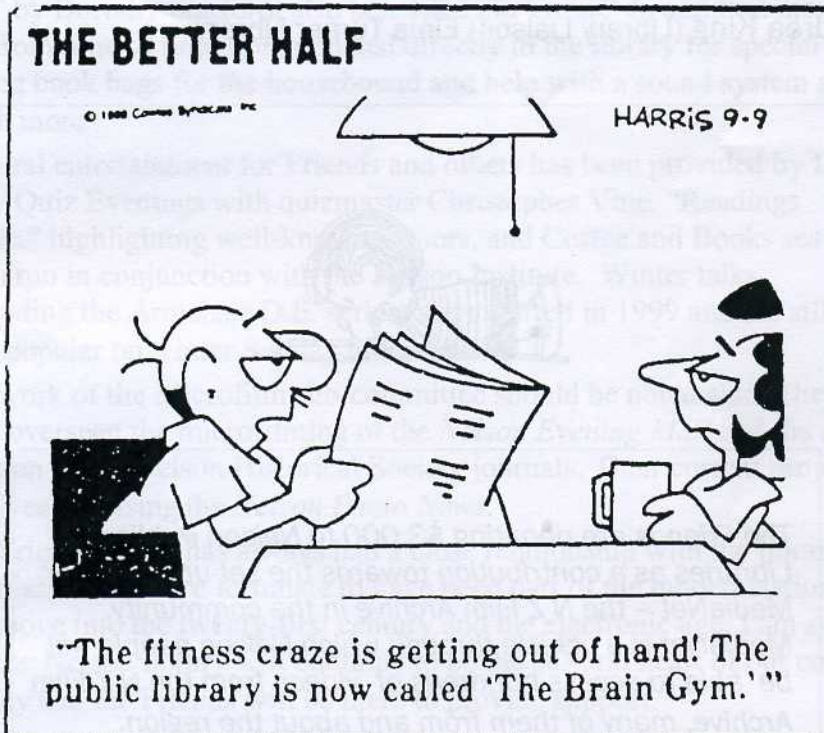


Friends of the Nelson Library Inc.

Private Bag 41

Nelson



Friends of the Nelson Library Committee  
2010 - 2011

Jeannie Woodhouse (Chairperson) ph. 538-0969  
Mary Belser (Secretary) ph. 548-9721  
Priscilla Wardell (Treasurer) ph. 546-9079  
Jill Blechynden (Book Sales ) ph. 548-0075  
Joanna Innes Walker (Microfilming sub-committee) ph. 548-7898  
Fay Eades ph. 544-4637  
Bill Fleming ph. 545-7327  
Dixie Lane ph. 545-1688  
Helen Newnham ph. 545-8053  
Jim Roxburgh ph. 548-7757  
Christopher Vine ph 548-1806  
Andrea King (Library Liaison) Elma Turner Library



*The Friends are donating \$3,000 to Nelson Public Libraries as a contribution towards the set-up costs for MediaNet – the N Z Film Archive in the community. MediaNet is a vehicle through which Nelson people will be able to access hundreds of videos from the N Z Film Archive, many of them from and about the region.*

## CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

This newsletter marks twenty years since the Friends of the Nelson Library group was formed. The first meeting was held on 23 March 1991 and this year on the same date we will have a celebration for past and present members. (See over.) Twelve of the founding members are still in our group. The ten dollar annual subscription has remained unchanged too.

Over twenty years more than \$160,000 has been donated by the Friends to the Nelson City Council for the use of the library. This is quite an achievement for a group of volunteers. Fundraising activities have included garage sales, plant fairs and garden trails, a variety concert, an art exhibition, dollar boxes in the three libraries and of course the regular book sales. Proceeds from the history booklet, "*The Library from the Sea*" by Dorothy Stafford, also benefited our group. In addition money has from time to time been donated directly to the library for special projects eg book bags for the housebound and help with a sound system and much more.

