



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

Affix stamp here

The Friends of the Nelson Library
Private Bag 41
Nelson 7042



Back in the day....

Friends of the Nelson Library Committee
2012 - 2013

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

From the Chairperson.

Library talks are held at Elma Turner library from March until August on the third Sunday of the month. This year's programme has been a particularly interesting one.

Gerard Hindmarsh of Golden Bay started the series. Gerard, a well-known writer, historian and conservationist, spoke about the people who feature in his book 'The Outsiders'. These are people who choose to live their lives apart, away from other people. He gave the audience a deep understanding and appreciation of the varied motivations and life-styles of people who live on the 'outside'.

The second talk was given by experienced journalist, singer and actor, Arch Barclay. Some years ago Arch's interest had been caught by Murchison and one of its celebrated identities, George Fairweather Moonlight. Arch put the information that he had gathered into a book and gave a well rounded portrayal of George Fairweather Moonlight to an appreciative audience.

In May Brian Peel author of 'Blind Courage' spoke about his experiences of being a guide dog instructor. Brian has worked overseas and

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.

NOTIFICATIONS EXTRAORDINARY

Having to hand a couple of volumes of *All The Year Round, A Weekly Journal Conducted by Charles Dickens*, (Vol. XV pub 1876) I read with amusement some notices collected for the October 9th 1875 issue. These range from a repudiation of a bigamous spouse, to a terse staking of a claim to a certain young woman, published, as follows, we are told, in a Kansas newspaper: “*Engaged: Miss Ann Gould to John Caudal, city marshall, both of Levenworth, Kansas. From this time henceforth and for ever, until Miss Ann Gould becomes a widow, all young men are requested to withdraw their particular attentions.*” Is that not a refreshing change to the normal notices published on such a felicitous occasion?

The prize must surely go to the equivalent of a “work wanted” notice, where one Colin Pullinger ‘solicits public patronage’ at Selsey, near Chichester. A man of MANY parts this Colin!! He proclaims himself “Contractor, inventor, fisherman, and mechanic; following the various trades and professions of a builder, carpenter, joiner, sawyer, undertaker, turner, cooper, painter, glazier, sign-painter, wooden-pump maker, paper-hanger, bell-hanger, boat-builder, clock-cleaner, locks repaired and keys fitted, repairer of umbrellas and parasols, mender of china and glass, net knitter, wire worker, grocer, baker, farmer, stuffer and preserver of the skins of birds and insects, copying-clerk, letter-writer, accountant, surveyor, engineer, land-measurer, house-agent, vestry-clerk, assistant=overseer, clerk to the Selsey Sparrow Club, clerk to the Selsey police, assessor and collector of land tax and property and income tax, collector of church and highway-rates; has served at sea in the four quarters of the world, as seaman, sailmaker, cook, steward, mate, and navigator; the maker and inventor of an improved horse-shoe, an improved scarifier, a newly-invented couch-grass-cutter, a machine to tar rope, model of a vessel to cut asunder chains put across the mouths of harbours, a curious mouse-trap made on a scientific principle, where each mouse caught re-sets the trap to catch the next, requires no fresh baiting, and will catch them by the dozens; also a mouse-trap on a most novel, ingenious, and simple construction, being perpetually set, the bait will last for months, every mouse enters the trap through the same opening, and is most effectually secured, first on one side, the next on the other, and so on in succession, catching any number; rat-traps on various constructions, an improved mole-trap, model of a steamboat on quite a new and improved construction, four feet long, and challenged to beat any boat of the same length in the world; crabs, lobsters, and prawns sent to any part of the world; mouse and rat traps lent on hire at one penny per week; an evening school; a penny savings bank. I you doubt me, try me.”

Lots of problems with rodents, obviously, back in those days! (Ed.)

has many years working in the field of ensuring that blind people are able to participate fully in the community.

The talks reminded me again of the number of talented people who live in the Nelson region. The above people have one thing in common. They have all written books. As a sighted person these books are easy for me to access. Books are not so easy for visually impaired people to access. This point is illustrated in the discussion with Kay Halkett.

Too often we take our sight for granted. We do not question the ready access that we have to books and other forms of printed information. Many readers probably feel the same way. Let’s appreciate our library resources and work to ensure that they are available to everyone.

Come and join us at our next library talk.

Fay Eades

Friends of the Nelson Library 2013 talks *Make a note on your calendar.*

Sunday 16th June

Robbie Burton - Topic: Books & Publishing.

