



INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MODERN LETTERS

Te Pūtahi Tuhi Auaha o te Ao

Newsletter – 15 May 2012

ISSN: 1178-9441

This is the 181st 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.

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1. Journeys and graduations

Congratulations to our MA and PhD graduates who receive their degrees at this week's capping ceremony in the Michael Fowler Centre. Thursday evening, to be exact. Sure, it's an exhausted metaphor, and some of us like to reprove you when you use it, but we're proud to have been part of your journey.

2. Menton comes to Wellington

One person who will miss graduation this year is Chris Price, who has the honour of delivering the inaugural Katherine Mansfield Menton Lecture even as our graduates are crossing the stage just a hundred metres away. Chris will present an illustrated selection of her experiences as the 2011 New Zealand Post Mansfield Prize recipient, and read from the creative nonfiction project she worked on at the Villa Isola Bella – a book that goes in search of the death-obsessed English poet, anatomist and suicide, Thomas Lovell Beddoes. Chris promises a mix of poetry, prose, photographs, and even live music: as a scene setter for the lecture, her partner Robbie Duncan will play music composed in Menton, accompanied by images from the year away, between 5.15 and 5.30pm. The lecture begins at 5.30 pm – entry is free, but please note seating is limited.

Thursday 17 May, 5.30pm at City Gallery, Wellington.

3. Teju Cole comes to Wellington

We're delighted to confirm the visit of US/Nigerian writer Teju Cole next month. Teju's first novel, *Open City*, was one of the most widely-admired and talked-about books of 2011, making the top 10 lists of both *Time* magazine and NPR. It also won the PEN/Hemingway Award, the New York City Book Award for Fiction, and the Rosenthal Award of the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

Teju is also an art historian and a street photographer whose work has appeared in the *New Yorker*, the *New York Times*, *Tin House* and *A Public Space*. His Twitter project, Small Fates, makes startling condensed narratives out of old newspaper stories. His work-in-progress is a non-fiction book about Lagos.

There are plenty of great links [here](#).

Teju will give a masterclass for the IIML's postgraduate creative writing students, and there will be a public event at Unity Books, Wellington on Monday June 11th at midday.

4. Our second semester workshops

Enrolments for our second semester workshops close in just over a week – on 28 May to be exact. If you'd like to study (and write) poetry with James Brown, Short Fiction with Kate Duignan, or Children's Writing with Eirlys Hunter, you can find out more [here](#). For fuller course information, check the pdfs for CREW 253, CREW 254, and CREW 255. All courses consist of twelve three-hour workshops, run between mid-July and late October, and are limited to twelve participants.

5. New Zealand poetry goes to the USA

Here's a great opportunity for New Zealand poets to be published in a special issue of leading US journal *Shenandoah*.

'*Shenandoah* is currently seeking submissions for a February 2013 feature on poetry from Aotearoa New Zealand. Please send up to five poems in a Word document to editors Lesley Wheeler and Drew Martin at shenandoahnz@wlu.edu by August 31st, 2012, using the word "submission" in the subject line. Include a brief biographical note explaining your relationship to the land/country. Work previously published in any venue, including magazines not distributed in the United States, is not eligible. We will consider poetry simultaneously submitted to another journal, but please contact us immediately should the work be accepted elsewhere. We would be happy to receive photographs and other visual materials as complements to literary submissions.

We will respond to all submissions by mid-October. Prior to publication, we will require a final electronic copy of the work, a high resolution photograph of the author, and biographical information. Additionally, we may ask for audio recordings of some work and will provide instructions for creating these files through Audacity. In lieu of payment, online publication will include links to authors' personal home pages and publishers' sites. All published work will be archived online.'

6. German poetry comes to Wellington

Six German and New Zealand poets will be present at the [Transit of Venus 2012](#) celebrations at Tolaga Bay on June 6, and will explore the process of writing about this extraordinary astronomical phenomenon – with its associated border crossings and cultural encounters – in a series of workshops and public presentations. The poets are Hinemoana Baker, Glenn Colquhoun, Chris Price, Uwe Kolbe, Brigitte Oleschinski, and Ulrike Almut Sandig.

For the second part of this reciprocal exchange, the German and New Zealand poets will meet again in October in Frankfurt and Berlin, working together in a translation workshop organised by Literaturwerkstatt, and presenting the results at the Frankfurt Book Fair.

On 13 June there will be a special presentation by the poets, chaired by Bill Manhire, in association with the [Adam Gallery's Dark Sky exhibition](#).

