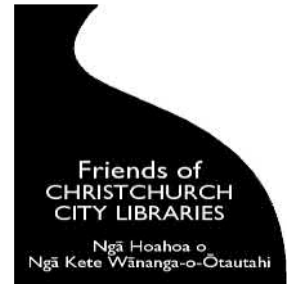


NEWSLETTER

Friends of Christchurch City Libraries

May 2021



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Contacts

Chair: Chris Baxter (03) 322 7107

Treasurer/Membership Enquiries:

Norma Porter (03) 741 1654

Email: friendsofchchlibrary@gmail.com

From the Chair

Kia ora

What a busy few months it's been. Hard to believe that we are over quarter of the way through 2021!

Since our last Newsletter we have had the annual Book Sale. As usual it was a resounding success - thanks to those of you who so cheerfully and willingly found space in your busy lives to help out. Jane Hackett, who manages the sale, was delighted with how quickly the before and after tasks were accomplished. The call in the last Newsletter, for people to help set up tables and unpack boxes prior to the sale and to do the opposite once the sale was over, resulted in several new people joining us to help with those tasks. It is physically demanding work so this extra help was much appreciated.

The Christchurch City Council Draft Long Term Plan 2021 - 2031 is out for consultation with submissions closing Sunday 18 April. Barbara Clarke, Julia Fomison, Trish Faulkner and I worked on a submission, from The Friends of Christchurch City Libraries, about three proposals that have potential to adversely affect library services. We have asked to speak to our submission and we will let you know how it goes. I'd like to thank everyone who responded to my request for your thoughts on the proposals - your input was very helpful. The three proposals we have put in a submission on are:

Proposed changes to library hours of service.

- All the larger libraries, except Turanga, will close at 6pm weekdays with Turanga closing at 7pm. The proposal also includes Turanga opening for some (at this stage unspecified) public holidays. Currently, Turanga, Fendalton and Upper Riccarton libraries close at 8pm Monday to Friday; South Library and Te Hapua: Halswell Centre Library close at 7pm Monday to Friday.
- Aranui and Matuku Takotako; Sumner Centre libraries to close on Sundays to align with the hours of the other small libraries.

Proposed changes to operating hours of Fingertip Library

- Reducing the operating hours of the Fingertip Library, from the current Monday to Sunday service, to a five day Monday to Friday service.

Proposed discontinuation of the Mobile Library service from July 2022.

- This would coincide with the retirement of the mobile van.
- Consultation with current users of this service, to explore alternative service options, is promised. having a strong professional library service which reaches across and provides for all.

While we understand the need for Christchurch City Council to reduce operating costs we feel that these proposed changes disregard the benefits of library services in Christchurch and the value that our community places on them.

A reminder that our Annual General Meeting is coming up. I encourage everyone who can, to attend and anyone who is keen to join the committee to put your name forward.

Best wishes

Chris Baxter

BOOK TALKS 2021

May 11th 12.30pm

Board Room, Fendalton Library, cnr Clyde and Jeffreys Roads

Rod Smith

Rod Smith has always had an urge to write and channelled this urge into various writing tasks in his career in journalism and several departments of Government service and then into researching and writing 'Guinness down under'. The book tells the story of the famous stout and the family coming to Canterbury in the 1850s. His wife Glennis is a sixth generation descendant of Arthur and Olivia Guinness and is the great-grand-daughter of Sarah Guinness, one of the key characters in the book. Rod is a keen family history researcher and has shared his discoveries on record for family reading.



Entry by gold coin donation.

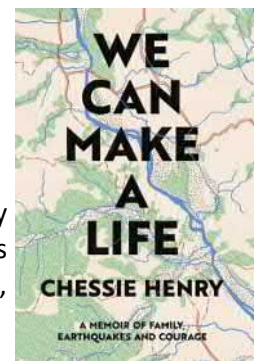
Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Christchurch Libraries will be held on Tuesday 8 June at 12.30 pm at the Fendalton Library, corner of Clyde and Jeffreys Roads.

