



Newsletter – 30 June 2006

This is the 89th 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. Writers on Mondays returns

The discontents of winter will soon be alleviated by some indoor exercise for the mind. Yes, the Film Festival (<http://www.nzff.telecom.co.nz>) starts later this month - but for firsthand encounters with ideas and stories, Writers on Mondays returns to City Gallery Wellington from 17 July. A strong season of poetry starts with 12 of the best: 11 Wellington poets whose work appears in *Best New Zealand Poems 05* read their work on 17 July, followed a week later by Auckland art writer and poet Wylan Curnow, whose work also appears in the anthology. Then on 31 July the focus shifts to film as Taika Waititi and Loren Horsley preview their upcoming feature *Eagle vs. Shark*. All Writers on Mondays events take place at City Gallery, Civic Square, Wellington, at 1pm. Admission is free. For the full programme, which runs through to 2 October, see www.vuw.ac.nz/modernletters/activities/monday-writers.aspx

2. TV literature

We're also looking forward to seeing more New Zealand writers on the small screen over the winter months. On Saturday 8 July the new books programme fronted by Emily Perkins gets its first airing. The series includes appearances by Nigel Cox, Jenny Bornholdt and Damien Wilkins, among others, plus a book panel debating the merits of various new titles. It screens at the relatively enlightened time of 5.30 pm on TVOne. As a warm-up, TV One screens *The New Oceania*, Shirley Horrocks' documentary about Albert Wendt, this Saturday at 9.50 pm. And Artsville (Sundays, 10.30 pm TV One) is currently running a series of poems by local writers in the last ten minutes of the show. For those who aren't awake at 11.20 pm on a Sunday, the programmes are repeated the following Saturday at 12.30 pm. The line up is as follows:

Glenn Colquhoun: 02 July
Anna Jackson: 09 July
Anne French: 16 July
Brian Turner: 23 July
Greg O'Brien: 30 July
Karlo Mila: 06 August

3. People are always stealing your stuff, New Zealand

Those who watched Moana Maniopoto's tv documentary about the use of Maori names to sell everything from music to Lego earlier this year may find that a short story in the latest *New Yorker* offers a different angle on the tricky territory of cultural appropriation. 'Accident Brief' tells the story of Mr Oamaru, his stepson Tek and Rangi Gibson, a mute Mōa orphan. Both boys are members of the Weitiki Valley Boys' Choir, which is directed by Franz Josef. The author, Karen Russell, holds an MFA from Columbia University where she currently teaches a freshman writing seminar. She is fluent in Spanish, and has co-led 'Cultural Exploration' programmes in Australia, New Zealand and Fiji, and 'Cultural Exploration Creative Writing' in Cuba. A collection of her short stories, *St Lucy's Home for Girls Raised by Wolves*, will be published by Knopf in September.

http://www.newyorker.com/fiction/content/articles/060619fi_fiction

4. From the whiteboard

'Poetry is not the record of an event; it is an event.' (Robert Lowell)

5. Poetry month?

Montana National Poetry Day takes place on 21 July, when the winner of the Poetry Award will be announced, but Wellington is gearing up for a full month of poetic activity in July, with the aforementioned *Best New Zealand Poems 05* reading on 17 July by no means the first contribution to the party. The New Zealand Poetry Society has a full programme of events at the Museum of Wellington City and Sea starting

this Saturday, 1 July at 2.30 pm with Samoan poet/actress, Susana Lei'ataua, and continuing with readings from Harry Ricketts, a poetry workshop, and a reading of poems inspired by the current Wellingtonia exhibition written by MA (Page) students at the IIML. From 5.30-8.00 pm on Poetry Day itself there'll be a performance by Boutique Opera of New Zealand poems set to music, followed by readings from Kate Camp, Hinemoana Baker, James Brown and Bill Manhire. And thanks to Phantom Bill Stickers, a group of New Zealand poems selected by Bill Manhire will hit the streets in Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin from 16 July. For a listing of all events in taking place in Wellington and around the country on Poetry Day, see http://www.booksellers.co.nz/mpd_local.htm
The Museum of Wellington City and Sea programme is at <http://www.museumofwellington.co.nz/wgtn-live.html>

6. Laureates in Auckland

An exhibition showcasing visual artists honoured by the Arts Foundation of New Zealand through its Icon and Laureate Awards opens tonight at Auckland's New Gallery. *Tribute*, curated by Ron Brownson provides "a cross section of some of our finest examples of contemporary art" from Icons Len Castle (potter), Pakariki Harrison (carver), Ralph Hotere (visual artist), Milan Mrkusich (visual artist), Diggeress Te Kanawa (weaver), and Laureates Phil Dadson (intermedia artist), Neil Dawson (sculptor), Warwick Freeman (jeweller), Humphrey Ikin (furniture maker), Derek Lardelli (Ta Moko artist), Julia Morison (visual artist), Michael Parekowhai (visual artist), Peter Peryer (visual artist), John Pule (writer, visual artist), Ann Robinson (sculptor), Ronnie van Hout (visual artist). Literary Laureate Bill Manhire will read and talk about his work at New Gallery at 1 pm tomorrow, and later in July there will be a series of Laureate events for secondary schools. *Tribute* runs from 1 July to 20 August at New Gallery, cnr Wellesley and Lorne St.

