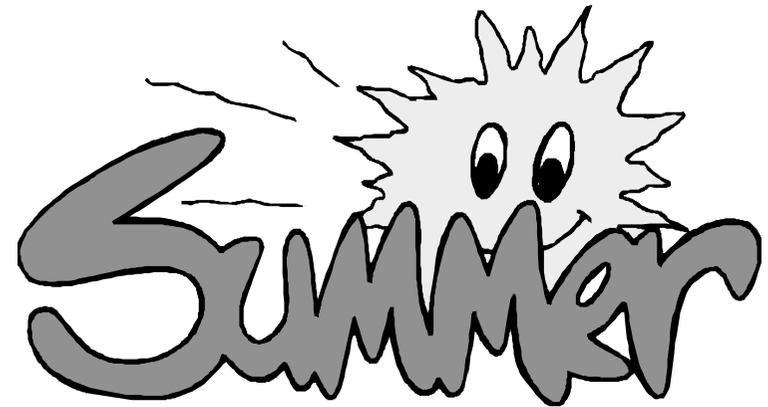




Friends of the Nelson Library Inc.
Private Bag 41
Nelson 7042
December 2013 newsletter

Affix stamp here

The Friends of the Nelson Library
Private Bag 41
Nelson 7042



Friends of the Nelson Library Committee
2013 - 2014

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Jill Ruthven
Christopher Vine
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Andrea King (Library Liaison) Elma Turner Library

Non-committee member: Barbara Rhodes (newsletter editor)
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CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

FRIENDS OF THE NELSON LIBRARY AGM, 21 AUGUST 2013

The past year has gone very quickly for the Friends of Nelson Library. It has been a year of change and celebration.

The 170th birthday of Nelson's first library was celebrated on the 27th September 2012. The event attracted a large group of people comprising library staff, members of the Friends and the Nelson Institute and general public. From start to finish there was an air of happy celebration. An impressive panel depicting the library's history was unveiled by Ian Littleworth, Library Manager and Andrea King, Customer Services Librarian. Friends donated \$500 to the cost of this panel. Total donations to the library this year were \$6,500.

Our annual Big Book Sale in November (2012) was indeed a very big book sale as there was extra stock partly owing to the culling from library shelves of redundant titles in readiness for the Radio Frequency Identification system. Thank you to Jill Blechynden and all the team involved in managing this exercise. These 3 day sales entail an enormous amount of hard work.

The Friends' committee meeting in January ended somewhat abruptly

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

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

Help with book sales

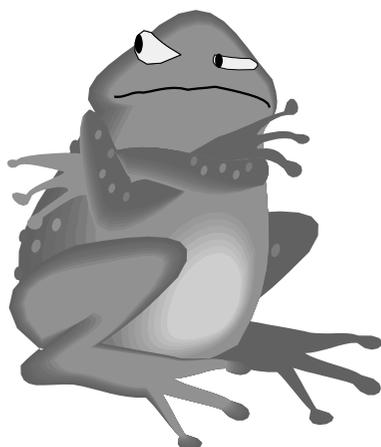
Serve on the committee

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

**A Gentle Reminder
From
The Treasurer**

**A number of members have
yet to pay their 2013 - 2014
subscriptions.**

**If you are unsure if you are
one of them, please call
Priscilla to inquire
Ph. 546 9079**



See payment details opposite.

Commemorative Plaque

On Friday Sept 27th at 4pm a small ceremony was held to unveil a plaque to mark the site of the first Institute premises, opened September 27th 1842. Christopher Vine created the plaque which was fired by Esther McNaughton. Look out for the plaque on the outside wall of Harrys' Bar up by the Women's Club in Trafalgar St.

This was a Friends of the Nelson Library, and the Nelson Institute, initiative.

Nelson Institute Life Members

On Sunday 1st December Sir Geoffrey Palmer, the Patron of the Nelson Institute, presented Life Membership certificates to Christopher Vine, Jill Blechynden, and Paul Bielski, who have joined Dr Dorothy Stafford who was previously the only Life Member. Congratulations and heartfelt thanks to those august members! Thanks also to Christopher for throwing a party to mark the occasion.

as the building next door to the library caught fire and both buildings had to be evacuated quickly. A consequence of the fire was that storage space for cancelled books was reduced. There is now a lot less space available to store books for sale. In addition Health and Safety evaluations have identified important issues related to safe storage and handling. Our committee has had to address these issues. One idea, which has been adopted, is not to hold a Big Book Sale but instead to hold book sales on the first Saturday every month of the year. These sales are being supplemented with books and magazines being available in bins in the library. Books which are perennial favourites eg cooking, gardening, history and biography, are made available at the monthly sales as well as books centred around a theme chosen for each month eg music or travel.

The committee is trialling this system and so far the reports indicate that it is working well. I would like to thank Jill Blechynden for overseeing the monthly sales and the band of merry people who give much needed and willing help – Priscilla, Christopher, Gill, Dixie, Mary and Jeannie.

