



**INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF
MODERN LETTERS**

Te Pūtahi Tuhi Auaha o te Ao

Newsletter – 5 October 2007

This is the 115th 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. Major international prize for literature won by New Zealander

All eyes may be on Lloyd Jones and the Man Booker Prize at present, but another New Zealand writer has just quietly picked up a major international award that is equally significant, if not quite as energetically promoted. Novelist Patricia Grace was selected as the 2008 laureate of the Neustadt International Prize for Literature, announced at a ceremony at the University of Oklahoma in the United States late last week. The Neustadt Prize is awarded every two years and is regarded as one of the most prestigious international prizes after the Nobel Prize in Literature. The only other New Zealander ever to be nominated is Janet Frame, and Patricia Grace is only the fourth woman to win. An international jury representing ten countries selected Grace as the winner of the US\$50,000 prize, which is administered by the University of Oklahoma and its international magazine, *World Literature Today*. She was nominated by the US poet and musician Joy Harjo.

2. Craig Cliff wins with Another Language

Our congratulations to 2006 MA (Page) graduate Craig Cliff, who is winner of the novice (previously unpublished) writer category in the 2007 BNZ Katherine

Mansfield Short Story Awards announced in Wellington last night. We hope this may represent the beginning of a tradition, as Craig's fellow workshop member Emma Gallagher took the award in 2006. Craig Cliff is currently travelling in Europe: his winning story is aptly titled 'Another Language'.

3. MA applications due

Which reminds us that writers who are considering committing themselves to producing a book or script next year should note that applications for the 2008 MA in Creative Writing at Victoria University close on 1 November. There are 20 places in the MA (Page) workshops convened by Damien Wilkins and Bill Manhire, and 10 places in the MA (Script) stream convened by Ken Duncum. For full details, see <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/modernletters/creative-writing/postgraduate.aspx>

4. Keep those Turbine submissions coming

We're still reading poetry, fiction and creative non-fiction for this year's edition of online journal *Turbine*, but the deadline for submissions is fast approaching – so get your exciting new work to us by 23 October. Submission guidelines are at www.vuw.ac.nz/turbine.

5. A few more Writers on Mondays

The last three events in Writers on Mondays offer a strong and varied end to our popular literary series at City Gallery. If Dave Armstrong's blog for New Zealand Book Month is anything to go by, this Monday's session with the 2007 Victoria University/Creative New Zealand Writer in Residence is certain to entertain, with actors presenting extracts from his plays, a lively conversation with Ken Duncum, and a reading from Armstrong's *Six Pack* competition winner 'Foodbanquet'. On the following Monday (15 October), the award-winning Australian biographer and critic Brenda Niall reflects on the pleasures and pitfalls of biographical discovery with Harry Ricketts. Her subjects include Australian artists and writers including the Boyd family and painter Judy Cassab, and she has recently published a biographical memoir, *Life Class*. We take the week off for Labour Weekend, and then the series wraps up on 29 October with visiting US poet, novelist and non-fiction writer James Galvin, who appears in conversation with Lynn Freeman. All events take place from 1-2 pm at City Gallery Wellington; admission is free.

<http://www.austlit.edu.au/run?ex=ShowAgent&agentId=ASOy>
<http://www.poets.org/poet.php/prmPID/244>

6. Prize in Modern Letters winner reads for Poetry Society

The guest at the NZ Poetry Society's October reading is the popular poet and 2004 Prize in Modern Letters winner Glenn Colquhoun. The meeting will start with an

open mic, and takes place at 7.30 pm this Thursday 18 October at Turnbull House, Bowen St, Wellington.

7. New play award

Playmarket has announced a new award for unproduced plays written by New Zealanders. The award, which will be offered annually, currently offers a paid workshop/reading for the winner, 'and maybe more, depending on the results of some frenzied attempts at sponsorship and some quick brain-wracking', according to their release on the subject. Playmarket Script Development staff will be the judges and the winner(s) will be announced by the end of March. The deadline for (email) submissions is Friday 7 December, and entrants should also include a brief synopsis and a list of characters. Submissions and enquiries to scripts@playmarket.org.nz

8. Opportunity for teenage writers

Re-Draft is a competition for teenage writers. Organisers say, 'This is for teenagers to write what they like, how they like, and the sole criterion for success is the quality of the writing.' Writers may submit up to three entries in any genre and there are no restrictions on length, subject matter or style. The deadline for entries in the Re-Draft competition is 20 October, and the judges are novelist Tessa Duder and poet/novelist James Norcliffe. Entry is free and publication in the 2007 Re-Draft collection is the prize. Entry forms can be photocopied from the back of last year's book, *Tennis With Raw Eggs*, which is widely available in libraries, or for more information, contact the School for Young Writers (young.writers@xtra.co.nz).

