



## Newsletter August 2005

### New Zealand Poetry Society *Te Hunga Tito Ruri o Aotearoa*

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#### ☞ This Month's Meeting ☞

No meeting this month

#### ☞ News ☞

##### O'Sullivan Wins Major Award

Vincent O'Sullivan's acclaimed collection *Nice morning for it, Adam* has won the Poetry category of the Montana New Zealand Book Awards 2005. Judges described O'Sullivan as 'an extraordinary voice in New Zealand literature'.

#### ☞ From the Editor ☞

July 22 was a rich day for poetry all round. Unsuspecting citizens wandering around Wellington city looking at their feet will have had a poem or two sprung on them by the Poetry Society's Montana Poetry Day Pavement *Poetry* initiative (that will teach people for trying to avoid eye contact). In small towns and large throughout New Zealand, poetry will have been celebrated in one way or another.

I'd love to get more input for the New Zealand Poetry Society newsletter from people throughout New Zealand. Send me a regional report. What's happening in your part of the country? I look forward to hearing from you.

Lynn Davidson

#### ☞ Competition Results ☞

##### NZPS 2005 International Poetry Competition Summary of Results

We are grateful to our wonderful judges, John Horrocks, Pat White, Bernard Gadd and Jeanette Stace, for their work. Some poets have gained more than one place in their category. As always, our competition was judged blind –

the judges did not know the identities of the poets.

Many thanks to the Learning Connexion for their sponsorship of the Open Competition, and our grateful acknowledgement goes to the Asia New Zealand Foundation for their ongoing and generous support of the Junior Haiku section.

All winners and place-getters will automatically be included in the *New Zealand Poetry Society's 2005 Anthology*.

'This was my strongest impression – just how many people have the ability to express themselves in poetry,' says judge John Horrocks.

#### OPEN SECTION

Judged by John Horrocks (641 entries)

##### Winners

- 1) 'Learning a Language', Nick Williamson, Christchurch
- 2) 'Donkeys', Lynne Gray-Kohen, Tasman
- 3) 'With Paper Hats On', Michael Harlow, Alexandra

##### Highly Commended

(in no particular order)

- 'The Meaning of Ga', Anne Harré, Wellington  
'Is there a wise woman?', Helen Bascand, Christchurch  
'Remembering John Mulgan', Jeanette Stace, Wellington  
'Lunch in Prague', André Surridge, Hamilton  
'Hills will lead our dance', Peter Shadbolt, Wellington  
'Joseph', Karalyn Joyce, Pleasant Point  
'St Francis and the Birds', Bernard Gadd, Auckland  
'Finishing the book and starting all over', Helen Bascand, Christchurch  
'Not a full-page feature', Lee Scanlon, Westport

##### Commended

(in no particular order)

- 'Old dogs', Suzanne Chapman, Masterton  
'Acclimatisation', Kerry Popplewell, Wellington  
'Consider the neighbours', Karalyn Joyce, Pleasant Point  
'Ghost Child', Kerry Popplewell, Wellington

‘Weathering it’, Robin Fry, Lower Hutt  
 ‘Watching you sleep’, Nicola Easthope, Raumati South  
 ‘The unemployed’, Nick Williamson, Christchurch  
 ‘In the café’, Ponsonby Road, David Ingram, Auckland  
 ‘GET THE MESSAGE?’, Kay Wall, Waikanae  
 ‘Return of the Tuatara’, Nola Borrell, Lower Hutt  
 ‘Strike’, Elaine King, Auckland  
 ‘Seeds’, Karisma Vala-Blackmore, Ohaupo  
 ‘Poeme Indo-Chine’, Nicola Easthope, Raumati South

### JUNIOR OPEN SECTION

Judged by Pat White (403 entries)

#### Winners

- 1) ‘History’, Sue Mun Huang, Karamu High School, Hastings
- 2) ‘Words’, Emily Adlam, Diocesan School for Girls, Auckland
- 3) ‘Being 2’, Aubrey Teape, Shirley Intermediate, Christchurch

#### Highly Commended

(in no particular order)

‘bones’, Alish Vara, Rangi Ruru Girls’ School, Christchurch  
 ‘I am there...’ Hannah Flett, Dunedin North Intermediate School, Dunedin  
 ‘Not another Spring Poem’, Emily Adlam, Diocesan School for Girls, Auckland  
 ‘Drama Class’, Lucy Revill, Queen Margaret College, Wellington  
 ‘Internet love poem’, Lucy Revill, Queen Margaret College, Wellington  
 ‘The Ball’, Laura Giddey, Baradene College, Auckland

#### Commended

(in no particular order)

‘Magic Weather’, Anna Fennemar, Mataroa School, Taihape  
 ‘Autumn’, Jamie Beaton, Saint Kentigern School, Auckland  
 ‘egg’, Nic Harty, Karamu High School, Hastings  
 ‘One September Long Ago’, Emily Adlam, Diocesan School for Girls, Auckland  
 ‘The Band Just Kept Playing’, Samantha Grayck, Matamata (currently on exchange in France)

### HAIKU SECTION

Judged by Bernard Gadd (676 entries)

#### Winners

- 1) ‘dusk-’, Quendryth Young, NSW, Australia
- 2) ‘old pines’, Barbara Strang, Christchurch

- 3) ‘lung x-ray’, Greeba Brydges-Jones, Christchurch
- 4) ‘esl’, Ernest Berry, Picton
- 5) ‘winter...’, Greeba Brydges-Jones, Christchurch

#### Highly Commended

(in no particular order)

