

Friends of the Nelson Library Inc.
Private Bag 41
Nelson 7042
SEPTEMBER 2012 newsletter

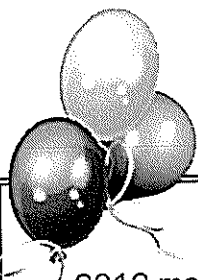


Nelson Library reaches
170!

Friends of the Nelson Library Committee
2011 - 2012

Fay Eades (Chairperson) ph. 544 4637 clivefay@xtra.co.nz
Mary Belser (Secretary) ph. 548-9721
Priscilla Wardell (Treasurer) ph. 546-9079
Jill Blechynden (Book Sales) ph. 548-0075
Bill Fleming (Archives)
Dixie Lane
Helen Newnham
Jill Ruthven
Christopher Vine
Jeannie Woodhouse

Andrea King (Library Liaison) Elma Turner Library



*If I've told you once, I've told you a thousand times: resist
hyperbole.*

Avoid commas, that are not necessary.

Verbs has to agree with their subjects.

A BIRTHDAY TO CELEBRATE

2012 marks the 170th year of continuous operation of a public library within Nelson city.

The Nelson Institute was formed on 17 May 1841 on board the Immigrant ship *Whitby* as it journeyed to Nelson. One of its goals was to establish a library in the new settlement. The idea of setting up a library was very likely formulated in England before the *Whitby* set sail, but the pooling of passengers' books established the collection. The first dedicated Library building in Nelson was occupied from 1842. The Library has been in continuous operation ever since, from different buildings, and has expanded into three separate libraries.

(Outgoing) Chairperson's 2012 AGM Report

This year it has been business as usual for the Friends of the Library group with our main activities being the book sales and the Sunday library talks. As well, we assisted with Heritage Week activities and hosted a Christmas morning tea for the library staff. Our talks are always well-attended. For NZ Book Month in March local author David Young talked about his recent novel "Coast". Next, Christchurch writer and illustrator Gavin Bishop spoke about the rewards and challenges of the writer's life, and we were drawn into the magic of his children's books. The Port Nelson Harbour Master, Dave Duncan, was a popular speaker who talked about his dual roles as harbour master and pilot. In June, Cindy Te Ata Batt, one of our librarians, introduced us to traditional Maori instruments, and afterwards those attending were able to experiment with these. Travel talks are always popular and the "Full House" notice had to go up for Philippa Vine's talk on her travels in Morocco. The series will conclude in August when Inspector Brian McGurk will talk about his recent deployment to Afghanistan.

Jill Blechynden continues to efficiently sort the cancelled books and to organise the monthly book sales, as well as the big three-day one in November. This fundraising has enabled us to make donations over the past year of \$6000 to the library, some of which was used to purchase E-books. The group also gave \$500 to the Children's Library recently for new toys and puppets. When the Micro-film Subcommittee disbanded we received their remaining funds of \$918 and subsequently paid from that the \$690 annual service fee for the Nelson Photo News.

Barbara Rhodes kindly continues to edit our quarterly newsletter. It is now distributed to some members by email which saves on our postage costs. Anyone can still pick up printed copies at the library should they wish.

I would like to thank my committee for their support again this year. Mary is my very efficient secretary, and Priscilla continues the on-going job of treasurer and keeping track of our subs, takings and expenses. Bill, who looks after our archives, has made great progress ordering twenty years of records. Andrea, the library liaison person on our committee, performs the valuable function of maintaining the communication lines between the library staff and the Friends group, as well as assisting with all the details involved in our activities like running the technology for the speakers. Thanks also go to the other committee members who all willingly assist with book sales and talks, and to those general members who assist with these.

I am now standing down as chairperson but will be happy to continue with my role as publicity officer if required. Finally, I look forward to next month when we celebrate 170 years of Nelson Library. Judging by the popularity of the library with all age groups, and the ability of the staff to embrace new technology and trends, it will have a long and successful future too.

Jeannie Woodhouse

INTRODUCING OUR NEW CHAIRPERSON

I inherited my love of books from my father. He was a prolific reader. I picture him in his armchair in front of the fire turning the pages of O. Henry, G.B. Shaw, Somerset Maugham or Thackeray.

