



INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MODERN LETTERS

Te Pūtahi Tuhi Auaha o te Ao

Newsletter – 6 July 2010

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This is the 158th 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.

1. World War II to Wellywood with Writers on Mondays.....	2
2. <i>Turbine</i> powers up for 2010	2
3. NZSA First Book Award winners	2
4. The return of Mark Twain	3
5. Back at BATS.....	3
6. Write out loud	3
7. The expanding bookshelf (1).....	4
8. The expanding bookshelf (2).....	4
9. Short stories – big prizes	4
10. All in the mind	5
11. Writing science.....	5
12. From the whiteboard.....	5
13. Final results	5
14. The expanding bookshelf (3).....	6
15. The expanding bookshelf (4).....	6
16. Best New Zealand Poems to Beowulf.....	6
17. Poetry Day competitions	7
18. Write on Kapiti	7
19. Great lists of our time.....	7
20. Recent web reading	8

1. World War II to Wellywood with Writers on Mondays

John Mulgan's uncensored report on his experiences in World War II and a report on New Zealand women's difficulties in the film industry make for a thought-provoking start to this year's Writers on Mondays series.

On 12 July Victoria University's first Creative Writing PhD Marian Evans will tackle the barriers faced by women who want to make films in this country, and on 19 July Associate Professor of English Peter Whiteford reveals what writer/soldier John Mulgan (*Man Alone*) wasn't allowed to say when his *Report on Experience* was first published in 1947.

Later in the series writer Paul Millar examines the stifling effect of Kiwi conformity on the career of homosexual writer Bill Pearson, and the state of New Zealand sports writing will be debated in a conversation between sports anthologist Harry Ricketts and journalist Paul Thomas. We offer previews of new work from well-loved poet and Victoria University Writer in Residence Jenny Bornholdt, and a host of exciting new literary talent emerging from the IIML. Wellingtonians will also have the chance to hear nine New Zealand's best poets in a reading for National Poetry Day.

In September the annual series breaks into song, with a special Thursday evening concert launching *Buddhist Rain*, an album featuring jazz interpretations of poems by Bill Manhire, composed and performed by Norman Meehan, Hannah Griffin and Colin Hemmingsen.

Writers on Mondays events run from 12.15-1.15 on The Marae, Level 4, Te Papa except for:

- Short Sharp Script 1 & 2: Circa Theatre, Mon 20 & 27 September, 12.15-1.15 pm
- Buddhist Rain: Soundings Theatre, Thurs 23 September, 7pm

The full 2010 Writers on Mondays programme can be viewed and downloaded [here](#). Admission is free, all are welcome. We are very grateful to Te Papa for their continued support of this series.

2. Turbine powers up for 2010

The IIML's annual online journal *Turbine* is now calling for submissions for its 2010 issue, to be published in December. *Turbine's* editors are keen to read new work from both emerging and established writers of fiction, poetry, and creative non-fiction throughout New Zealand, who have until 26 October to send it in. Submission guidelines are available [here](#).

3. NZSA First Book Award winners

We were delighted at the news that Anna Taylor and Pip Desmond, both of whom were members of the 2006 MA (Page) workshop, are the winners of this year's NZSA Best First Book Awards for Fiction and Non-Fiction. Anna's award-winning short-

story collection *Relief* has just been released as VUP's very first e-book, alongside the equally exciting new collection from Pip Adam, *everything we hoped for* - see the [VUP website](#) for more information.

The NZSA Awards are tucked under the wing of the revamped and slimmed-down [New Zealand Post Book Awards](#). *As the earth turns silver*, the first novel by another Victoria University creative writing graduate, Alison Wong, has made the fiction shortlist, alongside books by Fiona Farrell and Owen Marshall. The winners will be announced on 27 August.

4. The return of Mark Twain

Mark Twain is 100 years dead this year. He was born when Halley's comet visited Earth in 1835 and, as he predicted, departed when the 'two great freaks' met up again in 1910. Twain specified that his full autobiography not be published for 100 years after his death. 'When a man is writing a book dealing with the privacies of his life—a book which is to be read while still alive—he shrinks from speaking his whole frank mind', he wrote.

