



Friends of the Nelson Library Inc.
Private Bag 41
Nelson
December 2011 newsletter

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The Friends of the Nelson Library
Private Bag 41
Nelson 7042



Light Reading!

MONTHLY BOOKSALES

Remember these continue to be held on the first Saturday of each month in Elma Turner Library. 10 am–12:45pm.

Enquiries to Jill 548 0075

Friends of the Nelson Library Committee
2011 - 2012

Jeannie Woodhouse (Chairperson) ph. 538-0969
Mary Belser (Secretary) ph. 548-9721
Priscilla Wardell (Treasurer) ph. 546-9079
Jill Blechynden (Book Sales) ph. 548-0075
Fay Eades
Bill Fleming (Archives)
Dixie Lane
Helen Newnham
Christopher Vine
Chris Shepherd

Andrea King (Library Liaison) Elma Turner Library



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. They are relaxed sessions with coffee & tea provided, and discussion ranges widely.

BookChat is held in the Activity Room of Elma Turner Library at 10:30am on the second Tuesday of each month, and at Stoke Library at 10:30am the first Thursday of every month.

See you there!

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, or leave in envelope, marked as above, with a Library staff member.

Name (please print) :

Address :

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Phone Date

Email

(optional)

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.

A Note from the Library

The most recent donation cheque from the Friends of the Nelson Library (\$6000 was donated to NCC for Library use on October 13th 2011) will be used to purchase e-books for use by Library members. So far most of the e-books currently available are through a consortium of South Island public libraries, and therefore available to all their members as well.

The name of the e-book service and supplier is Overdrive.

In addition, 20,000+ e-books are now available via the Overdrive page on the Nelson Library website. These titles have all been freely available world-wide for some time, and the Overdrive service will make access to them easier for Library customers.

Check out www.nelsoncitycouncil.co.nz/overdrive-ebooks/ for more information.



The Friends of the Nelson Library committee are delighted to report that the Big Book Sale - held 4th, 5th & 6th November - raised \$2442.

Many thanks to Jill Blechynden for the hours and hours she spent sorting & pricing over the weeks leading up to the event, and for so ably organising & supervising the set-up and running of the sale. Thanks also to her volunteer helpers - together with Jill they made the sale such a success.



CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Another year seems to have flown by on wings! Hopefully the summer holidays will give us all time for relaxation and reading.

For many of us the library is just a place to borrow books but it is worthwhile checking out the many other resources and services it offers. A recent walk around the Elma Turner Library was revealing. Firstly there is a good range of DVDs (movies and TV series) as well as music CDs available for a minimal hire cost. The documentary DVDs (located near the Activity Room) are even free of charge.

Latest copies of magazines from Cuisine to Yachting can be perused at the library or reserved. In the newspaper corner you can sit and read newspapers from around NZ or use the computers provided to read others.

With help from the Friends the library now has access to material from the Film Archives. The "point and click" portal is very user-friendly and one can select from hundreds of short video clips. A laminated list includes Nelson local history ones with subject ranging from hop production to tourist promotions. I enjoyed viewing clips from Dunedin, my old home town. If you need assistance there is an information librarian nearby.

In the same area there is a large notice board and numerous folders relating to Council and ratepayer matters. The adjacent Research Room offers a chance to quietly read books on Nelson and NZ history.

The friendly space of the Children's Library is worth a visit if you have grandchildren visiting over the holidays.

If you feel like "chilling out" go to the listening posts at the river end of the library. Put on headphones and tune into your choice of music while you gaze out the window and relax. Do be aware of your parking time though!

Many locals and others take advantage of the free internet access provided at the library. It is heartening to see that this has been instrumental in getting our young men back into libraries and joining up and now borrowing car manuals and the like. As a parent it is reassuring to see young travellers keeping in touch with their families. Nowadays they often travel with their laptops and just sit in the free wi-fi areas. This is a facility for which the library gets government funding.

Why not master the self-issuing machines before you leave. They won't replace our wonderful librarians but rather free them up to do other vital

Chairperson's Report cont.
work.

For those of you who are computer-savvy it is worthwhile exploring the library website at www.nelsonpubliclibraries.co.nz and navigating around new places to see what you might be missing out on. Some resources can be downloaded and viewed at home without even travelling to the library. For example Press Display enables readers to access recent newspapers from NZ and overseas by just keying in their library barcode number. Be warned though, this is a great time waster!

With the new OverDrive system (again purchased with the Friends' help) you can access some Ebooks and downloadable audio. For anyone interested in heritage matters there are resources available online or at the library only (eg. Ancestry Plus).

Lastly I will mention the public courses run by the library, monthly Book-chat sessions and Friends' Sunday talks and monthly booksales. (Keep an eye on the notices at the library entrance).

So why not challenge yourself to explore another dimension of the library this summer. The management and staff are ensuring that Nelson Public Libraries move with the times. We just have to avail ourselves of the many opportunities offered.

Jeannie Woodhouse

Nelson Institute News

Nelson Institute is pleased to announce that Christopher Vine's popular book on early Nelson buildings, *Nelson Observed*, has now been digitised. An electronic copy in the form of a searchable PDF has been produced. The project was managed by Contexo Ltd, and will be hosted by the Nelson Library on their new e-books site.

The electronic version, while replicating the appearance of the original printed book, also has the benefit of allowing searches by key words to be made, allowing for researchers to readily identify material within the book.

As part of the project, a comprehensive index compiled by Alice Johnston has been added, which will be most valuable to researchers.

NB: Jill Blechynden still has some print copies of *Nelson Observed* for sale. Contact her at 548 0075.

