

NEW ZEALAND WRITERS' EZINE

October 2005 – Part II

BOOK REVIEWS compiled by Conor Quinn

If you would like your book reviewed or would like to be a reviewer please contact book editor Conor Quinn for a booklist - email: captainkeg@hotmail.com

Cut to Black, by Graham Hurley

Orion, 358 pages, \$35.00
Reviewed by Lisa Vasil

I have met Graham Hurley's Detective Joe Faraday before, and have found him to be good company. But in this fifth book featuring the detective, he's brooding and moody, making me want to give him a good shake to get him motivated. Not a good way to identify with a main character!

One of Joe Faraday's colleagues is assaulted and left for dead. The main suspect is part of a cocaine selling network run by Bazza McKenzie, a rich untouchable drug dealer who launders his money in legitimate businesses, and who is also the subject of an undercover sting headed by the injured policeman. Faraday is nominated to take over the operation, which is so secret many in his own department don't know about it. Enter DC Paul Winter, who has his own reasons for launching a crusade against McKenzie and his right hand man Mike Valentine. Winter is an altogether more robust character, with no time for deep thinking, and his bull in a china shop investigating technique both hinders and helps the delicate sting. But somehow, McKenzie manages to stay one step ahead of both Faraday and Winter, leading to the conclusion there is a leak in the tight-knit team. But who is tipping off the drug dealers and why?

Far too much introspection makes a slow beginning, but the plot gathers pace later in the story. The sub-plot involving Faraday's deaf son, who by trying to help a friend is arrested on drug supply charges, is believable and tense. It's really only Faraday himself who lets this book down, by sulking through the pages. Hopefully by the next book Graham Hurley will have given his usually likeable main character his smile back.

The Copper Beech, by Maeve Binchy

Orion, 407 pages, \$24.99
Reviewed by John Hicks

Maeve Binchy has published more than a dozen novels and short story collections since 1982, each one of them bestsellers according to the publisher's preamble. How could any humble reviewer resist the temptation to dip his toe in such illustrious waters given the chance? I was fully prepared by the eulogising of another reviewer to "get down to the important item on the agenda, the gossip...Intimate. Delicious. Irresistible."

The Copper Beech is a series of linked short stories based around the lives, loves and idiosyncrasies of the inhabitants of the Irish village of Shancarrig. The writing effortlessly, perceptively and charmingly reveals the undercurrents always tugging at these fictional communities. Yes, all is not as it seems; but everything, including murder and madness, contrives to work out for the best!

This is light and undemanding entertainment for those who enjoy the rural gossip genre. A good book for the beach if you like to paddle. For those who want to swim, look elsewhere.

Night Fall, by Nelson DeMille

Time Warner, 581 pages, \$25.00

Reviewed by Frank Nerney

Email: fnerney@xtra.co.nz

In 1996 a TWA Boeing 747 took off from John F. Kennedy Airport and blew up over the sea a few minutes later. No one survived.

The official inquiry decided that a short circuit in an electrical cable running through a fuel tank was to blame for the crash, but there were suggestions of a conspiracy to cover up the real reason. There were two theories - the US military were holding test firings of missiles not far away and one went astray; and it was an act of terrorism - a missile fired from the ground.

More than 200 witnesses claimed they saw what looked like the trail of a missile heading for the plane but the inquiry concluded that what they saw was burning fuel falling, not a missile rising.

DeMille takes this factual event as the basis for *Night Fall* and brings back from two earlier novels, fictional John Foley, NYPD cop, to investigate the crash five years later. The trigger for Foley's investigation is a rumour that there is a video showing the missile trail taken by a couple (married to other people) who were having sex on the beach and filming it as a turn-on.

Foley sets out to find the man and woman who might still have the video.

The trail has gone cold in five years and Foley has to find two people who don't want to be found.

DeMille is a fluent, easy writer and those 581 pages skitter by quickly. Some people have complained about the ambiguous ending but, as he says on his website, he can't change history.

Dancing with Cranes, by Alison Balance

Longacre Press, 264 pages, \$29.95

Reviewed by John Hicks

Alison Balance is a film producer for Natural History New Zealand, which has produced some superb wildlife documentaries. For those television viewers interested in the natural world, and who are going cold turkey as a result of programmers current reluctance to schedule natural history programmes on mainstream channels, this book provides an antidote.

