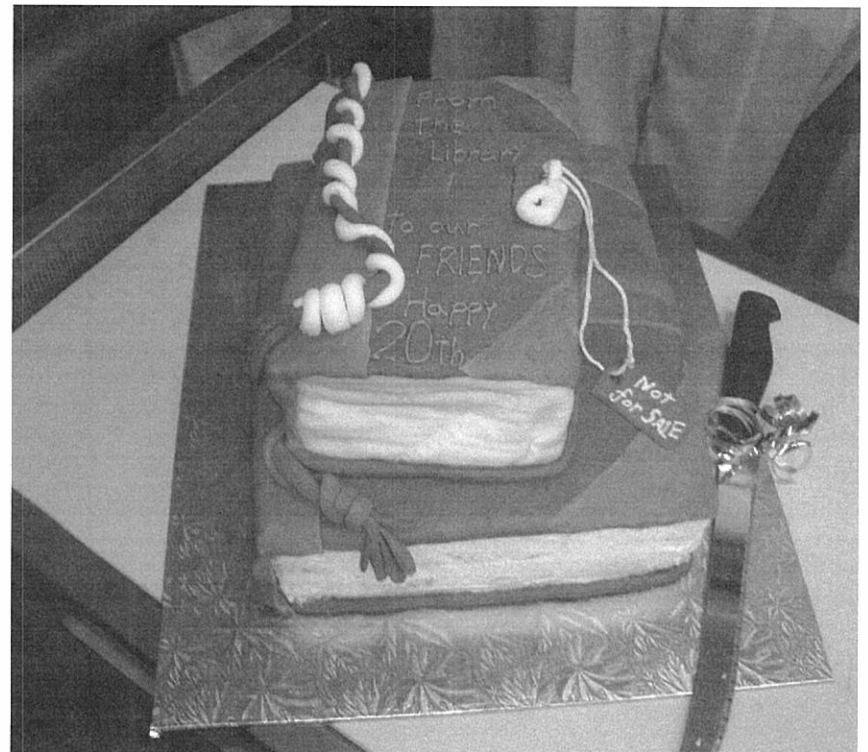
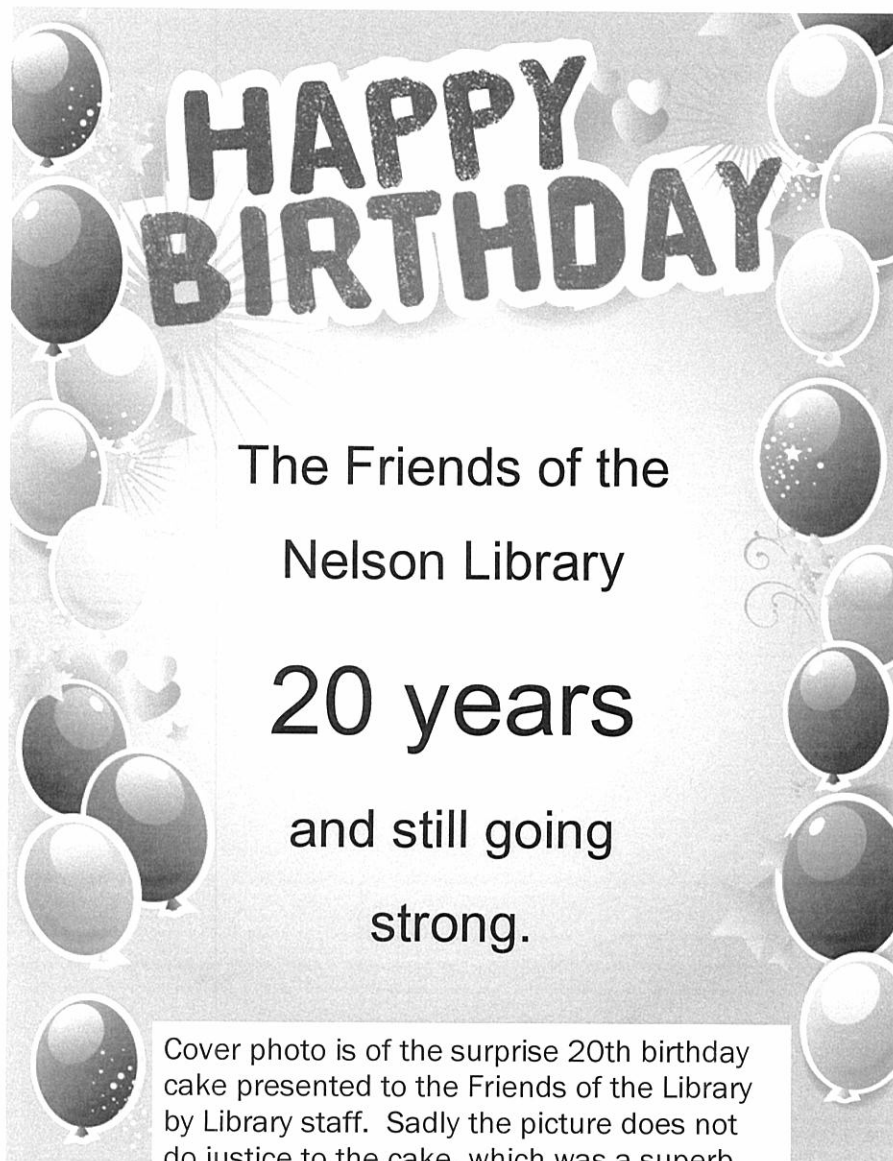


