

from the woodwork into the open mic space made complete with a poem by Teresa that stated, 'the ocean is a remarkable thing / the way it has been there for centuries and / will be there for centuries / ...the tide has its say / bringing way up the beach and / sometimes stops before.' This simple yet succinct poem caused me to realise that us poets are all the same. It doesn't matter if we've published 1 or 2 books, 10 or 11 poems, or if like Teresa we capture what arrives on the night. Because in the end all poets have something valid and important to say; the only difference lays within the way in which we choose to say it. Some of our poems choose to shape themselves, like the visions within a kaleidoscope and some take a million and one titivations, as Mike Eager concisely states: 'the string goes ping / and you re-tune your heart.'

We are keeping warm for winter and the next couple of months we've got poetry combined with canvas art for June and in July we're running a workshop evening with Wellington iconic Poet Mike the Tights (Mike Webber) and Art Teacher Annette de Jonge. "We like new faces and new poems," says Stephen Douglas the convenor, "so come along to Poets' Pub; share your poetry and meet other writers." Poets' Pub is a 'free entry' community sponsored poetry reading happening on the first Monday of each month (unless a public holiday falls then it's held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday, ie: June 12<sup>th</sup> 2006) from 7.15pm at the Angus Inn, Murphy's Bar (use entrance Waterloo Road) Lower Hutt. For more information contact the convenor Stephen Douglas (Ph: 04 5699904, email DouglasSR@xtra.co.nz), or Hutt Valley Community Arts (Ph: 04 5683488, email office@hvca.org.nz)

Report by Kyla-Jayne Rajah

## ☞ Competitions ☞

### Landfall Essay Competition

The purpose of the competition remains as it was at the outset: to encourage New Zealand writers to think aloud about New Zealand culture, and to revive and sustain the tradition of vivid, contentious and creative essay writing in this country. Perhaps its time for the prize to go to a piece highlighting the strength of poetry in New Zealand at present? The winner receives a prize of \$2500 and a year's subscription to Landfall. Entries will be accepted from 1 May 2006, until 5pm, 16 June 2006.

<http://www.otago.ac.nz/press/landfall/essaycompetition.html>

### The Margaret Reid Prize for Traditional Verse

Most genres accepted, i.e. 'any that has been popular for at least 50 years'. Cash prizes total \$3,500. Entry fees are

US\$6 for every 25 lines (or part thereof). No restrictions on previous publication, prize-winners from other contests welcome. Deadline: 30 June 2006. For more information: <http://poetrycontests.exactpages.com> (source- NZSA)

### The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Tom Howard Poetry Contest

A 'premier literary competition for original creative writing in poetry or verse in any style and on any theme'. Cash prizes total \$3,500. Entry fees are US\$6 for every 25 lines (or part thereof). No restrictions on previous publication, prize-winners from other contests welcome. Deadline: 30 September 2006.

<http://tomhowardpoetry.bravepages.com> (source- NZSA)

### 3rd ZEBRA Poetry Film Award (international - Germany)

The ZEBRA Poetry Film Award offers a platform for a dynamic poetic genre within the short film, developing into an independent art form somewhere between literature, film and new media, giving filmmakers and poets from around the world the opportunity to exchange ideas and define positions. From 11 to 14 October 2006 an international jury will decide the winner of the 3rd ZEBRA Poetry Film Award, whose total prize money amounts to 10,000 euros. The deadline for receiving entries is 15 June 2006. The registration form and rules of entry are at: <http://www.zebra-award.org>

### Bell Gully National Schools Poetry Award

Poetry is not always put forward as the best option by the school careers adviser, but to prove that poetry can take you places, this year's Bell Gully National Schools Poetry Award will give up to ten talented young writers a trip to Wellington. Judge James Brown will select the top ten poems, and all the short-listed entrants will have the opportunity to attend a master class with top New Zealand poets at the International Institute of Modern Letters in August (airfares and accommodation included for those who live outside the Wellington region). In addition, short-listed writers will receive book tokens from Booksellers NZ, and the author of the winning poem will receive a cash prize of \$500 plus subscriptions to literary journals *Sport* and *Landfall* and a year's membership of the New Zealand Book Council and the New Zealand Society of Authors. The winner's school library will receive a book grant of \$500. The deadline for entries is 16 June, so now's the time for students to get writing. Entry forms were mailed to secondary schools last week; copies are also available from the IIML (phone: 04 463 6854) and from our website at: