containing miscellaneous ornaments and 4 berets, 1 hair net, 1 clip
1 glass jar containing 1 hair bow, 1 gem razor, 1 package blades, 1 shaving brush, 2 powder puffs, 2 compacts, 3 samples powder, 1 eyebrow brush, 3 lipsticks, 1 hair remover, 1 toothbrush, 1 rouge, 1 nail brush, 1 ivory stick, 1 pair manicure scissors, 1 eyelash curler, 5 hair curlers, 1 package dental floss, 1 pair tweezers, 1 package Mallene, 1 package corn pads eye cup, 1 set artificial finger nails, 1 set artificial eyelashes, 1 package playing cards, 1 set Bridge tally cards
1 package containing 2 combs, 1 change carrier, 1 package of paper cleaning pads, 1 identification book, 1 pair dark glasses, 1 lady's comb, 4 pair shoe laces, 2 pair shoulder straps, 1 flashlight, 2 dice, 1 cigar holder, 1 cigarette holder
1 package containing 5 spools of silk thread, 1 crochet hook, 1 thimble, 2 packages needles, 2 packages rickrack, 2 packages bias binding
1 package of samples oil cloth
1 lady's breast form
1 package cellophane dish covers, 3 belts, 1 package 2nd carbon copy of teletype news
1 yellow china bowl, 7 "What-Not" ornaments, 1 package picture hooks, curtain rings and ends, 1 napkin and napkin ring
6 packages wooden forks and spoons set toy paints, 1 tea bowl, 1 package fish hooks, 1 package drapery pins, 1 June bug spinner, 1 package curtain rings, 1 fly, 2 toy watches, 1 pocket knife
2 smoking pipes, 1 bottle Vaseline
1 porcelain figure, 2 small glass ornaments, glass coal scuttle
1 small glass vase, 1 glass teakettle
1 package paper clips, 1 package cellophane ribbon, 1 set measuring spoons, 1 doughnut cutter, 1 plastic salt and pepper shaker set, plastic picture frame, 1 set Curtain holdbacks
1 toy whistle, 1 golfball, 1 cake of soap
1 cover for milk bottle, 1 plastic knife, fork and spoon, 1 salad fork and spoon
1 funnel, 1 barometer, 1 glass container and cover, 1 scouring pad, 1 package of marbles, 3 outlets, 1 socket plug, 1 switch, 1 Pull chain socket, 3 house numbers, 1 rule, 1 can opener
1 carving knife and fork, 1 rule, 1 screwdriver
1 grapefruit corer, 1 potato masher, 1 ladle, 1 spoon, 1 pancake turner
1 asbestos mat, 1 red china plate
1 glass bookend (girl's head)
1 toy automobile, 1 toy stagecoach, 1 image of Buddha (incense burner)

1 small china plate, 1 small china bowl, 1 glass rolling pin,
1 package rayon chemicals
1 piece sheet music, 1 sample of mahogany treated with bakelite
varnish orange reamer and bowl, 1 glass water bottle for refrigerator,
1 package paper drinking cups
1 coffee set (drip coffee maker, cream and sugar), 1 cream and sugar
set, 1 flower holder, 2 Pyrex dishes, 1 covered china bowl, 5 drinking
glasses, 1 wine glass
1 whiskey glass jigger, 1 liquor measure (jigger and cup), 1 vase, 1
set measuring cups, 4 red glass goblets, 1 Willow ware cup and saucer,
1 pottery bowl, 1 kitchen brush, 1 toilet brush
1 candlestand (candle and globe), 1 package soap and miscellaneous
items (sealed)
1 sales ticket register, 1 Detrola radio
1 fishing rod, 1 badminton set and net
1 package fly swatter, coat hanger, etc.
1 assortment of cuff links, buttons, etc. (sealed), 8 packages assorted buttons
5 handkerchiefs, and silk scarves
1 Yankee screwdriver, 1 screwdriver and special screws
12 packages Rayon-Component parts and displays, 1 watt-hour meter, 1
tube rayon thread, 1 set of 6 radio tubes
1 toy pistol, 1 pinball game, 1 toy airplane
1 Negro doll, 1 toy flying gyro, 1 wrecker
1 toy greyhound bus, 1 tractor, 2 dolls (white), 1 1-one Ranger, 1 ambulance
1 Donald Duck, 1 set toy tools, 1 toy tank, 1 pacifier, 1 bubble pipe, 1 rattle
1 toy equestrian, 18 toy soldiers, 12 toy civilians, 1 toy cannon, 2
muses, 1 anti-aircraft gun, 1 set samples of better ware
1 blotter, 1 inkwell (sealed)
1 DuPrene sample (artificial rubber)
1 sample ILICite (plastic) 1 sample textile (cotton), 1 sample of rayon cloth
1 auto-point pencil, 8 Voca-films
1 transcription (Roosevelt, 11 parts)
1 transcription (King Edward VIII)
1 package Masonite (sealed)
1 denture (Lipper), 1 box samples of Micarta (sealed), 1 box samples
of carpets, 1 crystalite, 10 rings
5 Iconoscape television tubes
Spectacle frames, buckles, 8 auto handles, bottle caps, beads, 22
miscellaneous plastic samples, 9 color samples tennite, 1 sample
insulation, 1 distributor head cover, 1 thermometer case
1 instrument panel, 7 samples Formica
14 samples Formica (set)
1 set A-C spark plugs (sealed)
1 plastic flute