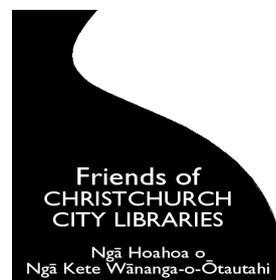


NEWSLETTER

Friends of Christchurch City Libraries

October 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

I hope that life is treating everyone kindly. I'm finding it hard to believe that this will be the last newsletter for 2021 - where did the year go?

All being well (let's change that to 'if we are back to level one') our Christmas Function will be at 2pm on Saturday 27 November at Fendalton Library. It has been disappointing that we've had to cancel Book Talks due to COVID lockdown levels, however I guess that's better than the potential of the tricky Delta variant getting a foothold in our community.

I think I've mentioned before that I managed to trace an old friend using the Library version of Ancestry.com, which Ancestry had generously made available for home use during Lockdown. Elaine has lived in the USA for over 50 years and we'd lost touch. I was spurred to search for her by my friend Glenice who kept saying "I'd love to know what happened to Elaine". Now we have a lovely Skype chat with Elaine once every six weeks when Glenice comes for lunch. Elaine was thrilled that we'd managed to trace her. She said that I must be a detective but I replied "No, Elaine, I'm a librarian". And it's true - today's libraries offer countless opportunities to put small pieces of information together and come up with a big picture. We are all very fortunate to have the staff and resources of Christchurch City Libraries at our disposal.

Another service that I've made good use of is Overdrive - CCL's ebooks platform. Unfortunately my ipad mini has decided that it won't accept new software updates and now it's not compatible with Overdrive. I've searched for information on how to fix this but it looks like it might not be possible with an older ipad. I'm thinking that I'll consult the gurus at the Library to see if they can offer a solution. If they can't no-one will be able to!

I'm writing this on a cold, blustery, rainy October afternoon - I think the weather gods have forgotten that it's spring! Hopefully our days will be sunny and bright by the time you receive this newsletter.

Nga mihi

Chris Baxter

Committee—Chair



Frohe Weihnachten!
Feliz Navidad!
Buon Natale!
Joyeux Noël!
Wesołych Świąt!
Merry Christmas!
God Jul!
Linksmu Kalėdus!
С Рождеством Христовым!

**2pm Saturday 27th November
Friends of Christchurch City
Libraries Christmas Party at
Fendalton Library**

RIP Dorothea Brown ex City Librarian and Christchurch City Libraries Manager.

We were very sorry to hear of Dorothea's death on 30 September 2021.

Born in the Netherlands in 1938, Dorothea lived through the harsh times of the Second World War. This helped shape her into a woman of courage, strength and strong convictions. She was intelligent; hard-working; far-sighted; an able communicator who could sway opinion and above all else she was passionate about libraries and their value to society. In short, she was a fighter for what she believed in.



Dorothea started her career in libraries as a Library Assistant at Canterbury Public Library in 1958. In 1963 she was promoted to the role of Senior Library Assistant and from there she travelled many paths. In 1976 she became Manager of the Waimairi District Council Libraries in Fendalton; Redwood and Bishopdale.

In 1985 she became Deputy City Librarian at Canterbury Public Library under the leadership of John Stringleman. She was appointed to the role of City Librarian on John's retirement in 1986.

In 1989 Dorothea oversaw the amalgamation of libraries from the Christchurch; Heathcote; Paparua; Riccarton and Waimairi Local Authorities. This was a task that needed to be handled with diplomacy and empathy. It is thanks to Dorothea's skill and wisdom that Christchurch enjoys the world class library service that it has today.

Dorothea's greatest legacy to Christchurch City Libraries was the introduction and adoption of long-term planning. She foresaw and understood the need to have a framework on which to base future developments. This proved to be invaluable when bidding for funding for new or improved library services.

The hierarchy at Christchurch City Council recognised Dorothea's management expertise and in 1995 they lured her to the role of Director of Human Resources. In that role she introduced a wide ranging programme to upskill the managers and team leaders of Council departments. This in turn led to recognition that formal upskilling was important for all levels and as a result many training initiatives have been developed since.

Dorothea retired in the early 2000's. She has lived a very private life since.

I remember with gratitude the advice and support which Dorothea gave me during my career - and I remember with a little giggle the colourful language that sometimes emanated from her office!