Cultural entertainment for Friends and others has been provided by Literary Quiz Evenings with quizmaster Christopher Vine, "Readings from..." highlighting well-known authors, and Coffee and Books sessions run in conjunction with the Nelson Institute. Winter talks (including the Armchair O.E. series) were started in 1999 and are still very popular on winter Sunday afternoons.

The work of the Microfilm sub-committee should be noted also. They have overseen the microfilming of the *Nelson Evening Mail* and the digitisation of the Nelson Historical Society journals. Their current project involves digitising the *Nelson Photo News*.

The Friends group has always had a close relationship with the library organisation. We are fortunate to have been part of the modernisation and move into the twenty-first century and the electronic age. I am sure that the Nelson library will continue to be the cultural heart of our community and the Friends will be there to provide support.

Jeannie Woodhouse

## Invitation

Members of the Friends of Nelson Library are invited to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of its founding.

Date: Wed. 23 March 2011

Time: 2.30pm

Place: Activity Room, Elma Turner Library

Speaker: Nola Leov.

Afternoon tea will be served.

RSVP by 15th March (only if you plan to attend) to Joanna  
ph. 548-7898

or email to [joannaiw@xtra.co.nz](mailto:joannaiw@xtra.co.nz) .

## WAITANGI DAY

The Libraries celebrated Waitangi Day 2011 with a series of activities to celebrate the Treaty at Elma Turner Library in the week following the day, 7 - 11 February. The activities were coordinated by Cindy Batt, Library Assistant in the Information Services Team, and ranged from Poi and Kōauau (Māori Flute) making & playing, to a Treaty Workshop and presentation from Nelson's waka ama group, and more. Elma Turner Library also featured wonderful displays of taonga, and information about the Treaty. The Council Kowhaiwhai has been left as a feature banner in the Halifax Street windows, to welcome people into the Library. The Library was a vibrant place during the week, and the activities have received some excellent feedback.

### From The Committee

Committee members have been asked to share a bit about themselves.

#### From Priscilla Wardell. "Why I joined the F.O.L"

Time on my hands, love of books & I had worked in the Dunedin Public Library 63 years ago!

I read anything I can get my hands on - Somerset Maugham to Lee Child, Duchess of Devonshire to Olive James. From the book sale I picked up Tom Scott's *'Ten Years Inside'*. Great humour. Also a great book by Alan Jenkins titled *'The Forties'*. I am so old I recall it well! New Zealand authors are getting better and better.

There is always so much enjoyment in books and meeting people with similar tastes - that is why I joined the Friends of the Library.

#### From Fay Eades

I joined Friends of the Nelson Library Committee because a committee member, Jill Blechynden, convinced me it would be a good idea. It has been a good idea because being on the committee gives me an opportunity to put people and books together.

I have always been an avid reader. Modern literary fiction engages my interest the most. I like books where language is the essence, where people, places and events are glimpsed through words. Writers such as Colm Toibin, A.S. Byatt, James McNeish and Alex Miller. I also enjoy memoirs from people who face challenges or embark on activities beyond my realm of experience and prejudices. *'Sahara'* Paula Constant; *'Blood on My Hands'* Craig Jurisevic; *'Oarsome Adventures of a Fat Boy Rower'* Kevin Biggar.

#### From Helen Newnham

Have always loved books and libraries. I am a non-fiction reader, enjoying history and travel, and especially biographies about interesting people, not necessarily achievers but quirky individuals. I prefer biography to autobiography - someone else can write about you perhaps more truthfully than you would yourself.

Nelson library is a very lively place in our community life.

## Friends of the Nelson Library : the early days.

Barbara Rhodes has asked me to write a few words about why we felt that there should be a Friends of the Library group established 20 years ago.

Many people had waited a long time for a new library and when the Library on Halifax Street opened in February 1990, there was considerable enthusiasm and support. This was reflected in huge increases in usage and membership along with high expectations from the Nelson Community. In a little over a year issues increased 34%, reference inquiries 80%, and membership shot up.