June 8th June (after AGM which is at 12.30pm)

Fendalton Library, cnr Clyde and Jeffreys Roads

Hours after the 2011 Christchurch Earthquake, Kaikōura-based doctor Chris Henry crawled through the burning CTV building to rescue those who were trapped. Six years later, his daughter Chessie interviews him in an attempt to understand the trauma that led her father to burnout, in the process unravelling stories and memories from her own remarkable family history. Chessie rebuilds her family's lives on the page, from her parents' honeymoon across Africa, to living in Tokelau as one of five children under ten before returning to New Zealand, where her mother would set her heart and home in the Clarence Valley only to see it devastated in the 2016 Kaikōura Earthquake, and the family displaced.



Entry by gold coin donation.

Autumn

A fallen leaf is nothing more than a summer's wave goodbye."— **Unknown**

And all at once, summer collapsed into fall."— **Oscar Wilde**

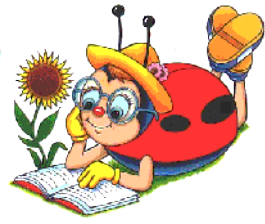
Everyone must take the time to sit and watch the leaves turn —
Elizabeth Lawrence

Is this not a true autumn day? Just the still melancholy that I love—makes life and nature harmonize—
George Eliot



It's a perfect time for a visit to the Christchurch Botanical Gardens to enjoy its autumn glory

What's on my bookshelf?



I was a 'bookworm' right from my earliest days and my best ever Christmas present was my first book shelf, actually a bookcase with 8 shelves and a cupboard, made by my cabinet maker grandfather. It moved with me as I reached adulthood and now lives a new life in my daughter's home in Wellington, where I always have to run my hand along the top as soon as I arrive for a visit.

My current bookcase takes up more than half a wall in our living room, and I can't think of a day when I haven't taken something from it, or a month when I haven't added to it - mostly thanks to Scorpio Books and the Colombo bookshop!

The top shelf could be best described as family history, but not so much in the genealogy sense. There's a history of the unit my dad was in during WW2 as well as *Real Modern* by Bronwyn Labrun which featured a photo of him in his later life as a barber. My daughter co-wrote *New Zealand's First World War Heritage* (Imelda Bargas and Tim Shoebridge) as part of the WW100 Centenary series. My treasured signed copy sits beside her brother's well loved theatre related books, left in my care when he moved to the UK. Other history related books include Glenda Turner's 'Christchurch' and Alison Parr's post earthquake book, 'Remembering Christchurch'. The next shelf is dominated by a big red dictionary that took pride of place in my childhood bookcase, and is still consulted from time to time, always a trip down memory lane. Spanish language textbooks, French and Italian dictionaries and a thesaurus sit beside it. A few cryptic crossword books including 'Two girls, one on each knee' by Alan Connor also find a home here.

Gardening books both old and new are on the next shelf, and are constantly in use, both for inspiration, particularly those by Sarah Raven and Alan Titchmarsh, and for practicality, represented by Yates and Co. My Dad's collection of books about fuchsias have a special place here.

Atlases and books of road maps take up a tall shelf, and include an old Readers Digest Atlas of the World with pencil tracings of journeys taken. I've always preferred the visual approach of the Eyewitness guides rather than those of Lonely Planet so I have more than a few of those, mostly from Europe. The aerial plans of cities and museums can take me back to happy days walking and exploring, and this shelf is the home for catalogues of exhibitions I've enjoyed, Klimt, Faberge and Lowry and among others.

Another well stocked shelf holds my ever increasing collection of art books, reflecting my interest in drawing, water colours and pastels, as well as some favourite artists, including the inimitable Beryl Cook. Leafing through a collection of her joyous paintings can brighten the dreariest day.

Craft books range from a venerable Weldons, once owned and used by my mother and before that by her mother, to contemporary books by Kate Fassett and others.

