



Newsletter June 2005

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

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☞ This Month's Meeting ☜

AGM
at Museum of City & Sea
Queens Wharf
16 June 7pm

Followed by drinks 7.30

Panel discussion with
Harry Ricketts, Stephanie de Montalk,
Chris Orsman and Anna Jackson
8pm

Altered Histories

Bernard Gadd

We're all familiar with how history can get changed, facts and people obscured or their roles inflated. And we know how governments, corporate interests and others like to change history to fit in with their agendas or to boost their own reputation of that of people they wish us to admire. But even so it's surprising how full of 'edited' history New Zealand literature is given its comparatively short lifespan. We come across every now and then claims from a few writers for a role in our earlier literature which they didn't really have. That's familiar enough puffery; we can put up with that. But more insidious is the effective deliberate deletion of far too many writers and their achievements. How often, for example, do you hear these days of those fine writers Yvonne du Fresne or M.K. Joseph?

*... thinking of the tall triumphant horsemen
Boabdil in tears, the tired army
Winding through this valley
How the Caliphate ended*

*How in a way America began here.
'Granda the last city', M.K. Joseph*

Now that's fine writing by anyone's standards. Even worse, there is a final novel by Joseph well worth publishing, but no one, this long time after his death, has done so. I'm always appalled when I look back at the anthologies I made for students 20 and 30 years ago to find so many writers and their work which are these days seldom if ever heard of, such as O.E. Middleton, Aihana Johns, Rowley Habib, Roderick Finlayson and Noel Hilliard.

Our official literary histories don't help. The most extensive, the *Oxford History of New Zealand Literature* (1998), excludes many writers. Ray Baily in 1998 estimated that the chapter on short stories by Lydia Wevers, for example, covered no more than 70 percent of writers who merited inclusion and left out several notable writers including Sylvia Ashton-Warner, David Ballantyne, Peter Hooper, Phillip Wilson, Elspeth Sandys and many more. And I'm sure I wasn't the only writer for younger readers omitted from Betty Gilderdale's chapter on the topic.

Readers of our various poetry and short story anthologies will have noted how some writers are never included while others are never left out, and sometimes one is left trying to figure out the difference between the two groups. I was so annoyed by the omissions from an anthology of 1970s poetry that I brought out an anthology of my own (*Real Fire*) which includes people like Patricia Godsiff, Keri Hulme, Don Long, Rob Jackman, Stephen Oliver, John Summers and many others who were excluded despite their contribution to the development of Modernism of those years.

It was interesting to watch recent publicity about a commemoration for the late US poet Robert Creeley who visited New Zealand and married a Kiwi. The person who had invited him to New Zealand and organised his itinerary, Alistair Paterson, wasn't mentioned and still hasn't been (though he was acknowledged at the actual event after the organisers had been informed of their error).

It seems that what has happened is too much commercialism in our literature – only those works or writers that publishers think (not always rightly) will sell to those with money to spare for literature will be published or offered at bookstores; too many academic egos either hi-jacking earlier writers for their own purposes or pushing others aside; too often a coming together of both of those; and too great a trust by readers that who and what are considered worth reviewing or discussing in the mass media are in fact the works and authors most worth reading.

Our library shelves often still have the works of those writers who've been written out of our literary history. Let's start finding them, borrowing them and demanding that the writers be recognised for their role in our developing literature. Of course some of the work will seem old fashioned – to me, so do some of the busily touted works of today! – but nevertheless may still be highly readable and be of continuing relevance.

Bernard Gadd is an Auckland poet and regular newsletter contributor.

☞ From the Editor ☞

I am very happy to be taking up the position of permanent editor of the New Zealand Poetry Society Newsletter.

I will be working with students from the Diploma in Publishing at Whitireia Community Polytechnic, who will provide typesetting and editorial support under the supervision of the course co-ordinator, Rachel Lawson.

We are planning an exciting updated look for the newsletter to reflect the strong and vibrant place poetry has in New Zealand. Any writer who has done a Words on Wheels tour into various parts of the country will tell you that writing is alive and kicking in New Zealand from Bluff to Cape Reinga. We would like to strengthen the existing links with the smaller towns as well as bringing you news and events from the main centres.

If you are interested in reporting on poetry events in your area we would love to hear from you. Please contact me at ldavidson@paradise.net.nz for further information. If you have reported on events in the past but have not heard from the editor, it may be that we no longer have your contact details. Please feel free to get in touch.

To find out about my writing background, go to:
<http://www.bookcouncil.org.nz/writers/davidsonlynn.html>

Lynn Davidson

☞ From the Departing President ☞

Only 11 members were present at the AGM of 19 June 2005 – instead of the 16 required under the constitution for a quorum. Although the meeting received the accounts, passed the motion to increase subscriptions (as per the May 2005 Newsletter notice of motion) and elected new officers (president James Norcliffe and committee members Gillian Cameron, Kathryn Carmody, Neil Furby, Laurice Gilbert, Harvey Molloy), these decisions are only provisional. It is necessary for us to hold the AGM again to formalise the above or the Society will be without a Committee! I am therefore appealing to all Wellington members who are able to, to come along and support your Committee at the

**AGM on 16 June at 7pm
at the Museum of Wellington City and Sea,
Queens Wharf
Come along and support your Committee!**

The AGM will be followed by a panel discussion and poetry readings with guest poets Harry Ricketts, Stephanie de Montalk, Anna Jackson and Chris Orsman.

