



Newsletter – 20 May 2005

This is the 69th 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. A prize for Lolly Leopold...

Congratulations to our colleague Kate De Goldi, whose *Clubs: A Lolly Leopold Story* won both the Picture Book category and the Book of the Year at the New Zealand Post Book Awards last night. *Clubs*, illustrated by Jacqui Colley, has now sold 6000 copies, a very significant quantity for a picture book in New Zealand. Kate adds last night's win to an Honour Award for her novel *Closed, Stranger* received in the Young Adult Fiction category of the 2001 New Zealand Post Book Awards.

Writers interested in exploring the fast-growing genre of young adult fiction have the chance to study with Kate De Goldi in the second half of the year.

In her upcoming masterclass at the International Institute of Modern Letters, she offers students the chance to immerse themselves in the young adult genre, and begin their own young adult novel. "I think the young adult genre is going through a renaissance," says Kate De Goldi. "It's one of the most celebrated and hotly debated areas of children's writing and this course provides students with the chance to read widely across the area, and work on their own ideas at the same time."

Writing for Young Adults is a limited entry course which runs from July to October 2005. The weekly workshops are scheduled for 3.10 - 6pm, to make it easier for people who work to attend. Applications close on 1 June.

For more information on this and other writing workshops contact the International Institute of Modern Letters, 463 6854 or visit the website: <http://www.vuw.ac.nz/modernletters/>

2. ...a prize for Gregory O'Brien...

Warmest congratulations also go to Greg O'Brien, another first-timer in the youth genre, who won the Non-Fiction category of the New Zealand Post Book Awards for his *Welcome to the South Seas: Contemporary New Zealand Art for Young People* (Auckland University Press). The judges commented that 'Gregory O'Brien has successfully combined his knowledge of art and his ability to communicate with young people in producing what can only be described as a stunning and vibrant introduction to contemporary New Zealand art.' Rumour has it that adults have been buying the book as much for themselves as for the young people in their lives. Greg taught the Poetry Workshop at Victoria from its inception until 2003.

3. ...and the Prize in Modern Letters

Nominations are now being sought for Australasia's largest single literary award – the \$65,000 Prize in Modern Letters. The biennial award is designed to promote New Zealand's talented emerging writers, and is administered by the IIML. This year the prize money for the award has increased to \$65,000. "The new Prime Minister's literary awards are worth \$60,000 each," says Bill Manhire. "We thought it would be good for the Prize in Modern Letters to stay just a step or two ahead." The shortlist will be selected by a panel of three judges and announced by 15 October 2005. Judges will pay particular attention to literary achievement and potential, and to the overall quality of authorship. A USA-based judging panel will then determine the overall winner for the third time in the short history of the prestigious award, which has previously been won by novelist Catherine Chidgey and poet Glenn Colquhoun. The winner will be announced in March 2006 during the New Zealand International Arts Festival. Nominations **must be received by 29 July 2005**. Conditions of entry, eligibility and nomination forms are available online at <http://www.vuw.ac.nz/modernletters/activities/prize-in-modern-letters.aspx>