Friends of the Nelson Library Inc.
Private Bag 41
Nelson
JUNE 2011 newsletter





Cover photo is of the surprise 20th birthday cake presented to the Friends of the Library by Library staff. Sadly the picture does not do justice to the cake, which was a superb creation by Zuzana Vanek.

Check out Zuzana's website www.creativepeople.cz/cakeart , and look at cake number 10!

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

The Friends of the Nelson Library anniversary function held on 23 March was an opportunity to recognise the hard work put in by members over the past twenty years. In attendance were eight of our founding members, four of whom are life members. Ali Boswijk, the deputy mayor, Keith Marshall, the council CEO, and Ian Littleworth, the Libraries manager, also attended. The function was held exactly twenty years to the day since the inaugural meeting, albeit in a slightly different form of the Activities Room.

Nola Leov gave a short history of the group. (See also the March newsletter). The surprise of the afternoon was an amazing cake, in the shape of two leather-bound books, which was presented to the Friends by the library staff.

I would like to convey our thanks to the hard-working Microfilming sub-committee. They have undertaken three major projects, all quite challenging, over the past seventeen years. Two people, Nola Leov and Susan Price, have been active throughout the whole period. Quite a long-service record! With the digitising of the Nelson Photo News the work of this subcommittee is now completed.

The proceeds from one of our major book sales have enabled the Friends group to donate \$3000 towards the cost of installing a computer (at the library) which will access the contents of the NZ Film Archives. I viewed some of the material during the trial run and was interested to see footage of a royal tour in Nelson, the railway protest over the railway closure and a promotional film showing the visitors from Wellington visiting the sights of Nelson for a day. This service will be available to the public at the Elma Turner Library in Nelson from June 10.

Our Sunday winter talks have been well supported. It was a "full house" at the recent one when Keith Marshall spoke of his perspective on China.

NEWSLETTERS VIA THE INTERNET

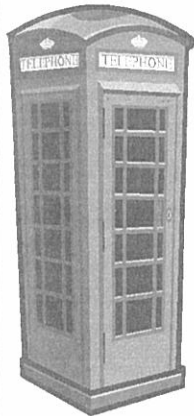
Thanks for all those members who have agreed to receive their newsletters electronically. This saves our postage costs and means you can also receive advance notice of talks etc. Remember that you can still pick up a hard copy at the library as we do print extra. If any others wish to go on our email list please forward your email address to our secretary.

mary.belser@gmail.com

Jeannie Woodhouse

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 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



A Very Small Library

A quick on-line search found a BBC website item, dated 23 November 2009, about a traditional red British phone booth that was bought from British Telecommunication by a village council for £1, then recycled into one of the country's smallest lending libraries - stocking 100 books.