The audited accounts, the minutes of the 2004 AGM and the president's report are on the members' section website at www.poetrysociety.org.nz. (Also see the full presidents report on the back page). I urge members, especially those coming to the AGM, to take a look at these, so that we can deal with the business of the AGM on the 16 June quickly and move on to drinks and what promises to be a truly great evening with our guest poets.

If you cannot access the website, please let Helen our secretary know (info@poetrysociety.org.nz) and she will send out a printed version of the accounts etc to you.

If you are coming to the AGM it would be helpful if you could RSVP to Helen by 12 June so we can have some indication whether we will have a quorum.

Gillian Cameron

☞ Upcoming Events ☞

AUCKLAND

The Poetry Shed Jen Crawford, BCA (Hons), PhD

Shed the skin of habitual language and find new ways of seeing. *The Poetry Shed* will be a space where collaborative energies, good poetry and stimulating exercises foster new creative material. The course will provide tools and time for overcoming blocks, for developing new and existing projects and for honing participants' critical skills in a supportive environment. Limited to 15 participants

Class No.: 37935
Cost: \$255.00
When: five sessions, Monday 4 – Friday 8
July, 11am – 3pm
Where: Room 505, Arts 1 Bldg, enter Level 4
walkway, 18 Symonds Street, Bldg No.
206

To enrol: ph 09 373 7599 ext 87832 or visit
www.cce.auckland.ac.nz

This is one of the workshops for **Winter Writers Week**
4–8 July.

Poetry Day in Manukau City

Poetry Day in Manukau City will be marked by a
celebration of the anthology *Manukau in Poetry* on
Friday 22 July, 6.30pm at the Ronwood Avenue Library
Information Centre. Some of the poets in the collection
will read a poem each and other poets are invited to bring
along a poem or two to read.

Going West Books & Writers 2005

From 2–25 September, Waitakere City will host the 10th
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.

Contact: Lesley.Smith@waitakere.govt.nz with your
name and address to join the Going West mailing list
View: <http://www.goingwest.co.nz>

Going West Poetry Slam Titirangi War Memorial Hall,
Waitakere City, 3 September 2005

TAURANGA

Tauranga Writers

Thursday 9 June 7.15p.m. for 7.30pm Tauranga
Environment Centre Elizabeth Street.

The May exercise (for June meeting) was to list what
kind of feedback you'd find most useful and kind. Bring
this and work in progress to *How Not to Lose Friends &
Antagonise People*. We will use what we learn together
as the basis of a Tauranga Writers worksheet on how to
helpfully critique short stories, articles and poetry, to go
online at www.taurangawriters.org.nz. New members
always welcome.

Your June exercise (for July) is to complete this
sentence, 'One thing I've always wanted to know about
books or writing' in preparation for our library visit
next month. You'll be presenting this anonymously, so
don't hold back!

Contact: Jenny 576 3040,
secretary@taurangawriters.org.nz

Browsers @ Bravado – Poetry Live!

Sunday 12 June, 1pm. Browsers Bookshop Wharf Street.

No featured poet this month, instead meet some of
Tauranga's talented songwriters as they sing their own
lyrics set to music. Open mike to follow, for songs or
poems. Come to listen, come to share.

Contact: Jenny 576 3040,
secretary@taurangawriters.org.nz

Poets' Parlour

Sunday 19 May, 12.30pm, Robert Harris Cafe, State
Insurance Arcade, off Grey Street.

A friendly group where poets meet to discuss and
comment helpfully on each other's work in progress, and
to share news and views about poetry and writing. Please
bring extra copies of your work to share.

Contact: Marcel 576 0434, madcurrin@xtra.co.nz

WANGANUI

Jodie Dalglish's 'Basho series' will show as part of an
exhibition entitled *A Delicate Life* at Gallery Dalglish
from 31 May – 28 June. The exhibition combines the
work of Dalglish and another woman artist to explore
the ideas of delicacy and fragility. The Basho series
presents about ten small painted meditations on Basho's
Haiku *Come see, the real flowers, of this painful world*.
The paintings play with the almost unexpected
juxtaposition of flowers and pain. Gallery Dalglish is at
68B Guyton St, Wanganui and is open Wednesday to
Friday, 12 noon – 5pm and Saturday 11am – 2pm. If any
NZPS members are interested in seeing the works,
images can be sent via e-mail or CD.

Contact: 021 054 7919

WELLINGTON

Wellington Poets, Wellington Poems

Thursday 16 June, 7.30pm, Museum of Wellington City
and Sea, Queens Wharf.

Harry Ricketts, Stephanie de Montalk, Chris Orsman and Anna Jackson will read Wellington Poems and discuss Wellington as a writing environment and its opportunities for writers.