7. The expanding bookshelf

Rachael King's first novel *The Sound of Butterflies* has been enjoying vigorous advance publicity in New Zealand. It will be launched in Wellington next week by Random House under its Black Swan imprint, but it has already been nominated for Best First Book at next year's Montanas by reviewer Warwick Roger, and the author has been profiled in the *Listener*, *North & South* and *Sunday Star-Times*. The book also seems set for international attention, having been picked up for UK publication by Picador in 2007, and we hear that German and Dutch translation rights have also been sold. Rachael King was a member of the 2001 MA (Page) Workshop at the IIML.

8. Copyright licensing awards

Rachel Barrowman may have scooped the big one when she received the Creative New Zealand Michael King Writers' Fellowship of \$100,000 last week to work on a biography of Maurice Gee, but other non-fiction writers still have two more weeks to apply for one of the two Copyright Licensing Limited Awards of \$35,000. Applications for the 2005 CLL Writers' Awards close on 15 July. For application guidelines, go to <http://www.copyright.co.nz/writersaward.htm>

9. The expanding bookshelf (2)

The possibility of hiring cheetahs for your function has been much in the news lately, but Wellingtonians may recall that Gecko Press employed a donkey for the launch of its first picturebook last year. It seems reasonable, therefore, to expect an ovine guest star when their next picture book, *Elfrida*, 'the story of a sheep who decides to be different', is launched with a live performance including dance at Capital E on 18 July, 11 am. Parents, preschool and early primary age children are especially welcome, say the publishers, who are putting on sandwiches and juice after the show. Gecko Press specializes in English versions of children's books by internationally well-established authors and illustrators which have won international awards, and both *Donkeys* and *Elfrida* have been translated from German by novelist Catherine Chidgey, who completed the MA in Creative Writing with Damien Wilkins in 1998.

10. Recent web reading

bFM poetry competition

<http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/CU0606/S00150.htm>

Your ultimate sci-fi profile

http://quizfarm.com/test.php?q_id=111863

Are Angels OK?

<http://www.lumiere.net.nz/reader/item/533>

<http://clairealpern.blogspot.com/2006/06/are-angels-ok.html>

iPoems

http://blogs.guardian.co.uk/culturevulture/archives/2006/06/14/do_you_want_poe.htm#more

Google Shakespeare

http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20060615/stage_nm/google_shakespeare_dc;_ylt=Arr03D.ZG9IL2YoiUPk0Qe9xFb8C;_ylu=X3oDMTA0cDJIYmhvBHNIYwM-

The literary guide to the world

http://www.salon.com/books/literary_guide/2006/06/15/intro/

How to do an English accent

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/arts/main.jhtml?xml=/arts/2006/06/11/bodialogue.xml&Sheet=/arts/2006/06/11/bomain.html>

What is art?

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/story/0,,1798852,00.html>

Camouflage

<http://bobolinkbooks.googlepages.com/marvinbell>

Library work

<http://chasemeladies.blogspot.com/2005/03/is-this-library-or-bordello.html>

Ms Brown meets M. de Botton

<http://www.lumiere.net.nz/reader/item/506>

Scottish lyrics

<http://news.scotsman.com/arts.cfm?id=893592006>

An Orkney promenade

<http://news.scotsman.com/arts.cfm?id=888262006>

Writing

<http://observer.guardian.co.uk/print/0,,329513283-102280,00.html>

Alice Munro interview

<http://www.vqronline.org/webexclusive/2006/06/11/awano-interview-munro/>

Alice Munro appreciations

<http://www.vqronline.org/articles/2006/summer/awano-munro/>

What Mark Twain read

http://www.marktwainhouse.org/exhibitions/marksonpaper/personal_reading.shtml

A.S.Byatt interview

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A17290-2004Apr16.html>

Wellington's talent magnet

<http://www.cato-unbound.org/2006/06/04/richard-florida/the-future-of-the-american-workforce-in-the-global-creative-economy/>

Granta's new owner

<http://books.guardian.co.uk/departments/politicsphilosophyandsociety/story/0,,1797138,00.html>

The 'shock-jock of wholesomeness'

<http://www.slate.com/id/2143763?nav=wp>

11. Great lists of our time

(Just a few of the) Invertebrates Found At or Near The Walla Walla College Marine Station (Rosario) Fidalgo Island, Anacortes, WA

1. Alaska falsejingle
2. Apple anemone
3. Bent-nosed clam
4. Dunce-cap limpet
5. Cup-and-saucer snail
6. Feather duster worm
7. Foolish mussel
8. Fragile scaleworm
9. Giant brooding anemone
10. Heart cockle
11. Masked limpet
12. Pale creeping pedal sea cucumber
13. Ruffled scaleworm
14. Summer clam
15. Western white slipper clam
16. Wrinkled sea squirt

<http://www.rosario.wwc.edu/inverts/index.html> (see alphabetical listing)

Thanks as ever to Snorkel editor and unflagging List Lady Cath Vidler for feeding the list machine. Snorkel can be viewed at www.snorkel.org.au