



INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MODERN LETTERS

Te Pūtahi Tuhi Auaha o te Ao

Newsletter – 5 November 2008

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This is the 133rd 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. Hothouse writing

The Iowa Workshops are designed for writers wanting some fresh stimulus for their fiction or poetry over the summer. The Iowa Fiction Workshop will look at narrative time in fiction: how writers can move seamlessly between layers of time without losing the reader, integrate back story without boring the audience, and evoke multiple dimensions of time. The Iowa Poetry Workshop will look at the ways different traditions, movements, and writers explore or eclipse personal materials in their poems. Both are limited to 12 students, and run from 6 January to 20 February. The application deadline of 10 November is fast approaching: email modernletters@vuw.ac.nz or call (04) 463 6854 for more information or an application form. (Please note that you cannot apply or enrol online for these workshops.)

2. Wintering over

The NZ Antarctic Society's 75th anniversary celebrations were held in Wellington this past weekend, with a calendar of events that included a tour of Te Papa, the screening of Antarctic films, a dinner and more. Antarcticophiles and others can experience a different take on the white continent at BATS theatre this month with the premiere of a new play from 2006 MA (Script) graduate Lynda Chanwai-Earle. *Heat* is directed by David O'Donnell, and deals with a husband-and wife-team wintering over on the Ross Ice Shelf observing Emperor penguins and monitoring climate change. *Heat*, which will be powered by self-sustainable energy means, runs from 7–22 November at BATS. Bookings: 04 802 4175 or book@bats.co.nz.

3. A shortlist for evolution

The shortlist for the 2009 Manhire Prize for Creative Science Writing, run by the Royal Society in partnership with the IIML and the New Zealand *Listener*, has been announced. The theme for 2008 was evolution, and writers were asked to respond to the following statement: "The Universe makes rather an indifferent parent, I'm afraid," said Dickens' kindly Mr Jarndyce. Humans have evolved to understand and intervene in the unsentimental processes of nature. With some unfortunate and unintended consequences. Back to nature or on to the future?" The winners receive \$2500 and their work will be published in the *Listener*.

And the shortlistees are:

Fiction:

- * Emily Adlam, Auckland, 'Five'
- * Dave Armstrong, Wellington, 'Waimate'
- * Philip Armstrong, Lyttelton, 'A Report on the New Zealand White'
- * J. Edward Brown, Auckland, 'Nuclear Garden of Eden'
- * Gareth Griffiths, Wellington, 'Project EH-3/5'
- * Aaron Martin, Wellington, 'The Things Which Remain'
- * Brin Murray, Wellington, 'Dinner of the Triple Helix'
- * Catherine Palmer, Auckland, 'Out of the Rubble'
- * Stephanie Parkyn, Christchurch, 'The Terminator'
- * Eden Carter Wood, Wellington, 'The Tight Schedule of Mr Malthouse'

Non Fiction:

- * Will Catton, Dunedin, 'Progress, Laughter, Sex'
- * Margaret Denton, Upper Hutt, 'Children of Changing Circumstance'
- * Rod Ellis-Pegler, Auckland, 'Evolution and Antimicrobial Resistance'
- * John Flux, Lower Hutt 'The Fertility Clinic: a birds-eye view of our future'
- * Terence Green, Wellington, 'The Human Condition'
- * Barbara Heslop, Dunedin, 'Eomaia's Children'
- * 'Elizabeth Little' (pen name), Wellington, 'Of Monkeys and Bananas'
- * 'Abel Magwitch' (pen name), Tawa, 'How great are our expectations?'
- * Ally Palmer, Auckland, 'Manufacturing Nature'
- * Pat White, Masterton, 'The New Dam; Story of an Intervention'

All shortlisted entries can be read on the Royal Society's [website](#). The winners in each category will be announced on 11 November.

4. Words and music

On 12 November Massey University's creative writing staff (several of whom are Victoria creative writing graduates) will read from their work in a lunchtime session (12-1 pm) in the old Dominion Museum Building's Boardroom as part of Massey University's [Blow 08](#) creative arts festival. Writers featured include Michele Amas, Angie Farrow, Thom Gough, Ingrid Horrocks, Anna Horsley, Bryan Walpert and Mary McCallum. And on 18 November, composer and jazz pianist Norman Meehan and vocalist Hannah Griffin will present a concert featuring song settings of poems by e e cummings and Bill Manhire from 6-7 pm at the New Zealand School of Music Concert Hall (Block 1 of Massey's Wellington Campus, off Wallace Street).

5. New Zealand writers on screen

The recently launched New Zealand on Screen [website](#) isn't just a great archive of New Zealand's screen history: it contains elements of New Zealand's literary history too, with clips from documentaries about or interviews with Janet Frame, Margaret Mahy, Ngaio Marsh and Allen Curnow and writers and performers for screen and stage including Ngaio Marsh, Peter Wells, Ian Mune, David Fane, Annie Goldson, Vincent Ward, Merata Mita, Oscar Kightley and more... Of course it's also a great place to view clips from classic and lesser-known films and television programmes, from *Gloss* to *Kaikohe Demolition*, *An Angel at My Table* to *Billy T Live*.

6. Script developments (1)

The Play Press is running a competition for the Best Unfilmed Screenplay. The prize is a professional, public rehearsed reading in a theatre venue in Wellington, followed by time with a script advisor to help you with your next draft, and if needed, professional advice. They say that 'While the primary aim is to encourage screenwriters and to present your screenplay as faithfully as possible, there is also a secret agenda - to introduce a new audience to the potential of the stage as a way to share ideas, and to discover new theatre writing talent. So should we feel any entries would also adapt well to the stage, we may be bringing you to the attention of Playmarket for advice ...'. Deadline for submissions is 31 January 2009; queries to Live Screenplay Competition; stuff@playpress.co.nz.