A writing workshop will be held on Sat 2 and Sun 3 July 10am – 4pm with Laurice Gilbert, Wellington poet and writing teacher. The focus of the workshops will be on Wellington and its history. With reading

on 21 July

Cost: \$60 per person

To book: Helen Heath info@poetrysociety.org.nz

Porirua Poetry Café

Poetry Café meets the second Monday of the month. Readings start at 7.30pm at the Dizzy Fish (formerly Selby's), Serlby Place (corner of Lyttelton Ave), Porirua. The next meeting, on Monday 13 June, has guest poets from Paekakariki: Apirana Taylor, Helen Heath and Tina Regtien. Entry is Free.

View: <http://www.poetrycafe.co.nz/> for details.

NATIONWIDE

Montana Poetry Day, Friday 22 July 2005

Planning is well underway for New Zealand's national celebration of local poetry, Montana Poetry Day, Friday 22 July 2005. From dawn till midnight and beyond, leading poets will be sharing their verse and spreading the word. The stage is also set for aspiring writers to introduce their verse to an ever-increasing audience of poetry-aficionados nationwide.

Montana Poetry Day is organised in conjunction with the Montana New Zealand Book Awards. Established in 1998, and supported by an army of poetry enthusiasts around the country, Montana Poetry Day has grown to become a much-anticipated event on the New Zealand arts calendar.

Celebrating the brilliant spectrum of poetry in New Zealand on Montana Poetry Day might be as simple as sharing a favourite poem with a friend or chancing upon a street poetry performance, listening to a reading from one of New Zealand's top poets, or perhaps just drinking a glass of wine at a poetry book launch. For others, it might mean improving their own form at a poetry workshop, entering one of the many poetry competitions arranged around the day or actively participating in an 'open mic' session or a 'poetry slam' in a city café. The line up of events promises to be as varied and rewarding as the best sort of poetry anthology and it's guaranteed there will be something for everyone on the day.

A full line up of participating poets and details of all events will be available online from early June 2005 at: www.montananzbookawards.co.nz

This year for the first time, the winner of the Poetry category in the Montana New Zealand Book Awards will be announced on Montana Poetry Day. The winners of all categories in the awards, plus the Montana Medal for Non Fiction and the Deutz Medal for Fiction or Poetry will be announced three days later at the Awards Ceremony, in Wellington on Monday 25 July 2005.

The principal sponsors of the Montana New Zealand Book Awards and Montana Poetry Day are Montana Wines and Creative New Zealand. The awards are managed by Booksellers New Zealand and supported by the Book Publishers Association of New Zealand, the New Zealand Society of Authors and Book Tokens (NZ) Ltd.

To register your event or for further information: Laura Kroetsch 04 475 8589, laura.kroetsch@paradise.net.nz

☞ A Warm Welcome to . . . ☞

Helen Lowe – Christchurch
Betty Benjamin – Upper Hutt
Ruby Roberts – Christchurch
Margaret Atkinson – New Plymouth
Frederick McAneney – Gisbourne
Janice Healey – Christchurch
Betty Manufui – Hamilton
Peter McLaughlan – Auckland
Lee Scanlon – Westport
Hazel Menehira – Wanganui
Mavis Wentworth – Hamilton

Quotation of the Month

'You have to fall out of that part of your mind where you know too much, into an area where you don't know anything before the best writing can happen.'

David Malouf

☞ Other News ☞

Kiwi Exhibition at Rotorua Museum

Rotorua Museum is working towards setting up an exhibition entitled *Kiwi*. The museum would like to hear

from anyone who has stories, poems, books or songs where the Kiwi is mentioned.

Contact: Ann Somerville asome@rdc.govt.nz

Call for Nominations for Prize in Modern Letters

The biennial Prize in Modern Letters is designed to acknowledge and advance the work of emerging writers in New Zealand. The value of the Prize is NZ\$60,000.

The Prize in Modern Letters was established by Glenn Schaeffer, founding patron of the IIML. As well as highlighting the achievement and potential of a major new writer, the Prize will significantly enhance awareness of New Zealand literature in the USA and internationally.

The inaugural Prize in Modern Letters was won by novelist Catherine Chidgey in 2002, and in 2004, the prize was awarded to poet Glenn Colquhoun.

The Prize in Modern Letters is awarded every two years. The following deadlines relate to the 2006 award. Nominations close 29 July 2005, shortlist announced 14 October, winner announced March 2006.

View: <http://www.vuw.ac.nz/modernletters/activities/prize-in-modern-letters.aspx>

From NZSA

Norfolk Island Writers & Readers Week

There are still a few seats available on the guided tour of Norfolk Island coinciding with the annual Writers' and Readers' Week, 17–24 July 2005. There is a great lineup of New Zealand and Australia's best writers.

Killian de Lacey went to the inaugural W&R Festival in 2003. It was full-on, with sessions morning, afternoon and evening. The organisers have followed up on one of the suggestions, which was that they provide some workshops and also time for visitors to see the island. It's well worth seeing.

Contact: tour guide Kilian de Lacy, ph 04 235 5365, fax 04 235 5365, twidle.bj@xtra.co.nz

Schaeffer Fellow, Emily Dobson, Heading to Iowa

Emily Dobson is preparing to set off to the Iowa Writers' Workshop as 2005 Schaeffer Fellow. Emily won the 2004 prestigious Adam Prize for Creative Writing for her collection of poems about beekeepers and rural life, *A Box of Bees*. *A Box of Bees* will be published by Victoria University Press in late July, just before Emily and her husband head off to Iowa.