Dances with Cranes comprises three sections located in different parts of the world. By the end we have visited such remote locations as Mongolia, the Himalayas, Siberia, and the jungles of Thailand; we have shared the privations of extreme heat and cold, mud and dust, and bumpy rides in battered vehicles maintained by indigenous bush mechanics; and we have filmed tigers, cranes, Bactrian camels, Przewalski's horses, gerbils and leeches.

The middle section details the joys and frustrations of filming our own endangered kakapo. The painstaking effort involved in capturing every aspect of kakapo lives is finely illustrated when Alison, after four seasons of filming, is unsuccessful in obtaining footage of kakapo mating. "Over forty minutes Zephyr and Felix mated three or four times within a foot of one of my cameras – and I couldn't see anything. I retreated outside, away from Dave's incomprehension, and sat in the dark, sobbing."

Alison Balance's focus is not merely on the wildlife and she provides colourful insights into the lifestyles of the local people in the exotic locations she describes. The book is written in an engaging and unobtrusive style. I find it disturbing to encounter the verb "ask", used as a noun, creeping away from sports commentators' lips and into general literature; and Alison "gets to do" quite a few things rather than simply doing them. However, these are minor quibbles.

Dances with Cranes will provide those who are interested in the dwindling wild places of this world with some absorbing reading.

The Other Ark, by Lynley Dodd

Mallinson Rendell, 32 pages, \$27.95

Reviewed by Lynda Finn

Fans of Lynley Dodd had to wait two years for this lively and entertaining book which tells how Sam Jam Balu collects animals for an alternative sailing when the original ark fills up. The story begins with Noah and his familiar, two-by-two boarding of elephants, giraffes, pigs and even kiwis but then:

'ENOUGH!' thundered Noah. He bolted the door. 'This Ark is JAM PACKED!' he said, but there were more.'

So Sam has to collect the candy-striped camels whose four humps sprout flowers; green cats in black coats with haloes of stars; rainbow armadillos and pale blue, happy hippos with chevron stripes. He can't leave the flying flapdoodles behind, or the polka-dot piffles and dragons hung with tinkling bells help him load the dithering dingbats and pom-pom palavers.

More colourful than Dr Seuss, Lynley Dodd's books are relevant to New Zealand and, most important of all, contain masses of interesting visual detail for enquiring minds. But once Sam Jam Balu finishes loading the Marmalade Mammoths, where do they all go? Kids will love the surprise ending and parents can help stimulate young imaginations by encouraging speculation on what happens next.

Walking with the Taniwha, by Paul Bennett

Self Published, \$29.95

Reviewed by Jenny Argente

An Arataki boy, Paul Bennett was the first Maori to represent New Zealand-Aotearoa in the world surfing championships. He had a dream; he had great potential and there were exciting possibilities ahead of him. He was also a party animal who had a fringe association with Maori gangs, and who threw his dream away for a life of hard-core drug and alcohol abuse. On the outside, a young Maori warrior, staunch and steadfast. On the inside, angry and confused.

All that terror and turmoil ended in 1999 when Paul was given two months to live. The doctors told him he needed a double lung transplant to survive; and then that he couldn't have it because he had been diagnosed with hepatitis B. It seemed like the end of the road for Paul, and that the medical profession had written him off.

He went home to his whanau to die and instead began a long healing process with a visit to his ancestors in the family urupa, followed by karakia. With his spiritual balance restored, Paul then looked hard at alternative therapies, readjusting his diet and beginning a course of Chinese breathing exercises, qui gung. As he says, "I had to get back into a positive frame of mind and find the strong self-belief I had lost during my years in the drug scene. I had to recover my mana."

Six years later, Paul is back on track, alive and if not completely well, 'heaps better' - and working

with his iwi, Ngaiterangi, and with CAYAD to take the anti-drug message to young people in schools and elsewhere. He concludes, 'Karma or fate was dealt to me through my health, and yet I consider myself lucky. Many people I know spent their lives going in and out of psychiatric wards from some form of drug or alcohol abuse, or in prison from doing something crazy while under the influence. Some have been fatally beaten, stabbed or shot. Some have disappeared without trace. My story is about what happened to a 'bullet-proof- teenager' when he left home, and about making better choices in life.'

Walking with the Taniwha is a compelling and realistic chronicle that succeeds not only in 'telling it as it was' but also in confirming that we can, at any time, opt for change and to turn our lives around. The struggle to get his story told and his book out has come to a triumphant conclusion for Paul, thanks to support and funding from the Ngaiterangi Incorporated Society and from Te Manu Torua. You can order Paul's book direct from him c/- PO Box 4369 Mount Maunganui, or buy a copy from Books a Plenty in Grey Street Tauranga.

