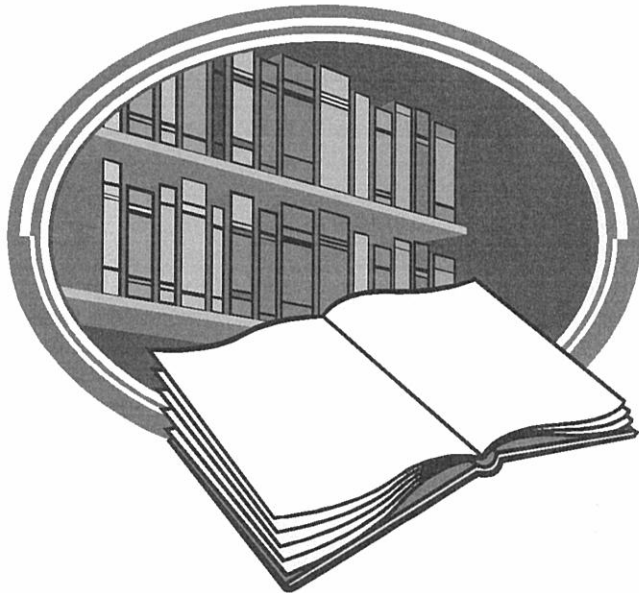


Friends of the Nelson Library Inc.
Private Bag 41
Nelson 7042
March 2013 newsletter



March is Book Month 2013

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.

When I went to the Elma Turner Library recently instead of making a bee-line for the book shelves I lingered. I looked around and saw a hive of activity. So much was going on!

I wandered past the Skype zone. Who would have thought a few years ago libraries would have Skype facilities? I passed the young adult, large print, talking book sections. A number of people in the Quiet area in front of the windows were absorbed in their computer work.

I paused at the Maori collection and noted some of the titles. There are some treasures there. In the Film Archive space people were intent on their information search oblivious to what was around them. At the

learning centre I recognised a familiar look of endeavour as people interacted with the computers.

I overheard a Northland visitor asking for information about the settlement of Rai Valley from where her family originated. I saw people sitting in the sun waiting their turn to talk to a librarian or just sitting watching the library users go by. I joined another group relaxing in the sun in comfortable chairs looking through magazines and newspapers. The only sound was the turning of pages.

It is some time since I spent any time in the children's section of a library. I was struck by the child-centred focus with a bright happy ambience enticing children to discover and learn. I enjoyed chatting to Viv, the children's librarian and was particularly intrigued by Dog Days, part of the summer reading programme.

There is a lot going on in our Nelson libraries. They are happy vibrant places. March is New Zealand Book Month and there are many events on at the library to help us discover more about wonderful New Zealand writing. I hope you get along to some. You never know the events might lead you to clock up a few more Dog Days – lazy summer days of reading.

Fay



Book Review

Oscar Wilde and the Murders at Reading Gaol

By Gyles Brandreth. John Murray 2012

This is the sixth in a series of detective stories featuring Oscar Wilde as a Sherlock Holmes lookalike. It is an original idea, though somewhat implausible, and, like its predecessors, almost unanimously acclaimed by critics. Apparently Wilde and Doyle were friends and Doyle features in some of the earlier novels, but not this one.

In 1895 Wilde was sentenced to two years imprisonment with hard labour for "gross indecency". He spent four months at Wandsworth gaol where one of the warders died suddenly. The first few chapters of the book describe conditions at Wandsworth, and the remainder those at Reading where Wilde spent the rest of his sentence, and two other fictional murders took place.

For the purposes of the story the Governor at Reading is aware of Wilde's friendship with Doyle, and discusses with Wilde and the prison surgeon the sudden death of another warder. A prisoner is hanged but it turns out he was not the murderer. After Wilde's release he confronts the real murderer in Dieppe.

The six books in the series present a fascinating picture of Wilde, a larger-than-life character determined to experience to the full every aspect of life and living. In the earlier books he emulates Sherlock Holmes and solves intricate murder mysteries. In this one the author pays a lot more attention to the horrors of prison life in the last years of the nineteenth century, and their special cruelty for a man of Wilde's temperament.

Brian Prendergast

Some Oscar Fingal O'Flahertie Wills Wilde trivia...

Oscar Wilde's wife changed her last name to Holland after he was imprisoned, and refused to let him see their two sons again. Their eldest son, Cyril Holland (1886—1915), while serving in the Royal Field Artillery in France, during the First World War, was killed by a German sniper. The second son, VyVyan Holland (1886-1967) was an author and translator.

Wilde was 46 when he died, virtually penniless, of cerebral meningitis in France, where he had gone to live after release from prison. Wilde was initially buried in the Cimetière de Bagneux outside Paris; in 1909 his remains were disinterred to Père Lachaise Cemetery inside the city. His tomb, designed by Sir Jacob Epstein, became, later in the 20th century, a target for graffiti and thousands of lipstick kisses. Cleaning the tomb was difficult as the grease from the lipsticks soaked into the stone, and the cleaning process damaged the surface. Despite pleas to Wilde fans (many of whom were women) NOT to kiss the tomb, the practice continued. Today a seven foot clear glass "wall" has been erected around the tomb. The lipstick kisses are easier to clean off the glass!

Wilde's epitaph is a verse from his long poem, "The Ballad of Reading Gaol".

*And alien tears will fill for him
Pity's long-broken urn,
For his mourners will be outcast men,
And outcasts always mourn.*

Did you know?

