



INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MODERN LETTERS

Te Pūtahi Tuhi Auaha o te Ao

Newsletter – 14 August 2008

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This is the 128th 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. Victoria University offers PhD in Creative Writing

We're pleased to announce that the International Institute of Modern Letters now offers a PhD. Institute director Bill Manhire says the Victoria PhD involves critical as well as creative elements. 'It's going to be most valuable for people who want to write creatively, but at the same time think in focussed and original ways about the contexts of their writing.

'The main reason we've decided to offer a PhD programme is that we've had so many enquiries over the last few years, from outside New Zealand as well as from our own Masters graduates. This has also been a real growth area overseas—especially in Australia and the United Kingdom.'

It will be possible to offer scriptwriting proposals for the PhD, as well as fiction and poetry, and a range of creative non-fiction proposals such as biography or memoir. The PhD is a three-year full-time programme. The deadline for applications for the 2009 academic year is 1 November 2008. More information [here](#).

2. So what else is new?

Thanks for asking. We've added some new features to our website, including a Showcase page that profiles some recent graduates and their achievements, a Scriptwriting page designed for potential applicants to this stream of the MA, and a Gallery with photos of events such as our 2007 reading with US novelist Richard Ford, the New Zealand Post National Poetry Awards, and the 2008 Prize in Modern Letters. And we've just produced a gorgeous (even if we do say so ourselves) new brochure outlining all the writing programmes on offer at Victoria. To receive a copy, send your name and postal address to modernletters@vuw.ac.nz, and put the word 'brochure' in the subject line – or telephone (04) 463 6854. And check out the new web pages [here](#).

3. Summer writing workshops

Each summer top MFA graduates from the famed Iowa Writers' Workshop (alumni include Richard Ford, Raymond Carver, Rita Dove and Mark Strand) lead workshops in aspects of fiction and poetry writing at the IIML. The 2009 workshops will run from 6 January- 20 February, and will meet for three hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The application deadline is 10 November. Items 4. and 5. (below) describe the workshops on offer this summer. Full details [here](#).

4. Iowa fiction

Too much exposition! It's boring! How often do we hear this common complaint in workshop? Here's another: *I don't know where we are in time. I'm lost!* This course will make a study of narrative time in fiction: how writers can move seamlessly between layers of time without losing the reader, integrate back story without boring the audience to distraction, and evoke multiple dimensions of time, bringing past into play with the present in a way that feels vital, vivid, and immediate. Workshop convenor **Diana Wilson** is a Canadian who has an MFA in fiction from Iowa and was awarded a Teaching Writing Fellowship and a Glenn Schaeffer Fellowship. She has been published in Canadian magazines such as *Ascent* and *Maisonneuve*, was a finalist in the *Malahat Review's* short fiction contest, and won the W. P. Kinsella Award for Short Fiction.

5. Iowa poetry

'Poetry is not a turning loose of emotion, but an escape from emotion; it is not the expression of personality, but an escape from personality. But, of course, only those who have personality and emotions know what it means to want to escape from these things.' T.S. Eliot.

This workshop will look at the ways different traditions, movements, and writers explore or eclipse personal materials in their poems. While examining how others have treated both the person inside and the person behind the poem, we will consider how we ourselves might proceed as writers. Discussions will also take into account place, metaphor, line, etc. Workshop convenor **Lucas Bernhardt** worked for a variety of mental health and social service organizations before earning MAs in English and in Writing from Portland State University, as well as an MFA in Poetry from the Iowa Writers' Workshop. His poetry and criticism have appeared in journals such as *Verso*, *The Oregon English Journal*, *Aught*, *Vol. No.*, and *elima*.

6. The Expanding Bookshelf (1)

Sue Orr has just become the first prose writer from the 2006 MA workshop to publish a book, and we're sure she won't be the last. A former journalist, editor and speechwriter to Governor-General Dame Silvia Cartwright, Sue is now based in Auckland – but last week she returned to Wellington to launch her short-story collection *Etiquette for A Dinner Party* (Vintage). Launching the book at Unity, Bill Manhire remarked that 'If you want to know what a place called New Zealand looks like – where it is; also where it shouldn't be and where perhaps it ought to be – then *Etiquette for a Dinner Party* will help you find out.' More [here](#).

7. From the whiteboard

'A good poem is a contribution to reality. The world is never the same once a good poem has been added to it. A good poem helps to change the shape of the universe, helps to extend everyone's knowledge of himself and the world around him.'

Dylan Thomas

8. Victoria Writer in Residence 2009

Applications are currently being invited for the position of Creative New Zealand / Victoria University Writer in Residence 2009. Writers in all areas of literary activity, including drama, fiction and poetry, New Zealand art, biography, history, music, society and culture, are eligible to apply. Applicants should be writers of proven merit normally resident in New Zealand or New Zealanders currently resident overseas. The appointment will be for twelve months from 1 February 2009 to 31 January 2010, with a salary of NZ\$50,000. Applications close 30 September 2008. Writers may apply [online](#).

9. The Expanding Bookshelf (2)

The launch of *AUP New Poets 3*, by Janis Freegard, Katherine Liddy and Reihana Robinson was celebrated last night with cheese straws and accordion music by Sans Souci at the Mighty Mighty Bar in Cuba Mall, Wellington. One of the three new poets, Janis Freegard, was a member of Greg O'Brien's poetry workshop in here at Victoria.

10. The other great Welsh poet called Thomas

'They do not entertain, nobody comes to visit ("That would create a major upset in our lives"). He takes no newspapers, there is no television. In the morning he reads: philosophy, and poets like Wallace Stevens (he once claimed to have read a poem by Wallace Stevens on every day of his adult life) and Yeats ("You have to make this admission, you couldn't write poetry without reading other poets"). In the afternoons he walks along the cliffs, birdwatching, the one great hobby of his life.'

from *The Man Who Went Into the West: The Life of R.S. Thomas*, by Byron Rogers

11. Four literary events in Wellington

Sydney-based writer of 'creative non-fictions' Martin Edmond will read and discuss his work at Massey University's Buckle St Campus at 6 pm on Thursday 21 August (go to the Wallace Street entrance A, follow the signs through the pyramid to Block 5, Level D, Room 16). RSVP to Jo Fink (j.w.fink@massey.ac.nz or 04 801 5799 ext 6696) by Wednesday 20 August. Edmond also appears at the Palmerston North Library at 7 pm on 22 August.

Poet Kate Camp, last seen doing a fine job of chairing the laureate reading 'Hand to Hand' at the National Library, will give a reading of her own work at Lembas Café, Raumati South, 4-6pm on Sunday 24 August. The reading is preceded by an open mic section, and has a \$5 cover charge.

Celebrated writer Joy Cowley will present a seminar on 'Getting Started as a Children's Author' at Toi Poneke: Wellington Arts Centre (61-69 Abel Smith Street) from 7.30pm on Monday 25 August. Entry \$5 (\$3 for NZSA members).

Veteran film and television producer and director Larry Parr will present a seminar titled 'Māori Television: The Changing Broadcast Landscape' on Monday 8 September at Te Herenga Waka Marae, 46 Kelburn Parade, from 3-4.30 p.m. Larry Parr (Ngāti Raukawa, Muaūpoko) joined Māori Television as Commissioner in 2005 before later moving into the role of General Manager - Programming. For more information contact Dr Joost de Bruin, Media Studies Programme (joost.debruin@vuw.ac.nz) or telephone (04) 463 6846.

12. Go Palmy

Massey University is calling for applications to join its School of English & Media Studies as Visiting Writer from 27 April to 17 July 2009. Writers of poetry, fiction or creative non-fiction (travel/life writing) are eligible to apply. The recipient will receive a salary of NZ\$10,000 and rent-free use of a downtown flat, and will have the opportunity to set aside much of this time to develop his or her own work. The successful candidate will give one public reading, contribute to Massey's creative writing courses, and potentially run a community workshop. For an application pack, contact Carol Seelye, School of English & Media Studies, Massey University, Palmerston North, email C.A.Seelye@massey.ac.nz, or tel (06) 356 9099 Ext 2730. Applications close 1 November 2008.

13. Pohutukawa progress

Back in May we ran an item on American writer Doug Wilkins' efforts to found a writers' colony in Wellington. The Pohutukawa Garrett would aim to provide cheap office space for writers. Doug is inviting interested parties to join him for lunch/coffee/dessert and a progress update at Simply Paris (181 Cuba Street) on Wednesday 20 August at 1 pm. For further information contact Doug Wilkins at dbwilkins@gmail.com or at 021-138-5050.

14. Sonnets for Wellington

People who enter the Wellington Sonnet Competition 2008, sponsored by New Zealand Post, will be in to win \$1000 for a fourteen-line poem about Wellington. There will be second and third prizes of \$500 and \$250, and \$50 for each of ten runners up. Entries close on 22 September 2008.

The competition is organised and administered by the small group of volunteers that oversees the ongoing development of the Wellington Writers Walk along Wellington's waterfront, and entry fees will help support the ongoing development of the Writers' Walk. Entry forms and conditions of entry can be downloaded from the [New Zealand Society of Authors website](#) or the [New Zealand Post website](#).