Report from IIML

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.

View: <http://www.thunderburst.co.uk>

Poetry Column Offered to Newspapers

This month, US Poet Laureate Ted Kooser's American Life in Poetry project will offer a free weekly column to newspapers. Each instalment will feature a poem by a living American poet and a brief introduction by Kooser. 'I want to show that poetry need not be intimidating, or impossibly difficult,' said Kooser.

National Poetry Month Raises Awareness of Poetry Prevention

NEW YORK May marked the 10th National Poetry Month, a campaign created in 1996 to raise public awareness of the growing problem of poetry. 'We must stop this scourge before more lives are exposed to poetry,' said Dr John Nieman of the American Poetry Prevention Society at a Monday fundraising luncheon. 'It doesn't just affect women. Young people, particularly morose high-school and college students, are very susceptible to this terrible affliction. It is imperative that we eradicate poetry now, before more rainy afternoons are lost to it.' Nieman said some early signs of poetry infection include increased self-absorption and tea consumption.

View: <http://www.onion.com>

Report from AUP

International Conversation about Poetry

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 welcomed; to join the list, go to: www.poneme.org

☞ Publications ☞

Bravado

A Literary Arts Magazine from the Bay of Plenty

Bravado 4 is now on sale, a special 'keepsake' edition sponsored by Tourism Bay of Plenty and featuring writers from the Bay or writings about the Bay. Get your copy from Books a Plenty, Grey Street, or Browsers Bookshop in Wharf Street, or enquire about subscriptions and contributions to info.bravado@xtra.co.nz, *Bravado* PO Box 13 533, Grey Street, Tauranga.

☞ Submissions ☞

Penwomanship magazine, out April 2005, publisher Penny White penny@penwomanship.com, is interested in featuring women's writing. Short stories, poems, humorous pieces, art, photography, and material for new columns on financial advice and writing tips. www.penwomanship.com

Queensland University Literary Journal *QUT* is re-launching *dotlit*, its online literary journal of creative writing, in July 2005. The emphasis is on new writing, and reviewing interesting directions in fiction, non-fiction and writing about creative writing.

Contact: co-ordinating editor Angela Slatter or email dotlit@qut.edu.au

Magazine: *Snorkel* #1 Released

Snorkel #1 has just gone online at www.snorkel.org.au Snorkel has a special interest in bringing together the creative writings of Australians and New Zealanders. Contributors to *Snorkel* #1 include Bill Manhire, Kate Camp, Andrew Johnston, Sonja Yelich, David Musgrave, and Vivian Smith. Full submission details may be found on the site. The deadline for submissions for *Snorkel* #2 is 15 August, 2005

Report from AUP

☞ Residencies & Opportunities ☞

Belgian Dutch-Speaking PEN Centre – Writers' Flat

NZSA advises that the Belgian Dutch-Speaking PEN Centre opened a new writer's flat on 19 May 2005. Writers from across the world will be welcome to stay in the flat in Antwerp for periods of a week to a month. The flat is open to PEN and non-PEN members and welcomes authors from countries where freedom of expression is not guaranteed. Priority is given to authors working on projects related to Antwerp, Flanders and/or Belgium.

Contact: Ingrid Vander Veken to apply for residency

Ingrid.vanderveken@skynet.be

View: www.penvlaanderen.be

Applications Now Open for Two \$35,000 Awards for Writers of Non-Fiction works

New Zealand writers of non-fiction books are invited to apply for two grants worth \$35,000 each in this year's Copyright Licensing Ltd (CLL) Writers' Awards. The CLL Writers' Awards were established in 2002 and are financed from copyright licensing revenue collected by CLL on behalf of authors and publishers. This is the second time that two awards of \$35,000 each have been provided. Last year the awards were presented to two Dunedin-based writers to enable them to devote time to a specific non-fiction writing project and to provide reasonable research expenses for their projects.

Poet and critic David Eggleton and writer and academic Lloyd Spencer Davis were each awarded with \$35,000. Eggleton is using his award to work on a contemporary guide to New Zealand cultural history. Spencer Davis describes his work-in-progress as a science book – the unravelling of Darwin and Darwinism – but also part travelogue, part personal memoir. He said that the award 'offers the prospect of the one commodity a writer really needs – a period of uninterrupted time'.

A grant of \$30,000 was awarded in 2002 to Sarah Quigley to write a biography of poet and patron of writers Charles Brasch.

The Board of Copyright Licensing Ltd (made up of authors and publishers) encourages all established writers of non-fiction to consider applying for one of the two awards on offer this year. It is hoping to encourage applications from writers with interests in the sciences, business, Māori and Pacific studies, the arts and beyond. Applicants must be New Zealand citizens or permanent residents and writers of proven merit.

Applicants must submit details of a project planned or under way to a selection committee set up by CLL. Applications close at 5pm on Friday 15 July 2005. The

two winners of this year's awards will be announced at a special ceremony to be held on Tuesday 20 September 2005. Full application details for the CLL Writers' Awards are available on the website www.copyright.co.nz or by telephoning 09 480 2711. *Contact:* Sandra Noakes on behalf of CLL, ph 09 411 9908, sandra.noakes@xtra.co.nz

United/Creative Nations

International Programme Offers Range of Fellowships

The UNESCO-Aschberg Bursaries for Artists programme, established in 1994, will offer 62 arts fellowships with 50 partner institutions in 30 countries – from Australia, Brazil and China to Spain, Thailand and the United States.

