



INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF
MODERN LETTERS

Te Pūtahi Tuhi Auaha o te Ao

Newsletter – 28 October 2004

This is the 62rd 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.

1. MA stop press	1
2. Summer writing workshop reminder	1
3. Here comes The Page.....	2
4. Slow Water wins across the Tasman	2
5. The Keys to Hell	2
6. The Expanding Bookshelf.....	2
7. Double Whammy!.....	3
8. A very short story.....	3
9. Recent Web Reading.....	3
10. Two more deadlines	4
11. Great lists of our time	4

1. MA stop press

A last-minute reminder that applications for our expanded 2005 MA programme are due on Monday, November 1. We will be accepting applications up until 5.00 pm. Further information from <http://www.vuw.ac.nz/modernletters/courses.html#postgraduate> or phone (04) 463 6854.

2. Summer writing workshop reminder

The final deadline for applications to take part in this summer's Iowa Workshop is 12 November. The Iowa Workshop offers an opportunity to work either on fiction, with Earle McCartney, or on lyric poetry with Megan Johnson. Each workshop will balance the discussion of assigned readings and student writing, and will involve twice-weekly meetings. The fiction workshop runs from 6-23 December and 6-27 January, and the poetry workshop runs from 5 January – 8 February. Megan Johnson and Earle McCartney are both Schaeffer Award Winners and recent graduates of the prestigious Iowa Writers Workshop. Megan Johnson also won the Iowa Poetry Prize for 2004. For further information and an application form please email us at modernletters@vuw.ac.nz, see the website (www.vuw.ac.nz/modernletters) or drop by the IIML office (16 Wai-te-ata Road, Kelburn).

3. Here comes The Page

In the last newsletter we mentioned poet Andrew Johnston's website, and he has now made a more permanent home for it at <http://andrewjohnston.org> (though the old address still works).

Since then Andrew has also created a new poetry site, called The Page. *The Guardian* made it their 'Site of the Week' on the Books homepage a while back. Here's what they wrote:

'Neat new one-page site pointing to online poetry and essays of interest. It's simple but effective: on the right of the homepage is a list of links to new poems; on the left a selection of links to literary sites, litblogs and online poetry journals. Down the centre are featured short trails for interesting essays and articles about poetry and ideas, in the style of the classic of this field, Arts and Letters Daily. It's early days, but with its promise of daily updates, easy-to-browse design and stimulating choice of articles, The Page looks like it might be just as bookmarkable.'

Visit The Page at <http://thepage.name>

4. Slow Water wins across the Tasman

Victoria University Press author Annamarie Jagose's historically-based novel *Slow Water* won the Deutz Medal for fiction at the 2004 Montana Creative New Zealand Book Awards. It has now achieved a rare trans-Tasman double by winning the Vance Palmer Prize for Fiction at the Victorian Premier's Literary Awards, announced in Melbourne on 19 October. The novel was up against *Elizabeth Costello* by Nobel Laureate J M Coetzee, and *A Private Man* by Malcolm Knox, the *Sydney Morning Herald* literary editor who was behind the recent exposé of Jordanian writer Norma Khouri. *Slow Water* was also shortlisted for the 2004 Miles Franklin Award.

5. The Keys to Hell

Launched on 19 October, *The Keys to Hell* is a new collection of short stories from Jo Randerson, which builds on the underground success of her first collection, *The Spit Children*. Illustrated by the multi-talented Taika Waititi, and designed by Andrew Foster, *The Keys to Hell* contains up to the minute fables and cautionary tales for the 21st century. Jo's very first book, *The Knot*, was launched with a catapult, and for the launch of her latest, guests were invited to dress as a famous philosopher, some kind of key or 'any kind of religious theme'. The event included Scottish dancing, jousting, an author dressed as Robin Hood, and other behaviour not generally seen at Wellington book launches.

6. The Expanding Bookshelf

Congratulations to Katy Robinson. We hear word that her novel *The Linoleum Room* has been picked up for publication by Random House in February 2005. *The*

Linoleum Room took some of its first stylish if tentative steps in the 2001 MA workshop, the first to be held in Glenn Schaeffer House, 16 Wai-te-ata Road. The harbour view from the Wai-te-ata workshop room must be making a difference. In terms of book publication, the 2001 workshop has managed an 80% strike rate. It must be just a matter of time before 100% rolls into view.

Meantime, a couple of books are about to appear from writer-teachers at the IIML. Ken Duncum's acclaimed play *Cherish* will be published by VUP, while Bill Manhire's long promised anthology of imaginative writing about Antarctica, *The Wide White Page*, is launched on November 15.

7. Double Whammy!

Probably the best-looking poetry book ever published in New Zealand, Hinemoana Baker's *matuhi | needle* will be launched this weekend, along with her CD *Puawai*. *Matuhi* is jointly published by Victoria University Press and Perceval Press, the California publishing company directed by Pilar Perez and Viggo Mortensen. (Viggo read with Hinemoana in Wellington last year, and fell in love with her poetry.) The beautifully designed hardback features stunning art work by Ngai Tahu artist Jenny Rendall. The launch is at the One Eye Gallery, Paekakariki, at 3.00 pm, this Sunday, October 31.

