

Bell|Gully

Victoria

UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON

*Te Whare Wānanga
o te Ūpoko o te Ika a Māui*



www.vuw.ac.nz

The Bell Gully National Schools

poetryaward 04|

celebrating the work of young New Zealand poets



Sponsors

Bell | Gully

Victoria

UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON

*Te Whare Wānanga
o te Ūpoko o te Ika a Māui*



Partners



NEW ZEALAND BOOK COUNCIL
Te Kaunihera Pukapuka o Aotearoa

Bookse/ers
TOKENS

LANDFALL

Published by University of Otago Press

Sport

Winner

Had I an intelligent dolphin...

I like the idea
of riding a dolphin
down the Hutt River

perhaps because of its sheer absurdity
dolphins being mostly salt water dwellers
and the Hutt River being rather too shallow
for such an escapade.

Perhaps, because I relish the thought
of speeding past Gladys,
purposefully trundling the bus towards
school and assembly and complex conjugates.

Leaving Silverstream, there would
be the problem of the weir.

However, had I an intelligent dolphin,
we could jump it
in the kind of perfect arc
formed by a rainbow
or a perfectly lobbed paper dart.

Sleekly, in slow-motion
we would rise,
splattering the sky with
cascades and Catherine Wheels
of muddy water.

And people would stop
their cars and stare
as my dolphin and I
splashed and skittered joyfully
out to the harbour.

Poppy Haynes

Year 13, Chilton St James School, Lower Hutt

Runner-up

Cards

I

We are playing cards.
I hold myself back,
feeling for the right moment
to end the game.
I grip my set in a fan by my heart
so you can't see,
though you never cheat.

II

I remember that bright-grey day
in the park.
I thought the sky
was on the brink of something.
A storm, perhaps,
or a heavenly announcement.

Unfolding my austere umbrella,
I scooped up a brown bundle
of leaves—
carefully, because you never know
what might be underneath.

Clutching them,
I watched you toss your own
bright curling leaves
into the wind
and you danced around
as they fell and stuck in your hair.

Helen Lyttelton

Year 12, Rangi Ruru Girls' School, Christchurch

Runner-up

Gardening for the 21st Century Woman

Prune.

This is the only way
you will get anywhere
girls.

Be ruthless.

Who needs frivolous flowers
and leaves
and fruit.

All that nonsense
will be of no use
to you.

You must start
with some sharp secateurs.

Cut first
the flower
then the stalk
and the woody root
until you are left
with a neat
manageable
skeleton.

Next week girls—topiaries.

Shezani Nasoordeen

Year 13, Epsom Girls Grammar School, Auckland

Runner-up

Le Ode to Teenage Angst

Thomas is a Goth.
He dyed the hair
that he wears long,
black
like his clothes and shoes and
lipstick.

On the pages of his journal
are his latest poems.

**“Blood
Darkness
Despair
Why?”**

Thomas stops to think.
He wishes he was a vampire.
Then everyone would be scared of him
or think he was cool
and invite him to their parties.

“Honey! Dinnertime!”

Thomas puts his pen down
and bounds down the stairs
two by two,
to Simpsons,
and his dinner of steak and potatoes.

Arielle Tai

Year 13, Epsom Girls Grammar School, Auckland

Runner-up

Monbretia

Late-summer-green leaves
Trail lazy fingers through tired brown water.
My schoolgirl shoes and white ankle socks
Plod steadily along with my down-to-earth kilt.

The toi toi and flax rise high above my head
With its neat blonde plait.
Suddenly my eye is caught by the bright monbretia;
Daring orange amongst the placid green.

Drab thoughts of homework and Hamlet
Fleet as effortlessly from my mind as
Murky water flows under the bridge beside me.

With that one sight
Thoughts of you
Bombard all my senses.

“Mombritches?!” you said hesitantly, jokingly,
As you tried to remember
The name I had taught you.
I didn’t care, soaked through and covered in river mud
I laughed.

I instructed you to look at the sunset
And you told me about cricket
As our arms moved in sync while we paddled home.

Meg Ryburn

Year 12, Rangī Ruru Girls’ School, Christchurch

Runner-up

Reprise

yesterday *(fine)*

do you remember summer days
blazing sforzandos when you pushed me higher
always & told me you liked glissandos
i turned from the sky and watched you
waving on the ground happily

& winter led you by the hand away
you were lost in the morning fog
but you called it love &
drew hearts on opaque glass
they bled but you laughed

later you cried i heard your tears staccato
fall your cheek pressed against
the window pane matching raindrops
outside you sospirando in the dark
the piano in e minor for
forty days and forty nights

beneath floorboards in your room
a gold laced book
on sun-stained pages in cobweb ink
a requiem unnamed

now the birds sing a capellas but
you are deaf & twice disgraced

on the window
not rain nor frost but
bleeding hearts rhapsodies &
fingerprints
on white piano keys thin black islands
& dust middle c untouched

(Da Capo al fine)

Melissa Chen

Year 13, Epsom Girls Grammar School, Auckland

The Bell Gully National Schools Poetry Award

More than 200 poems were submitted for the 2004 Bell Gully National Schools Poetry Competition, organised by Victoria University of Wellington's International Institute of Modern Letters, and judged by award-winning poet Glenn Colquhoun.

Entries doubled from 2003, and budding poets in Year 12 and 13 at 93 secondary schools throughout New Zealand were represented.

The winner received a \$500 cash prize; a \$500 book grant for their school's library; a year's membership to the New Zealand Book Council; and subscriptions to leading literary journals *Landfall* and *Sport*.

This was the second year that the International Institute of Modern Letters and law firm Bell Gully joined forces to stage the award, with support from existing partners, the New Zealand Book Council and Book Tokens (NZ) Ltd and new partners, *Landfall* and *Sport*.

The International Institute of Modern Letters

The International Institute of Modern Letters is an international centre focusing on contemporary imaginative writing. Inaugurated in March 2001, the Institute is situated at Victoria University's Kelburn Campus and incorporates the University's renowned Creative Writing Programme and its annual writer-in-residence programme.

www.vuw.ac.nz/modernletters

Bell Gully

Bell Gully is New Zealand's leading commercial law firm. The firm has the country's strongest legal team with over 230 partners and lawyers with experience and expertise in a wide range of business and government sectors.

www.bellgully.com