The programme aims to open up new career prospects for artists and provide them with the opportunity for further training in specialised institutions. The fellowships are co-financed by the International Fund for the Promotion of Culture and an international network of partner institutions specialising in the training of artists.

There are fellowships available in visual arts, music, dance, writing, theatre and media arts.

View: <http://www.unesco.org/culture/aschberg>

Report from NZSA

☞ Congratulations ☜

New Zealand Poets Star at *Yellow Moon*

Two New Zealand poets won first place across five categories in *Yellow Moon's* Seed Pearls competition no. 17 and another scooped up a second place.

While all *Yellow Moon* competitions are open to New Zealanders, the Seed Pearls competition is open internationally for haiku and related poems and for nature poetry. It attracts wide interest and support from the US, UK and Croatia particularly, but has also received entries from Japan, Mexico, South Africa, France and Canada.

Catherine Mair of Katikati won first place in haibun (haiku prose) for a tightly written piece which celebrated family experience. Ernest J. Berry of Picton won first place for haiku against a field of 500 haiku poems and second place in this category was taken out by André Surridge of Hamilton.

Patricia Prime of Auckland proved her versatility and consistency, placing again in haibun, tanka and haiku sequences. Patricia's highly commended tanka and that of past *Yellow Moon* winner Veronica Haughey of Wellington will be published first in *Yellow Moon* 17

magazine and then in the Tanka Society of America's journal *Ribbons* towards the end of the year. The TSA regularly publishes the first, second and highly commended tanka from *Yellow Moon* competitions.

Another past winner in *Yellow Moon*, Nola Borrell, was a finalist in nature poetry, haiku sequences and in haiku.

Results, competition entry forms and guidelines for *Yellow Moon* are available from www.yellowmoon.info or by writing with a SAE plus IRC to Beverley George, Editor, *Yellow Moon*, PO Box 37, Pearl Beach NSW 2256, Australia.

Report from Beverley George

Honourable Mention for Picton Poet

Congratulations also to Picton poet, Ernest Berry who won a first prize and honourable mention in the Washington Poets Association contest with his haiku 'precipice' and 'hot night'.

precipice
the ascending cry
of an osprey

hot night
the length
of a siren

Ernest also received an honourable mention in the 2005 Suruga Baika Awards and gained third place in the National League of American Pen Women 2005 International Haiku Contest with:

ski slope –
my son's shadow
growing up

☞ Reviews ☜

50 Occasional Poems Owen Marshall, Hazard Press, 2004, 64 pp, \$25

Steps Patricia Fury-Russell, twodees@ihug.co.nz, \$12.95, 27pp

Chalk & Cheese Russell Writing Group, 2004, 251 Kempthorne Rd, RD1, Russell

Observations Jim McGregor, 2003, 301 Frankley Rd, New Plymouth, 85pp

Peter Danes' prefatory notes to the Russell Writing Group collection *Chalk & Cheese* can apply to each of these books: 'Whatever its quality, each [poem] is genuine in that an inner urge is issued in words on paper ... [and] takes a form which communicates, makes for community, for communion.' Each of these books

includes work that will appeal to readers who prefer very straightforward poetry of familiar sentiments and topics.

Owen Marshall is a fine crafter of short stories; this is his first essay into poetry, more as a relaxing, recreational activity, though there's a touch of formality to the language of most of these. There are several good and enjoyable poems in this collection. 'The Judge's Venetian Dream' is perhaps the best poem with the cadences of real poetry. It has something of the surreal to it when

*an elegant
lady with a black velvet hat swims slowly by.
...
I know exactly her tone
of resignation tintured with hopelessness.*

A sampling of the titles indicate where his poetic interests are: 'Pukeko', 'The bougai bird', 'Dansey's Pass', 'Old Dunedin', 'Back to the Wekaweka', 'Marlborough', 'Arts centre Christchurch', 'Lake Alexandrina', 'Driving to Jane's funeral', 'Daughter'. 'The Diogenes Club' is his Conan Doyle-style tribute to poet Bill Sewell. Some of these poems have been published before in the *Listener*, *NZ Books*, *The Press*, *Sport* and *North and South*. There's probably something here for every reader.

