



INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF  
MODERN LETTERS

Te Pūtahi Tuhi Auaha o te Ao

Newsletter – 3 March 2008

This is the 120<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:modernletters@vuw.ac.nz)

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**1. Translating the world**

New Zealand is about to get a centre for literary translation. Based at Victoria University and led by Jean Anderson, the New Zealand Centre for Literary Translation hopes to offer a translator residency in the near future. Says Dr Anderson, the centre aims to increase awareness of literary translation, to increase the amount of translation from other literatures into New Zealand English, and to assist with the translation of New Zealand writers into other languages. Prime Minister Helen Clark, along with many Embassy representatives, will attend the launch at 6pm this evening, Monday March 3, in the Rutherford House foyer, Lambton Quay, Wellington. More information from Jean Anderson: [jean.anderson@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:jean.anderson@vuw.ac.nz).

Tonight’s event will also see the launch by Helen Clark of the NZCLT’s first publication, the international fiction anthology, *Been There, Read That: Stories for the Armchair Traveller*, edited by Jean Anderson with a foreword by IIML director Bill Manhire. More details [here](#).

## **2. New Schaeffer Fellow**

Congratulations to Ellie Catton, last year's Adam Prize winner, who has now been awarded the 2008 Schaeffer Fellowship to Iowa. She will take up a place at the Iowa Writers' Workshop in August. Previous Schaeffer Fellows are Paula Morris, Anna Livesey, Tracey Hill, Alice Miller, and Therese Lloyd.

## **3. "Better than a sausage sizzle in front of the Warehouse."**

Meantime, we hear of a bit of fundraising to help current Schaeffer Fellow Therese Lloyd make it through the tail-end of an Iowa winter. Pania Press is about to publish *Orange Roughy: Poems and Stories for Tazey*, a book containing unpublished or uncollected work by 15 writers. More [here](#) or [here](#).

## **4. Rachael goes to Canterbury**

Congratulations to Rachael King, who starts this week as the 2008 Writer in Residence at Canterbury University. We also note that a story by her first printed in the IIML's *Turbine*, "Magpie Country", has just appeared in the web magazine *Buràn*. *Buràn* which collects short stories from the world wide web and translates them into Italian. For Rachael King in Italian, go [here](#).

For the original Turbine story, go [here](#).

## **5. Independence Day**

One of the more interesting recent poetry blog ideas comes from Georgetown domiciled Australian poet, Kate Middleton. She has been posting poems according to the world's national days for several weeks now. "The Independence Day Project is about literature, history and national identity. On each country's day of celebration of nationhood I'll post a little history and - provided I can find one - a poem written by a poet of that nation." The most recent entries are for the Dominican Republic, Kuwait, and Estonia. You can check out their poems [here](#).

## **6. From the whiteboard**

"I always feel they are better when you're not listening to them than when you are."

A comment from Billy Mills, one of the Guardian Books blog's regulars, on the Beachboys.

## **7. Polar Adventurers (i)**

The New Zealand Symphony Orchestra's forthcoming Antarctic Festival has grown and grown. For music-lovers, the centrepiece will be a concert featuring Vaughan Williams, Peter Maxwell Davies, and a new work by Garth Farr, *Terra Incognita* – performed on Friday 18 April. But around Wellington there will also be talks and exhibitions by ten participants in the "Artists in Antarctica" scheme, and The New

Dowse gallery in Lower Hutt will exhibit Antarctic works from the week before the concert. The Embassy theatre is joining the celebrations with a screening of the original *Scott of the Antarctic* film. Even Scott Base will take part, via a live satellite link during the NZSO's performance. Poet Bill Manhire, writer Margaret Mahy, photographer Andris Apse, painter/photographer Grahame Sydney, painter Dick Frizzell and composer Chris Cree Brown are just some of the huge range of artists in many media taking part. [More information](#).

### **8. Polar Adventurers (ii)**

In September 2008 Christchurch will host a conference examining Antarctica from a cultural perspective. Drawing on the arts, social sciences and humanities, the conference will focus attention on the ways we perceive and represent the southernmost continent. This will be the first Humanities-based Antarctic studies conference and will be followed in 2010 by another at the University of Tasmania in Hobart. Keynote speakers will include: Elena Glasberg, Christy Collis, Ann Noble, Francis Spufford, Klaus Dodds, Jonathan Lamb and Margaret Mahy. More [here](#).

### **9. Polar Adventurers (iii)**

[Slice-of-ice blogspot](#)

### **10. Haiku in Christchurch**

A conference for writers of haiku and related forms – Haiku Aotearoa 2008 – will take place at Bishop Julius Hostel, 90 Waimairi Road, Christchurch, 18-20th April, 2008. The Small White Teapot Group have arranged a programme to appeal to beginners and experts. Highlights include Richard von Sturmer's Tanka Film presentation and the launch of the third New Zealand haiku anthology. Price for the conference is \$90, or \$22 for a half day session, and full board at Bishop Julius is cost \$201. Full details and enrolment form on the [website](#). Enrolment closing date: 15th March.