This November the University of California Press will finally publish the first of three volumes of Twain's complete and uncensored autobiography. In the meantime, though, the new play by David Geary, *Mark Twain and Me in Maoriland*, also returns to Wellington in a blinding blur of light with a short season by Taki Rua Theatre at [Downstage](#) from 14-23 July. It's been extensively workshopped since premiering at the Arts Festival and returns in a revamped and revitalised form. Even the credits have changed - with the work now written by David Geary & Company, as a way of acknowledging the collaborative nature of the show's creation. Though Twain is long gone his assessment that 'history may not repeat itself but it sure does rhyme a lot' never rang truer.

5. Back at BATS

After his sell-out season of *The Intricate Art of Actually Caring* in June, Eli Kent's back at BATS this month with a new play that follows six high-school graduates through a life-changing summer of apple-picking. It's part of the Young and Hungry Festival of New Theatre, and it runs from 9-24 July. [Tickets](#) \$16/\$13 concession,

6. Write out loud

The Wellington winners of Playmarket's 2010 [Write Out Loud](#) competition were *The Avon Lady* by Hannah McKie, and *Salaam Pukekohe*, by Sugu Pillay. Write Out Loud presents professional, public rehearsed readings of work by local writers. Plays presented in previous years have then gone on to appear at professional theatres around the country. Sugu Pillay completed her MA (Script) with Ken Duncum at the IIML in 2009, Hannah McKie in 2008.

7. The expanding bookshelf (1)

Amy Brown may be doing a poetry PhD in Melbourne, but she has also been moonlighting in another genre. Her novel *Jade and the Stray*, about a young woman determined to save a pony under a death sentence, is published by HarperCollins, and was launched at the Children's Bookshop in Kilbirnie on Monday night. For those curious to catch up on Amy Brown's poetic output, *Sport 38* carries some intriguing excerpts from the long poem, 'The Odour of Sanctity'. Speaking of *Sport 38*, the widespread and favourable publicity it received has necessitated a reprint – surely a first in New Zealand literary magazine publishing?

8. The expanding bookshelf (2)

A USA-New Zealand publishing partnership sees its first fruits land in Wellington next week. On Monday 12 July at 6 pm Bill Manhire will launch three *Duets* at the Southern Cross (guest room) on the corner of Cuba & Abel Smith Streets. *Duets* is a series of chapbooks pairing poets from New Zealand and the United States, and the first three books feature the following partners:

James Brown, *Against Gravity* & Dora Malech, *Pocket Money*

Sam Sampson, *Broken Architecture* & Andrew Grace, *Salt Away*

Joan Fleming, *Two Dreams in Which Things are Taken* & Emily Toder, *I Hear a Boat*

The first series is edited by Zach Savich, Mark Leidner (US) and Alice Miller (NZ): for more about the poets and the books, go [here](#). The launch will include a reading by James Brown, Joan Fleming, and Sam Sampson, as well as a complimentary glass of wine on arrival, followed by an open bar. RSVP to [Alice Miller](#), by 8 July. If you're interested in the books, but can't make the launch, you can contact Alice Miller to order copies.

9. Short stories – big prizes

The deadline for the BNZ Literary Awards (formerly known as the BNZ Katherine Mansfield Awards) is drawing closer – short stories must be submitted by 23 July 2010. The award categories are: BNZ Katherine Mansfield Award (previously known as the Premier Award) - \$10,000 prize money, judged by Lloyd Jones; the BNZ Novice Award - \$1,500 prize money, judged by Emma Neale; and the BNZ Young Writers Award (Secondary School Students) - \$1,500 prize money for the student and \$2,000 for the winning student's school, judged by Emily Perkins. Further information about the awards, and entry criteria can be found [here](#).

The Sunday Star-Time Short Story awards also return, with Charlotte Grimshaw and Joy Cowley as judges. More details [here](#).

Thom Conroy gave some dinner party tips on How to Win in last [Sunday's paper](#).

10. All in the mind

The country's only literary award for science writing is reflecting the Royal Society of New Zealand's move to take the humanities under its wing. The topic for this year's Royal Society of New Zealand Manhire Prize for Creative Science Writing is 'The Mind'. Bill Manhire, after whom the competition is named, says "We are centering this year's competition around a quote from Milton – 'The mind is its own place, and in itself / Can make a Heav'n of Hell, a Hell of Heav'n'. We think this will allow entrants to explore the links between the brain, the heart and the personality."

