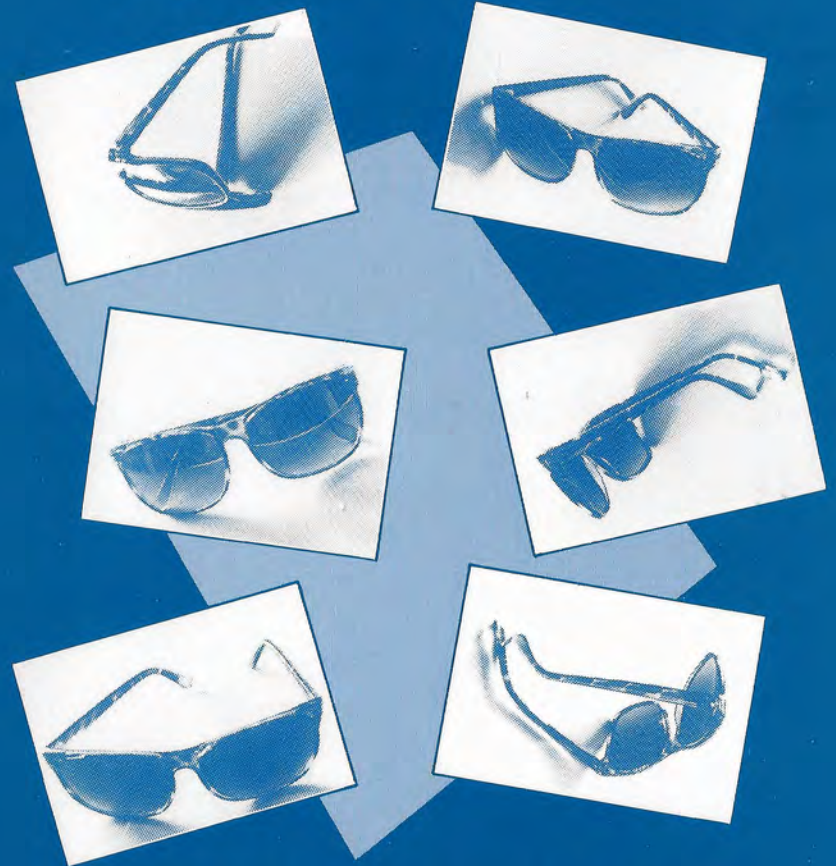


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**RON PRETTY**

**REDSHIFT /  
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**CHRIS MANSSELL**

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## NEWS RELEASE

Five Islands Press will introduce the first books in its inaugural publication series at Harold Park Hotel on Tuesday July 12 at 8 pm.

Susan Hampton, poet and co-editor of the landmark *Penguin Book of Women Poets*, will launch the two collections of poetry, The Habit of Balance by Ron Pretty and Redshift/Blueshift by Chris Mansell.

Ken Stone, Five Islands Press' executive officer, hopes the new small press will be welcomed by the reading public.

'Though the mainstream publishers are making some moves to publish new poetry and short fiction, it is in small press endeavours that the future lies,' he said.

'Small presses can keep overheads down, and are generally less concerned with profit. The act of publication is an expression of belief in the literary value of the works themselves.

'Five Islands has brought together the literary and technical skills to produce books that are entertaining and artistically significant, as well as professional in presentation.'

The Habit of Balance is a first collection by Ron Pretty, senior lecturer in writing at the University of Wollongong's innovative School of Creative Arts.

The collection spans his recent writing career, which has been fostered in the pages of such major literary journals as *Meanjin*, *Southerly* and *Quadrant*.

'The collection displays Ron's wit, complexity and allusive power,' Mr Stone said. 'These are intelligent poems ranging in mood from the reflective to the satiric.'

Redshift/Blueshift is Chris Mansell's third collection and follows hot on the heels of her US success, as winner of the 1987 *Amelia* Chapbook Award.

Stone explained: 'Chris is one of the most prominent of Sydney's younger poets, and as such has produced a collection which I believe will satisfy those who know her previous work, as well as those who will be reading her work for the first time.

'It displays her abilities well, and suggests her importance in the development of a contemporary voice in Australian poetry.'

'Both books represent a fine beginning to this new publishing venture.'

Based on the south coast of New South Wales, Five Islands Press will be producing five other books in the next year or so — four more collections of poetry and one collection of short stories.

'It's a full and ambitious schedule, but enthusiasm has been running high, and Tuesday's launch is the first public expression of FIP's commitment to Australian writing,' Mr Stone added.

Books can be obtained at Harold Park Hotel on the night of the launch, from appropriate bookstores, or by writing to: Five Islands Press, PO Box 1946, Wollongong NSW 2500 (add \$1 for postage).

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For further information or to arrange interviews, ring: (042) 27 2875

Also: Ken Stone — (02) 660 2487  
Ron Pretty — ((042) 71 5292  
Chris Mansell — (044) 64 1432.

Rob Hood  
for FIVE ISLANDS PRESS  
4 July 1988

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