<http://www.percevalpress.com/events.html>

<http://www.percevalpress.com/needle.html>

8. A very short story

The Guardian's digested read of Alan Hollinghurst's recent Booker winner, *The Line of Beauty*:

Nick snuck out to see his working-class lover.
"Neither I nor my ex are at all well," whispered Leo.
"Never mind," Nick whispered. Then they had sex.
It was the evening of the grandest party of the year.
"I'm a lady," said Lady Partridge.
"I'm a lady, too," Nick smiled, high on excitement. His bedroom had a Louis XV escritoire, and anyone who was anyone was there.

9. Recent Web Reading

Kurt Vonnegut in conversation with one of his characters

<http://www.inthesetimes.com/site/main/article/1351/>

(just what it says)

http://www.boston.com/ae/books/articles/2004/10/21/the_index_embraces_its_silly_si_de/

an Australian view of New Zealand poetry from a Scottish poetry site

http://www.thepoetryhouse.org/Petryrooms/australia_newz.html

inside the booker

http://www.economist.co.uk/books/displayStory.cfm?story_id=3308497

tricks of the eye

<http://www.hayward.org.uk/tricks/index.html>

favourite short stories

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/critique.cfm?id=1228572004>

American writers in France

<http://www.sundayherald.com/45526>

10. Two more deadlines

The Randell Cottage Writers Trust is calling for applications from New Zealand writers for the 2005 residency, which runs from early April 2005 to mid September 2005. The successful applicant will receive a monthly stipend for the six months of the residency, and reside in the historic Randell Cottage located in Wellington's central city suburb of Thorndon. Application forms and guidelines can be obtained by emailing af@paradise.net.nz or by writing to The Secretary, P O Box 11-032, Wellington. Applications close on Friday 19 November 2004. Additional information about the Trust and residency can be viewed on the New Zealand Book Council web site www.bookcouncil.org.nz

The deadline for the New Zealand Science Fiction Poetry Anthology being edited by Tim Jones and Mark Pirie is 15 November. Full guidelines for submissions are at <http://www.bookcouncil.org.nz/new/archive/20040618-sciencepoetry.html>

11. Great lists of our time

The Reality of Running Away from Stuff
courtesy of Cath Vidler (aka 'The List Lady')

A list showing maximum speeds for some of the more common Hollywood hazards that movie characters sometimes have to outrun.

http://www.cc.gatech.edu/people/home/idris/Movie_Reviews/Reality_of_Running_Away.html

Killer Snail 0.01 m/s
Walking Dead 0.8 m/s
Giant Snake (Black Mamba) 3.0 m/s
Swarm of Angry Killer Bees 3.6 m/s
Australian Freshwater Crocodile 4.7 m/s
Roadrunner 6.7 m/s
Kangaroo 6.9 m/s (loping)
Lava Flow in Steep Channel 9.1 m/s
Rottweiler 10.0 m/s
Tyranosaurus Rex 11.1 m/s (likely best speed)
African Bull Elephant 11.2 m/s
Great White Shark 11.2 m/s (swimming)

Killer Whale 13.4 m/s (swimming)
German Shepherd 14.2 m/s
Lion/Tiger/Bear 15-17 m/s
Tornado 15-26 m/s
Rabbit 16.0 m/s (non-vorpal)
Landslide/Mudslide 16.0 m/s (max)
Velociraptor 16.7 m/s (15 second burst)
Coyote 17.9 m/s (short distances)
A Duck 17.9 m/s (flying)
Ostrich 19.4 m/s (not-flying)
Kangaroo1 19.4 m/s (frantic and panicking)
Car going 45 mph 20.0 m/s
Thrown Knife 24.6 m/s
Cheetah3 32 m/s
90 mph baseball pitch 40.0 m/s
Stone from Commercial Slingshot 42.5 m/s
Crossbow Bolt 45.7 m/s
An Avalanche of Snow 48.0 m/s (near base)
Peregrine Falcon2 51.1 m/s (diving)
Arrow from 84 lb Compound bow 84.3 m/s
Boeing 747-400 Take-Off speed 92.6 m/s
Small Meteorite 138 m/s
Wall of Rushing Water 139 m/s
1929 Biplane 147 m/s
Bullet(.45 Auto 230 Grain FMJ) 246 m/s
Speed of Sound 340 m/s
Bullet(.357 Mag 158 Grain Led) 381 m/s
12 gauge shotgun pellets 411 m/s
Rotation of Earth 482 m/s
F-15 715 m/s (max velocity)
Surface-to-Air Missile (Russian SA-2) 1180 m/s
Shockwave of an Explosion Underwater 1020 m/s
Shockwave of an Explosion in Air 2380 m/s
250,000 ton Arizona Crater meteorite 16000 m/s
Speed of Light 300,000,000 m/s
Human Falling at Terminal Velocity 460 m/s
Human on Skis downhill 30-40 m/s
Fastest Swimming Human 2.3 m/s (Olympic record)
Experienced Parachuting Human 47.6 m/s
Fastest Human Running Speed 10.2 m/s (Olympic record - 100 m dash)
Human Free-Falling Record 4142 m/s