

# NEWSLETTER

Friends of Christchurch City Libraries

May 2022

## In This Issue:

- From the Chair
- Book Talks 2022
- From the Libraries
- What's on my bookshelf

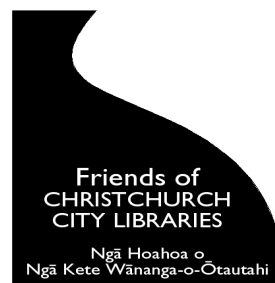
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## Kia Ora

I hope that you are all enjoying life in Orange. I'm finding that it's still a bit hard to picture what it will be like when everything returns to normal.

There has been sadness for some of our members and their families who have lost loved ones since the last newsletter. Our thoughts and sympathies go out to them.

The "season of mist" is definitely upon us, with two foggy mornings in the past week - and I've been dealing with the "mellow fruitfulness" for weeks now.

I've reached the point where if anyone else offers me quinces or feijoas I'll scream. Not that I'm ungrateful but there are only so many hours that a girl can spend peeling, chopping and standing over a hot stove, stirring for what seems like days on end. The quince jelly and the quince and feijoa pastes look spectacular - and no doubt I'll appreciate them with a nice chunk of cheese and a fine wine in the depths of winter - but right now they feel like 'a least favourite child'.

Of course it wasn't only feijoas and quinces I was dealing with. My tomatoes, chillies and capsicums were also prolific - as were the apple trees of my daughter and my friend Julia. Luckily much of that produce could be frozen - so all that was needed was a throwing out of items lurking in the freezer's murky depths - out with the old and in with the new! I've made good use of the apples turning them into sauce, pies and my favourite windfall apple cake - a recipe I got from a book that - you've guessed it! - I borrowed from the library - years ago. It was about American Country Cooking and I thought you might like the recipe.

Now I have a bit of personal news. My husband has a long-standing illness that has gradually become more debilitating as the years have gone by. It has now reached the stage where he needs my care full time. I wanted to take this opportunity to let you know that because of this I will not be standing for President or Committee at the forthcoming AGM.

I have enjoyed my two years in the role and I thank each and every one of you for the support and feedback that you have given me. I also thank the current committee, their support has been invaluable. In particular I am really thankful to Barbara Clarke who has needed to bail me out so often that she must feel that she never really left the role.

We will be seeking new Committee members and also a new President. Being on the committee and even being President is not an onerous task and meetings can be arranged to suit the availability of Committee members. I'm sure the Committee would love to have you join them.

The **AGM will be held at Fendalton Library Boardroom, Tuesday 14 June at 12.30 pm.** It will be followed by a presentation by the library staff about Canterbury Stories and community engagement.

**Chris Baxter**

### Windfall Cake

#### Ingredients

250g self-raising flour	pinch of salt
100g butter	100g sultanas
350g windfall apples	2 eggs
100g caster sugar	

**Method:** Grease a deep 20 cm round cake tin. Sift flour and salt. Rub in butter. Stir in sugar and sultanas. Stir in eggs unbeaten. Put mixture into the prepared tin. Bake at 180 degrees for 50 minutes (until a skewer comes out clean). Serve warm dredged with caster sugar. I find that it is just as delicious cold with a cup of tea or a coffee. It keeps well.





**Tuesday 14 June , 12.30pm**

**Fendalton Library, cnr Clyde and Jeffreys Roads.**

### **Annual General Meeting**

Following the AGM meeting there will be a presentation by Sarah and Simon on **Canterbury Stories** a digital heritage Repository, and how this fits with the new Community Stories Liaison roles which focus on engaging with the community.

**Tuesday 12 July, 12.30pm**

**Fendalton Library, cnr Clyde and Jeffreys Roads**

**Heather McQuillan** will talk about the joys of writing very short stories, also known as flash fiction or micro fiction. Heather's collection of short short stories "Where Oceans Meet" was published by Reflex Press in the UK in 2019. Her stories have won awards internationally, including being selected three times for 'Best Small fictions' (USA).

More here: <https://www.heathermcquillanwriter.com/flash-and-short-fiction>

Entry by gold coin donation.



**Tuesday 9 August , 12.30pm**

**Fendalton Library, cnr Clyde and Jeffreys Roads**

**Sue Allison** is a freelance journalist who has written a book about assistance dogs (*Friends Indeed: Assist Dogs and their People*), two gardening books (*Secrets of Small Gardens* and *In the Company of Gardeners*) and two children's books (*Winston's World: The Beach* and *The Snow*).

She contributes to a range of magazines, including *NZ House & Garden*, has been a three-time finalist in the Magazine Publishers' Awards and won Best Journalist award in 2016. An anthropologist, animal lover and gardener, she will talk about her meandering journey in the world of words, and the inspiring people she interviewed for her books.

Entry by gold coin donation.



**T**he unread story is not a story; it is little black marks on wood pulp. The reader, reading it, makes it live: a live thing, a story. —Ursula K. Le Guin



## Book Sale 2022

This year's book sale was two months later than usual, thanks to Omicron, but it was hugely appreciated by our book sale regulars. I lost count of the number of "oh, it's so good to be here; I wait for this every year" comments I heard. With social distancing in mind, this time there were some layout changes to the queueing system and masks, of course, were mandatory.

