

***Bravado 19* – a bold new look!**

The striking portrait in stone on the front cover of *Bravado 19* is reminiscent of Shelley's Ozymandias, but is as contemporary as an iPad. As is the magazine's custom, the artwork is by a Bay of Plenty artist, Ashley Grant. Inside art editor Pete Morris reports on the work of this former architect, who sculpts in Hinuera stone, often decorated with bone, copper or bronze.

Our covers form a permanent 'gallery' on our revamped website (www.bravado.co.nz) and *B19* also features strong and witty line drawings by emerging artist Florence Thorburn. We welcome competent artwork for our internal pages from any New Zealand or Australian artist.

Content is of primary importance to the *Bravado* editors, and *B19* pleases in respect of form also, signalling our return to PublishMe Printers in New Plymouth. We're hopeful we will now be able to fulfil our promise of 'bigger and better every time' with a constant and judicious blend of poetry and prose.

Read the poignant fictional memoir by Josie Charlotte Jackson (writing formerly as Charlotte Flyte); about the drawbacks of nude modelling by James O'Sullivan; a first person narrative on the difficulties of social interaction by Stephen Bayle; what it means to be marked as different, by Neil Boyack; the links between Ethan Hawke and a snail invasion by Allan Drew, and how having a 'Heart' can get you into trouble, by Karen Zelas (fiction editor of *Takahe*.)

We've got poems from writers as diverse as Raewyn Alexander, David Griffin, Anna Jaquiere and Sue Fitchett (among others.) Newcomer Dave Ciccoricco gives us reasons why 'Oamaru Welcomes You' and Kirsten Warner explains her 'Five impulses to worship the nanny goat.'

For prose, Rhonda Bartle reminisces on 'The Lost Art of Bobbing' while Paul King describes 'The Art of Climbing.' Jennifer Compton discusses 'Two men and their daughters', and there's a gripping account by fellow Australian Michael Spann of the country's first black bushranger, George Caesar, and Aborigine freedom fighter, Pemulwuy. Two brave men, defeated by their times.

We don't want to spoil all the surprises (like Sue Wootton's exploration of how a poem is made), so we'll say no more about *B19* except buy it and try it!

What we do need to tell you is the 7th *Bravado* International Poetry Competition is now open for your entries, with generous rewards, including a Special Prize for an Unpublished Poet. Michael Harlow is this year's judge, and we welcome your entries online, through the Competitions page of the web site (<http://bravado.co.nz/competitions.html>) or to our postal address, *Bravado*, PO Box 13533 Tauranga Central 3141.

Our cover price goes up with *Bravado 20* – a necessary response to rising costs – and that means subscriptions will go up, too. We value our loyal subscribers, especially those who have been with us from the start, and so we're making you an offer you can't refuse. Renew your subscription NOW, whether for one or two years, and we will hold it at the present rate. (You will be notified shortly how to claim this special deal).

How's that for a fair go from *Bravado*?