

Programme 2015

13 JULY

In the company of a master: Vincent O'Sullivan

We kick off our 2015 programme in grand style with one of New Zealand's finest. Poet Laureate **Vincent O'Sullivan**'s impressive writing career includes poetry, biography, novels, plays and short stories. His recent publication *Being Here* is the first to survey the entire span of O'Sullivan's poetry, from 1973's *Bearings* to new poems first published in this volume. Join us as O'Sullivan and longtime publisher and friend **Fergus Barrowman** take a journey back through an illustrious writing career, discussing favourite themes and preoccupations, recent work, and the public role of poetry.

20 JULY

Beach, Bach and Beyond!: Three Poets

Come and hear the latest in poetry, in a reading and discussion chaired by poet **Cliff Fell**. **David Beach**'s fourth collection, *Jerusalem Sonnets, Love, Wellington Zoo*, tackles, amongst other things, the inescapable presence of James K. Baxter for any sonnet writer. **Morgan Bach**'s debut, *Some of Us Eat the Seeds*, welcomes a refreshing new voice that is in turns witty and sharp-edged. The international publication of *Otherwise*, **John Dennison**'s first collection, heralds a new, vivid and sensual voice in the New Zealand (and UK) poetry scene.

27 JULY

Gee and Me: Rachel Barrowman

Historian **Rachel Barrowman**'s biography *Mason: the Life of R.A.K Mason* won the biography category of the 2004 Montana Book Awards and received a wealth of critical praise. Her new book takes on another key literary figure in New Zealand. *Maurice Gee: Life and Works* is the product of nearly ten years' research, and is the first major biography of one of our most highly esteemed writers. In discussion with **Bill Manhire**, Barrowman will shed light on Gee's influences, the work that went into making the *Plumb* trilogy, *Prowlers* and other New Zealand classics, the process of writing a life, and why it is that writers make such compelling subjects.

3 AUGUST

The Talking Cure or Chiming In: Anna Smail & Tim Corballis

Victoria University of Wellington/Creative New Zealand 2015 Writer in Residence **Tim Corballis** shares the stage with fellow novelist **Anna Smail**. Smail's debut novel *The Chimes* has been described as a 'startlingly original work that combines beautiful, inventive prose with incredible imagination.' Hot off the press, Corballis's latest work is *R.H.I.*, two novellas that make an inadvertent history of the European 20th Century, seen through the lenses of psychoanalysis and communism. **Emily Perkins** will chair what promises to be a lively and fascinating session.

10 AUGUST

Picture This: John Reynolds & Sarah Laing

Te Papa Press has an extensive catalogue of beautiful books on Aotearoa/ New Zealand's art, culture, and natural world. This session celebrates the illustrators who bring so much to the life of books. **Sarah Laing** is both a successful novelist and designer. She recently illustrated *The Curiozeum: Collected Stories of the Odd and Marvellous*. Renowned visual artist **John Reynolds** is famous for his extraordinary work *Cloud*, consisting of over 7,000 word canvases. He provided the illustrations for the *Book of New Zealand Words*. This session will be chaired by poet and artist **Gregory O'Brien**.

17 AUGUST

Riding the Ruins: David Coventry & Hamish Clayton

Winner of the 2012 Best First Book for fiction, **Hamish Clayton**'s novel *Wulf* weaves a poetic narrative through a recasting of the story of Te Rauparaha's 1831 raid, and was described as 'packed with challenge and virtuosity.' In this session we hear about Clayton's new novel *The Pale North*, a meditation on love, history, creativity and loss, set in Wellington in the aftermath of a devastating earthquake. **David Coventry**'s first novel was released in June. *The Invisible Mile* is a powerful re-imagining of the 1928 Ravat-Wonder Team, the first English-speaking team to attempt the Tour de France. The writers will be in discussion with poet and editor **Harry Ricketts**.

24 AUGUST

Best New Zealand Poems 2014

Best New Zealand Poems is an annual online publication by Victoria University's International Institute of Modern Letters. Get ready for National Poetry Day (on 28 August) by coming along to hear eight of these poets read the work chosen by the 2014 editor, Poet Laureate Vincent O'Sullivan. And be sure to visit <http://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/iiml/bestnzpoems/index.html> to view the full selection. The readers are: **John Dennison, Dinah Hawken, Anna Jackson, Gregory O'Brien, Claire Orchard, Nina Powles, Helen Rickerby, Kerrin P Sharpe**. Introduced by **Damien Wilkins**.