This year's winter talks programme has been very interesting, with the connecting thread being that all the speakers have written, edited or published a book or books. First up was Gerard Hindmarsh who recounted stories about the people to be found in his book *The Outsiders*'. He was followed by Arch Barclay who took the audience into the life and territory of George Fairweather Moonlight; then Brian Peel, author of *Blind Courage*' who has worked for years enabling blind people to be more mobile; Robbie Burton who spoke of his years working in publishing and gave us much to think about re-the future directions that may be taken in book and electronic publication; Jane Stafford and Mark Williams, editors of *The Anthology of New Zealand*, who outlined the challenges in compiling a literature selection and encouraged us to appraise literature in a different way; and, most recently, Janice Gill on her topic, 'Purpose, Passion and Politics'.

I would like to thank most sincerely the members of the Friends Committee. I have appreciated their openness to discuss new ideas and willingness to find practical solutions to problems. Their readiness to pitch in and help is tremendous.

The Committee enjoys a good working relationship with library staff. In particular I wish to acknowledge Andrea King for her ongoing support which contributes to our enjoyment of being in some small way part of a busy dynamic enterprise.

REFLECTIONS ON BOOKS.

“Every time a new book comes out I go back and read an old one’, an admission whose author escapes me, but if you don’t have a new book is extremely helpful.

As it happens, I am presently re-reading Kiran Desai’s *The Inheritance of Loss*, reviewed in the newsletter about two years ago.

The surprising thing is not how much one missed the first time around, but that a second reading promotes an even greater respect for the writer and why she deserved the Mann Booker prize.

There are, of course, many books which can be read and re-read with undiminished or enhanced appreciation. *Anna Karenina* is one; another is Gibbon’s *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*. I doubt if anyone could read it from beginning to end, just like that, but the section on Mohammed, for example, is the clearest and most readable account I know of the life of the Prophet and the founding of the Muslim religion.

A few years earlier the heir to the Eastern Empire, Justinian, fell in love with the beautiful Theodora who was a circus performer barely ten years old. When he ascended the throne, one of his first acts was to repeal the law which forbade his marriage to a member of the theatrical profession. As Empress, Theodora was the most powerful woman in Europe, if not the world. Justinian remained devoted to her for the rest of her life. Gibbon’s story would put a modern magazine to shame.

It has often been said that if two books could be chosen for life on a desert island they would be The Bible and Shakespeare; two more might be Tolstoy and Gibbon.

To paraphrase Shakespeare, “age cannot wither them nor custom stale their infinite variety”.

Brian Prendergast.

NB: Brian has no doubt relished many many more books since he sent me the piece above way back in June this year. As I was overseas for nigh on two months, I was unable to produce the usual September newsletter. Ed.

of items etc. Items that are closely looked at include those that have not been issued for more than a year, are in poor condition, are duplicates or contain out-of-date information (health, travel, computing, finance). These are either cancelled, moved to the Stack or replaced with a more up-to-date copy. Gaps in the collection are also noted so they can be filled. Deselection goes hand in hand with selection to maintain an up-to-date, vibrant, useful collection.

Friends of the Library book sales: About 17,000 items are cancelled every year, and another 3,000 items donated which don’t meet the Library’s collection criteria (under 5 years old, in good condition, suitable for a small provincial library collection). The Library has a Stack (mostly of NZ material) but other storage is limited. The Friends Booksales turn these items into extra money for the Library, allowing it to fund mini-projects that otherwise cannot be funded eg extra e-books that were not budgeted for, more large print books (very expensive) talking-books, children’s DVDs etc. This is a valuable and much-appreciated service.

This is a report of the talk by Anna Gully at the Friends of the Library 2013 AGM.

There are people who for one reason or another can not collect reading material from the Library. A service is provided whereby once their taste in books is known this material is delivered to their home on a fortnightly basis.

The delivery can sometimes be a little awkward to handle. This task has been made easier for the volunteers with wheeled trolleys purchased by the Friends. This is most welcome and is another example of the continuing assistance that the Friends give to the over-all efficiency of Library operations.

Collection Management or How the Library buys materials & why we have Friends of the Library book sales

Every year the Nelson Public Library buys around 17,000 new items. The quantity depends on the value of the NZ dollar and the types of books bought as the budget is static, increasing roughly by the Cost of Living. Some items are very expensive eg talking books are about \$100 each. The staff choosing items for the library use a number of sources for purchase decisions eg journals that review books etc, vendor websites, interloan requests (which can alert staff to gaps in the collection), reference queries and recommendations from library customers and staff. Weeding the collection gives good information about what is or is not popular. There is no discrimination in what is purchased.

The library uses a core of key international and national vendors who give good discounts and supply the books and magazines shelf ready (covered, stamped) which saves library staff a lot of time. Some items eg local authors, local history and audio-visual material, are bought locally.