Chris Baxter. October 2021

BOOK TALKS 2022

Due to ongoing uncertainty about our Covid status we have yet to book our speakers for next year. But we can confirm that the Board room at the Fendalton Library has been booked for us and our speakers for the second Tuesday in the month, from March to November 2022. February's book talk will be in Meeting room 1.

What I've been reading.....

Persephone Books

Have you ever had a hankering to put our 'instant everything' life on pause for a few hours and go back to a time when mail meant hand written letters, phone calls were rare and precious, social media was non-existent, computers hadn't happened and as for Covid....! Then escape to a 'Persephone book'. I was introduced to Persephone Books, a treasure trove of books written in these earlier times, by a fellow Friends' committee member a few years back and have savoured every read.

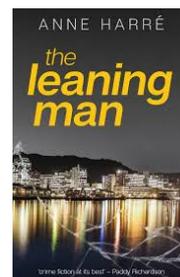
Persephone Books revive neglected novels, short stories, diaries, and poetry written mostly by women and mostly dating from the early to mid-twentieth century. Among their catalogue you'll find the authors who used to grace our mother's and aunts' bookshelves; authors like Dorothy Canfield Fisher, Dorothy Whipple, R. C Sherriff, Elizabeth Berridge and Mollie Panter-Downes. The books are an excellent social history of the times when they were written and the gradual awakening of women to lives other than strict domesticity. The diaries written about the Second World War are particularly revealing. They're elegant books too with patterned end-papers and matching bookmarks, although you won't find the bookmarks in the copies the Libraries own.

Just enter Persephone Books as a keyword search in the libraries' catalogue and you'll find eight titles to enjoy. Persephone Books do sell by mail order from their website www.persephonebooks.co.uk or when/if you get the chance to visit London, they have a delightful bookstore at 59 Lamb's Conduit Street – even the address is appealing.

Barbara Clark, Committee member

Publication milestone

Just before the current Covid lockdown started, I was excited and lucky enough to be at a special book launch in Wellington. Special because the book was my daughter-in-law's debut novel, which (as is often the case) has been a long time coming! The launch was in a delightful new small bookshop in central Wellington (Good Books, visit if you can) and well-attended by family, friends and well-wishers. Somewhat to my initial surprise (only her own household and the publishers knew what was going on!) the novel is crime fiction but is so much more than any run-of-the-mill "whodunnit". The details? Title is *The Leaning Man* (after the sculpture *Solace in the Wind* on the Wellington waterfront), the author Anne Harré, and the publisher Cuba Press. Wellington City Library has posted an interview (available on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M-iiYSMUdYc>) with Anne by Dame Fiona Kidman and the interview is prefaced by the library as follows:



“Anne Harré’s debut novel *The Leaning Man* is a newly-released, gripping, suspenseful page-turning thrill ride of a book (you are very likely to stay up very late to see what happens next). It is set in our very own windy Wellington and in some respects is a love letter to the city with its perfectly visualised, vivid, and evocative descriptions of the capital. And to top it all one of the locations in the book is our very own Te Awe Library, with accompanying fictional librarian. The book has already gained glowing reviews in *The Listener*, *The Dominion Post* as well as RNZ.”

You don't have to be a Wellingtonian to feel immediately connected and enjoy the feeling of being right there amongst the action – maybe thankful at times to be able to back out and leave it all on the printed page!

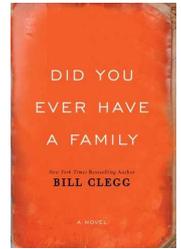
Our own Christchurch City Libraries hold 3 copies plus a reference only copy in the Aotearoa New Zealand Centre. Better still treat your self to a copy (\$37) from a good bookshop or direct from Cuba Press who also have made it available as an eBook for \$12.

Trish Faulkner, Committee member

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Did you ever have a family

I was intrigued when I saw this title in the library. Surely it was a misprint? There should be a question mark at the end? Well no. The author of the book is Bill Clegg who was described by the Times newspaper as *'the star of the New York literary scene until he exploded his career as a literary agent in a high profile crack binge. Then he got clean, got married, became a novelist and suddenly found himself adopting his brother's two year old daughter.'* Did You ever have a Family is his first novel: he had previously written the memoirs, Portrait of an Addict as a Young Man (his life as an addict) and Ninety Days (rehabilitation.) I found the novel an absorbing and unforgettable story about a group of people coping with catastrophic loss following an horrific tragedy. The main character loses her family in a tragic house fire and grief stricken she drives across country. During the course of her journey details slowly emerge about what caused the fire and the impact it had on the community. Each chapter focuses on other characters and the way, like a web, in which their lives have connected. A reviewer commented that at its core the book is a celebration of family—the ones we are born with and the ones we create. I agree; it was a remarkable read and I virtually read it non stop.