‘her ashes’, Jack Prewitt, NSW, Australia  
 ‘family chapel’, Ernest Berry, Picton  
 ‘clear sky’, Sue Mill, QLD, Australia  
 ‘empty beach’, Sue Mill, QLD, Australia  
 ‘after rain’, Sue Mill, QLD, Australia  
 ‘auntie’s laughter’, John Bird, NSW, Australia  
 ‘willow canes’, Elaine King, Auckland  
 ‘earthquake season’, Sandra Simpson, Tauranga  
 ‘end of the road’, Sandra Simpson, Tauranga  
 ‘heavy mist’, Jack Prewitt, NSW, Australia  
 ‘new telescope’, Ernest Berry, Picton  
 ‘reading a letter’, Vasil Moldovan, Romania

#### Commended

(in no particular order)

‘home from the convent’, Anne Edmunds, Christchurch  
 ‘beautiful hands’, Karen Peterson-Butterworth, Otaki  
 ‘gift of flowers’, Karen Peterson-Butterworth, Otaki  
 ‘breast biopsy’, Jack Prewitt, NSW, Australia  
 ‘park bench’, Quendryth Young, NSW, Australia  
 ‘the moon’, Owen Bullock, Tauranga  
 ‘autumn morning’, Jeanette Stace, Wellington

### JUNIOR HAIKU SECTION

Judged by Jeanette Stace (1002 entries)

#### Winners

- 1) ‘earthquake’, Edward Davidson, St Patrick’s School, Christchurch
- 2) ‘Arguing’, Jordan Downey, Banks Ave School, Christchurch
- 3 equal) ‘a smile across the table’, Henrietta Hitchings, Rangi Ruru Girls’ School, Christchurch
- 3 equal) ‘A quick look’, Neil Drummond-Nairn, Wellington College, Wellington
- 5) ‘Making fudge’, Staci Fuldseth, Banks Ave School, Christchurch

#### Highly Commended

(in no particular order)

‘another diwali morning’, Charlotte Trevella, Rangi Ruru Girls’ School, Christchurch  
 ‘unwashed’, Charlotte Trevella, Rangi Ruru Girls’ School, Christchurch  
 ‘rain drop’, Sophie Frentz, Tauranga Girls’ College, Tauranga  
 ‘slammed book’, Dora Davidson, St Andrew’s College, Christchurch

'dusty shelf', Dora Davidson, St Andrew's College, Christchurch  
'stormy day', William Davidson, St Patrick's School, Christchurch

### **Commended**

(in no particular order)

'under', Dora Davidson, St Andrew's College, Christchurch  
'washing machine', Simon Todd, St Andrew's College, Christchurch  
'the piano stops', Bridie Connell, St Andrew's College, Christchurch  
'funeral march', Sophie Frentz, Tauranga Girls' College, Tauranga  
'rainy day', Sophie Frentz, Tauranga Girls' College, Tauranga  
'frosty morning', Cameron Chapel, Fendalton Open-Air School, Christchurch  
'blind and thin-skinned', Charlotte Carter, Fendalton Open-Air School, Christchurch  
'I'm walking', Amelia Baker, Banks Ave School, Christchurch  
'I turn a page', Bojana Rimbovska, Burnside Primary School  
'I look in the mirror', James Johnstone, Penrose High School, Auckland

*The judges' full reports will be available on our website [www.poetrysociety.org.nz](http://www.poetrysociety.org.nz) from the end of August 2005.*

*Laurice Gilbert  
Competition Secretary*

## **☞ Upcoming Events ☜**

### **Writers on Monday Series at IIML**

From July through to September each year, the International Institute of Modern Letters runs a series of events highlighting writers active in and around Wellington, as well as guests from further afield. This year, for the first time, the entire series will be presented at the City Gallery in Wellington, making it readily accessible to a wide audience.

Internationally acclaimed Australian writer Robert Dessaix launched the 2005 series. The focus then shifted to poetry, with five events presented in conjunction with the National Library Gallery's *Main Trunk Lines* poetry exhibition (22 July – 30 October). This started with newly published poet Emily Dobson and finishes with the current Te Mata Estate Poet Laureate, Jenny Bornholdt.

At the midpoint of the series we explore the fictional

and autobiographical worlds of Deutz Medal finalist Fiona Farrell, and then our attention turns to emerging talent. The Next Page and Short/Sharp/Script events have always been among the liveliest and most enjoyable in the series. You may not have heard of these writers yet, but you can be sure they will surprise and entertain you, and that you'll be hearing more from them in the future.

The series concludes with a conversation about one of the major vehicles for new writing in New Zealand over the last 17 or so years: *Sport*.

Writers on Mondays is a great way to brighten up the beginning of a working week – and it's free!

All Writers on Mondays events take place at City Gallery, Civic Square, Wellington at 1pm. Admission is free. For further information contact the IIML on (04) 463 6854.

Writers on Mondays is presented in partnership with City Gallery Wellington, and supported by Chen Palmer & Partners and the National Library of New Zealand.

*Report from IIML*

### **Main Trunk Lines**

*Main Trunk Lines: New Zealand Poetry* is an exhibition celebrating New Zealand poetry. It runs at the National Library Gallery from 22 July to 30 October.

The exhibition is curated by the Poet Laureate Jenny Bornholdt and Gregory O'Brien. Drawing extensively on the book and manuscript collections of the Alexander Turnbull Library, *Main Trunk Lines: New Zealand Poetry* samples some of the country's best-known poems alongside the more peripheral, experimental and surprising.

Exhibits range from Eileen Duggan's teapot to a cartoon about James K Baxter by Chris Knox. Also included are book designs, voice recordings, Anna Livesey's series of commissioned poems on a set of beer coasters, and two poems written by James K Baxter on the wallpaper of Michael Illingworth's house.

From the widely accepted to the radical – Thomas Bracke's 'God Defend New Zealand' to Cilla McQueen's 'Dogwobble' – *Main Trunk Lines* offers visitors a bearing on the broad imaginative map of New Zealand poetry.