Sunday 21st July

Authors of the Anthology of New Zealand Literature

Sunday 18th August

Judith Gill - a local artist

Keep your eye open for posters, and Community Events notices in *The Leader*.

BOOK REVIEW

The Potter's Hand by A.N.Wilson.
Atlantic Books. 2012. \$37.99

A.N Wilson is a prolific writer of fiction and non-fiction, amongst the best known of the latter are *The Victorians* and *The Elizabethans*. He is careful to point out in his Afterword that this one is a novel, but it has an authentic ring and the main characters, Josiah Wedgwood and Erasmus Darwin, are well known historic figures. Less well known is that Wedgwood had a leg amputated as a young man and he was referred to by the workers at his Staffordshire pottery as "owd wooden leg". Erasmus Darwin was his friend and doctor, and when their families intermarried their grandson was Charles Darwin.

Wedgwood's skill as a potter is legendary. He made his fame and fortune by creating a 1,000 piece dinner service for the Empress Catherine of Russia. Packing and transporting the fragile cargo had their own elaborate requirements. He completed the commission in 1775 and from then on his pottery was in demand throughout the aristocracy of Europe and the new colonies of North America. This introduces the sub-plot, the purely fictional part of the novel.

Wedgwood's nephew, Tom Byerley, is despatched to Virginia to purchase a special clay known to the Cherokee Indians. He falls in love with a Cherokee woman but her tribe are annihilated by Rebel soldiers during the War of Independence, and Byerley is forced to return to England. The woman, Blue Squirrel, also eventually makes her way to England and to Staffordshire. What transpires is only part of the mixture of absorbing fact and fascinating fiction contained in this latest work by an outstanding writer.

Brian Prendergast.

New Returns system at Elma Turner Library

Now that there is a new automated returns slot and sorting system at the Elma Turner Library, staff are wanting as many returns as possible to be returned, when the Library is open, through the new returns slot in the foyer. To encourage this, the two after-hours returns slots in the outside of the building are now closed during Library open hours.

The advantages with the new automatic returns slot are:

- More accuracy in the checking in of returns
- Items come off a customer's record immediately they are posted through the slot
- Items do not get damaged through landing heavily on top of each other as happened in the old returns bin
- A reduction in the amount of manual handling done by Library staff who are then able to spend more time out in the Library helping customers

This new system uses radio frequency identification (RFID) technology which is efficient and easy to use. The front face of the new returns slot in the foyer looks a bit like an ATM machine, and requires customers to post their returns one item at a time when the 'go' light is green. It will print a receipt of what has been returned if the customer wishes.

So remember:

The outside **AFTER HOURS book return slots** will be ***closed*** for returns during Library open hours, and only ***OPEN*** for returns when the Library is closed.

Nelson Institute "Coffee & Books" talk.

Sunday 30th June. 1:30pm Activity Room, Elma Turner Library

Speaker: Justin Eade on his journey as a writer trying his hand at film and radio scripts, plays and short stories \$2 pp.

Tea & coffee to follow.

Looking Back For A Moment

Friends of the Library GARAGE SALES.

These were held in the courtyard off the Children's Library, before the library was extended, and the courtyard removed. Joyce Rowland was a stalwart organiser of those events, marshalling committee members like a sergeant major! What a range of items were donated, and out-the-back corners of the library, and committee members' car sheds, were often stuffed with stored items leading up to the Big Day. Bric a brac, bikes, books, belts & buttons were all there. Who could resist the white elephant table where treasures might be found. Second hand and antique dealers usually popped by to check out things, being ever ready to nab a bargain. Committee members poised behind the trestle tables, treasurer, Freda Young, did the rounds collecting up the takings, then carried all the money home at the end of the sale, ready to be counted, recorded, then banked on the Monday. Some of us worried a little at the thought of the haul she carried, should some dastardly percipient bag snatcher strike. Which, of course, did not happen, and Freda pooh-pooed any concerns!

Those garage sales were fun, and helped the Friends' bank account swell each year. As Nola Leov often said : "Many a mickle makes a muckle", and the garage sales proved that.

Hands On With the Children

Three committee members joined a number of parents and grandparents in the Activities Room during the school holidays, to help children who attended a stitchery session. Provided with all the necessary materials, and assistance from the adults present, the children learnt everything from how to thread a needle and knot the ends, to simple cross-stitch or chain stitch. Practise taking a while to make perfect, everyone was absorbed in the project, enjoying the cosy, sun-filled setting.