Villagers from Westbury-sub-Mendip (population about 800) in Somerset can use the library around the clock, selecting books, DVDs and CDs. Users simply stock it with a book they have read, swapping it for one they have not.

"It's really taken off. The books are constantly changing," said parish councillor Bob Dolby. He added: "It is completely full at the moment with books. Anyone is free to come and take a

book and leave one that you have already read. This facility has turned a piece of street furniture into a community service in constant use."

A resident dreamed up the idea when the village lost its phone box and mobile library in quick succession.

What a great recycling idea!

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 19th June.

Speaker : Carl Nixon on 'Being a Writer'

Carl is a professional writer of plays, short stories and novels, and has won or been shortlisted for numerous awards. He is published by Random House. His books include: *Fish 'n' Chip Shop Song and other stories* (2006), and two novels, *Rocking Horse Road* (2007) and *Settlers' Creek* (2010). NZ Society of Authors' Top of the South writer in residence in June, Carl lives in Christchurch where most of his fiction is set.

SUNDAY 17th July.

Speaker : Ian Littleworth. Manager Libraries, Nelson Public Libraries. Ian will talk about Library trends, a very topical subject with all the changes in the way we can use libraries today.

Sunday 21st August.

Speaker : Hans Andersen, a well-known Nelson veterinarian, will speak about his job as a vet and his animal friends.

MONTHLY BOOKSALES

Remember these continue to be held on the first Saturday of each month in Elma Turner Library. 10 am—12:45pm.

Enquiries to Jill 548 0075

More From The Committee

Jeannie Woodhouse

My favourite books are those by Indian authors eg Rohinton Mistry, Arundhati Roy, and Vikram Seth. I like their detailed descriptions of everyday family life, and peoples' struggles living in a populous country with a complicated caste system and diverse religions. The writers revel in the cadence of the English language, and every page is a joy to read.

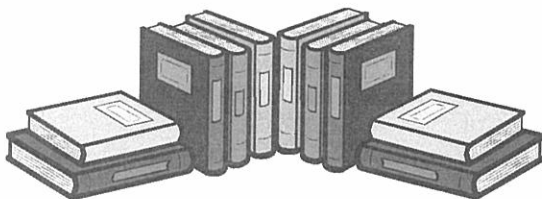
Mary Belser

I joined the Friends of the Nelson Library when my friend, Andrea King, asked if I would be interested in being a committee member. As I support all their goals it was a pleasure to make my contribution. My reading these days is almost only non-fiction, especially biographies and New Zealand history. I think that the quality of the writing and efforts to appeal to general readers (rather than to academics only) have improved over the years. I feel a good biography placed in an interesting period adds immensely to its appeal.

Jim Roxburgh

In the last decade or more, reading has become by far my main & most thoroughly enjoyable occupation, so I had become a very regular visitor to the Library. It became quite a 'friend', so that when I was asked if I'd join the 'Friends of the Library' I was only too pleased to do so; & to later join the Committee when invited.

My reading is fairly eclectic, except that I seldom read fiction. I read between 200 & 250 books per year, and keep a record of every one, occasionally adding a few notes (to jog the declining memory!).



Another Milestone

Nelson Literary, Scientific & Philosophical Institute

The Nelson Institute recently celebrated its 170th birthday with a jovial gathering at Christopher Vine's house. From its founding on board the *Whitby*, in May 1841, en route to the as-yet-undecided location of the proposed settlement of Nelson, the Institute has striven to fulfil its objects, which are as follows:

The objects and purposes of the Institute shall be to aid and promote public education, and moral and intellectual improvement, and the general study and cultivation of the various branches and departments of arts, science, and literature...