### **International Watermark Literary Muster**

The 2005 Watermark Literary Muster will celebrate literature about nature and place.

Dates: Tuesday 4 October – Saturday 8 October inclusive  
Venue: Kendall in the Camden Haven on the NSW Mid North Coast

Tickets: From \$18 for a ½ day student pass to \$440 for a 4½ day family pass, brochure available in June.

For more information, visit [www.watermarkliterarysociety.asn.au](http://www.watermarkliterarysociety.asn.au)

## Writers at Taranaki Festival of the Arts

Charlotte Grimshaw, Deborah Shepard, Gregory O'Brien, Hinemoana Baker, Patricia Grace, Harvey McQueen, KellyAna Morey, Steve Braunias, David Hill and Elizabeth Smither feature in a weekend-long Book Talk/Special on Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 August. For more information on the festival go to their website [www.artsfest.co.nz](http://www.artsfest.co.nz)

## Going West Books & Writers 2005

From 2–25 September, Waitakere City will be hosting the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Going West Books and Writers Festival. The 2005 programme includes an exciting mix of word-based events featuring a weekend of literary presentations, the Going West steam train journey, theatre, rare and second-hand book market, poetry slam and family storytelling day. The venue is the Titirangi Memorial Hall. Contact [Lesley.Smith@waitakere.govt.nz](mailto:Lesley.Smith@waitakere.govt.nz) with your name and address to join the Going West mailing list. The website is [www.goingwest.co.nz](http://www.goingwest.co.nz)

## Haiku in the Hills

Here is an opportunity to walk and talk Haiku/Poetry to Cedar Flats and Top Toaroha – this is a classic West Coast tramp with hot pools and the majestic Southern Alps and West Coast bush, as a muse and backdrop. The proposed date for the trip is 22–24 October (Labour Day). This gives two nights in the hills with the option of a different hut each night and with a long walk on the last day, or two nights in the first hut. Contact Donald Buglass for more information: 47 Livingstone St, Hokitika, or phone 027 482 1983.

## Noel McKenna – Sheltered Life

Sydney-based artist Noel McKenna's work is triggered by the everyday world around us and the poetry that can sometimes be found in ordinary situations. He says 'I have a general philosophy that the things that I do just come from everyday life and you do find strange things in everyday life.'

For his exhibition at the City Gallery in Wellington, McKenna explores various notions of home: home town, home away from home, homelessness, the homing impulse. In addition to a number of his characteristic paintings, *Sheltered Life* will include several of McKenna's sculptural works – enigmatic constructions which play with scale and incorporate found objects.

Noel McKenna's art has an affinity with the written word. Text often appears in his work, and as New Zealand writer Damien Wilkins has said: 'Writers love his stuff. Is it because his paintings often have a discrete narrative force? They seem to come from a larger story that is always on the point of being told, and they have an off-hand charm

that flatters ...' Appropriately, *Sheltered Life* includes a series of McKenna's ceramic vases featuring texts by New Zealand writer Jenny Bornholdt.

*Noel McKenna – Sheltered Life*, City Gallery Wellington, 10 July – 18 September, free entry.

*Report from No 8 Wire Issue 39*

## ☞ A Warm Welcome to . . . ☞

**Kim Slemint** – USA  
**Sylva Cornejo** – Wellington  
**Lorraine Rigg** – Paekakariki  
**Sybil Robinson** – Levin

## Quotation of the Month

'A poem is a small or large machine made of words.'

*William Carlos Williams*

## ☞ Other News ☞

New Poetry Society Committee member Ralph Proops will be assisting with the NZPS website development.

## New NZ Haiku Webpage

Don't forget to visit the new haiku webpage at [www.poetrysociety.org.nz/haiku.html](http://www.poetrysociety.org.nz/haiku.html). Evan Keats of Wellington is the web engineer, Sandra Simpson of Tauranga the webmaster. The idea of a webpage stemmed from Haiku Festival Aotearoa (held in Wellington in March), and gained the support of the NZPS committee. This month we begin a series of articles by respected American haikai Jane Reichhold on writing techniques. Check up on haiku news, competitions, group meetings and websites from around the world. It's yours to enjoy. Visit!

## School Haiku Tutors

Mentioned in passing at the Haiku Festival Aotearoa was the idea of volunteering to tutor haiku at a school near you. Volunteering meaning, of course, no pay, just the glory and a nice little speech of thanks from a student.

It was suggested that there were avenues open to receiving payment. Nice work if you can get it, but so far I have not managed to turn up anything.

The Ministry of Education has a programme only for those teaching visual arts, while the Book Council's

Writers in Schools programme is for writers or illustrators who have published several books.

If anyone knows of other possibilities, please inform Nola Borrell (Co-ordinator, Haiku news). However, as the volunteering I do takes up about three hours a year (at an intermediate and primary school), it really isn't a hardship.

*Sandra Simpson, Tauranga*

### **The News from Antwerp**

The recent visit of New Zealand poets to the Antwerp poetry festival – Dichters in het Elzenveld was a great success, with large audiences attending the two evenings of readings by Vincent O'Sullivan, Tusiata Avia, Jenny Bornholdt and Bill Manhire. The New Zealanders' poems were made available in English and in Flemish versions by Wellington-based poet Jan Lauwereyns in the magazine *Revolver* ([www.revolver-literair.be](http://www.revolver-literair.be)). The preceding issue of *Revolver* was given over entirely to New Zealand poetry and arts.

Bill Manhire reports that the New Zealanders' appearance at the festival made a start towards breaking down some European misconceptions about Antipodean literature. 'My sense from talking to a number of people is that in many parts of Europe, New Zealand literature is very much masked by Australian literature. There seems to be a belief that if you have read some Australian fiction, then you have somehow read New Zealand fiction too; or that if you invite an Australian poet to a festival, then you have somehow accommodated New Zealand poetry as well.'