BOOKNEWS

If you have any book news you'd like to share, please contact the NZSA office. Email nzsa@clear.net.nz

NEWS

Ahmed Zaoui launches book of poetry – Migrant Birds

The book launch of Ahmed Zaoui's prison poetry *Migrant Birds: 24 contemplations* published by Craig Potton, will be on Thursday, 20 October 2005 at 7pm Crypt of the St Benedicts Church, 1 St Benedict St, Newton. (Entrance behind the church on Alex Evans Drive)

7 pm: arrival and welcome.

7.45 pm: tea and food (to break the fast at sunset in respect of Ramadan) followed by readings by Bill Manhire, Reimke Ensing and Ahmed Zaoui.

If anyone would like to assist by bringing a plate please contact Deborah Manning: dmanning@maxnet.co.nz

All proceeds from the sale of this book will go to support Ahmed Zaoui's family.

The poems, in Arabic and English, are Ahmed Zaoui's response to his two years in prison, one for each month he was locked up, with a foreword from his lawyer Deborah Manning, and an introduction from Bill Manhire. There is also a 25th poem which Emma Neale awarded as the most important poem of 2004 see: <http://www.artscalendar.co.nz/article/1145/> The book can be found on Craig Potton's website:

<http://craigpotton.co.nz/Products/published/Books/BookArtsCrafts/grantbirds24contemplations>

Gecko press translates Swedish 'Margaret Mahy'

Ulf Stark is Sweden's equivalent to our Margaret Mahy. As one of Sweden's best-known and well-loved authors, Stark, apart from one pirate version, has never been published in English.

Since the 1960s children's books from Europe have been largely unavailable in English. The books chosen by Gecko Press for translation have a strong track record in their own, and other countries and Julia Marshall will be attending Frankfurt Book Fair in October to search for more.

Can You Whistle, Johanna? and *My Friend Percy's Magical Gym Shoes* by Ulf Stark are the second and third books in the Gecko Press stable. The first, *Donkeys* by Adelheid Dahimene, was launched in August.

A little provocative, but never out of bounds, *My Friend Percy's Magical Gym Shoes* is the first in a series of three. Poignant and charming, *Can You Whistle, Johanna?* will touch the hearts of parents, grandparents and children alike. It celebrates the bond between young and old, and Ulf Stark thinks it is possibly the best book he has ever written. The film of *Can You Whistle, Johanna?* shows every year on Swedish television at Christmas.

APWN Network for Pacific writers

APWN was initiated by Australian PEN Centre, in partnership with Asialink. The Asia and Pacific Writers Network, is an alliance of writers, individuals and organizations that work with language and stories, in all their forms. APWN includes - novelists; journalists; playwrights; poets; publishers; editors; academics; documentary-makers; storytellers.

As a PEN initiative they aim; to promote friendship and intellectual co-operation among writers everywhere, to fight for freedom of speech, work for good understanding and respect between nations and to champion the ideal of one humanity living in peace in one world. Link:

<http://www.apwn.net/index.php>

The Press Summer Fiction Competition winners

The Press Summer Fiction Competition has been won by **Coral Atkinson's** *Cheerio!* and **Carl Nixon's**, *Rocking Horse Road*. It had originally been intended to offer only one award but the high standard of entries meant the award was expanded to two. The stories will be serialised in *The Press* during the two weeks immediately after Christmas.

AWARDS & PRIZES

Inaugural short story award goes to debut author

The first ever Frank O'Connor International Short Story Award, now the world's richest short story prize at €50,000, was won by Yiyun Li for her debut collection, *A Thousand Years of Good Prayers*.

Speaking at the award ceremony in Cork city on Monday, Val McDermid, chairwoman of the judging panel, praised newcomer Li's collection. "After vigorous discussion, we were all agreed that *A Thousand Years of Good Prayers* was the winner," she said. "It demonstrates an admirable command of the short story form, revealing moments of extraordinary brilliance along the way. It is a collection with a sense of history as well as humanity."

Maori writers award winners announced

The winners of this year's e Tuhi! Get Writing! Awards for Māori Writers were announced on Saturday night, 1 October 2005 at an awards ceremony at Te Papa.