As a child I didn't own any books. All the books that I read came from the library. Monday was library day. After school my sisters and I cycled to the Palmerston North Municipal Library where we were allowed to choose three books. The restriction was not imposed by the library but my mother. The three books had to last until the next Monday so I used to select books by their thickness until I realised that some authors filled my time and imagination more than others. Austen and Dickens were early discoveries.

After secondary school, Palmerston North Girls' High, I went to Training College. This was followed by teaching in various parts of New Zealand, in both rural and urban primary schools, where I developed an interest in poorer, culturally diverse communities. I felt compelled to go to University, focusing my studies on linguistics and language teaching. I became involved in teaching migrants and refugees and found that to be privileged work, and a humbling experience.

Nearly five years ago Clive, my husband, and I made a retirement decision to shift from Auckland where we had lived for years and move to Nelson. We had previously lived here when our sons were four and six years old.

I am an avid reader and remain a faithful borrower of library books. I look forward to being the Chairperson of the Friends of the Library committee.

Fay Eades

In his book, *Fumblerules*, William Safire takes a light-hearted look at grammar and good usage. Below, and elsewhere in the newsletter, are some examples of "fumblerules"- mistakes that call attention to the rule.

Avoid run-on sentences they are hard to read. No sentence fragments. It behoves us to avoid archaisms. Also, avoid awkward or affected alliteration. Don't use no double negatives.

Friends of the Nelson Library News

From the 2012 AGM

Financial Matters for 2011-2012

Income

Subscriptions \$410
Donations \$1,177.70
Book Sales \$4,475.20
Winter talks \$339.70
Microfilm Trust residual funds \$918.47
Interest \$193.59

Expenditure

Administration \$591.34
Project expenses \$ 430.54
Donation to NCC Library \$6,000
Donation to Children's Library \$497.77
Microfilm fee \$690

Equity as at 30 June 2012

Term Investment \$7,819
Operating Account \$123.15

Never use a long word when a diminutive one will do.
Proof read carefully to see if you any words out.
Take the bull by the hand, and don't mix metaphors.
Never, ever use repetitive redundancies.
Last but not least, avoid clichés like the plague.

NOTE: at the 2012 AGM, a donation of \$5000 to NCC for Nelson Library's use was agreed upon. This is not included in the figures above.

Did you know?

Elma Turner Library now has a J.P. available for consultations every Saturday morning from 10 – noon.

BOOKCHAT

BookChat sessions are open to everyone, and are where folks get together and talk about what they have been reading. People are welcome to just come and listen, or to talk about what they have, or haven't, enjoyed in their recent reading. These are relaxed sessions with coffee & tea provided, and discussion ranges widely.

Activity Room of Elma Turner Library at 10:30am on the second Tuesday of each month.

Remaining 2012 dates are Sept 11th, Oct 9th, Nov 13th, Dec 11th.

Stoke Library at 10:30am the first Thursday of every month.

Sept 6th, Oct 4th, Nov 1st, Dec 6th.

Introducing Jill Ruthven

a new Friends of the Nelson Library committee member

I grew up in Richmond after my family emigrated from Canada in 1963. Even though I went away for university and work, I never really left Nelson as I still had family here, whom I visited frequently. Eventually I moved back here nearly three years ago. I was a Librarian at Victoria University for 22 years, working in Geography and Earth Sciences, which was really interesting and enjoyable. I am a keen reader, enjoying a wide range of fiction and non-fiction, particularly history, historical fiction, biographies and autobiographies. Now I am also enjoying re-discovering half-remembered places in the Nelson region, and learning more about our history.

I joined the Friends of the Nelson Library as I think it is important to actively support our excellent library.

Jill Ruthven

Book Sales Report

Presented at 2012 AGM by Jill Blechynden

A literary overloaded year!! Due to the redesigning of the Library - new stands, carpet etc, and all the stands being bathed and shampooed to squeaky clean - all older stock was culled from the said shelves and retired to behind the scenes to be stored for re-sale.

