



## INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MODERN LETTERS

*Te Pūtahi Tuhi Auaha o te Ao*

### Newsletter – 22 October 2009

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This is the 148<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. Ken Duncum**

We are sending out this brief newsletter so that we can be among the first to congratulate our colleague Ken Duncum on being awarded the 2010 New Zealand Post Mansfield Prize.

The \$100,000 Prize is the most valuable international residency programme for New Zealand writers and enables them to work at the Villa Isola Bella in Menton, France, where Katherine Mansfield lived and wrote in 1919 and 1920. The Prize covers return travel to France and living and accommodation expenses for six months.

We are not envious at all.

Ken is the third winner since New Zealand Post became the principal sponsor in 2007. The first winner, in 2008, was another IIML colleague, the novelist Damien Wilkins. In its earlier incarnations, the award has supported many other writers, including Janet Frame, Elizabeth Knox, Lloyd Jones, Bill Manhire, and Witi Ihimaera.

Ken is the Michael Hirschfeld Director of Scriptwriting here at Victoria, and we will miss his company next year. But to judge from the number of projects fizzing in his head, he is going to be even busier on the French Riviera than he usually is in

Wellington. During Ken's absence, David Geary will be minding the scriptwriting shop.

For further information about Ken Duncum, go [here](#).

Applications for our MA in Scriptwriting close on November 1. For further information, go [here](#).

## **2. A scientific shortlist**

The shortlisted entries for the Royal Society of New Zealand Manhire Prize for Creative Science Writing have just been announced. There are two categories: fiction and non-fiction. Winners from each category will be awarded a cash prize of \$2500 and the winning entries will be printed in the New Zealand Listener. Shortlisted entries can now be read on the [Royal Society website](#).

The winners will be announced at the 2009 Science Honours Dinner to be held in the Princes Ballroom, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Auckland on Wednesday 18 November.

## **3. A short story shortlist**

Congratulations to Emma Gallagher, a member of our 2006 MA workshop, who is now one of only three finalists for the [2009 Sunday Star-Times Short Story Awards](#). The two other shortlistees are Thom Conroy, lecturer in creative writing at Massey University, and Sue Francis of Waimate.

There were some pretty powerful short story writers in that 2006 MA workshop. Sue Orr and Anna Taylor have both published very well reviewed short story collections, while Craig Cliff's debut short story collection, *A Man Melting*, is due from Random House next year. Emma herself won the 2006 Bank of New Zealand Katherine Mansfield Novice Award with her story "The Little Grandfather Clock". (You can download a pdf of it [here](#).)

You can now read and vote on-line for your favourite from the Sunday Star-Times long shortlist of ten stories. Go [here](#) if you would like to participate in the "People's Choice" award.

## **4. Janet Frame Memorial Lecture**

The third Janet Frame Memorial Lecture takes place this evening at Te Papa.

This year's lecture is provided by William Taylor, one of New Zealand's foremost novelists for young people. He has published more than thirty novels and won the New Zealand Esther Glen Medal, the Aim Children's Book Award and the prestigious Italian Premio Andersen Award for best children's book of the year. He is also the recipient of the New Zealand Children's Book Foundation Margaret Mahy Medal and has held fellowships at the Palmerston North and Dunedin Colleges of Education and

at the University of Iowa.

Free: Te Papa Marae  
22 October 6pm

## 5. Scriptwriting for Beginners

This four session course gives practical tips on how to write the first 30 pages of a screenplay or episode of a television series. Students will be involved in generating and developing story lines, and progressing to laying out a rough plan of a script. Participants will be guided step-by-step through the writing of a screenplay, aiming for established landmarks along the way. Finally, students will learn how to pitch script ideas so that they stand out from the rest. Teacher Kent Hainsworth has worked as a scriptwriter for Cloud 9 Television Ltd, Britt Allcroft Ltd (USA) and has had ideas optioned by production companies in New Zealand. He is currently writing a screenplay in partnership with a US-based producer. The course will be held at Victoria University's Rutherford House on four consecutive Saturdays (31 October and 7, 14, 21 November), 10am – 4pm. [Find out more or enrol.](#)

## 6. The Page

Recent web readings and great lists will return next time. But for the moment we note that [Andrew Johnston](#) is turning the page. And many thanks to the publisher and font-addict who sent us this [YouTube link](#).

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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](mailto: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](mailto:diana.meads@vuw.ac.nz)