I don't own a lot of fiction, thanks to always being well supplied by our great library system, but have a collection of George Simenon's Maigret novels, some favourite Dickens titles, and some Penguins which are always my 'go to' when travelling. I've also got a few vintage books that I treasure for their beautiful covers and bindings, particularly an old Alice in Wonderland book and my Dad's 'Tom Brown's Schooldays'.



However my ultimate joy is the shelf devoted to my collection of lovely dove grey covered books published by Persephone Books. This small firm publishes out-of-print female writers with timeless covers and beautiful period endpapers with matching bookmarks. Its hard to pick favourites but 'They were Sisters' by Dorothy Whipple, 'The New House' by Lettice Cooper and 'The Fortnight in September' by R C Sherriff stand out. I've been lucky enough to have twice visited the Persephone Bookshop in Lamb's Conduit Street in London. Now that they have moved to Bath I'm keeping my fingers crossed that I'll visit them there one day.

I first heard of them via my frequently used copy of Jane Brocket's 'Gentle Art of Domesticity'. This is definitely one of the first books I'd save in a fire as each of the chapters seem to echo the interests my bookshelves reveal, history, language, crafts, art, cooking, gardening and travel.

My book shelves are definitely one of my happiest of happy places.

Diane



From the Libraries....



Getting ready for the sale –CCC Newsline

A very big thank you to everyone who either helped out at the Library Booksale or supported it by buying pre-loved items. Leading up to the booksale it was hard to gauge how successful it would be, or if it would even happen, given it took three goes before last year's booksale finally took place last October. Thanks to Jane's great planning skills, and the promotion of the event through posters in libraries, the media, and on the library website, we are very pleased to report that going by the numbers

attended and the amount of stock purchased, the Booksale was again very successful.

Some facts you may be interested in:

- it took 3.5 hours to set things up for the Booksale
- 5629 people attended the Booksale over the three days.
- 157 people attended the Preview
- the first purchase was made at 9.02 am on Friday, and 9.15am on Saturday
- between 9am and 2pm on the Friday a transaction was completed every 2 minutes
- 960 boxes of fiction and nonfiction, plus 162 boxes of magazines were sold
- On the Saturday it took 2 hours to pack everything up, with the trucks being back at the depot and unloaded by 7pm; and
- those who volunteered to help drank four litres of blue milk, and 2 litres of green milk.

All funds raised at the Booksale are returned to the Library to contribute towards future costs.

School holidays has seen various programmes offered in libraries. This includes the 'Ōtautahi Go Wild!' activity where the library combined with Canterbury Museum, Christchurch Art Gallery, and Christchurch Botanical Gardens to create an experience where children were invited to follow a map and look for wildlife in unexpected places. This also linked with the current exhibition being held in Tūranga's SouthBase Gallery. 'Wild Ōtautahi' features pictorial works from Gavin Bishop's 'Wildlife of Aotearoa' and is well worth a visit, if you have not done this already.

Libraries celebrate Youth week from 8 to 16 May with activities such as nerdy crafting at Shirley, creating comics, cartoons or zines at Upper Riccarton, and YA studio time and Kerbal Club at Tūranga. There is also an option to learn to code with Prenda Code Club, a new eResource we added recently. While Prenda is aimed at 8 to 18 year olds there is nothing to stop anyone from using this learn to code software that teaches the skills to make websites, apps, programmes, animations and video games.

Next month, Tūranga is part of the Open Christchurch series of activities, and so will be hosting free engineering tours with the team who designed the seismic systems, behind-the-scenes tours with librarians, a children's cardboard city-making workshop, and architecture-themed book displays.

Did you know Justices of the Peace are in regular attendance at some of our libraries? A JP can witness signatures and documents, certify document copies, hear oaths, declarations, affidavits or affirmations as well as sign citizenship, sponsorship or rates rebates applications. There is no charge for this service. More information about places, dates and times is available on the library website.

Linwood Library at Eastgate reopened on 27 April after being closed for three weeks for refurbishment. Since 2018, both Linwood and Hornby Libraries have been working with Skinny Jump to help customers access subsidised broadband. To date we have signed up over 650 Skinny Jumps and the Linwood team was the top jumpers with the highest number of Skinny Jump modems issued in New Zealand during February 2021.

