



INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF

MODERN LETTERS

Te Pūtahi Tuhi Auaha o te Ao

Newsletter – 13 October 2006

This is the 96th 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. Mansfield Congratulations (1)

Two newsletters in quick succession – because we can't resist the chance to congratulate Emma Gallagher, a member of this year's MA (Page) workshop at the Institute of Modern Letters, who won the \$1,500 BNZ Katherine Mansfield Novice Award for unpublished writers last night with her short story 'The Little Grandfather Clock', which began life as a workshop exercise. Judge Linda Burgess described the story as 'pacy, dense yet accessible with a wonderful insight into the human condition and into family relationships.' The entries (nearly 400 of them) were judged anonymously but entered under pseudonyms. Emma boldly entered with her 'porn star name' (name of first pet plus name of first street lived in): 'Spooky Hinds'. She is currently working on a novel.

2. Mansfield Congratulations (2)

We are delighted that another of last night's winners is also known to us: Kirsti Whalen, who won last year's Bell Gully National Schools Poetry Award, made it a double last night by taking the Young Writer category of the Mansfield Awards with her story 'Postcards'. She too wins \$1,500 and her school (Epsom Girls Grammar) also wins NZ\$1,500 plus a creative writing workshop hosted by a New Zealand writer. 'Postcards' is 'an incredibly sparse yet sophisticated story', said judge Tania Roxborough. Kirsti is on a roll, having also taken second place in the junior section of the recent New Zealand Poetry Society competition. She aims to write a novel one

day, but is planning a trip to France followed by an arts degree at university in the meantime.

3. And the Premier Award?

This went to Charlotte Grimshaw for her story 'Plane Sailing', which will no doubt appear in her forthcoming collection, *Opportunity*. Grimshaw's father, C. K. Stead, won the award 45 years ago; her competition pseudonym was the rather more neutral-toned 'J Balmoral'. 'It's clever, serious, amusing, superbly crafted and wonderfully sly', said judge Kevin Ireland, and it includes 'a subtly handled and diverting interlude with a television celebrity.' Closer inspection of the story reveals that this character is given to saying 'maaarvellous'... The three winning stories can be read online at: https://www.bnz.co.nz/About_Us/1,1184,3-34-482,00.html

4. From the whiteboard

'I believe the greatest failing of all is to be frightened.' (Katherine Mansfield)

5. The expanding bookshelf

The season of the book launch is upon us in Wellington. On Tuesday Stephanie de Montalk launched *The Fountain of Tears*, the novel about Pushkin and her own Potocki ancestors that she worked on during her stint as Writer in Residence at Victoria University last year. Tomorrow afternoon it's the turn of three new writers: poets Michele Amas and Airini Beautrais and essayist Anna Sanderson will be launching their first books at Unity. The trio were all members of the 2005 MA (Page) stream at the IIML, and their books are titled *After the Dance* (Amas), *Secret Heart* (Beautrais) and *Brainpark* (Sanderson). All four books are published by Victoria University Press (<http://www.vuw.ac.nz/vup>).

6. MA deadline

People considering applying for the 2007 MA in Creative Writing are reminded that the deadline for applications is approaching faster than our previous newsletter suggested: it is in fact 1 November, *not* 1 December. Full and correct information can be found here:

<http://www.vuw.ac.nz/modernletters/creative-writing/postgraduate.aspx>

7. Great lists of our time

Some fruitfly genes, courtesy of Flynome, 'a database of drosophila nomenclature'. (Thanks again to the Listlady.)

always early

archipelago
asteroid
baboon
bag of marbles
bifocal
blister
breathless
buttonhead
canoe
capulet
curly
domeless
droopy
egalitarian
fear of intimacy
freckled
fringe connection
gawky
giant
glass bottom boat
hedgehog
jaunty
jelly belly
ken and barbie
moleskin
out of sync
parched
peanut
prickly
roundabout
scarlet
seven up
sevenless
short egg
spaghetti squash
stubble
taxi
tinman
Van Gogh
wishful thinking