Three ducks, one larded
Three pheasants, one larded
A swan Pye
Three brace of partridge, three larded
Made dish in puff paste
Bolonia sausages, and anchovies, and pickled oysters in a dish,
with mushrooms and Caviare
Six teels, three larded
A Gammon of Westphalia Bacon
Ten ploves, five larded
A quince pye, or warden pye
Six woodcocks, three larded
A standing Tart in puff-paste, preserved fruits, Pippins etc
A dish of Larks
Six dried neat's tongues
Sturgeon
Powdered Geese
Jellies



A Bill of Fare for Christmas Day

taken from *Old Cook Books: an Illustrated History* by Eric Quayle
Pub. Cassell Ltd 1978

The bill of fare is from *The Accomplisht Cook* by Robert May, 1660. Quayle's comment accompanying the following 17th century menu is that it 'apparently aimed to satisfy an average community of a gentleman's household, family, and servants, including all sitting "below the salt". Something to think about when we tuck into our simple ham or roast chook this Christmas...NB: original spelling.

Oysters
A collar of brawn
Stewed Broth of Mutton marrow bones
A grand sallet
A pottage of Caponets
A breast of veal in stoffado
A boil'd partridge
A chine of beef, or sirloin roast
Minced pies
A jegote of mutton with anchove sauce
A made dish of sweet-bread
A swan roast
A pasty of venison
A kid with a pudding in his belly
A steak pie
A haunch of venison roasted
A turkey roast and stuck with cloves
A made dish of chickens in puff paste
Two bran geese roasted, one larded
Two large capons, one larded
A custard



The Second Course for the Same Mess

Oranges and Lemons
A young lamb or kid
Two couple of rabbits, two larded
A pig souc't with tongues

BOOK REVIEW

Virginia Woolf: A Writer's Life by Lyndall Gordon
Pub. 1984 Oxford University Press paperback

Literary biography is an art form and Lyndall Gordon's book is an outstanding example. John Lehman's *Virginia Woolf and her World* is superficial by comparison, and Leonard Woolf's autobiography is naturally much concerned with her illness.

Virginia Woolf has always been considered a "difficult" writer and many people have had difficulty understanding her most famous novel *The Waves*. Gordon discusses the book at length and clarifies the author's radical intention: there are no characters as we understand them, only voices. And there are no chapters, so that we may hear the unbroken rhythm of the six voices as they recount their lives". It is evident that the book demands a great deal from the reader.

Virginia Woolf was a prolific writer, producing essays and pamphlets as well as novels; she reviewed regularly for *The Times Literary Supplement*, kept a journal and corresponded with friends. She and her husband founded the Hogarth Press in 1917, buying some second hand machinery and working together to set the type and operate the press. They were the original publishers of James Joyce, T.S. Eliot, and Katherine Mansfield whom they recognised as "moderns".

Thankfully Lyndall Gordon does not dwell on Woolf's illness and suicide but emphasizes her originality as a writer.

Brian Prendergast

A Bit About Me by Dixie Lane

Friends of the Nelson Library committee member

I have always been a reader, and I love books. I love holding them, turning them in my hands, looking at them—even smelling them! Of course this is not the reason why I read them, but I think I would really miss the tactile experience if all I could read were a plastic digital “book”.

When I left school I worked and trained as a librarian at Auckland Central Library. It was a fabulous time—running up and down marble staircases, using wooden catalogue drawers, registering borrowers on a huge wooden circular rotating card system which clicked as it turned. The Library and Art Gallery were in the same building (pigeons nesting in the corners), but now it is only the Art Gallery.

So Barbara said to me one day.... “join the Friends of Nelson Library and come on the committee.” And I did. Being on the committee has been an opportunity to meet with a friendly (slightly eccentric?) group, once a month, to discuss and implement ways to support Nelson Library. The discussions often result in creative ways to fundraise! The book sales always get everyone involved, and I learnt how to be a treasurer.

Because I belong to a book discussion group I read at least one book a month. Others in the group read the same book then we gather to talk about it. Sometimes the book chosen doesn't appeal to everyone, but reading it usually has its rewards, and I've read many books I wouldn't usually have chosen.

I have enjoyed :

- (1) *A Thousand Days in Venice* - M. de Blasi
- (2) *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* - Mary Ann Shaffer and A. Barrows
- (3) *A Thousand Years of Good Prayers* - Yiyun Li
- (4) *Rebel With a Cause* - Ray Avery

A Bit From Bill

I had to earn the princely sum of sixpence to enable me to join the Children's section of the Leys Institute Library in Ponsonby, Auckland. As a seven year old I entered into the magical world of books and came into contact with my first Librarian. She was long and thin, her hair done in a bun and the longest index finger in the whole world that she used to point to the silence signs accompanied by a “shhhhhh” that was no doubt heard throughout Ponsonby and parts of greater Auckland. I am sure that Walt Disney used her as the prototype for all the wicked witches in his films.



I was introduced to nonfiction reading at about the same time. At the beginning of class the teacher would hold up page/ pages of the N.Z. Herald and show us the photos of the killed, wounded and missing in the Italian campaign. We were encouraged to read about the areas where our fathers were engaged. This brought a whole new dimension to my reading. (Apart from Richmal Crompton's “William” series. I still have “William In Trouble” in my library. As there are no Leys Institute stamps on it I must have obtained it honestly).

I am basically a nonfiction reader. This has allowed me to ‘travel’ extensively and hopefully try in some small way to understand the various philosophies of the inhabitants of the planet.

At an AGM of the Friends eleven years ago there was a shortage of members for the committee. I put my hand up and since then have had (not so much lately) an involvement with the Friends in some form or another. It is good to be able to help where possible and possibly relieve the staff of some of the more mundane aspects of Library life.

Books and I have become firm friends over the years. A zack well spent.

Bill Fleming