We thought Covid-hesitancy might affect numbers but attendance was almost identical to last year. Over a hundred eager bargain hunters poured through Pioneer's side door in the first four minutes we were open on Friday and it was an incredibly busy morning. All up over 3000 people attended Friday's ten hour sale. Saturday was a little quieter but marked by the large number of family groups who came.

Jane Hackett, the Libraries' Book Sale Manager, is an organisational whizz and each year the sale seems to flow even more smoothly. Our Friends' sale volunteers did a fantastic job as always. Some worked all three days, some just one sale session and some came purely to help with the set-up, or break down/pack up of unsold stock at the end. The Libraries couldn't run the sale without this invaluable volunteer help and knowing that all sale profits go to the Libraries' budget makes the forty three volunteers' effort really worthwhile.

I'd like to thank this year's volunteers. They made the task of coordinating the book sale roster very rewarding. I know they would also like to thank Jane for her very professional and good humored sale management.

**Barbara Clarke**



## From Library Liaison

Today is a great reminder that winter is on its way, and there is nothing better than sitting in a nice warm room reading a book particularly when the story is set in a nice and sunny country!

Since moving to orange and dispensing with the need to show your vaccination pass, we are certainly seeing more people visiting libraries. Issue figures are increasing, but we still have a little way to go until we return to pre-COVID times. Preschool storytimes and Babytimes have returned, and it was delightful to learn that we had 41 babies and 39 adults attend a session at Te Hāpua last Thursday. These sessions are being enjoyed by many families who have missed the stories and interactions with others. We have also stepped up other activities and programmes available in libraries or online. A new exhibition 'Whaikōrero -Te Ao Māori: A moment in time' has opened in the SouthBase Gallery in Tūranga. This celebrates the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the iconic Te Ao Hou magazine, and runs through to 7 August. Work will then start on the installation of our next exhibition which honours Dame Ngaio Marsh who died 40 years ago.

Libraries have celebrated May Music Month for many years. This month's activities have included CSO Music trails at several libraries, T-shirt workshops, making music sessions in the music lab in Tūranga, and the 'Make some noise' sessions in the Auahatanga – Creative Space in Te Hāpua. To date, these sessions have been well attended. We also held a 'Beginner's guide to local history' workshop in Tūranga that was well attended and is likely to be offered again.

Plans for celebrating Matariki are now underway. This has included the opening of a lovely new art installation at Linwood Library where lights have been placed in a specific order and size to signify the stars of Matariki.

Linwood Library is also hosting a new "reflections



(Continued on page 4)



(Continued from page 3)

of the East' photography exhibition which showcases Linwood's history and aims to help boost the sense of community in this suburb with images from the early 1900s through to 1990s.

For up to date information about any of the services and programmes we offer, please visit the library website at [Christchurch City Libraries](http://ChristchurchCityLibraries) or give our Fingertip Library a call on 941-7923.

We are in the midst of our annual review of the magazines we hold in libraries. Issue figures are analysed, and decisions are being made on whether subscriptions for each title are renewed, increased or reduced. Consideration is also given to which libraries have what titles, where any new magazine titles should be located in the network, and if the same title is available online through Libby, the OverDrive app.



Progress on the new Hornby Centre (Library, Customer Services Hub, and Swimming Pool) is starting to take shape. The contractors are on track to finish the piling stage of the new facility by the end of this month. For those of you who like detail, a total of 184 steel piles are being driven deep into the ground to provide structural support for the new building. The next step is to begin work on pouring the foundations.

We love receiving feedback from our customers as this helps tell our stories of the value libraries bring to the community. Last week we received this from a customer: *You guys have many absolutely brilliant services. I am completely happy with any funds that my rates contribute to the libraries. I consider it some of the best value for money I could ever have. I suspect my contribution via rates is significantly less than \$100/year, but if I were to guess a dollar value what the library provides to my family I would put it at >\$1000 year. I just finished reading a 400 page technical book online via the CCC library access to O'Reilly books online. It was incredibly convenient to be able to read the book from anywhere I had an electronic device, without having to carry the book around. A very powerful story indeed.*

We have also extended our monthly commitment to PlainsFM and will include more 'So many stories' sessions where staff and customers share stories of what is happening in our libraries. A big thank you to Barbara Clarke who talked about the Booksale from a Friends' perspective in the programme aired at 9am on the first Friday in May (our regular slot). [Here is the link to listen.](#)

The results of the Annual Library Users' Satisfaction Survey have been shared, and we were delighted to receive a 94% satisfaction rate. 300 users visiting Tūranga, Te Hāpua, Upper Riccarton, New Brighton, and Shirley provided feedback with lots of positive comments, as well as some suggestions where we could improve. We are now working through these suggestions to see what changes can be made as part of our commitment to continuous improvement.