Several of Patricia Fury-Russell's poems have appeared in *SPIN*, *Takahe*, *Kokako* and *Valley Micropress* (and these acknowledgments are handily placed at the foot of each poem, though a Publisher computer program would enable poem titles to be aligned). She likes on the whole lean poems with plenty of breath spaces making them not exactly conversational but certainly clear in communication. Her topics range from the 'Twin Towers' to 'Venus Imperfect'. My favourite is where she lets her imagination zing in 'The Marrakesh of Manukau':

*Marrakesh
camel bells

singings sands
dervishes of colour

ant crawl
of the old Silk Road

tongues
of Timbuktu

alive
alive
under the jet
scream

of Manukau.*

That is an accomplished poem, as is her haiku:

*on its stalk
bird of paradise
sparrow dead on drive way*

Chalk & Cheese contains writings from eight people. These cover a range of topics, even including a poem to a group member. Again titles suggest a good range of poetic interests: 'The White Rose', 'Orthodoxy', 'Desperate Shoes & Dumbness', 'Drive you mad!', 'Third Sister', 'Old Place'. The most intriguing title is surely 'Mrs Pluto of Hades or The Winter of Our Culture', and readers might enjoy the zip and good fun of the Georgian style of

*Comes the reaper, the thresher, the mill of grinding,
trees blooded in autumn leaves,
deliver plunder of ripening fruits.*

Jim McGregor sees poetry as making comments on whatever he sees or occurs to him, hence the title. I wonder if he is perhaps something of a performance poet, the lines seem to need that extra delivery of gesture and expression. These poems cover a great many topics. The one that appeals to me most is 'Clouds':

*Over night the clothes have been
moving of their own accord and
have taken the shape of Mt Rushmore.*

Several works use something of the Glasgow accent of his youth. Like Marshall's collection, this is a professional standard of book format and production.

Review by Auckland poet Bernard Gadd

🔗 Websites 🌐

www.leafsalon.co.nz is the authority for New Zealand book news, reviews and events. Plus information for writers, all the latest awards and courses, and quality lifestyle accessories for the discerning reader.

A poetry blog
<http://poesygalore.blogspot.com/>

The Philip Larkin website
<http://www.philiplarkin.com/>

Tennessee Williams: poet
http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/artsentertainment/2002240744_tennessewilliams14.html
Poetry on the street

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-poet21apr21,0,6184477.story?coll=la-home-headlines>

Good writers seek good readers – are publishers good matchmakers?

<http://enjoyment.independent.co.uk/books/features/story.jsp?story=631835>
<http://www.nytimes.com/2005/04/25/books/25ster.html>

Poetic slough

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/berkshire/4489989.stm>

Creative writing, UK style

<http://enjoyment.independent.co.uk/books/features/story.jsp?story=633152>

☞ Out & About ☞

DUNEDIN

Upfront – Spotighting Women Poets

Upfront's April meeting included first-time open mike readers Amy Macaluso, Heather Martin and Paula Griannah. Adding to the entertaining mix of subject and styles were Claire Beynon, Ann Jacobson and Debbie Williams.

Our first featured reader was Carolyn McCurdie, new to the poetry scene but with an impressive group of thought-provoking poems about ordinary occurrences described in fresh images:

*When I unlock the door I can smell
that Frost is here, the winter squatter
He leans on walls, accosts me as I enter
He's taken over every room,
claimed the towels, the sheets,
and wrapped his chill hands round the mugs.*
from 'At the Crib in July'

2002 Montana award winner Kay McKenzie Cook continued the emphasis on everyday experiences with poignant and humorous insights into the people and places known to her, delving below the surfaces to let the reader feel the power and emotion of her subjects:

*Woman at next table
doesn't know
there is a crumb on her lip.
The tourists don't know
they must not feed the keas.*

*Our sons, not us, skiing.
We sit diminished,
drinking coffee from a thermos,*

*hearing the kea's cry
of the abandoned.
from 'outside viewing'*

Theatre Arts student and poet Phoebe Smith took a sometimes surreal but always humorous and original look at student life, personal relationships and even nature, as in her social satire about ducks:

*and the right-wing ducks
hoard their bread prudently
and steal from the lame.
and the lefties squander theirs
at a tadpole party,
ponder evolution's quandaries
with the underbelly of society,
forget they can't eat morality,
get thoroughly quacked,
borrow from the fat-cat duck
and mourn the (nameless) lame
when they pass away,
rabbiting on about revolutions* from 'untitled'

If you're in Dunedin on the last Tuesday of any month, join us at Cobb & Co at 7.15 pm!

☞ Competitions ☞

Yellow Moon Seed Pearls Competition

Seed Pearls is the only Yellow Moon competition open internationally (all categories)

<http://www.yellowmoon.info>

Categories: prose, a haiku journey (haibun), haiku, tanka, haiku sequence, free or rhymed poem with a nature theme

Closes: 31 August

Cost: AUS\$5 each entry or \$10 for three entries, by cheque or money order payable to B.M. George.

Send entries to: Beverley George, *Yellow Moon*, PO Box 37, Pearl Beach NSW 2256, Australia

Yellow Moon Nutshell Competition

Open to Australian and New Zealand Poets only.

Categories: cinquain, a poem on an element of Taoist Cosmology – wood, fire, earth, metal, water – humorous/nonsense poem, tetractys

Cost: AUS\$5 each entry or \$10 for three entries, by cheque or money order payable to B.M. George

Closes: 19 October

Entry forms: <http://www.yellowmoon.info> or send SSAE to the address below

Send entries to: Beverley George, *Yellow Moon*, PO Box 37, Pearl Beach NSW 2256, Australia.