Like most libraries, there is a finite amount of space available so the optimum collection size is under 150,000 items. It is anticipated that more ebooks will be bought as they become available, and users will be using databases and the internet more often for information as it is more up-to-date. As an example, most NZ Government information is only available online now. Thus it is likely the optimum collection size will decrease eventually.

Libraries weed or deselect in a continuous, methodical process. It is important to keep up-to-date information, and to have shelves that are not too tightly filled (otherwise it is hard to get books off the shelf!). Reports indicate how many times an item has been issued, its publication date, trends in borrowing especially popularity

REFLECTIONS ON BOOKS

From Bill.

An authoress well worth reading is Penny Junor who has two well-researched biographies: "Charles" and "Charles: Victim or Villain".

Charles - Prince of Wales

From the day on which he was born he has, it is fair to say, lived in a goldfish bowl. It was, and still is, a lonely life. The late Queen Mother and Lord Mountbatten virtually brought him up when his parents had to leave him, sometimes for months, while they went on foreign tours. The young prince was close to Mountbatten and relied heavily on him as a mentor, friend and confidant. It was a terrible blow to the Prince when Mountbatten was killed in 1979 by an I.R.A. bomb.

Prince Philip on the other hand had no patience with his son's soul-searching, and spent a lifetime criticizing him and his more sensitive pursuits. This apparently undermined Charles' self esteem, as a man should not display anything other than being out-spoken, tough, and hearty. Charles had some involvement with the services but did not appear to be overly enthusiastic in this area, although he still holds rank in various branches of the armed forces.

In recent years youth unemployment has seen Charles devote a lot of his time to young people in this unfortunate situation. In some instances young people have been able to set themselves up in business with professional guidance to help them over early problems. He has a special affinity with the black races who have gone from ant-royal to great fans. Architecture is also another facet of interest, and this had an effect on how buildings/cities are being viewed.

Charles says he would like to have been a farmer. He takes a great interest in his own farm trying out new methods of agriculture, conservation and marketing.

When these ideas of his were made public

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many years ago the press managed to have a field day portraying Charles as a little bit odd. Now, in the 21st century, many of his ideas are now accepted as the norm, or certainly worth striving for.

As I see it the monarchy is changing from the Victorian attitude through to the openness evident in Princes William and Harry.

The Queen has made several changes in attitude that updates a lot of royal practices. However it seems that the conduit between the Queen and her 21st century grandchildren is a man who has broken with tradition, and gone out into the community to try to fully understand where people are at. This is reflected in Charles' sons' closeness to the people at large, while still retaining all that is best in tradition.

Whether Charles becomes King or not history will show, I trust, how this man brought the monarchy and people together.

Dixie Recommends...

Our book group has recently read *The Coroner's Lunch* by Colin Cotterill. This is the first in a series set in Laos, featuring Dr Siri Paiboun, coroner turned investigator.

This is a fun, light read, a humorous murder mystery - good holiday reading! I recommend this to readers who have enjoyed *The No.1 Ladies Detective Agency* series.

NB: Stoke Library has this book (Ed.)

Introducing a New Committee Member

I was pleased to accept Fay's invitation to become a committee member of Friends of the Library. Born and educated in ChCh I have taught in small schools as far south as Clyde, with a short stint in London. I began SPELD teaching of 5 to 18 year olds in Timaru and continued here in Nelson. Teaching enabled me to enjoy children's and young adult books long after our children left home. My interest in reading is now being pushed along with a variety of U3A groups. I have discovered a new and unexpected interest in fantasy and science fiction through the *Reading* group topics and now appreciate Shakespeare's creative language through the *Shakespeare* group. But my favourites, still seem to be New Zealand writers of all genres and historical novels. I also enjoy stories of other cultures and biographies. My other interests include music, cross-stitch, patchwork and other crafts. In our 20th year in Nelson we still enjoy swimming and 'fair-weather' sailing as well as exploring the numerous walking and cycling tracks, around our region.

A Brief Report on the Friends of the Nelson Library Book Sales for 2013

As predicted, last year's wonderful supply of cancelled books for our monthly sales table (the first Saturday of the month) is over. Consequently the three-day Big Book Sale, in the Activities Room in November, was not held due to the lack of enough interesting, saleable stock.

During the year a cancellation of about 75 motor manuals was well advertised, resulting in a very busy 3 hours of burly, Fred Dagg males grabbing their bargains. This proved a worthy exercise in marketing and advertising.

My highlight for the November sale (the answer to a maiden's prayer) was the cancellation of art books from the art section. Imagine - glossy tomes on the art galleries of Europe. They just flew out!

Fiction is prolific and readily available at all sales.

I predict our monthly sales will remain very popular. We have our regulars, happily turning up for their monthly bargains, as against Founders' yearly event. As for modern technology: to many a book in the hand is still preferable to a flash across an ipad. A book is so much more cuddly.

Jill Blechynden (coordinator for book sales).