Fortunately fiction has been boxed and re-located until needed.

Our monthly book sale profits have certainly been down this year— usually \$200 plus, but I think this is a sign of the current economic situation and modern technology ie. e-books etc.

Our annual total since our last AGM stands at \$4475.20.

I am looking forward to our major sale set for Friday 2nd, Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th of November, as we have a huge and varied selection, including much archival material that should have ready sale.

We have never has such a diverse selection!

My thanks go to all my team - especially Priscilla as treasurer and my team mate for the Saturday morning events - and to Christopher (table man), Jeannie (always on hand checking), Fay, Chris, Barbara, Dixie, and Bill who have all turned up to help lift the heavy loads.

A Little Snippet provided by Jill B.

A Literary question from The Listener Diversion crossword on page 60, 7/7/2012.

QUESTION: In the twentieth century only the Bible, the Koran, and quotations from Chairman Mao Tse-Tung sold more than what book?
8 - 3 - 4 letters.

ANSWER is elsewhere in this newsletter.

BOOK REVIEW

Leaving Alexandria : A memoir of Faith and Doubt

By Richard Holloway

Text Publishing Co. 2012. \$40

Lloyd Geering's review in the *Listener* on May 19 describes the book as "a spiritual journey ... written so honestly and frankly that at times the author's soul is bared to the reader." This summing up must have been based on Geering's own experience of what would appear to the layman to be a somewhat similar journey.

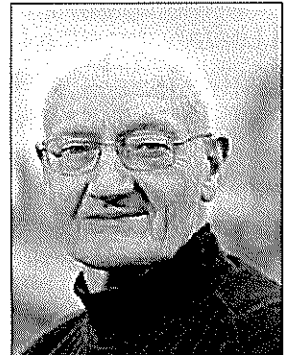
Holloway has written a large number of books reflecting his changing views and opinions from 1972 onwards. In 1988 he wrote *Crossfire: Faith and Doubt in the Age of Certainty*. Despite this he was appointed Primus of Scotland in 1992. The paradox of the supposed upholder of certainty in the Church of Scotland openly expressing his doubts was not lost on orthodox members of his church or on the tabloid press which pursued him avidly. His support of gay priests and the ordination of women led to so much internal conflict that he tendered his resignation in 2000.

The book is extremely well written - as the author drily remarks, he has had plenty of practice. His life is eventful and interesting but inevitably a large part of it is devoted to internal debating of theology, morality and ethics. He was nonetheless a tireless social worker and during his time as curate of the Gorbals, a slum district of Glasgow, he worked unstintingly to relieve the hardship of its inhabitants.

Holloway's gifts as a writer remove barriers between churchman and layman and make open debate possible for all.

Brian Prendergast.

Richard Holloway image from
www.hexhambookfestival.co.uk



POINTS OF VIEW - Brian Prendergast

Barbara has asked me to write "a piece about book reviewing" so here goes.

My first effort was for the PSA Journal in 1988. It was the Katherine Mansfield Centenary year and I was sent her complete short stories plus a couple of related books. There was a small fee but the main attraction was to keep the books, two of them handsome hardbacks.

Emboldened by seeing the review published intact, I sent a copy to the Literary Editor of the *Christchurch Press*, Naylor Hillary. At that time *The Press* published a full page of "Literary Views and Reviews" every Saturday. In January 1989 my first review, two novels by Fiona Kidman, appeared.

This was followed by short stories by Marilyn Duckworth and *Dancing with Strings* by Frances Cherry. From then onwards I received a steady stream of books, many of them short stories, notably *Six by Six*, edited by Bill Manhire and containing six stories by each of "New Zealand's six best writers". Incidentally, Frances Cherry and Bill Manhire subsequently ran successful writing schools in Wellington.

Between January 1989 and July 1991 I reviewed about 27 books for *The Press*, many of them short stories. I particularly enjoyed *Wednesday's Children* by Robin Hyde (a reprint), *The New Land*, short stories by Bill Manhire, and *Monday's Warriors* by Maurice Shadbolt.