(Continued on page 5)

The new Hornby Library, Customer Services, and Recreation and Sport Centre is on track for opening in late 2022. We are now at the stage of engaging with the community to plan what types of programmes and services will be offered from the library.

This year is the 6th year of the Reading to dogs programme. This is run out of three libraries. Someone from the Council's Animal Management Team brings a dog in to the library and children book times to read stories aloud to a dog. Feedback on this programme often includes comments such as 'I like reading to dogs as the dog doesn't notice when I get a word wrong'.

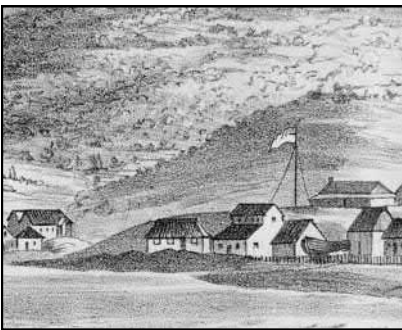
Have you visited our New titles page at <https://my.christchurchcitylibraries.com/new-titles/> lately? This provides you with links through to what new titles have arrived in the libraries in the past week, the past 30 days, or have just been ordered. There are also various lists created by the Selectors, including 'Quirky', 'Get creative' and 'Children's'; and numerous booklists put together by staff to help you decide what to read next. These booklists can be found under the 'Explore' tab on the website. If you have problems finding this information, then ask a librarian the next time you are in a library, or call our Fingertip Library on 941-7923. We are always here to help.

Elaine Sides
Library Liaison

New Zealand Library history....

New Zealand's first public library, the Port Nicholson Exchange and Public Library, opened in Wellington in 1841. Established by a group of the city's first settlers, it operated for one year in a building on the corner of Charlotte Street (now Molesworth Street) and Lambton Quay, an area now occupied by the Wellington cenotaph. In 1842, due to a combination of defaulting subscribers and competitors, it closed and offered its contents to the Mechanics' Institute that was about to be established.

The Institute and other groups continued to provide library services to the city until 1893, when Wellington City Council established a council-owned public library on the corner of Mercer and Wakefield Streets, not far from what is now the central branch of Wellington City Libraries. The foundations for the Port Nicholson Exchange and Public Library were laid long before settlers even began arriving in the New Zealand Company settlement in 1840.



The library is in the centre of the image, to the left of the double storeyed Barrett's Hotel.

Prior to the departure of the first ships, a committee had been established to 'make provision for the Literary, Scientific and Philanthropic Institutions of the new Colony'. This ensured that the first settlers arrived laden with donations of books. The burgeoning level of donations prompted a group of the city's first settlers to meet at Barrett's Hotel on 1 December 1840, and to resolve to establish 'a library and reading room'. The New Zealand Company's principal agent, Colonel William Wakefield, and the chief police magistrate, Michael Murphy, were among those attending. In the days that followed the newly formed Committee appointed Dr Frederick Knox as librarian, at a salary of £75. They also purchased Richard Barrett's house, on the corner of Charlotte Street (now Molesworth Street) and Lambton Quay, as their premises for £30.

The library began operating from this location on 4 May 1841, but it was not a success. It was poorly located – the bulk of the population was then living in Te Aro. Its membership fee of £5, with a further £2 annual subscription, and its fees for other subscribers of £1 10s for the exchange, or £2 10s for both the library and exchange, also put it financially beyond the reach of most settlers (the equivalent of more than \$700 for membership or \$100-\$200 for a subscription in 2009). Almost immediately after the Committee announced the library's formation, a public meeting of the 'working classes of Port Nicholson' was called to discuss the formation of its own library, declaring that their incomes were not sufficient to pay the proposed library's fees. They expressed outrage that they would be prevented from accessing the books 'sent from England by the well-wishers of this Colony for the benefit of all'.

See <https://nzhistory.govt.nz> for the rest of the history about New Zealand's first Library