Winners include an up and coming playwright, a university student, and a funky grandmother whose common bond is a passion for story telling.

A special award was also presented to Patricia Grace in recognition of her recent success in being named a New Zealand Icon and winner of the Deutz medal for Fiction and Poetry at this year's Montana Book Awards.

The awards ceremony recognises Māori writers of short stories, novels and film scripts and is organised by Wellington-based publisher of Māori authors, Huia Publishers.

E Tuhi! Get Writing! Awards 2005

Te Pakiwaitara i te Reo Māori Award - Uenuku Fairhall for *Piripoi*

Award for best short story in English or Māori by a secondary school student - Stacey Morgan for *One Sweet Day*. Runners-up - Sophie Parker and Rachel Torkler

Huia Publishers Novel Award for best novel extract in English - Isabel Mulholland for *Hiruharama*

New Zealand Film Commission Award for best script for a short film - Whiti Hereaka for *Unclaimed Luggage*

Huia Publishers Short Story Award for best short story in English - Eru J Hart for *Who Bore the Force*

LIANZA Children's Book Awards

Over 100 new children's titles by New Zealand authors were considered for the awards and a shortlist of 21 outstanding books was distilled into four overall winners:

The Te Kura Pounamu Award, for work published in te reo Māori was awarded to ***Ngā Rongoā a Koro*** by Melanie Drewery, translated by Kararaina Uatuku, published by Huia. This year marks the tenth anniversary of this award.

The Esther Glen Award for fiction was awarded to ***Malcolm and Juliet*** by Bernard Beckett, published by Longacre Press. This award is New Zealand's longest running book award. It was established in 1945 to commemorate the work of Esther Glen; author, editor and highly regarded journalist.

The Russell Clark Award was first awarded in 1975, it recognizes excellence in children's book illustration and this year goes to ***Clubs: a Lolly Leopold Story*** by Kate De Goldi, illustrated by Jacqui Colley, published by Trapeze.

The Elsie Locke Award goes to ***Welcome to the South Seas*** by Gregory O'Brien, published by Auckland University Press. This award was previously known as the LIANZA Young People's Non-fiction Award and was renamed, after receipt of a generous bequest in 2001, in memory of Elsie Locke; writer, historian, and leader in peace movements and women's affairs.

Winners of Heartland short story competition

The "Heartland" Short Story Competition attracted 107 entries, and was judged by William Taylor and his two assisting judges.

First Prize, Lynley Jones, for her story "*You Phoned*"; **Second Prize**, Tania Hutley, for her story "*Red*". **Highly Commended awards** to Jane Lowe for "*Cali*"; Jane Swan for "*The Dam*"; David Murphy for "*The Last Four Seasons*" and to Elizabeth Coleman for "*The Eclipse Inn*".

A special Highly Commended in the Junior Section to 13-year-old *Adam Gifford* (who competed equally with the adults) for his story "*Cold Hour*".

Two biographers win \$35,000 CLL Awards

Jill Trevelyan and Rowan Taylor have been awarded the 2005 Copyright Licensing (CLL) Awards.

Wellington resident, Jill Trevelyan will write a biography of painter, Rita Angus and Rowan Taylor who is from Christchurch will write a biography of Allan Wilson – the distinguished New Zealand scientist who revolutionised evolutionary biology.

Judges convener, Jenny Jones says that Jill Trevelyan and Rowan Taylor's biography subjects are of high national significance. The judging panel was impressed by the depth and vitality of the initial written work on their subjects both of which promise to have broad public appeal.'

CLL acts on behalf of publishers and authors from around the world in providing licensing services for the reproduction of extracts from books, periodicals and journals. Established in 1988, Copyright Licensing Limited is a non-profit company jointly owned by the Book Publishers Association of New Zealand and the New Zealand Society of Authors. The Company supports the aims of the Copyright Act 1994 in balancing the need for public access to copyright works with

the right of creators to earn a living from their works.

COMPETITIONS & OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

Manawatu Standard Short Story Competition

Run in conjunction with Central Districts Branch, NZSA. Entries invited from anyone broadly within the Central Districts region, i.e., north of Wellington and south of Hamilton.

Short stories, 1500-3000 words, not previously published, or entered for other competitions.

First prize \$500, second prize \$200, third prize \$100. **Closing date 31 October 2005.** For other conditions, and entry forms, email: j.c.ross@massey.ac.nz.