Passages: Reading around the Transit: a panel discussion with readings.
Adam Art Gallery

Wednesday 13 June 2012

6pm

Free entry

7. The Brothers Grimm come to the Pacific

This week's *Listener* carries a fine essay by Kate De Goldi about the Brothers Grimm (whose 200th anniversary it is this year), and also announces a competition to write 'Grimm Fairy Tales for Aotearoa/New Zealand'. Kate De Goldi, who will judge the competition, mentions Margaret Mahy as a New Zealand writer for whom the fairy tale tradition has been important. We'd add Katherine Mansfield, Janet Frame, Jo Randerson and Tina Makereti, though there must be many more. If you want to enter, you can get hold of the *Listener* itself, which we'd recommend for Kate's essay alone; or check the website of the [Goethe-Institut](#), where full rules and eligibility are posted.

8. The expanding bookshelf (1)

Congratulations to science broadcaster and writer Veronika Meduna whose book about Antarctica has just been published. During the 2011 Creative Non-fiction course with Harry Ricketts, she workshopped a draft chapter from the book. Less than a year later, in April 2012, [Science on Ice](#) was launched at Unity Books by Victoria University geologist Peter Barrett. In *Science on Ice*, Veronika joins research teams on the icy continent as they search for clues about ancient climates, scour the frozen landscape for life and hunt for elusive particles - all in an effort to answer fundamental questions about the future of our planet. Even before *Science on Ice* was released in New Zealand, Yale University Press acquired international rights to the book and will publish a US edition in October.

9. The expanding bookshelf (2)

And congratulations to Lawrence Patchett. We have good reason to look forward to his book of stories, [I Got His Blood on Me](#), because we've read it, and know just how good it is. We think it strikes a new note in New Zealand fiction. So does Laurence Fearnley, who writes:

'Lawrence Patchett is an articulate and philosophical author who creates terrific frontier stories. His tales describe moments of conflict, struggle and human frailty and yet his characters find a kind of peace through self-awareness, human connection and compassion. This is a rugged and haunting collection which has remained in my thoughts months after its first reading.'

10. The expanding bookshelf (3)

And in the rush of recent books we missed Hugh Brown's first novel [Reach](#), which won the Tessa Duder Award for young adult fiction. We wonder if anyone has ever done a headcount of the number of writers living in Paekakariki?

11. Making The Orator

The script for Tusi Tamsese's acclaimed film feature *O Le Tulafale (The Orator)* was developed in our MA workshop. You can hear [Ken Duncum](#) talk to [Tusi Tamasese](#) and producer [Catherine Fitzgerald](#) about the development process and the actual making of the film on Wednesday 16 May at the Film Archive, Wellington, 5:30pm. Koha.

More information [here](#).

12. Even more upcoming events

Poems on the Vine: Helen Heath, Lynn Davidson and Michael Harlow will be reading at this year's Poems on the Vine, taking place as usual at the Gladstone Vineyard, Gladstone Road, RD 2 Carterton. MC Pat White. Ticket price is \$12.00, which includes you get a free glass of wine. 3.00 pm, Sunday 27 May. Here is the full [Yarns in Barns programme](#) (24 May – 3 June).

Duncan Sarkies will read excerpts from his new novel *The Demolition of the Century* and talk about the process he has used to write it as part of Massey University's writers series on Thursday May 24 at 6pm, at the Massey campus off Wallace Street, Entrance A, Theatre Laboratory (5D14). He will also share some other new writing, from the forthcoming *Two Little Boys* movie, a soon-to-be republished set of short stories, and other works in progress. More [here](#).

Eli Kent's *The Intricate Art of Actually Caring* already seems to have become a classic. It's back at [Downstage](#) for a new season from May 25.

Mary Macpherson's first book of photographs will be launched in June in Auckland at Lopdell House Gallery and at Unity Books Wellington. (Mary is a poet, but has another life as a fine arts photographer). Called *Old New World* the book and accompanying touring exhibition look at changes in New Zealand society, as seen in small towns throughout the country. The book also features an interview with Mary by Greg O'Brien. The Auckland launch is at 6.00 pm on Thursday 14 June, and the Wellington one at 6.00 pm on Thursday 21 June – all welcome.

Information about the book and show is on the [Lopdell House Gallery site](#) - and on [Mary's blog](#).

13. Prime Minister's Awards for Literary Achievement

Every year, New Zealanders are invited to nominate their choice of an outstanding writer who has made a significant contribution to New Zealand literature in the genres of non-fiction, poetry and fiction. New Zealand writers are also able to nominate themselves for these awards. The nominations are assessed by an expert literary panel and recommendations forwarded to Creative New Zealand for approval, with the award recipients announced in a ceremony at Premier House.

Nominations close on 22 June at 5.00 pm. To nominate a writer and to see previous winners, go [here](#).