While we may have to give the "moral improvement" bit a miss these days (not that it ain't needed, that's for sure), we shall continue to soldier on with the other objects. Discussions are currently being held about a wide variety of possible activities. Keep an eye on the *What's Happening* columns!

Barbara Rhodes (President, Nelson Institute)

A Little Tale

Syd washed his boat, Gregory Peck & plates, put on his dicky, round the houses, & daisy roots. He put his kettle in his Lucy Locket, picked up his titter and ran down the apples and out to his jam-jar and went to buy his trouble a classy bit of tom, to make up for having an excess of pig's ear in the rub-a-dud the night before.

An attempt at using Cockney Rhyming Slang!
Syd washed his boat race (face), Gregory Peck (neck), and plates of meat (feet), put on his dicky dirt (shirt), round the houses (trousers) & daisy roots (boots). He put his kettle & hob (fob watch) in his Lucy Locket (pocket), picked up his titter (tit for tat/hat) and ran down the apples and bears (stairs) and out to his jam-jar (car) and went to buy his trouble and strife (wife) a classy bit of tom-foolery (jewellery), to make up for having an excess of pig's ear (beer) in the rub-a-dud (pub) the night before.

Press Release - *Nelson Photo News* Goes Online

The first run of the *Nelson Photo News* is a rare and unique photographic record of life in Nelson in the early 1960's and 1970's – a time of rapid social and cultural change. The serial captures personal and community events through photographs and lively commentary.

Featuring photos by well known Nelson photographers, including Barry Simpson, Geoffrey C. Wood, Peter Cooper and Kingsford Studios, the *Nelson Photo News* is a comprehensive snapshot of Nelson life from the 1960s and 70s.

As the editor Barry Simpson stated in the first issue: "Our experience indicates that many people allow the first issue or two to be destroyed, which is regretted later...subscribers grow to value the pictorial record of community life."

Unfortunately most early issues have been discarded, and over the run only a handful of complete sets are believed to exist in private collections. Currently there are no full sets held in the public domain.

The Friends of the Nelson Library Microfilm Committee responded to community pressure to do something about preserving and making accessible this valuable resource. With funds left over from other microfilming and digitisation projects a decision was made to digitise the first 12 years of the *Nelson Photo News* from 1960 to 1972, which covered the period of editorship under Barry Simpson and, later, Peter Skinner.

To complete a shortfall in funding for the project the committee applied to be part of a Digital NZ poll, where projects throughout New Zealand competed for votes. The two highest polling projects were each awarded a \$10,000 grant.

The *Nelson Photo News* proved a popular choice in the Digital NZ poll, with many comments being posted on the site, including the following which will ring true with many Nelsonians. "The *Photo News* magazines are part of my history. Oh the excitement on the day they went on sale each month, and the competition in our house to be first to read it. I fully support this publication being digitised. On a personal level it would be great to be able to revisit these magazines. On a wider aspect, there is huge content of historical value to the Nelson region and its people."

The resulting win gave the project sufficient funds to complete the digitisation work, which will see searchable copies of each issue from the chosen years available online.

The project is of significance not only for Nelson but also nationally. The *Photo News* was published under a franchise-type arrangement by Logan Print Ltd in Gisborne, with several regions throughout New Zealand having their own local *Photo News*. It is hoped that other areas may also digitise their respective issues as part of a wider *Photo News* project.

John Logan, eldest son of Logan Print founder Bob Logan, remembers the *Nelson Photo News* with fondness. "I became very familiar with the comings and goings of community life in Nelson as we assembled and printed the pages of the magazines. My father held photographer/editor Barry Simpson in very high regard and we regarded him as the best of the eight other editors from around the country who belonged to the *Photo News* stable.

So it is perhaps fitting that Barry's magazine is the first to have been digitized and published online. I know that my local library has similar plans for *Gisborne Photo News* but the project is not yet completed."