Ledig House international writers residency

The residency is located approximately two and a half hours north of New York City in the town of Omi, in the scenic Hudson River Valley. Writers and translators from all fields are encouraged to apply for a residence lasting anywhere from one week to two months. Up to 20 writers per session--10 at a given time--live and write on the stunning 300 acre grounds and sculpture park that overlooks the Catskill Mountains.

Ledig House provides all meals, and each night a cook prepares dinner. Days are reserved as quiet hours, while evenings afford a more communal environment. During each session, several guests from the New York publishing community are invited for dinner and discussion. Bicycles, a swimming pool and nearby tennis court are available for use.

Unless otherwise arranged, writers must provide their own transportation to and from Ledig House. A colony car will be sent to pick writers up at the train station in nearby Hudson, New York. All writers should be proficient in English.

Created in 1992, Ledig House International Writer Residency is named after the German publisher Heinrich Maria Ledig-Rowohlt. Ledig had a reputation as a man with an unerring sense of literary quality. His publishing list included prominent writers from around the world--Thomas Wolfe, William Faulkner, Yukio Mishima, Jean Paul Sartre, Vladimir Nabokov, John Updike, Toni Morrison, Albert Camus, and Thomas Pynchon, to name only a few.

In its short history, Ledig House has hosted hundreds of writers and translators from roughly 50 countries around the world. The colony's strong international emphasis reflects the spirit of cultural exchange that is part of Ledig's enduring legacy.

Spring Session: April 1 - June 24 - Fall Session: August 24 - October 31
The annual deadline for applications is November 30.

For application details go to: <http://www.artomi.org/ao/ledig.htm#Application>

Taumarunui novel workshop

Auckland novelist **James George** (author of "Wooden Horses" and the award-winning "Hummingbird") will be visiting Taumarunui on **Saturday 12 November 2005** to give a one-day workshop for novelists, limited to 5 places. James will critique each writer's work for about an hour, with all attendees involved in the discussion. The writers will need to email James the part of their novel they wish him to critique, by **the 31st of October**.

Fee \$120.00. For further details please email kiri.rodwell@ihug.co.nz or telephone 07 896 6274.

Writer/Artist in residence opportunity in Sydney

Regents Court is a small boutique hybrid hotel situated in a quiet leafy cul-de-sac in the heart of Sydney.

Regents Court offers a ground floor studio apartment for periods of three to twelve weeks to writers or artists wishing to have dedicated working time in Sydney. In return for accommodating a 'writer/artist in residence', the owners expect the writer/artist to help take care of the rooftop garden and be on the premises five nights a week from 7pm to 7am to welcome late arriving guests. This offer is single occupancy only.

The owners will take applications from interested writers/artists who can provide excellent references from either an arts funding body or publisher and have received funding to complete a work.

Please send applications and preferred dates to Paula MacMahon via bookings@regentscourt.com.au website: <http://www.regentscourt.com.au/>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Local literary festivals in Nelson and Tauranga

Nelson

Land of Milk and Honey with William Taylor - Elma Turner Library. Sat 15 Oct, 11am

Hear one of New Zealand most prolific and popular writers.

Thrift to Fantasy with Rosemary McLeod - Suter Theatre, Sun 16 Oct, 2.30pm

Rosemary talks about her book.

Te Mata NZ Poet Laureate Jenny Bornholdt - Morrison Street Café, Thu Oct 20, 5.30pm

Poetry that explores the simple and the familiar.

Humming with Rachel McAlpine - The Boathouse Fri Oct 21 - 11.45am

a special session of Nelson Institute Coffee & Books, introduced by President, Christopher Vine. 12.30pm Rachel reads, talks and replies to questions.

This Thing in the Mirror with Claire Finlayson- Suter Theatre, Sun Oct 23, 2.30pm

Dunedin writer Claire Finlayson features self portraits by well-known New Zealand artists in her recent book.

How to Catch a Fish with Kevin Ireland - Woollaston Estate Winery, Upper Moutere, Mon Oct 24, 1pm (Labour Day) - Lunch in the country with the 'elder statesman of New Zealand literature,' Kevin Ireland.

He'll be OK: Growing Gorgeous Boys into Good Men, By Celia Lashlie - Book Launch:

Nelson College, Fri Oct 21, 6pm

Bookings recommended for all events Book with Everyman Records 03 548 3083. Email

everyman@ts.co.nz

Tauranga

The Tauranga Arts Festival runs for ten days 20 - 30 October 2005. Ten exciting days of performances, events and exhibitions beginning with a family weekend down on the Strand. Music from classical to jazz and cabaret, catchy lyrics, great music, readers and writers week, dance and theatre with humour, insight and sometimes tackling the darker side.