After appearing in Antwerp, several of the poets went on to read at a similar festival in Rotterdam, where they were joined by Gregory O'Brien, who with Avia has gone on to Moscow for the launch of an anthology of New Zealand poetry in Russian. The Writers on Mondays event New Zealand Poetry Abroad will focus on this recent flurry of translating and exporting New Zealand poetry.

The July issue of *North & South* contains a feature on contemporary New Zealand poetry which stresses its growing international reach, and more on the poets in Europe and background on the Russian anthology is at [http://www.leafsalon.co.nz/archives/000696seven\\_go\\_lit\\_in\\_europe.html](http://www.leafsalon.co.nz/archives/000696seven_go_lit_in_europe.html)

*Report from IIML*

### **Tuwhare (re)visited**

The world has been beating a path to Hone Tuwhare's door in recent weeks. May saw the launch of *Tuwhare*, an album of songs based on his poems by artists ranging from Goldenhorse and Strawpeople to Don McGlashan

and Hinemoana Baker. Radio NZ recently ran a three-part series on the making of the CD, and producer Charlotte Yates has made a short video about the project, which features Hone Tuwhare at home, along with a selection of songs. Then John Campbell made the pilgrimage to South Otago to visit the poet at home.

More recently, Tuwhare received an honorary doctor of literature degree from the University of Auckland. He has responded to all the attention with his typical modesty and puzzlement, but seemed most bemused about his second doctorate. 'I don't know why they've given me a second one – I've already got one [from Otago University in 1998] They're silly buggers, and you can tell them that. Why don't they check their records?'

The 82-year-old isn't resting on his laurels. His new poetry collection *Ooooooh!!!* was launched in Kaka Point last weekend by Judith Tizard. The book is described by the publishers as 'an expression of undiminished lust: for women; music; Tangaroa; for the poet's own astonishing life.' You can read more about the *Tuwhare* CD and download the video at [http://www.maoriart.org.nz/noticeboard/general/tuwhare\\_cd](http://www.maoriart.org.nz/noticeboard/general/tuwhare_cd)

*Report from IIML*

### **Studio Recording**

Ever dreamed of producing your own radio show? Well, here's your chance. Here at Access Radio we have all the facilities you need to produce, record and create your own show and even record live to air!

If you are a musician, poet, singer-songwriter or you are interested in affordable recording studio time, or perhaps have an idea for a show you'd love to record, get in touch with Wellington Access Radio for affordable prices at competitive rates. Have your say and get a group together to produce your own show. We offer a variety of rates to hire the studios for programming or pre-recording with group/membership rates and individual rates available. Contact us on 385 7210 or [info@accessradio.org.nz](mailto:info@accessradio.org.nz)

*Report from Poets-in-time*

### **International Poetry Discussion Group**

Poneme is an international email discussion group which focuses on poetry and poetry-related matters. It is interested in establishing links between poets internationally, and a current aim is to foster connections between New Zealand and Australian poetry communities. Members are invited to provoke and engage in discussion, to post their own work, and to advise the list of their own and others' publications, readings, events, etc. There are currently around 50 practising poets, writers and editors on the list. The conversation is free-range and often stimulating.

New members are welcome. To join the list, visit <http://lists.grouse.net.au/mailman/listinfo/poneme>

*Report from Poets-in-time*

### Heritage Press

Alyson Cresswell, editor of *Freelance*, New Zealand's longest-running magazine for freelance and creative writers, now has another string to her bow – as a publisher. She has taken over Heritage Press, which publishes social histories, biographies, regional and company histories and books of importance to New Zealand history. For further information visit [www.heritagepress.co.nz](http://www.heritagepress.co.nz)

### A Double Helping of Poetry Pudding poetry anthology for children edited by Jenny Argante

This project is set to fly now, but because I had a PC crash, there's some missing data. If you submitted a poem and you haven't heard from me, there is probably a problem. So please contact me urgently on [henenterprises@xtra.co.nz](mailto:henenterprises@xtra.co.nz). For example, who is the poet who wrote 'Eight Glories'? It ends 'Gee', and I don't know if this an exclamation, a description of the letter, or a surname. If you have heard from me you should be OK, and will be contacted when there's a proof ready. If you haven't heard from me, you could be one of those names lost in the ether, so please re-send. I am committed to this project, and it's ready to go.

### ☞ Publications ☞

#### New Zealand Poetry Society Publications

##### 2004 Anthology – *The Enormous Picture*

The anthology of winning, commended and selected entries from the 2004 competition is available to order. To download an order form go to [www.poetrysociety.org.nz/Media/downloads/ORDERFORM2004anthology](http://www.poetrysociety.org.nz/Media/downloads/ORDERFORM2004anthology)

##### 2003 Anthology – *Something to Expiate*

Our 2003 anthology has sold out before even hitting the bookstores but the NZPS may reprint if there are sufficient orders. Email us at [editor@poetrysociety.org.nz](mailto:editor@poetrysociety.org.nz) to register interest in a reprint and pre-order copies.

##### 2002 Anthology – *A Savage Garden*

The 2002 anthology was compiled from winning and selected entries to our 2002 poetry competition. All copies have been sold!

##### 2001 Anthology – *An Exchange of Gifts*

The 2001 anthology is available to members for \$13.95 (plus postage), and to non-members for \$15.95 (plus postage) for 1–2 copies, \$13.95 (plus postage) for 3 or more copies. Please send a cheque (including postage) to Publications, NZPS, PO Box 5283, Wellington, and indicate your membership status and posting details. Postage is \$1 for 1–2 books within NZ, or \$3 for 1–2 books overseas mailing.

### Book Sale!

The New Zealand Poetry Society is offering big discounts on its publications.