14. The 2012 NZSA Asian Short Story Competition

First held in 2011, the NZSA Asian Short Story Competition is once again open for entries. Entry is open to New Zealand citizens and permanent residents who are Asian or of Asian ethnicity. Short stories will be in English, and the theme is open. Stories will ideally contain some Asian content, though not necessarily be set in Asia.

The minimum length of entries is 2,500 words, and the maximum length of entries is 3,500 words. There is a total of \$4,500 in cash prizes. First prize: \$3,000. Second: \$1,000. Third: \$500. A shortlist of 5 will be announced on 21 October. Winners will be announced in November 2012.

The competition deadline is **30 August 2012**. Terms & conditions and application forms are [downloadable](#).

15. Recent web reading

[The 2012 BNZ Literary Awards](#)

[HANGMAN](#)

[Real talk from your editor](#)

[All those writers, hard at work in their cabins](#)

[Perks of Being an English Major](#)

[Once were Whitcoulls](#)

[A new issue of Trout](#)

[US science rapper Tom McFadden is about to tour NZ](#)

[The diets of the Romantic poets](#)

[Juergen Boos with Kim Hill](#)

[The M Literary Residencies - Bangalore and Shanghai](#)

[Duncan Sarkies' Uncle Bertie](#)

[Karlo Mila and Poetry Parnassus](#)

[The Listener profiles Emily Perkins](#)

[There's a new issue of TEXT](#)

[NZ Flash Fiction Competition](#)

[“ ‘First catch your Weka’: A tasting plate of recent New Zealand food writing”](#)

[Pla\[y\]giarism](#)

[The Queen gets 60 poems for her Jubilee](#)

[Ten Gorgeous Buildings Made Out of Books](#)

16. Great lists of our time

Medieval vegetarian recipes . . .

A Dishe of Artechokes

A Tart of Ryce

Agraz

Alepevere Sauce

Almond Milk

Almond Pudding

Apple Muse

Apple Tart

Applemoyse

Barley Water

Black Grape Sauce

Boiled Asparagus

Breney

Buttered Beere

Cabbage

Cameline Sauce

Candied Horseradish

Chardewardon

Chardquynce

Cheese

Cherry Sauce

Cherry Torte

Cod

Cold Leshe Viand

Cominee

Compost

Conserve of Orenge

Cremoneze Tart

Cruste Rolle

Custard

Diuers Sallets

Drawen Benes

Eeles in Bruet
Ember Day Tart
Emplumeus
Fine Spice
Frumenty
Frutours
Funges
Garnished Turnips
Genovese Tart
Grape Pudding
Gyngerbrede
Gyngerbrede
Hazelnut Beverage
Hypocras
Italian Pudding
Jance Sauce
Leche Lumbarde
Lenten Slices
Lumbard Mustard
Marizpan
Marmelade of Quinces
Marzipan Torte
Mawmenee
May Eggs
Mon Amy
Mushroom Tart
Mustard
Onion and Parsley Salad
Onions with Cumin Sauce
Parsnip Pie
Parsnip Pie
Payne Foundewe
Peach Tart
Pear Tart
Peeres in Confyt
Peres in Composte
Perys en Composte
Pety Pernautes
Pickled Cabbage
Pochee
Potage of ris
Pottage of Turnips
Powder Douce
Powder Fine
Powder Fort
Prince Bisket
Pynade
Quynces or Wardones in paast
Rice Lombard
Rice Tart

Rice in Almond Milk
Rique-Manger
Roasted Rice
Roasted Turnips
Roman Macaroni
Ryse
Rysschews of Fruit
Salat
Salat of Apples and Onions
Salat of Asparagus
Sallet
Salmon Pie
Salomene
Sauce Gauncile
Sauce for Stekys
Sauce for a Conie
Scallops
Short Paest for Tartes
Shrimp
Snowe
Sobre Sauce
Spanish Pastries
Spinach Tart
Strawberries in Snow
Strawberry Tart
Strawberye
Stuffed Eggs
Sugared Almonds
Sweet Spice
Tart of Onions
Tart of Prunes
Tartys In Applis
Tartys In Applis
To Bake Eeles
To Make a Tart
Tortelli
Tostee
Twisted Bread of Milk and Sugar
Vermicelli
Verte Sauce
Wafers
Wild Duck Sauce
Wortes
Yellow Pepper Sauce
Zabaglone

Found by Cath Vidler at [Medieval Cookery](#)
Recipes are on the website!

* * *

Supporting the IIML

The International Institute of Modern Letters was established at Victoria University in 2001 to promote and foster contemporary imaginative writing.

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, or Diana Meads, Development Manager-Planned Giving, Victoria University of Wellington Foundation Ph: 0800 VIC LEGACY (0800 842 534), Email: diana.meads@vuw.ac.nz