This happy state of affairs ended abruptly when *The Press* underwent a radical change of direction and the Literary Page was scrapped. Not long afterwards Ann and I moved to Nelson and for a while I reviewed for the *Dominion*, mostly Nelson writers - Mike Johnston, Max Lash, Christopher Vine and others. I then metaphorically jumped the fence and tried writing myself instead of criticising others.

It was a salutary lesson. I wrote a play for television which I thought was quite good but I found that the producers had different criteria. They didn't like large casts or expensive outdoor scenes, and medical dramas were out of fashion with the increasing popularity of *Shortland Street* on TV2.

So now I am very happy to contribute to the *FOL Newsletter* which I think plays an important role in publicising the *Friends'* activities. Long may it continue.

Nelson Institute Update

COFFEE & BOOKS. (started by Jill Blechynden in 1965)

Join us for the 238th session, the 288th speaker!

Friday 28th September 2012

Activity Room, Elma Turner Library

10:30 am. \$2pp

Steve Richards will talk about his latest novel *Arthur's Past* which delves into the history of pioneering exploration to discover passes over the Southern Alps to the goldfields of the West Coast. Romance, hardships & murders against the historical background of early Canterbury, Nelson and the Coast.

A Reminder to Nelson Institute Members. A number of subscriptions are overdue. As you were all advised after the 2012 AGM, the sub has been raised - for the first time in over 20 years - to \$10. Cheques made out to "Nelson Institute" can be mailed to:

The treasurer, Stephen Eagar, 13 Wainui St, Nelson.

Keep an eye on the paper nearer Labour Weekend for details of the Institute's Charles Dickens event at Fairfield House (Sunday Oct 21st), featuring members of the Christchurch Dickens' Fellowship. The Activities Room at the Library has been booked for the day before (Oct 20th), so members of the public can go along to share *their* favourite characters or readings from Dickens - or just listen and enjoy.



**Friends of the Library
2012 ANNUAL BIG BOOK SALE**

**Mark your calendar now.
Friday November 2nd - Sunday November 4th.
Elma Turner Library**

Friends of the Nelson Library Inc
Membership Form

Yes, I'd like to join/renew

\$10 p.a.

Please make Cheque payable to *Friends of the Nelson Library Inc.* Please mail with form to: The Treasurer, Friends of the Nelson Library Inc, Private Bag 41, Nelson 7042, or leave in envelope, marked as above, with a Library staff member.

Name (please print) :

Address :

.....

Phone

Date

Email (optional but helpful)

Members receive

- * \$6 of Library vouchers each year that can be used for reserving books, CD's etc.
- * 10% discount on non-sale items at Page & Blackmore Booksellers, Trafalgar St, Nelson.
- * Quarterly newsletter

Optional : please indicate if you are interested in being involved with any of the following

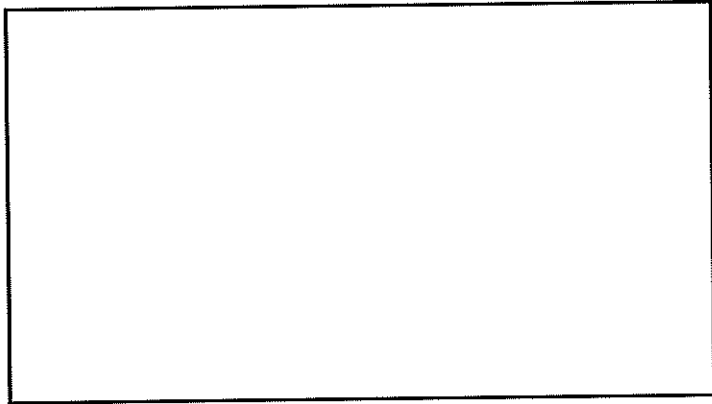
Contribute to newsletter

Help with book sales

Serve on the committee

Assist with events eg setting up room, door duty, checking catalogue for material to display at talks

NB: Membership is for 12 months, to commence 1st July, start of our financial year.



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The Friends of the Nelson Library
Private Bag 41
Nelson 7042

A REMINDER
SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR THE
2012 - 2013 YEAR
ARE NOW DUE