The 2000 anthology *The Whole Wide World* now costs only \$8

Earlier anthologies are \$5 for any two:

*Tapping the Tank 1999, Climbing the Flame Tree 1998, The Ordinary Magic 1997, Catching the Rainbow 1996, Sky Falling 1995*

The second *NZ Haiku Anthology* is discounted to \$8

We have limited stocks of some of the earlier anthologies (also 2 for \$5).

Margaret Voss is the editor of the 2005 anthology which will be launched in November this year. The 2005 anthology will include all the winners of the NZPS Poetry Competition as well as a selection of work from other Competition entrants.

### Valley Micropress

#### Poetry of the People by the People for the People

\$25 per year for 10 copies. Contact Tony Chad, 165A Katherine Mansfield Drive, Whiteman's Valley, Upper Hutt, [tony.chad@clear.net.nz](mailto:tony.chad@clear.net.nz), <http://finnmac.com>

### ☞ Submissions ☞

#### Submissions for *Snorkel* #2 Due 15 August

*Snorkel* is an online literary magazine with a special interest in bringing together the creative writing of Australians and New Zealanders, while also welcoming submissions from the wider international community. *Snorkel* is published twice yearly, with *Snorkel* #2 due for launch in October 05.

Submissions to *Snorkel* are by email. Only previously unpublished work is considered. Send up to five poems and/or two prose pieces as attachments in either Microsoft Word or Rich Text Format, or as text included in the body of the email to [snorkel@snorkel.org.au](mailto:snorkel@snorkel.org.au)

### Attention Women Writers!

In April 2005 *Penwomanship*, a magazine for creative woman writers, was launched. Penny White, publisher of the new monthly periodical says the magazine will feature women's writing, artwork and photography. In addition to short stories, poetry, personal essays and the like, the magazine is also seeking short-short humour pieces, advice columns for women in the areas of women's health issues, finances for women and writing tips for women.

Submissions can be made via email in the body of the email only. For more details, please read the submission guidelines on the website [www.penwomanship.com](http://www.penwomanship.com). Payment is currently five contributors' copies until the magazine is able to pay contributing writers.

### Yellow Moon Seed Pearls

Seed Pearls is the only Yellow Moon competition open internationally for all categories. Prize money for all categories is listed below.

A – Prose: a haiku journey (haibun) max 600 words \$100, \$50

B – Haiku: (page of 3 = 1 entry) \$100, \$50

C – Tanka: (page of 2 = 1 entry) \$100, \$40

D – Haiku Sequence: 8 -11 haiku by one or more poets \$100, \$40

E – Poem: to 28 lines free or rhymed. Theme: Nature \$100, \$40

Entry fees are AUS\$5 per entry, or AUS\$10 for three entries. Cheque or money orders are payable to B. M. George. Send entries to Beverley George, Yellow Moon, PO Box 37, Pearl Beach, NSW 2256. Closing date 31 August 2005.

### The New Writer Magazine Prose and Poetry Prizes

This is one of the major annual international competitions for short stories, novellas, single poems, poetry collections, essays and articles. Cash prizes are offered as well as publication for the prize-winning writers in *The Collection* – the special edition of *The New Writer* magazine – each July. The closing date is 31 October 2005. For further information, including international guidelines, visit [www.thenewwriter.com](http://www.thenewwriter.com)

For a free recent back copy of the magazine send five International Reply Coupons to *The New Writer*, PO Box 60, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 2ZR. Closing date 31 October 2005.

### Turbine

The International Institute of Modern Letters is calling for submissions of original poetry, short fiction and creative non-fiction to be considered for the 2006 edition of the online literary journal, *Turbine*. The submission deadline is 20 October 2005. Submission guidelines and past issues are available at [www.vuw.ac.nz/turbine](http://www.vuw.ac.nz/turbine)

### NZSA Manuscript Assessment Programme 2005

Applications are now being called for the 2005 NZSA (PEN NZ Inc) Manuscript Assessment Programme. The successful applicants will have their manuscripts read and will receive a detailed report on its strengths and weaknesses and suggestions for improvement. Assessors are members of the NZ Association of Manuscript Assessors. The programme is open only to financial members of the NZSA (PEN NZ Inc).

Manuscripts for both children and adults (excluding picture books) will be considered as well as completed second or third draft manuscripts of poetry, fiction, short-fiction and non-fiction. The maximum length is 100,000 words and the word count must appear on the manuscript. The programme is for new writers with little or no publication in book form (may be published in literary journals and periodicals).

There are 12 positions available for 2005. Successful applicants will be matched with an assessor, specialising in the genre of the applicant's writing. The process of selection, which takes into account a balance of genres, is not necessarily an indication of the quality of the manuscript. It is expected that the applicant's manuscript will be of a standard that reflects the more advanced skill level of the writer.

For further details and an application form, please email the NZSA office: [nzsa@clear.net.nz](mailto:nzsa@clear.net.nz) and put 'Assessment Programme' in the subject line. The deadline for applications is 31 August 2005.