I can still remember the bookshelves on the weeks and months following the opening. We were lucky if there were 5 books on each shelf in the fiction section.

We needed help. The Council had already been generous in granting us a significant increase in our budget, and it was time for the Library and its members to show their support and help themselves.

At that time we needed practical assistance eg in the mending and covering of books, delivering books to the housebound, and in staging events/speakers.

We needed funding to assist in the purchasing of new books and other materials.

We needed assistance with publicity and planning and running of events starting with the Library's 150th birthday celebration. We also wanted to promote the fact that there was widespread support for a free library system in Nelson. We wanted a pool of people ready to support special projects if and when they arose.

And so the Friends of the Library emerged.

We were so lucky that we found Nola Leov and Auchs Hoogeveen to co-chair the first steering Committee of what would become the Friends of the Nel-

son Library Inc. There were a group of dedicated and effective people who came forward in an organising and volunteer capacity.

Little did I know that this small group of Friends would soon publish a history of the Library "*The Library from the Sea*", and provide extremely generous donations to our book stock. And, I certainly did not guess that a major, and I mean major, newspaper microfilming project would proceed, which will have lasting benefits.

During the time I was the Library Manager I really appreciated the work of the Friends, and now that I am retired I can truly reap the benefits of a wonderful library system. Thanks Friends and congratulations on your 20th birthday!

**Marian Gunn**

### BUMPER BOOK SALE REPORT

Thanks to great publicity - photos and news items - the public were certainly alerted to the February sale, and responded in droves! Special thanks to my behind-the-scenes sorters & helpers, Priscilla and Fay, and to those who efficiently helped set up in two hours the day before the sale. Practice makes perfect!

Friday was absolutely hectic with at least 3 of us on duty each shift, processing the armfuls of purchases of our happy customers. Despite the Trafalgar Street Market Day on Saturday, we were so busy I lost count of our takings, so it was a complete surprise to find the final total for the sale was \$3118. Whew!

Our December Big Book Sale was also a great success, taking in \$2463. My special thanks also to Andrea King for overall responsibility for finding tables and allocating available staff, and to the very efficient Jeannie (chairperson of the Friends), who was always buzzing around topping up stock, encouraging and being a general dogsbody.

*Jill Blechynden*

## Birch Trees

The silver trees stood  
On the bank, poised  
Like ballerinas.  
Their costumes changed  
During the year  
Sometimes they were draped  
In green  
Sometimes clothed in gold  
When they were stripped  
Silver skin  
Exposed without modesty.  
The wind played along their lean limbs.

One morning a man was there  
With chainsaw in hand  
'You can't murder my trees,'  
But he did.  
The ballerinas crumpled to the earth  
Lifeless, no dancing left in their arms.  
Stumps like cigarette butts jut from  
The ground  
The rushing waters of the stream chatter  
Over stones  
They do not talk of the slaying of the tall  
beauties.

Fay Eades



## A Humorous Article from the Internet

The European Commission has just announced an agreement whereby English will be the official language of the European Union rather than German, which was the other possibility. As part of the negotiations, the British Government conceded that English spelling had some room for improvement and has accepted a 5-year phase-in plan that would become known as "Euro-English".

In the first year, "s" will replace the soft "c". Certainly, this will make the sivil servants jump with joy. The hard "c" will be dropped in favour of "k". This should klear up konfusion, and keyboards kan have one less letter.

There will be growing publik enthusiasm in the sekond year when the troublesome "ph" will be replaced with "f". This will make words like fotograf 20% shorter.

In the 3rd year, publik akseptanse of the new spelling kan be ekspekted to reach the stage where more komplikated changes are possible. Governments will enkourage the removal of double letters which have always ben a deterrent to akurate speling. Also, al wil agre that the horibl mes of the silent "e" in the languag is disgrasful and it should go away.