Another author I enjoyed reading during lockdown was Donna Leon, an American author who has written a series of crime stories set in Venice featuring her fictional hero, Commissario Guido Brunetti. Its likely the fact that she has lived in Venice for over twenty five years that gives her books such an authentic feel with her descriptions of the people, the fabulous city and the food. I often feel hungry reading her books, I can almost smell the pizzeria.

Julia Fomison, Committee Member

What's on my bookshelf

Not a lot actually!

However I do have a list of 483 e-books that I've read on my iPad. For the most part they are pure escapism. Most are set in Italy; Greece; France; Cornwall; Scotland; London; U.K. country villages; cafes; bookshops; farms or libraries. Some are sagas. A few are mysteries. The rest are about relationships. One book that gave me a good laugh during lockdown last year was **A family Christmas** by Bella Osborne. Anything that could possibly go wrong on such an occasion did - although it all came right in the end. The items on my physical bookshelves are old - relics from my childhood or family pasts, that I can't bring myself to discard, even though most are faded and falling apart at the seams.

From my paternal grandmother comes **The Girl's Empire: An Annual for English speaking Girls all over the World. 1903.** The plate inside says "Awarded to Elizabeth McAllan for good attendance. Walton School. Dec.17th 1903. 1st Class Certificate"

From my father and minus the front cover is **The Loss of the "Agra"** by Charles Reade; part of the Summit Library Series published by Blackie & Son, Ltd, Glasgow. I haven't read it but it appears to be an adventure. The plate on the inside says "Wharenui School. Third Prize. Std 4 Boys. Presented to Leslie Aitken. Dec. 15th 1932. - signed V.A. Ryan"

From my own childhood is **English Fables and Fairy Stories.** Retold by James Reeves. Illustrated by Joan Kiddell-Monroe. Published by Oxford University Press.1954. My Dad bought this for me when I had my tonsils removed in 1956. It contains some gruesome stories and illustrations - I remember finding it quite frightening and I much preferred the jigsaw puzzle of the garden at Sissinghurst that my aunt bought to amuse me while I was recuperating (I wish I still had that jigsaw - it has influenced my idea of an ideal garden ever since!)

There's also **Leonard Feather: The New edition of The Encyclopedia Of Jazz.** Published by Bonanza Books, New York. 1955. There's a collection of items about Jazz or Jazz artists - one of my favourites is **Tony Bennett. In the Studio. A life of art & music.** Tony Bennett with Robert Sullivan. Sterling Publishing Co. Inc. New York. 2007. This book which tells Tony's life story also contains many examples of his skill as a visual artist.

My favourite of favourites is a book given in 1954 to my then 9 year old cricket-loving husband by his friend Leigh, who was also a cricket fan. **The Rattle of the stumps** by W. A. Oldfield with a foreword by Sir Jack Hobbs. Published by George Newnes Limited. 1954. What I love most is the inscription inside the front cover. Written in best schoolboy printing it says "To Miller from Bradman"

*Chris Baxter,
Committee Chair*

From the Libraries

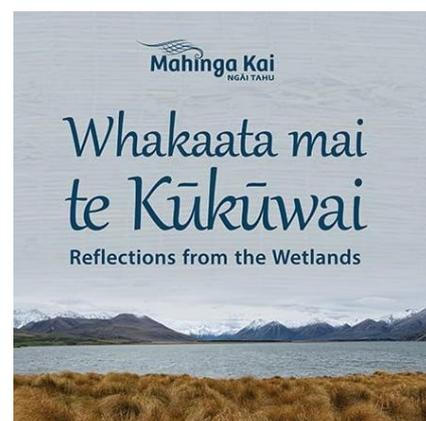
It was a delight to be able to reopen after lockdown and welcome customers back through the doors. Moving to Level 2 came with restrictions – mandatory scanning or signing in, wearing masks, and maintaining the required physical distancing – meant we were unable to deliver many of the programmes we offer in Level 1. While we have increased some programmes in the digital space, we are very aware those popular Babytimes and Storytime sessions are being missed and so we are currently exploring options for delivering these programmes in spaces where they can be presented safely. The [Library website](#) provides the latest information about what is happening in libraries so do check the website out regularly.