*Report from NZ Writers Ezine*

### DIGzine

This bold new collaborative, Artszine, showcases previously unseen and unheard pieces from emergent and established artists, writers and poets. The *DIGzine* has been self-funded, produced and distributed by the multi-media disorganisation known as DIG. DIG first broke new ground with their inspired, multimedia cafe evenings in Waitakere city. They are currently producing an experimental radio broadcast every Tuesday evening from 8–11pm. For more information visit [www.radiopiha.co.nz](http://www.radiopiha.co.nz)

*DIGzine* is their maiden voyage into publishing. Featuring a diverse range of artists, writers and poets, this

stylish but challenging publication takes the punk ethos into the 21st century. It is currently available at Real Groovy, Maggazine and all good galleries in Waitakere City. DIG is interested in submissions for *DIGzine No.2*. Visit [www.digzine.com](http://www.digzine.com)

*Report from The Big Idea*

## ∞ Congratulations ∞

### Yellow Moon: Elegy 2005 – Results

#### Equal First

Mardijah Simpson, Alice Springs, NT, 'Water Song'  
Phyl Wilbe, Dundowran, QLD, 'For Eugenia'

#### Very Highly Commended

Kimberly Good, Mt Albert, NZ, 'Same Rain on a Different Roof'  
Laura Jan Shore, New Brighton, NSW, 'The Magician's Assistant'  
Laura Jan Shore, New Brighton, NSW, 'Eloquent Art'  
Anne Carson, Camberwell, VIC, 'Last Trick'

#### Highly Commended

Nathalie Buckland, Nimbin, NSW, 'Asperger Child'  
Andrew Hyde, Barongarook, VIC, 'A Poem About Knots'  
Carolyn Eldridge-Alfonzetti, North Epping, NSW, 'Elegy to My Father'  
Jean Sietzema-Dickson, Mont Albert North, VIC, 'Elegy for David Penman'  
Julie Thorndyke, Castle Hill, NSW, 'appogiatura'  
Ann Mills, Helensvale, QLD, 'Eternity'  
Carole Poustie, Mitcham, VIC, 'For Marion'  
Rob Walker, Cherry Gardens, SA, 'Glory without Power'  
Sue Fitchett, Waiheke Island, NZ, 'Ho! Tom Bombadil, Tom Bombadillo'  
Helen Lowe, Christchurch, NZ, 'John Marcussen'

#### Special Announcement: An Additional Award

Due to your strong response to this competition, it is possible to offer a prize *additional* to the two \$100 prizes detailed on the entry form for elegiac poems which stem from private grief or from respect for a person in the public eye. We received a number of worthy poems based on humanitarian concerns engendered by war, terrorism and acts of nature. In light of recent events we would like to recognise this group with an additional \$100 prize, to be shared equally between Glennis Henning, Telopea, NSW, 'Son of Darfur', and Margaret Zalisz, Lower Templestowe, VIC, 'Tsunami'.

### Yellow Moon Nutshell Results

Australian poets led the way this time, but several New Zealand writers were among the finalists.

In the tetractys section, Andre SurrIDGE, Hamilton,

'cells' and Nola Borrell, Lower Hutt, 'eel' were highly commended.

In the cinquain section, Catherine Mair, Katikati, 'hands' and Nola Borrell, 'geese' were commended.

Limerick whizz Veronica Haughey of Wellington was commended for 'There once was a rather new yachtie'.

## ∞ Reviews ∞

### *Stoptide*, Elizabeth Isichei, Steele Roberts, 2005, 95pp, \$24.95

This is a collection with many autobiographical and personal poems, and therefore includes topics readers may relate to such as childhood, school, festivals, love, family, friends, and well-known places like Dunedin. Isichei's favoured method is to collate lists of details. Sometimes these remain just assortments of details, particularly when the authorial voice seems detached and uses third person pronouns. This can mean that a potentially mysterious yet alluring poem such as 'The induna of Jerusalem' (based on an African sect leader) doesn't quite light up as it could.

But in what is by far the best poem in the collection, 'John Drawbridge: Interior No. 11, 1979' – which is complemented by a black-and-white reproduction of the artwork which is the subject – everything comes together to make a small poem rich in connotations:

#### Shadow

*has encroached her face;  
leafless, these branches grow  
darkening her window.*

*She turns, not to a view  
eclipsed  
but to a mirror  
which shows her only*

*the self she knew  
before; the shadows  
deepen, it is, of course,  
still winter and she remains  
alone*

The language is simple and direct, the metaphors unobtrusive and apt, and the lines hold their cadence, which in other works occasionally slips towards prose.

The collection opens with three effective poems which should have wide appeal, 'Dragon' is about fire and has a nice whimsy to it, 'Star' alludes to the Magi gifts at the birth of Christ: *She gave them to another pilgrim / travelling east, after a different star*, and 'Green', a little light-hearted conversation as with a child. 'Gypsies' is a brief, vivid portrayal of an old woman in Venice who *hauls herself along the bridge railings*. Again the details are evocative,

as are the cumulative details in the portrayal in 'For an English bird-watcher'. The conclusion of 'Triptych' will resonate with many readers:

*She too has learned  
that being old's dangerous, precarious  
scary.*

'At Thorndon pool' catches well the experience of lolling in the water watching and seeing people and everyday things afresh.

The collection ends with a few poems the author wrote in the early 1960s, but which now inevitably suggest the period of their composition and the youthfulness of their writer.

Isichei provides a short autobiographical introduction and at the back notes and detailed acknowledgements.

The physical production of the book is at the high standard readers have come to expect from these publishers.

*Bernard Gadd is an Auckland poet and regular newsletter contributor*

***Hypnic Jerks, Geoff Cochrane, Victoria University Press, 2005, 64pp, \$24.95***

Geoff Cochrane's poetry has always been intensely personal. Much of his poetry to date has been about pain, loss, loneliness and recovery. *Hypnic Jerks* explores other qualities of Cochrane's poetry; the wry sense of humour found in a particular turn of phrase such as: *Don't judge me by the colour of my lighter*; and a sharp ear for the flavour of New Zealand English found in such phrases as: *The moths up here are whoppers*.

A 'hypnic jerk' is the bodily spasm we sometimes experience on the threshold of sleep that jolts us awake. In this volume Cochrane offers an orchestrated series of jolts, dreams, memories and two bizarre stories in verse called 'Little Bits of Harry' and 'A Green Jesus'. The book is divided into four parts: two short sequences of poems (parts 1 and 3) and two stories told in verse (parts 2 and 4).