By the 4th yer people wil be reseptiv to steps such as replasing "th" with "z" and "w" with "v".

During ze fifz yer, ze unesesary "o" kan be dropd from vords kontaining "ou" and after ziz fifz yer, ve vil hav a reil sensi bl riten styl. Zer vil be no mor trubl or difikultis and evrivun vil find it ezi to understand ech oza. Ze drem of a united urop vil finali kum tru.

Und efter ze fifz yer, ve vil al be speking German like zey vunted in ze forst plas.

*OK. So it is not very logical. It made me chuckle, though., and drove my spell checker NUTS! Ed.*

## Beginnings

In 1988, the Nelson Library was in the throes of a massive transformation. Marian Gunn had been appointed Librarian the year before. Moreover, the Nelson City Council had yielded to the forceful representations of Miss Elma Turner and were working to rehouse the library's main collection in premises far more spacious and attractive than the 'new' Hardy Street ones, where it had been located since 1912. Under Marian's generalship, a massive shift was undertaken to a former car sales showroom, cleverly transformed, in Halifax Street. The story can be read in Dorothy Stafford's *The Library From The Sea*, 'Published by the Friends of the Nelson Library Inc., to mark the Library's 150th Birthday: 27 September 1992.'

The Library already had volunteers who assisted in various ways, especially during the shift, but a huge increase occurred in the number of library users as a result of the relocation. Obviously more help was needed. To this end, Marian Gunn called a meeting, on 23 March 1991. It was chaired by Ann Nightingale, about 40 people came, and members of the Library staff suggested a number of ways in which they would be grateful for volunteer input. They included shelving, mending books, fundraising for specific purposes (the purchase of the *McGraw Hill Encyclopedia of Science and Technology* was one), Promotion, and above all the forthcoming Birthday celebrations. A steering committee was consequently formed.

This met for the first time on 18 April, 1991. I was interim Chairperson, with Auchs Hoogeveen as Vicechair, Liz Morris as Secretary, again with help from Auchs, and a drily humorous Scots ex-marine engineer, Alexander Ferguson, as Treasurer, with Barney Brewster to help him. Joyce Rowland was a committee member, and was to run the garage sales which were a regular method of fundraising for many years. Ron Stafford, who was to volunteer his wife, Dorothy, to write a history of the Library to mark its birthday, was another. Also included were Ann Nightingale, Barbara Rhodes, Gwyn Rivers, Margaret Robertson, Lauren Tyrell, Ann Waters, and Freda Young. It was decided,

once we were legally established, to concentrate initially on fundraising and giving practical help.

The job of turning the group into a legally incorporated society and charitable trust fell to Auchs and me, and it was by no means easy. It also took a long time, so much so that at one point the committee was on the edge of revolt. They wanted to be up and doing, not struggling with technical details. However, with the help of the Assistant Registrar of Incorporated Societies, Inland Revenue, the lawyer Brian Nelson, and Colin Gunn, we at last had the required Constitution, the necessary 15 signatures endorsing it, an official seal, a bank account, and by September we were under way.

We achieved a number of things in our first 18 months or so of activity. John Miles made us a notice board, to communicate with members; with Colin Gunn's help we devised a publicity leaflet, and Auchs Hoogeveen made donations boxes, which were called Dollar Boxes. We adopted a policy we called 'the widow's mite', whereby Library users were invited to donate a dollar a year towards new books. In the first year this raised about \$1,000, thanks perhaps to some lively posters, and regular announcements as to how the money was coming in. Books bought with the money were marked Dollar Box books. We also designed bookmarks, which the library distributed.

Above all we set up a Birthday Fund. The results of our first steps in fundraising astonished us: thanks to everyone's energy and enthusiasm, zeal and zest, we were able to present a cheque to the Library in the course of its Birthday celebrations for \$8,000. Alex Ferguson marked the occasion by persuading the bank to devise a cheque of suitable proportions, about, as I remember, a metre long.