Entrants: Send SSAE with a 50-cent stamp for entry forms for three competitions or two 50-cent stamps for entry forms for all six competitions, or download from www.yellowmoon.info

Middlesex University Press Literary Prize 2005

The Middlesex University Press Literary Prize 2005 for short stories and poetry offers two first prizes of £1,000, two second prizes of £250 and two third prizes of £100. Judges are, for Fiction: Penelope Lively (Chair), Ali Smith and Booker Prize-shortlisted author Gerard Woodward, and for Poetry: Sheenagh Pugh, Hugo Williams. The ten winning entries in each category will be published.

View: <http://www.mupress.co.uk/> for entry form, rules and further information

Closes: 20 June 2005

Bell Gully National Schools Poetry Award

Entry forms: <http://www.vuw.ac.nz/modernletters/activities/how-to-enter.aspx>

Deadline: 10 June 2005

Bravado International Poetry Competition

Bravado's second International Poetry Competition will be judged by Alistair Paterson, editor of *Poetry New Zealand*. Prizes are:

1st prize: \$500

2nd prize: \$250

3rd prize: \$100

10 highly commended prizes of \$50 each

Poems can be on any style or subject and must be the original work of the entrant, previously unpublished and not under consideration elsewhere. There is a limit of 40 lines for each poem and an entry fee of \$5 a poem or \$10 for three entries. Winning poems will be published in *Bravado 5*.

Entry form and rules: info.bravado@xtra.co.nz

Closes: 30 August 2005

The Bridport Prize 2005

The Bridport Prize International Creative Writing Competition started in 1973 to raise funds for the development of Bridport Arts Centre. There are two categories – Poetry and Short Story.

The first prize in each category is £3000, second prize £1000 and third prize £500. An additional 10 supplementary prizes (for each category) of £50 each are awarded. The entry fee for the year 2005 is £6 per poem or story. The top four poems are entered for the Forward Prize for Poetry, an award not open to the general public. The long list of shortlisted stories will be read by leading London literary agents with a view to representing writers.

All entries to the competition are judged anonymously. The judges make their evaluations on the quality of the work alone. Nobody wins because of who they are, who they know or what their name sounds like. All the poems and stories go into the same pile whether the writer is famous and very experienced or the writer is entering his/her first competition.

Entry forms: www.bridportprize.org.uk

Deadline: 30 June 2005

☞ Talk Poem 14 ☞

Persistence Gordon Challis

When I picked up Gordon Challis's latest book of poetry, *The Other Side of the Brain*, from the new books shelf in the library, I found myself wishing I'd written the poems myself. Most of all I would have liked to have written 'Persistence' – persistence has been a fault of mine too, and this is just how I would like to hold onto my fault, as a visible wound I could carry around on my hand, noticeable for anyone observant enough to look for it, but able to be hidden, too, when I clenched my fist:

*A deep wound has opened in my hand
which has not bled.
Nothing around accounts for it –
in the room no knives
the garden thornless. The clean
incision runs across my palm
almost following the lifeline
hidden by it if I clench my hand enough.*

*I am not a careless person
if anything too cautious.
I am not a grasping person
even when asleep
so it did not happen there.
But sometimes I hold on too long...*

*like a man I saw in an early newsreel
one of the groundcrew trying to hold an airship
steady for launching
and it rose with him clasping his cable.
The camera tracks his fall from thirty metres
pedalling an invisible bicycle.*

Robert Frost's saying that 'poetry is what is lost in translation' is often quoted and sounds too true to think about (the way Frost's poems often work) but what I look for in poetry is precisely what can be translated. I am not often interested in alliteration or assonance or the murmurous hum of bees. What interests me is the rhythm of a thought, the particular way an idea can be shaped, the particular shifts of attention that distinguish the writing of one poet from another.

What I like about the work of Emily Dickinson is her movement between abstract and concrete; what I like about the work of Frank O'Hara is the sense of how he lives his life that you get from sharing his shifts in attention between his friends, street signage, the colours of taxi-cabs, overheard lyrics. What I like about Gordon Challis's 'Persistence' is the interesting movement of ideas, something that would be exactly the same translated into another language.

'Persistence' is surprising in the way it moves between abstract and concrete ideas and examples. The title has given away the metaphorical nature of the wound right from the start, which might seem rather a limiting move to make, but the immediate search for the cause of the wound, the consideration of knives, of thorns, all absent, insists at once on the reality of this wound at least as an idea, even as the absence of any cause underlines its abstraction.

The second stanza enlarges the search for a cause further into abstraction, searching now for the personality flaw that might account for this wound, and then finally, the last stanza gives the perfect example of the persistence that is finally accepted as the flaw that has caused the wound with the man who won't let go of the cable of the airship until it has lifted him into flight. It is nice that this last stanza seems both a kind of persistence – the illustration of persistence being itself the most persistently developed example of all the possible causes proposed for the wound – and is, at the same time, a kind of taking flight away from all this thinking about causes into the pure development of this most striking visual image.

Most striking of all, of course, is the image of the groundsman finally falling, pedalling the air as if it were an invisible bicycle. I began this discussion of the poem with the confession that I really wish I had written it myself. If I had, I wouldn't have included the image of the invisible bicycle, striking though it is. I would have ended the poem with the flight of the groundsman into the air – a flight which has to end with a fall eventually, but might be allowed to look, for a while, like transcendence.