7. From the whiteboard

'Few of the stories one has it in one's self to speak get spoken, because the heart rarely confesses to intelligence its deeper needs; and few of the stories one has at the

top of one's head get told, because the mind does not always possess the voice for them; and even when the voice is there, and the tongue is limber as if with liquor — loud, lilting and Irish, or soothing and French, liquid and Italian, sweet as the Spanish lisp — where is that second ear? No court commands our entertainments, requires our flattery, needs our loyal enlargements or memorialising lies. Literature once held families together better than quarrelling. It carved a common ancestry from mere air, peopling an often empty and forgotten past with gods, demons, worthy enemies and proper heroes, until it became largely responsible for that pride we sometimes feel in being Athenian or Basque, a follower or a fan. It's no small gift, this sense of worth which reaches us ahead of any action of our own, like hair at birth, and makes brilliant enterprises possible.'

William Gass

8. New trout and snorkel

The latest issues of trans-national online literary journals *Trout* and *Snorkel* are launched. The 8th issue of trans-Tasman journal *Snorkel* went live on Friday, with contributors including Vincent O'Sullivan, Luke Davies, Bill Manhire, Joanne Burns, Jeannie Galeazzi and Jane Gibian. *Trout 15* is also swimming with work from New Zealand and Pacific writers including Australian poet Adam Aitken, New Zealand poet laureate Michele Leggott, Prize in Modern Letters winner David Beach, and a number of Victoria creative writing graduates including Alison Wong, Craig Cliff, Mariana Isara, Stefanie Lash and Johanna Aitchison. The closing date for submissions to Snorkel 09 is 15 February.

9. Fringe benefits

Fringe festivals offering 'a platform for independent artists to present their own work in their own way' seem to be a growth industry in New Zealand, with Auckland mounting its first-ever fringe in 2009, and Hamilton and Dunedin keeping apace, along with Wellington, of course! While the Wellington Fringe registration deadline has already passed, fringe dwellers should note the following dates and deadlines:

Auckland: 27 February to 22 March 2009

Registrations close 14 November 2008

[More info](#)

Dunedin: 26 March - 5 April 2009

Venue and/or funding grant application deadline: 7 November

Registrations close 5 December 2008

Visit the [website](#) or email info@dunedinfringe.org.nz

Hamilton: 17 – 27 June 2009

Registrations close 16 January 2009

Visit the [website](#) or email fringe@hcac.org.nz

10. Script developments (2)

Creative New Zealand and the New Zealand Film Commission have created a new fund for filmmakers called the Independent Filmmakers Fund (IFF). This will replace the Screen Innovation Production Fund, which has a final round with a closing date of 13 February 2009. The purpose of the IFF is ‘to invest in exceptional, innovative, high quality, non-commercial projects by experienced film and moving image makers striving to engage audiences throughout New Zealand and beyond.’ There will be one funding round per year; the closing date for the 2009 funding round is 12 June 2009. Further information is available on the [website](#) or contact emma.ward@creativenz.govt.nz

11. Cathay Pacific Travel Media Awards 2009

Travcom is calling for entries in the annual Cathay Pacific Travel Media Awards. There are categories for both published and unpublished work: writers who have not previously published a travel story can win \$1000, and will be sent on an assignment to write a story that will be published in AA Directions Magazine. The entry deadline is 13 February – full details [here](#).

12. Recent web reading

[Richard Powers’ genes](#)

[Great Expectations remixed](#)

Death of an agent [here](#) and [here](#)

Hallelujah Leonard and Sam [here](#) and on [youtube](#)

[Cannibal books](#)

[James Tate’s list of famous hats](#)

[The Poetry Translation Centre](#)

[Wine and poetry](#)

[Cake and poetry](#)

[Bread and poetry](#)

[The poetry of Sarah Palin](#)

[Twittering Burns](#)

[Another NZ poet in Scotland](#)

[New slang](#)

13. Great lists of our time

Categories of Moustache from the World Beard and Moustache Championships (and explanations of said categories). Best interpreted with the help of the illustrations on the [website](#).

NATURAL

Areas more than 1.5 cm (0.6 in) past the corner of the mouth must be shaved. No artificial styling aids.

ENGLISH

Narrow; beginning at the middle of the upper lip the whiskers are very long and pulled to the side, slightly curled; the ends are pointed slightly upward ; areas past the corner of the mouth must be shaved. Artificial styling aids permitted.

DALI

Narrow; long points bent or curved steeply upward; areas past the corner of the mouth must be shaved. Artificial styling aids permitted.

HANDLEBAR

Bushy; small, upward pointing ends; areas past the corner of the mouth must be shaved. Artificial styling aids permitted.

HUNGARIAN

Big and bushy, beginning from the middle of the upper lip and pulled to the side. The hairs are allowed to start growing from up to a maximum of 1.5cm beyond the end of the upper lip. Aids are allowed.

WILD WEST

Large; bushy; whiskers brushed from the middle to the side of the upper lip; areas more than 1.5 cm (0.6 in) past the corner of the mouth must be shaved. Artificial styling aids are permitted.

FU MANCHU

Areas other than the upper lip or up to 2 cm (0.8 in) past the corner of the mouth and downward along the side of the chin must be shaved. Ends long and pointing down. Artificial styling aids permitted.

IMPERIAL

Whiskers growing from the cheeks and upper lip; chin shaved; whiskers growing from the cheeks point upward.

FREESTYLE

All moustaches not in any other category. Areas more than 1.5 cm (0.6 in) past the corner of the mouth must be shaved. Otherwise, anything goes! Creativity encouraged. Artificial styling aids permitted.

* * *

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