### **11. Trans-Tasman travels**

IIML short fiction graduate Tracy Farr is about to take up a term as Emerging Writer-in-Residence at the [Katharine Susannah Prichard Writers' Centre](#) in the Perth hills, Western Australia. Tracy will run a writing workshop, but for most of her time she will be free to work on a novel.

And congratulations to Sara Knox, Victoria graduate and the only New Zealand writer to make it on to the Commonwealth Writers' Prize shortlist for her first novel *The Orphan Gunner*. Well, we claim her, but as with Phar Lap, the Australian book world would probably contest this. Her novel is published by Australian publishing house Giramondo, and she teaches at the University of Western Sydney.

## **12. Exporting our books and writers**

New Zealand publishers and writers might be interested in two workshops with Gary McKeone, ex literature director at the Arts Council of England. Creative New Zealand is bringing him McKeone New Zealand to coincide with New Zealand Post Writers and Readers Week. More info [here](#).

## **13. Bookhabit**

There's a new online publisher on the block. Bookhabit.com, which went live on 29 February, invites New Zealand authors to 'self-publish works online for free, contributing to an online library of ebooks accessible by readers all over the world.' Readers can sample a free chapter before deciding to buy. The website is celebrating its launch with a US \$5000 competition for unpublished manuscripts. More details [here](#).

## **14. Recent web reading**

[Poems about cows](#)

[James K Baxter blog-plug](#)

[But does Margaret Drabble know about this?](#)

[Fiona Kidman interview](#)

[Five minutes with Liz Calder](#)

[Elephants in the room](#)

[Bizarre books](#)

[The Eater of Meaning](#)

[New Alice Munro short story](#)

[An early Howl](#)

[Borges interview](#)

[A future for universities](#)

[Five library must-haves](#)

["Poetry and the Trace" conference](#)

[Art of the blurb](#)

[Poetry medals](#)

## 16. Great lists of our time

Just 35 titles from the list of over 300 research reports listed on the website of [Land Transport New Zealand](#). These reports are from the key topic area “Asset Management” (research to improve the performance of the land transport asset).

“Total voids in unbound granular pavements”

“Evaluation of Liquefaction Assessment Methods”

“Some Operational Limitations of the NAASRA Roughness Meter”

“Epoxy modified open-graded porous asphalt”

“Fatigue design criteria for low noise surfacings”

“Effect of binder hardness on texture change in chip seals”

“Riprap Protection of Bridge Abutments”

“Foamed Bitumen Stabilisation”

“The Effects of Trench Patches and Service Covers on Predictive Modelling”

“Reference Road Profiles for Profiler Validation”

“Harmonising Automated Rut Depth Measurements”

“Comparison of Gyrotory & Marshall Asphalt Design Methods for New Zealand Pavement Mixes”

“Assessing Road-Friendly Suspensions: Implementation Feasibility Study”

“Weathering Characteristics of Modified Marginal Aggregates”

“Determination of the Structural Number of Pavements on Volcanic Subgrades”

“Evaluating Sensitivity of Parameters in Predictive Pavement Deterioration Modelling”

“Assessing Road-Friendly Suspensions”

“Probabilistic Techniques for Optimising cut Slope Earthworks”

“Characterisation of Some New Zealand Subgrades”

“Effects of Multiple Presence & Monitoring Period on Bridge Health Monitoring”

“Health Monitoring of Superstructures of New Zealand Road Bridges: Waitangi Washout Bridge, Hawkes Bay”

“Wavelength Analysis of State Highway Longitudinal Profiles”

“Dynamic Load Properties of New Zealand Basecourse”

“Loadman Portable Falling Weight Deflectometer: Determination of Elastic Moduli of Pavement Materials”

“Pavement Deflection Measurement & Interpretation for the Design of Rehabilitation Treatments”

“Use of Melter Slag as Aggregate in Open-Graded Emulsion Mixes”

“An Alternative to the Sand Circle Test for Measuring Texture Depth”

“Recycling of Waste Oil Distillation Bottoms in Asphalt”

“Protection from Scour of Bridge Piers Using Riprap”

“Non-Traditional Materials for Trench & Bridge Abutment Backfill”

“Assessing Road Surface Friction with the British Pendulum Tester in NZ”

“Non-Volatile Flux for Chipsealing: Laboratory Study Interim Report”

“Sealed Unbound Granular Pavements”

“Fatigue Resistance of Thin Modified Bituminous Layers: A Literature Review”

“Ground Penetrating Radar for Pavement Investigation”

(List courtesy of Fiona Wright)