Anna Jackson lectures in English Literature at Victoria University and will be appearing at our June event in Wellington with Harry Ricketts, Stephanie de Montalk and Chris Orsman.

☞ 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.



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

☞ KiwiHaiku ☞

clear-felling –
the mountain hidden
under cloud

Tony Chad
(Upper Hutt)

Kiwihaiku - Wanted

We need more Kiwihaiku i.e. haiku which are distinctively NZ/ Aotearoa in content and words. They are haiku unlikely to be written anywhere else. Please keep them rolling in. For the rest of 2005 Barbara Strang is selector. Please submit entries to Barbara at: 6 Soleares Avenue, Christchurch 8008; or Email: bhstrang@yahoo.com and, keep a copy. Many thanks go to Owen Bullock for all his work on Kiwihaiku and we wish him good luck with editing Kokako.

July DEADLINE is June 17

President's Report – 19 May 2005

Aims

Incorporated by Irene Adcock in 1981, the Society's aim is 'to promote the public presentation of poetry.' Initially the main focus was monthly poetry meetings in Wellington. Over the intervening decades the work of the Society has widened considerably with a more national focus providing a monthly newsletter, annual poetry competition and anthology, poetry advisory service, poetry tours etc. Your Committee believes that the aim of the Society could perhaps now be better expressed as:

To promote, develop and represent New Zealand poets and poetry. Over the coming year we will

examine how this might translate into action. We would very much welcome members' input into this process.

The Committee

The Committee met quarterly during the year to plan and monitor projects and approve related funding/fund-raising. This work is done on a voluntary basis. The 2005 Committee members were: Gillian Cameron (President), Vivienne Plumb (Vice President), Laurice Gilbert, Harvey Molloy, James Norcliffe, Cheri Pinner, Robert Stratford and Margaret Vos. After several years on the Committee Robert, Cheri and Vivienne are stepping down. My thanks to all the Committee members who contribute so much of their talent and time.

The Workers

A large part of the work of the Society is now done on contract/honoraria. We are fortunate to have a great team of people. On the management and administration side we have Helen Heath (secretary/administrator), Jane Harris (web administrator) and Mary Palfreyman (finance). On the programme side we have Jenny Argante/Helen Heath (newsletter editors 2004/2005), Anna Livesey and Annamaria Apathy (anthology team 2004), Giovanna Lee/Laurice Gilbert (competition co-ordinators 2004/2005) and Nola Borrell (poetry advisory services). Our thanks to all these people for their commitment and dedication. My special thanks to Helen who has, in her first year with us, brought a vision and energy to our planning.

The Members

As at 31 March 2005 membership had increased to 325 and is expected to remain around this level as members renew their subs.

Newsletter

A very visible aspect of the Society is the monthly newsletter. We welcome Lynn Davidson as our new editor starting June 05. This year we will look at how we can improve the newsletter. We are delighted to have Rachel Lawson and her Whitireia publishing class helping us with this.

Website

Currently we are receiving over 2300 visits a month – more than double for the same time last year – thanks to Jane and Helen working on improving access and user friendliness. We are planning to develop the site as a one-stop poetry shop – with ketes of resources for members (including resources for teachers and young people) and quick links to related websites.

Competition and Anthology

Giovanna Lee's great work on the 2004 annual competition attracted many entries. Anna Livesey and

Annamaria Apathy produced a most attractive anthology – *the enormous picture* – of the best entries from the competition. Although the anthology made a loss, this was offset by the competition gain. Laurice Gilbert urges you enter your masterpiece for the 2005 competition pronto – the deadline is the end of May! Margaret Vos will be the anthology editor in 2005.

Poetry Workshops

Laurice Gilbert led a hands-on poetry workshop at the beginning of the year producing some wonderful art-poems for display. She is leading another workshop in July (as part of the Museum of Wellington City and Sea's exhibition of 100 years of Wellington).

Wellington Meetings

Our grateful thanks to Robin Fry and Nola Borrell for running our monthly meetings in 2004. For 2005: poetry readings were held in February and March and will also be held in June and July as part of the Museum of Wellington City and Sea's exhibition. As we have had no response from members to continue to run these events on a voluntary basis, we are looking at other options including funding for a paid events co-ordinator. This evening (May 19th) will be our last meeting at Turnbull House.

Poetry Advisory Services

Our thanks too to Nola Borrell for setting up and running this service in 2004. Still in its infancy we plan to advertise the service more widely in the coming year.

Poets in the Workplace

The two pilot poetry residencies in 2004 were a great success – Dinah Hawken at the Wellington Botanic and Otari Gardens and Rachel Bush at Wellington Hospital. Both will result in publications of the poems produced during the residencies. We are looking at running two further pilots in 2006 – subject to obtaining funding.

Finances

The Society's audited accounts show a small net profit of \$2,287 for the year and accumulated funds of \$12,445 as at 31 March 2005.

Grant Funding

We are very grateful to our funding partners for their support: Creative NZ, Lion Foundation, Asia New Zealand Foundation, the Wellington City Council and the Collaborating Centre for Midwifery and Nursing.

Report from Gillian Cameron

The audited accounts, the minutes of the 2004 AGM and the president's report are on the members' section website. *View:* www.poetrysociety.org.nz