It was a very happy day when we received 461 cartons of new books from our library supplier late last month. These had been in storage while our libraries were closed. Was great to see these books being unpacked and sent off to fill holds, being put on display, or made available for borrowing. Over the past 18 months COVID has continued to make its mark on the publishing world. Many publishers have been forced to push publication dates out, or reduce the number of copies being published. This is due to container shortages, Brexit, US Customs duties, and increasing climate regulations in China causing several pulp manufacturers to close. The global shortage of paper pulp is now affecting the pre-Christmas book trade as the finer quality paper is used for illustrated nonfiction and popular titles.

This year the theme of our annual **Photo Hunt** was People and place – our stories revealed. Over the years we have received a number of entries from members of the Friends, so thank you to those of you who once more responded to our call. Although it is now too late to enter via Photo Hunt, images can be uploaded directly into the Discovery wall website at <https://discoverywall.nz/> at any time.

The Library is proud to be hosting the Ngāi Tahu exhibition in Tūranga's SouthBase Gallery – Whakkata mai te Kīkūwai – reflections from the wetland. This exhibition explores and celebrates the special Ngāi Tahu relationship with wetlands, and provides an opportunity to view more than 20 rare taonga and learn about traditional Ngai Tahu food gathering known as mahika /mahinga kai.

The exhibition coincides with the launch of the 11 th INTECOL International Wetlands Conference held virtually due to COVID-19.



Planning for an exhibition centred on Dame Ngaio Marsh is underway. This exhibition will run from August to November 2022 and will mark the 40th anniversary of her death. The exhibition will also coincide with next year's Word Festival where the annual Ngaio Marsh Crime Award is presented. Some of you may also remember last year's very engaging Book talk where Dr Bruce Harding shared his stories about Dame Ngaio. We are hoping that this exhibition and series of events will generate a lot of interest. At this stage we are looking for photographs of Dame Ngaio, and in time will be asking for any stories or memories people have, so do be in touch if you have something to share.

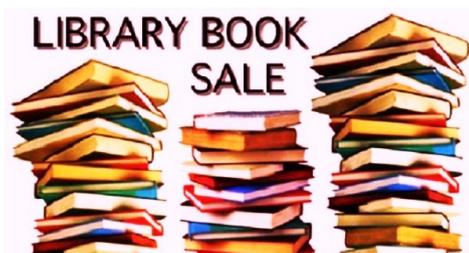
And if you are looking for something to do on Show Day – Friday 12 November – Tūranga will be open.

These days this whakatauki seems very appropriate: He ua ki te pō, he paewai ki te ao - rain at night, eels at dawn. Mariu or optimism will get us through.

Take care

Elaine Sides
Library Liaison

The date of the Booksale has been changed to 10 - 12 March 2022.



Renewing your membership or know someone who'd like to join?

<https://my.christchurchcitylibraries.com/friends/>

To renew your existing membership:

1. **Either** pay online to account 030855 0392046 00 quoting your name and membership type: waged, unwaged or family
2. **Or** you can pay by cash at a Friends' book talk or meeting.



New membership:

1. **Either** pay online to account 030855 0392046 00 quoting your name and membership type: waged, unwaged or family and

Email to friendsofchchlibrary@gmail.com the following details:

Your name:

Address :

Phone number (s):

Email address:

2. **Or** you can pay by cash at a Friends' book talk or meeting.

Membership fees are

\$10 Unwaged

\$15 Waged

\$20 Family - 2 adults & any number of children under the age of 18 years living at the same address.

Donations are very much appreciated.

The financial year runs from 1st April to 31 March. The Treasurer appreciates subscriptions being paid as early as possible. ***Please note that all new and existing subscriptions must be paid by 28 February each year if you wish to attend the Libraries Book Sale Preview.***



Rewards of being a Friend of the Christchurch City Libraries

- The good feeling that comes from knowing you are helping to spread the joy of reading and love of learning
- Monthly book talks by local authors on the **2nd Tuesday of the month** from February to November. The June book talk includes a short AGM.
- A regular newsletter with information of coming events, library services, book notes and other interesting material
- An opportunity to buy at the library book sale preview

Friends of the Christchurch City Libraries advocate for value, support and to promote the libraries.