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**Newsletter No 30
October 2005**

Dear readers,

We hope you like the updated site with new features including a directory of bookgroups in the UK. It now conforms to accessibility guidelines which will make it easier to read for many people.

To celebrate we are having an "Australia" month.

Our Antipodean [reviews](#) are GOULD'S BOOK OF FISH by Richard Flanagan, DANCING WITH STRANGERS by Inga Clendinnen, THE TURNING by Tim Winton, THE IDEA OF PERFECTION by Kate Grenville and NEW COLLECTED POEMS by Les Murray. They are a lovely diverse collection for you to ponder.

Read our [interview](#) with Kate Grenville, in which she tells us about her new novel THE SECRET RIVER, out here in January.

Thank you to all those who have registered their groups and for those who haven't, click on the wine offer button. [Register](#) your group and receive a free pack of gorgeous wines, generously given by Wine Australia. Let us know if you've registered and you're not in the directory.

Our **Bookgroup of the Month** is from Sydney. Go to the [bookgroups](#) page to read all about them and if you would like to join the throng, please answer the questions, emailing your responses to info@bookgroup.info

This month's competition winner is Carole Henderson of Gilcrux, Cumbria. She wins a set of four beautiful Dorothy Whipple books, kindly given by Persephone Books.

Radio 4 is a rich source of news on all aspects of literature and reading. This week features readings from the Durham Literary Festival. You can subscribe to their newsletter on www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/newsletter/

The **Saga Award** "for books of wit and humour" by authors over 50, has been won by Marina Lewycka for A SHORT HISTORY OF TRACTORS.

The **Orange of Orange Prize**, awarded to the best prize-winner in the 10-year history of the award, went to Andrea Levy for SMALL ISLAND. Read our review in the [archive](#)

Authors can now take advantage of www.lulu.com to get their work published free of charge.

The search is on for the UK's favourite gay novel. Launched during Manchester's Pride in August, the **Big Gay Read Project** invites submissions. See www.gayupnorth.com/biggayread We recommend AT SWIM, TWO BOYS by Jamie O'Neill. See our review in the [archive](#)

The **Man Booker Prize 2005** has been won by John Banville for THE SEA. www.themanbooker.com has full details, including how to participate in **The People's Prize**. For an interview with John Banville go to the [Guardian books](#) site.

Harold Pinter has won the **Nobel Prize for Literature 2005**. <http://nobelprize.org/index.html>

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