Elma Turner Library now has a J.P. available for consultations every Saturday morning from 10 – noon.

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

Annual Donation

At the Friends of the Nelson Library 2012 AGM it was decided that \$5000 should be donated to the Nelson City Council for use by Nelson Libraries. On February 19th 2013, at a full Council meeting, Jill Blechynden, on behalf of the FOL committee, presented the Mayor with a cheque for that amount.

My Living Will

The other day the kids and I were sitting in the living room and I said to them "I never want to live in a vegetative state, dependant on some machine and fluids from a bottle. If that ever happens, just pull the plug".

They got up and unplugged the TV and threw out my wine bottle.
The little beggars!

Friends of the Nelson Library talk
17th March 2.00pm.
\$2 pp

Gerald Hindmarsh will speak about his new book
"The Outsiders: stories from the fringe of New Zealand society".
(Pub. Craig Potton)

Hindmarsh began collecting these amazing stories in 1993.
"I think that in some ways they're almost like the silent critics of society," he says. "These people are our real folk heroes. [American author] Annie Proulx says they're decent people digging their heels against society and going the other way, and we need them."

More talks are being planned, which will be held on the third Sunday of the month. They will be in the Activity Room at Elma Turner Library, as usual, starting at 2pm.

21st April. **Robbie Burton** talking about books and publishing.

19th May. **Brian Peel** will talk about his experiences training guide dogs.

Keep your eye open for posters, and Community Events notices in Live Nelson & The Leader.



DRAMA AT THE LIBRARY

The Friends of the Library January 2013 committee meeting was rudely interrupted by fire alarms going off. A prompt call to evacuate the building closed the meeting before all business had been dealt with. Andrea King, Customer services Librarian, who attends the Friends' meetings, got everyone moving before donning a high vis vest and attending to her wider fire safety responsibilities.

Committee members left so smartly that at more than one bag was left behind at the meeting table.

It is a relief to know that fire drills prepare staff for such emergencies, and a mercy that the fire did not spread beyond the adjacent storage room.

100 years ago

News from the pages of *The Colonist*

A Letter to the Editor, March 3rd 1913

Sir, - As a frequenter of the reading rooms at the library I should like to draw attention to what seems to me to be a great error in the selection of newspapers. On the racks are to be found papers from Eketahuna, Warkworth, Takaka, Collingwood, Murchison etc., but one looks in vain for first hand news from the larger and more important towns of Wanganui, Palmerston North, Gisborne, etc.,

I am, etc.,
INTERESTED

From *The Colonist* 13th March 1913

The Institute Committee announces that the library and reading room will be open for the exchange of books every morning between 11 and 12 noon, also that the library and museum will both be open every Wednesday afternoon as well as every other afternoon through the week. Opening in the morning should prove a great boon to country and suburban members. Notification is also given that children under 12 years of age will not be allowed in the museum or library unless accompanied by some person in charge.

From the Annual Report presented at the 1912 AGM of the Nelson Institute.

Published in *The Colonist* on April 1st 1913.

Total number of books in the library is nominally 10,283, but it was found in moving from the old building that so many were in such a dilapidated condition they were withdrawn from circulation. The total number of newspapers, magazines and periodicals of all descriptions taken or supplied, amounts to over 200, all of which are available to the public. The number of books taken out during the year was 6010, being an increase of 850 volumes taken out. New books to the number of 600 volumes have been added during the year comprising many valuable and interesting works of history, biography, geography, travel, science and philosophy, as well as 450 volumes of the latest fiction.

Library staff informed me that today they have about 180 magazines available, and 12 hardcopy newspapers, with hundred's more newspapers and magazines available through the library's on-line resources.

In The Friends December 2012 newsletter I was able to record some figures provided by Library staff. The number of items in the collection was then 148,977! I didn't think to ask if an Eketahuna newspaper is still published. (Ed.)

MARCH IS BOOK MONTH in 2013

From the Local Events Programme (copies with full details available at the Library).

Friday 1st. Nelson Institute 'Coffee & Books'. Elma Turner Library.
Speakers Justine Summers & Bianca Dias.

Wednesday 6th. 12 - 1:30pm. Writers' Clinic with author Barbara Else.
Elma Turner Library. Register with Stella at Page & Blackmores ph.548
9992

Thursday 7th. 1:30 - 3pm. Afternoon tea with Barbara Else. Richmond
Library.

Tuesday 12th. 10:30 am. Book Chat. Elma Turner Library

Wednesday 13th. Literary Treat. Afternoon tea for teens at Page &
Blackmores Book with Stella ph 548 9992

Book Chat. 5 pm. Stoke Library.

Thursday 14th. 6:30 pm. Book Quiz Stoke Library

Sunday 17th. 11 - 4 pm. Race Unity Day. NZ book readings for chil-
dren. Victory Square.

Friends of the Library talk. Gerard Hindmarsh. 2 pm.
Elma Turner Library

Thursday 21st. readers Evening. 6 pm. Elma Turner Library

Tuesday 28th. Live Twitter book chat #ecoread. Your place!

Wednesday 27th. Author's talk. John Sinclair. 1 - 2 pm. Elma Turner
Library

7 pm. Flash Fiction. The Free House Yurt

Thursday 28th. 12 - 1 pm. "Feel the Love". Local romance writers
spice up your lunch hour! Richmond Library

2013 is International Year of Quinoa.

and

International year of Water Cooperation

I thought you'd like to know that...

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.