Readers and Writers week at the Pacific Crystal

27th October 12pm - War and Peace - Christina Lamb, Michael Field, Paul Buchanan -Award-winning war correspondents talk about their experience in the world's hot spots.

27 October 2pm - An hour with Christina Lamb

As well as being an award-winning foreign correspondent, Christina author of *The Sewing Circles of Herat*.

28 October 2pm - Meet the author - Celia Lashlie

29 October 11am - Drawing on Experience - Gavin Bishop and Lynley Dodd

30 October 11am - Meet the Author - John Marsden - One of Australia's top writers, winning awards for his young adult fiction from around the world.

30 October 1pm - An hour with Glen Colquhoun - Recognised as one of this country's leading poets.

For full details: <http://www.taurangafestival.co.nz/>

David TK Wong Fellowship 2006

The David TK Wong Fellowship is a unique and generous annual award - £25,000 to enable a

fiction writer who wants to write in English about the Far East to spend a year in the UK, at the University of East Anglia in Norwich.

The Fellowship is named for its sponsor Mr. David Wong, a retired Hong Kong businessman, who has also been a teacher, journalist and senior civil servant, and is a writer of short stories himself.

The shortlisted entries will be judged by a distinguished international panel, and since there will be no interviews, candidates will be judged entirely on the quality and promise of their writing, and the project they describe. There is no age limit, and no means test of any kind.

The Fellowship was launched in 1997 and the first Fellow appointed from 1st October 1998. The Fellow joins a community of writers founded by Sir Angus Wilson and Malcolm Bradbury in 1971. The Creative Writing programme at UEA is currently led by Professor Patricia Duncker and Professor Michele Roberts. Among our graduates are Ian McEwan, Kazuo Ishiguro, Andrew Cowan, Martyn Bedford, Michael Jackson, Toby Litt, Trezza Azzopardi, Tracy Chevalier, Ben Rice, Owen Sheers, Sue Fletcher and Diana Evans.

Previous Fellows: Po Wah Lam (1998), José Dalisay (1999), Simone Lazaroo (2000), Liisa Laing (2001), Wendy Law-Yone (2002), Lakambini Sitoy (2003). The 2004 Fellow is Rattawut Lapcharoensap (2004). The 2005 Fellow is Linh Dinh.

Closing date for 2006 fellowship is 31 January 2006

To print out the application form go to: <http://www.uea.ac.uk/eas/fellowships/wong/form.htm>

Griffin Poetry Prize

This is a reminder that the deadline for the C\$100,000 Griffin Poetry Prize is approaching. Books must be submitted postmarked no later than **December 31, 2005** for books published between January 1 and December 31, 2005. Please remember to complete all necessary customs/duties paperwork when shipping your entries to ensure delays are avoided.

If you have any questions regarding the rules, or would like to download an entry form, please visit the Web site, at www.griffinpoetryprize.com.

The Griffin Trust is pleased to promote poetry publishers' electronic newsletters and e-mail mailing lists on its Web site. [Click here to view the listing.](#)

Stout Centre celebrates 20 years of The Bone People

The Stout Centre at Victoria University is having a day-long conference on Saturday, 5 November to mark 20 years since "*the bone people*" won the Booker prize. Official details will shortly be on the Stout Centre website: <http://www.vuw.ac.nz/stout-centre/events/conferences.aspx>

Miriama and Marian Evans, the two remaining Spiral collective members, are working with Lydia Wevers to put the conference programme together.

Keri Hulme will be present at the conference, which will address some of the controversies and polarisation around the book. But it's also an opportunity to revisit its publishing history, with the many people who were part of that.

The conference is supported by Ngai Tahu and will start at 10 a.m. with a powhiri.

Calling all poets and writers

The next Writers Festival-India-2006 which will be held on 21-24 March, 2006 in India. The festival will open on 21st March, 2006 on World Poetry Day declared by UNESCO.

If you would like to participate in the Festival as a reader, or by giving a paper, the organisers would like to hear from you as soon as possible.

For information regarding participation plus a Registration Form is available on the website : http://www.thewritersclub.org/wfi_2006.htm

The deadline for Registration to attend the festival is 31 December, 2005.