The best poem in the collection is 'The Langston Corrugator'. The poem recalls an early job at a factory in Levin which housed an enormous machine for making cardboard. The poem has an intriguing fragmentary structure that mixes striking images: *The bruise-blue cloud above Levin.../ looked sore and buttery*, with the casual note that:

*Bernardo Bertolucci  
contrived to be both film director  
and published poet.*

It's a marvellous poem that shows more of Cochrane's craft with each reading. There's writing as a solitary sort of job and then there's working at a plant in Levin that bashes out cardboard: a portrait of the artist as a young factory worker who reads second-hand editions of *Penguin*

*Modern Poets*. On second reading, I saw how 'sore' and 'tongues' also appear in 'Little Bits of Harry'. *Hypnic Jerks* is very much a work about writing and becoming a writer without ever sounding precious or clever. The book also sports another fantastic cover by Sarah Maxey.

*Harvey Malloy is a Wellington writer*

***Giving Poetry a Bad Name, Mark Pirie, Earl of Seacliff Art Workshop, \$29.95***

Mark Pirie is perhaps best known as founding editor of the journal *JAAM*, editor of the anthology *The NeXt Wave* and the publisher of a number of New Zealand poets with his publishing house HeadworX. He is also known for his own poetry that has been widely published.

*Giving Poetry a Bad Name* is a collection of his work from 1992 to 2004. The book divides into four sections representing his development as a writer. There is also a biographical introduction and several pages of photographs showing the author with an assortment of his colleagues.

The first section, The Young Writer, contains poems that experiment with rhyme, shape, politics, love and desire. There is social comment, 'Going to the Naked Show'; humour 'The Myth Killer' and a number of poems such as the section's title poem, about being a writer.

*... And, as  
he slowly raised his pen  
and began his descent,  
he watched his words spitting across  
the page, knowing the strings  
were all but cut*

The second section, Letters Home to Heartbreak Hotel, shows the development of observation. Here the poems are more honest and sceptical. There is even the hint of a mean streak in poems such as 'The Spelling Problem', and some insight into his own pretensions as in 'The Bible Problem':

*and the Bible just seemed to be the right size,  
and besides it had that gutsy Bukowski  
look about it.*

In this section, as throughout the book, Pirie continues to experiment with style.

*... and with your legs inching  
out of frame  
there's the sound  
of a whisper  
... it tells you about the short cuts  
and the spaces  
in between*

This section also points to many of the writer's influences. Pirie has many points to make; he sometimes makes these directly as in 'Note for a Particular Lady', sometimes with a bludgeon as in 'Making a Point', or with a degree of subtlety and good Kiwi colour as in 'Rant for Creely'. Here we find sublime delights like 'Hyacinth' and some good

shots at the establishment in poems like 'So You Want to Be Respected Like Curnow'

*... and you'll stand there,  
tall and proud,  
watching them digest you  
as easily as a Tuwhare poem,...*

The poems in the third section, No Joke, are more lyrical as in 'The Discussion', and there are some interesting prose poems. There are more poems on the art of writing and indeed some poems that come from darker places.

The last section comprises poems written in the last two years. Things happen as you grow older. From 'The Day A.B. Died':

*... and I'm driving along The Quay  
where he bought me a drink the day  
before Xmas, toasting our lasting  
success as 'publishers'. He gave me some  
good advice about punching  
at fog ...*

All told this is a collection that is as cynical as it is honest. Here is a poet in love with the world yet disgusted with its values. It is a huge book but among the juggernaut of words the reader is bound to find a number of poignant gems:

*... After you've left  
I wait outside  
until the jingle of milk bottles  
fades in the distance.  
Now  
nothing stirs  
except the peaceful mutiny  
in the rose garden ...*

*Linzy Forbes is a Porirua writer and publisher*

## ☞ Out & About ☜

### CHRISTCHURCH

#### The Small White Teapot

This Group began as a result of the visit to Christchurch of Jim Kacian in 1998. A group of friends met at Mainstreet Cafe afterwards and decided to form a haiku group. In searching for a name, someone's eye fell on the small white china teapots used by the cafe. They seemed to suggest something vaguely Japanese, and so the group was named.

We began with ten active members. The high point for us was the publication of the anthology *Listening to the Rain*, co-edited by Jo Preston, our founding member, and Cyril Childs. This was launched in October 2002, and contains work from thirteen local writers. The anthology was highly commended by *Frogpond 2003*.

After that the membership fell away. Jo Preston went

to England, Jeff Harpeng to Australia, and others resigned for various reasons, until we were left with just six of the original members. However, the group is in the ascendency once again with a present membership of nine.

A recent theme was roses:

*autumn rose  
how tall, ah  
how golden*

*Helen Yong*

*from my Christchurch window  
blooming  
'Auckland Metro'*

*Anne Edmunds*

*over the garden wall –  
'wedding day'*

*Helen Bascand*

*dead-heading so carefully  
still  
the thorn bites*

*Judith Walsh*

We still meet at Mainstreet Cafe, Colombo St, Christchurch, on the third Tuesday of the month at 7pm. Contact details: Judith Walsh, phone 03 342 9881, email: njw@clear.net.nz or Barbara Strang, phone 03 376 4486, email: bhstrang@yahoo.com

### AUCKLAND

Wednesday 24 August, Takakpuna Library, 6pm. Launch of *As it was in the beginning*, a new volume of poetry by Stu Bagby, published by Steele Roberts. All welcome. Free entry. Refreshments provided.

### WELLINGTON

#### The Capital Arts Show ... Kickin' it LIVE!

To liven up your Saturday, listen to the Capital Arts Show, live every Saturday 1pm, for info on shows and events, news, interviews, reviews, giveaways and updates on what's happening around Wellington. So tune into 783AM Wellington Access Radio because this is where it's at!