Finally I would like to acknowledge two things. Firstly the return of the monthly book talks in the Boardroom at Fendalton Library – it is great to see these happening again; and secondly the contribution the Friends made to the Book sale held last weekend. We place a high value on your contribution, as without your help we would not have been able to run an event which appeared to be just as busy and successful financially as previous book sales. Our sincere thanks for all the Friends do to support libraries!

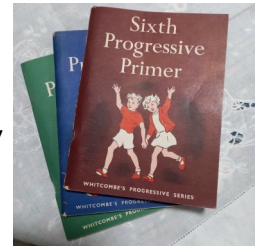
**Elaine Sides**



A selection of Te Ao Hou magazine covers. Te Ao Hou: The New World was published from 1952 to 1975.

## What's on my bookshelf?

An eclectic collection of books from every phase of my life starting with my childhood love affair with Whitcombe and Tombs story books, each one with the old proverb on the back cover that *'All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy. What could be better after a busy day and a lively game than to find a quiet corner and read a good story?'* Indeed. The Caravan Children and The King of the Golden River have survived relatively intact along with a collection of Whitcombe's Progressive Primers. I've rediscovered that many of the stories are in rhyme and yesterday I thoroughly enjoyed myself by reading aloud the Cat and the Seeds which featured 'Old Grumpy the Gardener in an old straw hat who always had with him Old Peter the Cat'.

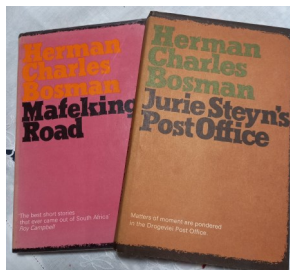


As books were always gratefully received presents for my birthdays and Christmas, I have a great collection of young adult books by Monica Edwards, mainly her Romney Marsh and Punchbowl series. When I lived in the UK I made a point of visiting the areas used as settings for her books, especially Rye and Rye Harbour and their beauty made me appreciate why the books had appealed to me so much.

I spent a number of years overseas and my family continued the book gifts so I have quite a collection of NZ books. Perhaps they thought I'd get homesick. There's a small collection of NZ classics such as Lady Barker's Station Life, a must for all Cantabrians, along with Manning's Old NZ and of course Erewhon and a very old copy of The Greenstone Door. The rest of the NZ section comprises popular fiction books by Barry Crump et al, old and modern history books, politics, the latter in the light reading section, lots of glorious art books, birds, geography, and general non fiction such as Knots and Splices and Dinghy racing!

I recently re-discovered a book at the back of the book case that reminded me that Ricky Gervaise and I share a similar experience. Some years ago I saw a video of him bemoaning the fact that the only 'prize' he got from Sunday School was a book awarded for attendance. My book was also awarded as a 'prize' for attendance, perhaps that was the standard for Sunday Schools at the time, attendance was important!

A favourite shelf on my book case is the Sci-Fi section with classics such as Dune, A Mote in God's Eye, a Stranger in a Strange Land and Lucifer's Hammer along with the Fantasy section of The Hobbit, Lord of the Rings and GOT. In the Crime section I am very attached to a collection of Ellis Peters Cadfael Chronicles—perfect little paper backs to curl up in bed with or on a comfy couch.



And then there is my South African collection, wild life books, Alan Paton, Nadine Gordimer and Bosman. Herman Charles Bosman is regarded as one of South Africa's greatest short story writers. He was an Afrikaner who wrote short stories related through the character of Oom Schalk Lourens of the Groot Marico district. He wrote in English with a sly mocking humour, using satire and irony combined with a magical gift to tell a story well. Unfortunately his books are out of print and I doubt there are any in our library.

Another collection is the Gardening section, perfect for those times when I would rather read about gardening than actually go outside and do it. There's always the possibility that I might come up with a more interesting design for the back garden and then again I might not.

I also have a Russian selection which includes the Scarlet Flower by V. Garshin and Tolstoy's Aelita, Anna Karenina and inevitably War and Peace which I could only read at the dining room table as there is no way to comfortably hold that tome. Also a very battered copy of Dr Zhivago. Back in the day of my OE I visited the USSR when it was well entrenched behind the iron curtain and had a very unpleasant experience when departing the Ukraine at the Romanian border. Two soldiers (armed) accompanied by an officer (armed) searched the vehicle I was travelling in from top to bottom without giving me any clues as to what they were looking for. I thought they might be looking for USA propaganda but I had given away all the Newsweeks to a group of students in Odessa. An action that at the time caused me a degree of anxiety! The search finished at the glove box. They pounced on my copy of Dr Zhivago with glee, banned in the USSR. I was told I was lucky not to be tossed into gaol, I had to sign in triplicate that the book was being confiscated and I am certain it was likely sold on the black market! It was some weeks before I found a replacement in Greece.

My book shelves are full of odd little books collected in my travels, such as a cookery book from Bulgaria and yes there are some interesting recipes, and finally there is 'Castles and Fortifications of Britain and Ireland' an amazing soporiferous book which means I never have the need for sleeping pills when that book induces sleep in five minutes. I'm always in my happy place when I'm reading.

**Julia Fomison**

## 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](mailto: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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 **2<sup>nd</sup> 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.**

