



**MEDIA RELEASE** [23 June 2008]

## Melbourne publisher to publish final masterwork of 'one of the great writers of our time'

Melbourne independent publisher Wilkins Farago has secured the Australian rights to one of the most important works of Antipodean literature of the past 30 years, **Janet Frame's** posthumous *The Goose Bath*. The celebrated New Zealand writer's final masterwork, described as 'a volume that alters the landscape of New Zealand poetry'\* will be released in Australia in September 2008.

Twice shortlisted for the Nobel Prize for Literature, Janet Frame (author of *An Angel at My Table*) published many novels during her lifetime, but only one collection of poetry, way back in 1967.

From that time until her death in 2004, Frame kept her poetry largely to herself, piling her poems into a bathtub once used by the family geese. Over time the 'goose bath' overflowed with hundreds of brilliant unpublished poems. By the time she died in 2004, Frame had named her hoped-for but elusive new selection 'The Goose Bath.' She never saw it published.

From this treasure trove her literary executors selected over 100 poems that illustrate the shape of her life: her childhood and the subsequent difficult years in mental hospitals; her travels around the world; her life as a writer, growing older and facing illness and death.

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The publication of *The Goose Bath* in Frame's native New Zealand was a revelation—a completely unexpected posthumous work from a writer described by the *San Francisco Chronicle* as 'one of the great writers of our time.' *The Goose Bath*

became a Premier New Zealand Bestseller and went on to win the Poetry Section of the 2007 Montana New Zealand Book Awards.

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'When we heard that Australian rights to the book were available, we leapt at the chance,' said Wilkins Farago's publisher, **Andrew Wilkins**.

'*The Goose Bath* will read a hundred years from now, alongside Frame's greatest novels and her autobiography. It's a major work by one of the Southern Hemisphere's most celebrated writers and deserves a wide readership in Australia.'

***The Goose Bath: Poems by Janet Frame***

ISBN 9780980416541, \$32.95 premium pb, September 2008 publication

**ENDS**

\* *New Zealand Listener*

**Janet Frame's *The Goose Bath: Poems*** will be released in Australia in September 2008. It features the fascinating account of how the book came into being, written by Frame's niece and literary executor, **Pamela Gordon**, and poet Bill Manhire.

**Pamela Gordon** is expected in Melbourne in September for the Australian launch of *The Goose Bath*.

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