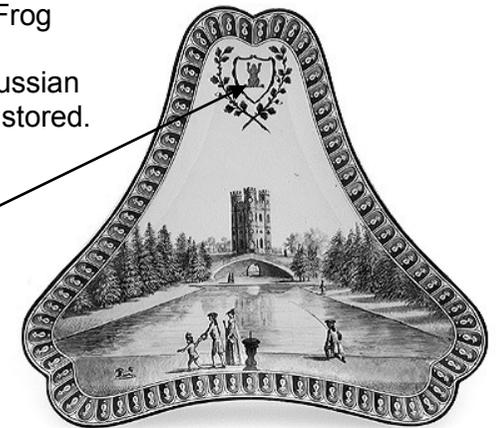
The Green Frog Service

In 1773 Josiah Wedgwood received the most unusual and difficult order that an English ceramics manufacturer had ever had. The idea for the commission belonged entirely to Catherine II of Russia. In 1774 the job was complete: Wedgwood had produced a large table service for fifty persons, containing 944 pieces hand painted with 1,222 views of England. The set included dinner (680 pieces) and dessert (264 pieces) services. Each object in the service was, in keeping with the commission, decorated with a view or views of old castles, abbeys, country estates, suburban mansions, urban and rural landscapes, and majestic natural scenes. In all the views, there was not a single repetition, forming a unique panorama of Great Britain. Wedgwood's partner, Thomas Bentley, compiled a handwritten catalogue for Catherine II containing the titles of all the views. This was the celebrated Green Frog Service. Questions of shape and decoration were left entirely to Wedgwood's professional competence; the client's wishes concerned only the subjects of the painting on the service. The order made two stipulations: the landscapes on the pieces should not be repeated and they should be topographically accurate. It was proposed to devote attention mainly to the depiction of Gothic buildings, since the service was intended for a palace built in that style on a spot called Kekereksinen ("frog marsh" in Finnish). The palace was built as a stopping-place for the imperial court on the road from the capital to the summer residence of Tsarskoye Selo. The palace was later named Chesme Palace, but that is another story.

More information about the Green Frog Service is available from www.heritagemuseum.org, the Russian museum where the service is now stored.

The little green frog emblem is on each piece.

A triangular tray from the Green Frog service.



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.

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

We are also going to be having monthly online book discussions (via Twitter) the last Tuesday of every month at 9pm.

Alyson Baker
Recreation Services Librarian

Book Group

Some months ago Kay Halkett was a welcome addition to the book group which I attend. Everyone's contribution is important but Kay's contribution has particular significance because Kay is not fully sighted. She is one of a number of blind people who live in the Nelson community. Kay is deeply interested in reading and I wondered how easy it is for her to access books which she wants to read.

The first place that she goes to borrow books is the library of the Foundation of the Blind. Kay also makes use of local library resources by either borrowing from the audio books collections or requesting particular titles through interloan.

Choosing from what is available in a library collection and through library services presents some difficulties as selection is dependent on another person. A family member, friend or library staff member needs to be on hand to read aloud the titles and the synopses. An audio catalogue would facilitate visually impaired people to be independent in their

book selection.

Recent publications are not as readily accessible as they are for sighted people. It usually takes about two years for a newly published book to become available in audio book form. The publisher has to consent to an audio version. Occasionally an audio edition will be released at the same time as the printed form.

Sighted people are not at the mercy of the skill or expertise of a reader in following texts. Some readers have expressive voices and can give a deeper meaning and interpretation to the written word much better than others.

New Zealand authors feature among Kay's favourite books. She can easily relate to the landscape and the people and places. *'Hand Me Down World'* - Lloyd Jones and the short stories of Katherine Mansfield and Dan Davin have especially engaged her interest. Kay enjoys a wide selection of books but they must have an element of reality. Literary fiction, historical fiction and books about 'people who endeavour' are the genres that she likes to delve into. Eleanor Meacham, author of 'Llamas and Empanadas', is one such person.

As the book group follows a thematic approach Kay has considerable flexibility in finding a book to present to the group for discussion. She generally finds that within any particular topic she can obtain a book on which to comment. Book groups which follow a single text programme are more difficult for Kay to participate in as she is not always able to procure an audio version of the selected book.

When reviewing a book Kay cannot make use of notes from which to read. She prepares well what she wants to say catching the other members' attention with insightful and cogent remarks. An extract, which she has already bookmarked, is played on the audio machine which Kay brings with her.

The book group has had another dimension added to it with the inclusion of Kay.

Fay Eades