Past winners of the award include Alison Ballance, Tina Makereti and Dave Armstrong, who is this year's judge. There are two categories for the competition, fiction and non-fiction. Winners from each category are awarded a cash prize of \$2500 and winning entries are printed in the *New Zealand Listener*. Entry forms can be found on the [Royal Society of New Zealand's](#) website. Closing date for entries is 10 September 2010.

11. Writing science

If you're thinking of entering *next* year's Manhire Prize, you could give yourself a head start by taking Victoria University Continuing Education's Writing for Science course over three consecutive Saturdays on 30 October and 6 and 13 November. The course, which is suitable for scientists who want to learn to write in an accessible manner, as well as for creative writers with an interest in science, will be run by this year's Manhire Prize judge, Dave Armstrong. Further information is available [here](#).

12. From the whiteboard

'Don't go around saying the world owes you a living. The world owes you nothing. It was here first.'

— Mark Twain

13. Final results

Congratulations to Hinekaa Mako (MA Script 2010), Colin Hodson (MA Script 2009) and Kelly Joseph (MA Page 2008), who were among the 10 finalists for the New Zealand Writers Guild/NAW Final Draft Short Film Script Competition 2010. All ten finalists received a free copy of scriptwriting software Final Draft Version 8. The top three also receive a free script assessment, and the winner receives \$500. The winner was *Bullrush*, by Mick Andrews, followed by *The Bird Flew* by Joe Lonie and *Dog Tired* by Christopher Webb.

14. The expanding bookshelf (3)

Hinemoana Baker's book *Koiwi Koiwi* will be launched in Wellington on Sunday 18 July (4-6pm) as part of the regular monthly poetry event at Newtown's Ballroom Café (cnr Adelaide Road and Riddiford Street). Hinemoana will be sharing the day with Teresia Teaiwa, with whom she collaborated on the sonic poem 'I Can See Fiji', and Simone Kaho, an Auckland poet currently doing her MA in creative writing at the IIML. There will be an open mic session for the first hour, followed by music from Hinemoana Baker and Christine White, then readings by the three guest poets, and the launch of *Koiwi Koiwi* (Victoria University Press).

Hinemoana Baker has also been selected to join the International Writers Program in Iowa City. The US Ambassador blogs about her selection [here](#). New Zealand will have two writers at the IWP this year: Creative New Zealand's choice, [David Hill](#), will also be there.

15. The expanding bookshelf (4)

On National Poetry Day (30 July) at 6 pm Unity Books Wellington plays host to the launch of two further poetry collections. John Newton's *Lives of the Poets* (Victoria University Press) is perhaps one of the longest-awaited second books in New Zealand's literary history: his debut collection, *Tales from the Angler's Eldorado*, was published in 1985, and although John has published in other areas since then, (notably last year's *The Double Rainbow*, on James K. Baxter in Jerusalem) this is only his second foray into poetry.

Lynn Jenner also had a long hiatus in her poetry career: she says she gave up writing at the age of twelve, when she 'found out about Literature', and didn't start again until the age of forty-nine. In 2008 she won the Adam Foundation Prize with her mixed-genre manuscript *Dear Sweet Harry*. Now the award-winning manuscript is being published by Auckland University Press and launched by IIML lecturer Chris Price, with musical support from Hinemoana Baker and Christine White.

16. Best New Zealand Poems to Beowulf

Listings for other National Poetry Day events have just been posted, and IIML staff, graduates and students will be having a busy time as Poetry Day expands across the week. Chris Price will be reading alongside 2008 and 2009 Adam Prize winners Lynn Jenner and Ashleigh Young and others in [Best New Zealand Poems 09](#), our early contribution to Poetry Day on Monday 26 July (see [Writers on Mondays](#)); she's also reading in Taupo on 29 and 30 July. On Wednesday 28 July MA (Script) workshop leader David Geary appears in Poetry for a Pacific Journey at the Tawa Community Centre. Poetry workshop leader James Brown will be one of the Te Papa Poets reading at the museum at lunchtime on Poetry Day itself, while Writer in Residence Jenny Bornholdt appears in Upper Hutt in the evening, and the Future Giants

collective (members of the 2010 MA poetry/creative non-fiction workshop) have organised 'Poetry at our edge of the universe', an evening of music, poetry performance on stage and one-on-one settings, audience participation competitions and character costumes. It runs from 8-10.30pm on Friday 30 July at Betty's Function House and Bar, 32 Blair St.