#### Hutt Valley Community Arts is Poets-in-time Main sponsor - so related events will be showcased.

HVCA gives advice, project support and small grants. It administers the Creative Communities fund (under \$500 on behalf of Hutt City Council for any art or cultural project in the Hutt Valley).

*Reports from Poets-in-time*

## ☞ Competitions ☞

### Aoraki Festival of the Arts Literary Awards

Applications are now being called for the Aoraki Festival of the Arts Literary Awards. These include the *Timaru Herald*/Aoraki Festival Short Story Award and the Elworthy Family Memorial Poetry Award. Applications close on 30 September 2005.

Rules are available from: Literary Awards, Aoraki Festival, 77 Strickland Street, Somerfield, Christchurch. Please enclose a stamped, addressed envelope. Or email [mary-meehan@paradise.net.nz](mailto:mary-meehan@paradise.net.nz)

### Second International Bravado Poetry Competition

This competition closes on 30 August, so you need to get your entries in soon. The judge is Alistair Paterson, editor of *Poetry New Zealand*. Prizes: 1st \$500, 2nd \$250 & 3rd \$100, plus 10 Highly Commended Prizes of \$50 each. Winners will be announced 4 November and winning poems will appear in *Bravado 5*. For an entry form with rules, please send an e-mail to: [info.bravado@xtra.co.nz](mailto:info.bravado@xtra.co.nz)

## ☞ Websites ☞

Ever wanted to ask an expert a question about writing and not known where to go? The Writers Forum on the NZSA website, <http://www.authors.org.nz>, is where writers get to ask questions of a resident expert over a two-week period.

*From NZ Writers Ezine*

### AA Independent Press Guide

A free resource for writers and artists, the AA Independent Press Guide is a detailed guide to over 2,000 literary and genre magazines and publishers from around the world. It also includes links to over 700 Internet magazines, and now houses links pages to writers' and artists' web pages and writers' resources. The editor, Dee Rimbaud, claims that it is – as far as he is aware – the most extensive guide of its kind, and it can be accessed for free at his website: <http://www.thunderburst.co.uk>

## ☞ Talk Poem 16 ☞

### In a minute

*I will look at Johnny's work in a minute.*

*Not now because now is a dark wood  
the length of a beach*

*the height of the sky  
with three beasts  
standing panting  
between my son  
and me.*

*I don't need a road map,  
I need a life map.*

*I don't need a map, I need a vehicle,  
I need to climb into a minute  
and sit with my son in  
the minute's front seat  
with the windscreen  
wiped clean  
and my eyes*

*wide open in wild surmise.*

*Anna Jackson*

### A living, moving thing

As 'arts & books editor' of the *Listener* four years ago, it was my job to decide what poem got published in the magazine each week. Contributions came in from all over; there was always a degree of anticipation in opening the envelopes and seeing what treasures lay inside. Not many, as it turned out: I rejected most of them after one reading – on purely subjective grounds, of course. Is there any other way to judge poetry? Some got put aside for further consideration, and a few of those would eventually make it into the magazine. Rarest of all were the ones that demanded PRINT ME the moment I looked at them.

One such was 'In a minute' by Anna Jackson. I have never forgotten the thrill of first reading it. It electrified me. It seemed like a living, moving thing in my hands, not just one-dimensional words on a page. I still savour every line of it. It did, and does, do everything a great poem ought to do.

*I will look at Johnny's work in a minute.* The first line locates us straight away in a familiar domestic environment. We don't need it explained that this is a parent talking about their child. It's a perfectly commonplace thing to say. The words are simple and clear. We're there. What next? Next is Jackson's masterstroke: the critical leap that takes something prosaic and makes memorable art out of it.

*Not now because now is a dark wood.* This wonderful line jolts us out of the here and now and into the everywhere. We're off on a journey through the poet's mind now, and if the poem works she will still be holding our hand – though not too tightly – when we get to the end (unlike W H Auden, of whom Alan Bennett once said that, despite the brilliant reader-friendly openings to his poems, he tends to leave you stranded at the finish.)

*with three beasts*

*standing panting  
between my son  
and me.*

I love these beasts, and I love that Jackson lets me make up my own mind who they are and what they look like. For me, with the 'dark wood' echo of Dante still in my mind, they're grotesque and medieval – gryphons, perhaps. Take your pick. They might be heavy traffic on the highway.

*I don't need a road map,  
I need a life map.*

*I don't need a map, I need a vehicle*

With almost every line the poet keeps leaping ahead, her imagination building a new image out of the one we're just getting our heads around. We go from the wood to the road to life itself, and life – here the poem comes full circle back to the particular, only this time it's a figurative particular – is always here and now. Here we are now in the minute we're in; there is no other time or place to be but the front seat of the present, driving into the unknown future.

*with the windscreen  
wiped clean  
and my eyes*

*wide open in wild surmise.*

And a nod to Keats too. What more could you ask of a poem? This'll do.

*Denis Welch is a Wellington writer*

## ☞ Poetry Advisory Service ☞

Set up to provide writers of poetry with a written critique of a sample of their work, PAS offers focused and constructive feedback from an individual member of an experienced and published panel of poets selected for their proven teaching skills.

**For further information, contact:**



**Poetry Advisory Service NZPS  
PO Box 5283  
Lambton Quay Wellington.  
info@poetrysociety.org.nz**

## ☞ Kiwi Haiku ☞

*moonshine –  
in the nectarine tree  
a wide-eyed possum*

*Helen Yong  
Christchurch*

*Please submit your KiwiHaiku and a SSAE to Barbara Strang at 6 Soleares Avenue, Christchurch 8008, or to bhstrang@yahoo.com*

**September DEADLINE is 17 August**