The digitisation component of the *Nelson Photo News* project has taken around a year to complete and has been very much a collaborative effort, with the Nelson Library Microfilm Sub-committee composed of members from Nelson Public Libraries: nga whare matauranga o whakatu, the Nelson Provincial Museum: Pupuri Taonga o Te Tai Ao, the Nelson Historical Society, the Nelson Branch of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists and The Nelson Institute.

To date the committee has been responsible for several microfilming and digitisation projects, including the microfilming of the *Nelson Evening Mail* and more recently, the digitisation of the journals of the Nelson & Marlborough Historical Societies.

The project was launched on 18th May 2011 at a very successful function for over 100 people at Founders Park. Everybody associated with the project was acknowledged, including the publishers, photographers and their families.

The website: www.photonews.org.nz/nelson

BOOK REVIEW

The Inheritance of Loss by Kiran Desai.
Penguin \$12.95

This Penguin paperback has rather small print, and no notes about the author who won the Mann Booker Prize in 2006. Her mother, Anita, won almost every important award except the Booker. Indian authors have been very much to the fore since Vikram Seth's *A Suitable Boy*, set in India, and *An Equal Music*, set in Europe, were written with equal facility. Arundhati Roy won the Booker in 1997 with *The god of small things*.

Kiran Desai was born in 1971 and educated in India, England and the USA. *The Inheritance of Loss* is about three people living in an ageing house in the northeast of India, close to the Himalayas. The judge, Jemubhai Patel, reflects bitterly on his years in England, at Cambridge, where he tried unsuccessfully to disown his origins and become an English gentleman, ending only in a sort of no-man's land. Returning to India he travelled around dispensing ambiguous justice in country villages. Long retired, he lives a solitary existence trying to keep "doors firmly closed between one thought and the next".

Also living in the house but with minimal contact are his granddaughter, Sai, and the cook, whose son, Biju, works in a New York restaurant, and illegal immigrant whose precarious status is exploited to the full by his employers.

Sai is an orphan, brought up in a Roman Catholic convent, who falls in love with her tutor, a young man from a local village with a background of extreme poverty. Like Biju and the judge, she is forced to face the conflict between the façade of Western civilisation and the desperate struggle of Indian peasants merely to stay alive.

Kiran Desai is ruthlessly honest in her delineation of her characters and their moral and political dilemmas. Her writing is direct, shrewd and satirical, sparing no one on either side of the Colonial/Indian divide. India gained its independence in 1947 but in *The Inheritors of Loss* it still cannot shake off the results of centuries of British rule.

Brian Prendergast

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, or leave in envelope, marked as above, with a Library staff member.

Name (please print) :

Address :

.....

Phone Date

Email (optional)

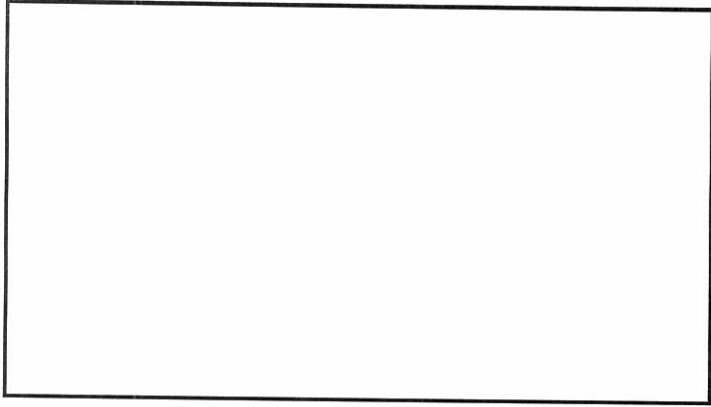
Members receive

- * \$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

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contribute to newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Assist with events eg setting up room, door duty, checking catalogue for material to display at talks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help with book sales | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Serve on the committee | |

NB: Membership is for 12 months, to commence 1st July, start of our financial year.



Affix stamp here

The Friends of the Nelson Library
Private Bag 41
Nelson



Ah, being young is beautiful, but
being old is comfortable!