The event that most piques our curiosity, however, is happening in Tauranga, where the 'Northern Horde' is proposing to re-enact Beowulf's slaying of the monster Grendel. Full details of these and other National Poetry Day events throughout New Zealand are available [here](#).

17. Poetry Day competitions

We're also pleased to see Page and Blackmore Booksellers (Nelson) and Time Out Books (Auckland) have decided to support Poetry Day by running national poetry competitions. Entry details and prizes are available at:

[Time Out](#) (deadline 15 July).

[Page and Blackmore](#) (deadline 23 July).

18. Write on Kapiti

The Tau Mai e Kapiti Māori Writer's Residency, funded by Te Waka Toi/Creative New Zealand and hosted by Kaitiaki o Kapiti Trust, allows a Māori writer to live and work on Kapiti Island for eight weeks while being paid a stipend. The first Tau Mai e Kapiti Writers in Residence were Paora Tibble (2008) and Kelly Joseph (2009); the closing date for 2010 applications is 31 July. The selection panel's decision will be announced in early August, with the residency commencing late August. For an application form, write to: Minnie Clark, 'Tau mai e Kapiti', Māori Writer's Residency 2010, PO Box 28, Otaki 5560, Aotearoa / New Zealand or [email](#).

19. Great lists of our time

A double alphabet of minor planets

(829) Academia
(2404) Antarctica
(2991) Bilbo
(7079) Bright Spring
(3015) Candy
(9500) Camelot
(5050) Doctorwatson
(9497) Dwingeloo
(567) Eleutheria
(17059) Elvis

(1224) Fantasia
(23989) Farpoint
(6452) Goldfinger
(16809) Galapagos
(12477) Haiku
(17627) Humptydumpty
(3849) Incidentia
(8970) Islandica
(2625) Jack London
(39415) Janeausten
(6269) Kawasaki
(4110) Keats
(26973) Lala
(82332) Las Vegas
(6735) Madhatter
(10550) Monet
(12382) Niagara Falls
(6032) Nostalgia
(10515) Old Joe
(1195) Orangia
(443) Photographica
(3494) Purple Mountain
(15907) Robot
(17058) Rocknroll
(1163) Saga
(5049) Sherlock
(9387) Tweedledee
(17681) Tweedledum
(905) Universitas
(1282) Utopia
(1076) Viola
(23473) Voss
(10428) Wanders
(17942) Whiterabbit
(5986) Xi'an
(7211) Xerxes
(7707) Yes
(2843) Yeti
(4321) Zero
(5731) Zeus

20. Recent web reading

[Craig Cliff launches his book](#) - and announces his engagement

[Tina Makereti reviewed](#)

[Sylvie Haisman reviewed](#)

[Anna Livesey and Ingrid Horrocks reviewed](#)

[Sport 38 reviewed](#)

[Call for submissions: Side Stream \(Berlin issue\)](#)

[Writing alone](#)

[Splashing in the shallows](#)

[I love all films that start with rain...](#)

[Hue and Cry meets Paper Radio](#)

[The Mark Twain Project](#)

[Young and Hungry's playwrights' commissions for 2011](#)

[David Vann sails to Acapulco](#)

[Mark Doty's advice book](#)

[Profile of Geoff Walker, departing Penguin NZ editor](#)

[Graham Beattie on early publishing days at Penguin NZ](#)

[Bill Manhire's "Nuptials"](#)

["Somewhere a dog barked"](#)

["Sam Hunt and Baxter battling the paranormal" - Eli Kent shares a terrifying project idea](#)

[The Dim-Post's version of Waiting for Godot](#)

[A dark and stormy night! This year's Bulwer-Lytton results are up](#)

[12 minutes with Elizabeth Knox](#)

[At least one New Zealander at the Edinburgh Festival](#)

[The Song of Lunch dramatised!](#)

[Bill Manhire's Listener review of Reality Hunger](#)

[David Mitchell meets a rude medievalist \(in Wellington, New Zealand\)](#)

[Manawatu Standard profile of Tina Makereti](#)

[Singing the world's longest poem](#)

[Let the wild rumpus start!](#)

[Sharon Olds poetry tattoo!](#)

[Janet Frame and the gift of blood](#)

[Samuel Percival Maitland Hunt CNZM now has a website:](#)

["World Famous \(in New Zealand\)" - the new Baxter Selected](#)

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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 in a range of ways.

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 – for example through scholarships, prizes, and grants. 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