15. Recent web reading

[333 sonnets](#)

[Literary publishing – not for profit](#)

[Aphorisms](#)

[Pigeon poetry cup](#)

Poets laureate: [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#)

[The monster loves his labyrinth](#)

[Slow poetry](#)

[Metaphors](#)

[John Ashbery's house](#)

[Weddings](#)

[London Banana Project](#)

[Toaster museum](#)

[Death of a poet: Mahmoud Darwish](#)

16. Great lists of our time

A sparkling list from the catalogue of [Stumps Prom and Party](#):

Gold Attendant Tiara

Serendipity Tiara

Jeweled Rita Tiaras

Enchanted Wishes Tiara

Stardust Tiara

Rose Elegance Tiara

Princess Amor Tiara

Diamond Drop Tiara

Trio De Fluer Tiara

Christina Tiara

Gisele Tiara

Duchess Tiara

Lasting Grace Tiara

Treasured Dreams Tiara

Imperial Garden Tiara
Glorious Beauty Tiara
Dream Catcher Tiara
Infatuation Tiara
Eternal Beauty Tiara
Grand Coronation Tiara
Judith Tiara
Glorious Garden Tiara
Circle Of Romance Tiara
Silver Simplicity Tiara
Madrid Comb Tiara
Silver Cascading Hearts Tiara
Julianna Tiara
Customized Delicate Brilliance Tiara
Customized Cascading Hearts Tiara
Customized Attendant Tiara
This Moment Tiara
Radiant Heart Tiara
Silver Heart Tiara
Her Highness Tiara
Capri Tiara
Olivia Tiara
Eternal Romance Tiara
Heart's Desire Tiara
Splendid Night Tiara

Crowning Moment Tiara
Ruth Tiara
Customized Tiara Keepsake Box
Divinity Tiara
Temptation Tiara
Rebecca Tiara
Serenade Tiara
Floral Fantasy Tiara
Resplendent Tiara
Luminous Tiara
Michelle Tiara
Bliss Tiara
Royal Brilliance Tiara
Reminisce Tiara
Elizabethan Tiara
Sovereign Tiara
Classical Grace Tiara
Delicate Brilliance Tiara
Sweet Splendor Tiara
Primrose Tiara
Heart-To-Heart Tiara
Princess Gwyneth Tiara
Tempest Tiara
Sweet Honesty Tiara
Shimmering Magic Tiara

Mon Amour Tiara
Garden Serenade Tiara
Crystal Elegance Tiara
Now And Forever Tiara
Silver Attendant's Tiara
Brilliance Tiara
Delicate Heart Tiara
Mia Tiara
Clarisse Tiara
Britney Tiara
Jessica Tiara
Julia Tiara
Delicate Princess Tiara
Enchanted Heart Tiara
Majestic Tiara
Classic Charm Tiara
Venice Comb Tiara
Bali Comb Tiara
Riviera Comb Tiara
Rome Comb Tiara
Sparkling Heart Tiara
Diamond Romance Tiara
Maureen Tiara
Mandy Tiara
Gold Cascading Heart Tiara

White Satin Bag
Rhapsody Crown
Gardenia Crown
Katrina Crown
Vivien Crown
Dazzling Tiara
Beloved Tiara
Splendid Grace Tiara
Glimmer Tiara
Iyvonne Tiara
Cherished Night Tiara
Illustrious Tiara
Intrigue Tiara
Beauteous Tiara
Tender Heart Tiara
Lucia Tiara
Bellissimo Tiara
Inamorata Tiara
Jeweled Perfection Tiara
Enchanting Tiara
Portofino Tiara
Stella Tiara
Enchantment Tiara
Opulent Procession Tiara
Annamarie Tiara

Charming Heart Comb Tiara

Luminescent Comb Tiara

Blossoming Comb Tiara

Prestigious Comb Tiara

Her Grace Tiara

Les Etoiles Tiara

White Satin Pillow

Jeweled Delicate Heart Tiara

Alluring Rose Tiara

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Supporting the IIML

The International Institute of Modern Letters was established at Victoria University in 2001 to promote and foster contemporary imaginative writing.

Our founder, philanthropist Glenn Schaeffer, continues to contribute to IIML activities, including his assistance for an annual fellowship exchange programme with the Iowa Writers' Workshop.

While not everyone is able to match Glenn's level of support, we value all those who have helped us to foster the development of emerging writers. We would welcome the opportunity to talk with you about continuing your support for the IIML, for example through a gift in your will.

All gifts are managed by the Victoria University Foundation, a registered charitable trust established to raise funds in areas of strategic importance to the University, such as the IIML.

For further information on how you can provide philanthropic support to the IIML, please contact our Director, Bill Manhire, Ph: 04 463 6808, Email: bill.manhire@vuw.ac.nz, or Diana Meads, Fundraising Manager, Victoria University of Wellington Foundation Ph: 0800 VIC LEGACY (0800 842 534), Email: diana.meads@vuw.ac.nz