The result of this success was an invitation from the Library, endorsed by the Nelson Provincial Museum, to consider raising enough money to have the early issues of the *Nelson Evening Mail* preserved on microfilm.

Continued overleaf.

There was only one complete run in existence, that held in the Museum, and it was so dilapidated that the public would soon not be able to have access to it. The Library holdings were in no better state. So, in collaboration with the Nelson Institute, the Nelson Historical Society, and the New Zealand Society of Genealogists, Nelson Branch, we set up the Microfilm sub-committee, raised nearly \$200,000, and did it. But that is another story!

Nola M. Leov.

### ***Friends of Nelson Library 2011 Talks***

All will be held in the Activities Room at Elma Turner Library

Starting at 1:30 pm

Entry : \$2 pp

All welcome

#### **SUNDAY 20th March: *FINDING FACT IN FANTASY.***

**Speaker : Lindy Kelly.** Lindy is a Nelson author who has written and published short stories, novels, poems and plays for both adults and children. She also tutors writing classes for the Community Education programme at Nayland College.

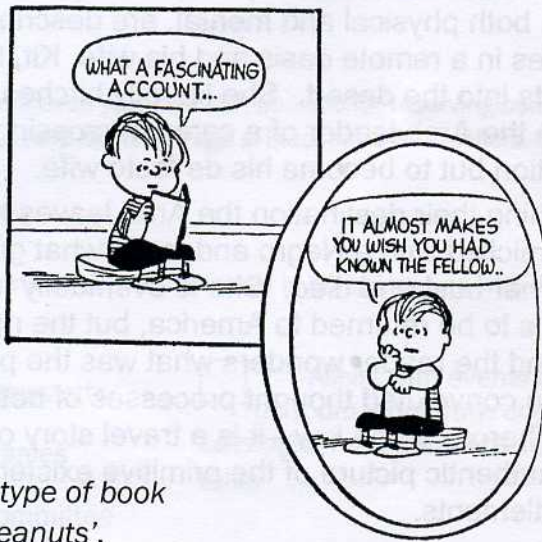
#### **SUNDAY 17th April: *AN INTREPID TRAVELLER***

**Speaker : Anne Kolless.** Age is no barrier to Anne's travel adventures.

**SUNDAY 15th May.** Speaker yet to be finalised. Check notices in The Leader nearer the time, and the Friends' notice board at Elma Turner.

#### **SUNDAY 19th June.**

**Speaker : Carl Nixon,** Christchurch playwright, short story writer & novelist. NZ Society of Authors' writer in residence in June.



An alternative type of book review from 'Peanuts'.

## BOOK REVIEW

*The Sheltering Sky* by Paul Bowles. Penguin Books, \$12.95

This is a strange book. It is one of the series of popular editions of works by classical, neo-classical and acclaimed contemporary writers which have enlivened bookshops over the summer and incidentally made life easier for the recipients of book tokens.

Paul Bowles was a poet, musician and short story writer before he wrote *The Sheltering Sky* in 1949. This edition has a foreword by Paul Theroux which helps to shed some light on an otherwise obscure novel about an American couple travelling in Algeria. They head south across the mountains and stay at small settlements with few or no amenities, gradually penetrating further into the desert.

The oddly named Port Moresby contracts typhoid fever and his sufferings, both physical and mental, are described in great detail. He dies in a remote oasis and his wife, Kit, locks the room and departs into the desert. She literally hitches a ride on a camel with the Arab leader of a caravan crossing the desert and has no option but to become his de facto wife.

After reaching their destination the Arab leaves her. She becomes domiciled with a Negro and loses what grasp of reality she had since her husband died. She is eventually found by a search party and is to be returned to America, but the novel ends abruptly and the reader wonders what was the purpose of recording the convoluted thought processes of both Port and Kit. Perhaps Theroux is the key - it is a travel story of a kind and gives an authentic picture of the primitive existence of dwellers in desert settlements.

Brian Prendergast