31 AUGUST

Writing Time: Witi Ihimaera

We're delighted to present celebrated author **Witi Ihimaera** in conversation with rising novelist and short story writer **Tina Makereti**. Ihimaera is joint recipient of the Randell Cottage residency for 2015 (along with Owen Marshall), taking over from Makereti who held the residency last year. While at Randell Cottage Ihimaera will work on the second part of his three-volume memoir, *Native Son*. Ihimaera will discuss his current work in progress, writing imaginative history, and the impact and importance of writers' residencies in this country.

7 SEPTEMBER

Questions of Travel: Michelle de Kretser

It is our great pleasure to announce the Wellington visit of eminent Australian novelist **Michelle de Kretser**, author of four acclaimed novels including *The Lost Dog* and most recently *Questions of Travel*, winner of the Miles Franklin Award and the Prime Minister's Literary Award for fiction. This mesmerising literary novel enthralled and enchants the reader as it shines a searching gaze on national identity, restlessness, dispossession and home. Come and hear more from de Kretser's questing imagination. Chaired by **Emily Perkins**. *Michelle de Kretser's visit is funded by Victoria University's International Institute of Modern Letters*.

14 SEPTEMBER

The Next Page 1

A wonderful opportunity to hear a fresh mix of poetry and prose by the current cohort of writers at the Masters in Creative Writing Programme at Victoria University's International Institute of Modern Letters. **Sarah Webster, Tom Nieuwland du Chatenier, Alexandra Hollis, Helen Crampton, Louise Wrightson, Meryl Richards, Simon Thomas, Whitney Cox, Alisha Tyson and Nick Bollinger** are introduced by **Emily Perkins**.

21 SEPTEMBER

The Next Page 2 and Short Sharp Script 1

Part 2 of the popular Next Page sessions features readings from **Catherine Robertson, Samantha Keenan, Justine Jungersen-Smith, Helen Hunter, Johnny McCaughan, Nina Powles, Redmer Yska, Libby Farris, Jane Arthur and Louise Compagnone**. Introduced by **Cliff Fell**.
followed by...

Short Sharp Script 1: Circa Theatre 1.30-2.30pm

Follow us across the road to Circa Theatre, where actors will perform dynamic new work by MA scriptwriting students from the IIML: **Greg Bennett, David Brechin-Smith, Ali Burns and James Cain**. Directed by **Lori Leigh**. This session takes place at the special time of 1.30pm.

28 SEPTEMBER

Short Sharp Script 2: Circa Theatre 12.15-1.15pm

More exciting work in progress from the second group of IIML scriptwriters, at Circa at the usual time of 12.15pm. **Rose Cann, Ryan Knighton, Matthew Loveranes, Niki Partsch and Finn Teppett**. Directed by **Lori Leigh**.

Events run from 12.15-1.15pm, Te Papa Marae, Level 4, Te Papa

(with the exception of the two scriptwriting events to be held at Circa Theatre. See programme for details)

Please note that no food may be taken onto the Te Papa marae.

Writers on Mondays is presented with the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, National Poetry Day and Circa Theatre.



For more information contact the International Institute of Modern Letters or visit our website:

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Email: modernletters@vuw.ac.nz

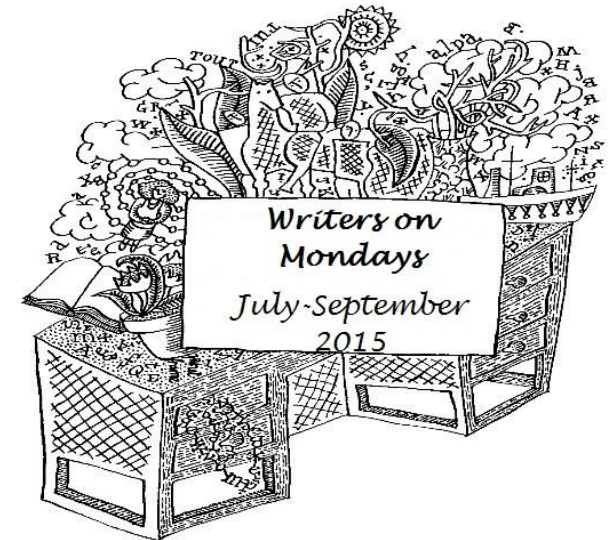
Phone: (04) 463 6854

Cover drawing of the Janet Frame Desk by Gregory O'Brien



International Institute of Modern Letters

Te Pūtahi Tuhi Auaha o Te Ao



Mondays 12.15-1.15pm
Te Papa Marae, Level 4, Te Papa

From July to September each year, the International Institute of Modern Letters, home of Victoria University's prestigious Creative Writing programme, runs a series of events highlighting the very latest work of writers active in Wellington and further afield. All in all, a lively and stimulating way to begin the week – and it's free!