9. Recent web reading

Dave Armstrong blogs for Book Month

http://nzbookmonth.co.nz/blogs/dave_armstrong/default.aspx

Martin Amis on clichés

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Abc819rT6wI>

Joseph Epstein's literary life

<http://newcriterion.com:81/archives/26/09/the-literary-life-at-25/>

The afterlife of Robert Ludlum

<http://www.theage.com.au/news/film/the-ludlum-conspiracy/2007/09/13/1189276893346.html>

University presses, USA

<http://insidehighered.com/views/2007/09/14/reische>

Muldoon, *New Yorker*

<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/09/20/books/20poet.html>

http://blogs.guardian.co.uk/books/2007/09/a_new_direction_for_the_new_yo.html

Paris Hilton poetry

<http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/la-oe-stein28sep28.0,1908628.column?coll=la-tot-opinion=ntottext>

Stephen King hunts short fiction

<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/09/30/books/review/King2-t.html?em&ex=1191297600&en=31912528dacbd8bc&ei=5087%0A>

A graphic poetry review

<http://www.culturewars.org.uk/2007-09/burnsidegs.htm>

Phone fiction

http://blogs.guardian.co.uk/books/2007/09/the_next_chapter_in_reading.html

10. Great lists of our time

Leaf shapes:

Acicular (acicularis): Slender and pointed, needle-like

Acuminate (acuminata): Tapering to a long point

Aristate (aristata): Ending in a stiff, bristle-like point

Bipinnate (bipinnata): Each leaflet also pinnate

Cordate (cordata): Heart-shaped, stem attaches to cleft

Cuneate (cuneata): Triangular, stem attaches to point

Deltoid (deltoidea): Triangular, stem attaches to side

Digitate (digitata): Divided into finger-like lobes

Elliptic (elliptica): Oval, with a short or no point

Falcate (falcata): sickle-shaped

Flabellate (flabellata): Semi-circular, or fan-like

Hastate (hastata): shaped like a spear point, with flaring pointed lobes at the base

Lance-shaped, lanceolate (lanceolata): Long, wider in the middle

Linear (linearis): Long and very narrow

Lobed (lobata): With several points

Obcordate (obcordata): Heart-shaped, stem attaches to tapering point

Oblanceolate (oblanceolata): Top wider than bottom

Oblong (oblongus): Having an elongated form with slightly parallel sides

Obovate (obovata): Teardrop-shaped, stem attaches to tapering point

Obtuse (obtusus): With a blunt tip

Orbicular (orbicularis): Circular

Ovate (ovata): Oval, egg-shaped, with a tapering point

Palmate (palmata): Divided into many lobes

Pedate (pedata): Palmate, with cleft lobes

Peltate (peltata): Rounded, stem underneath

Perfoliate (perfoliata): Stem through the leaves

Pinnate (pinnata): Two rows of leaflets

odd-pinnate : pinnate with a terminal leaflet
paripinnate, even-pinnate : pinnate lacking a terminal leaflet
Pinnatisect (pinnatifida): Cut, but not to the midrib (it would be pinnate then)
Reniform (reniformis): Kidney-shaped
Rhomboid (rhomboidalis): Diamond-shaped
Round (rotundifolia): Circular
Sagittate (sagittata): Arrowhead-shaped
Spatulate, spathulate (spathulata): Spoon-shaped
Spear-shaped (hastata): Pointed, with barbs
Subulate (subulata): Awl-shaped with a tapering point
Sword-shaped (ensiformis): Long, thin, pointed
Trifoliate, ternate (trifoliata): Divided into three leaflets
Tripinnate (tripinnata): Pinnately compound in which each leaflet is itself bipinnate
Truncate (truncata): With a squared off end
Unifoliate (unifoliata): with a single leaf

This list from the Wikipedia article here
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leaf_shape
<http://thelistserver.blogspot.com>