

Friends of the Nelson Library

Inc.

Private Bag 41

Nelson

JUNE 2010



Sick of telly? Why not curl up with a good book?

2009–2010

Friends of the Nelson Library Committee

Barbara Rhodes. (chairperson) 545 1646.

Mary Belser. (secretary) 548 9721

Dixie Lane. (treasurer) 545 1688

Jill Blechynden. (book sales) 548 0075

Priscilla Wardell

Joanna Innes Walker (Microfilming sub-committee)

Helen Newnham

Jim Roxburgh

Christopher Vine

Nola Leov

Jeannie Woodhouse (publicity)

Bill Fleming

*A note to all members: if you do **NOT** want committee members to have access to your name & phone number (for the purposes of running a phoning tree to publicise events as required, and the like), please advise the chairperson.*

TELL ME MORE ABOUT FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY ...

Friends of the Library groups are people who are interested in supporting & promoting their library and strengthening its links with the community. The Friends of the Nelson Library was formed in 1991, and supports all three Nelson Public Libraries. Friends can be active or supporting members. “Active” members have a more hands-on approach. Members may help organise or promote events and activities for the Libraries or the Friends. They may assist in running the monthly book sale at the Elma Turner Library, or be called on for other practical assistance.

Remember: Members will receive a 10% discount on (non-sale) books at Page & Blackmores!!! You'll have to show your current Friends' card.

A Few Words From Barbara

We are very proud that the Microfilming sub-committee was successfully nominated for the Nelson City Council inaugural “Community Spirit” awards. Sadly, Nola Leov, the driving force (she refers to herself, modestly, as a ‘sheep dog!’) since the inception of the microfilming project, was unable to receive the award in person due to unforeseen circumstances, which she cheerily dismissed as an attack of ‘piglet flu’. As against ‘swine’.

While over the years there have been changes in the representatives from the various groups involved, that is the Nelson Historical Society, the Nelson Institute, the Provincial Museum, Elma Turner Library, and the Nelson branch of the New Zealand Genealogy Society, Nola Leov from the Friends of the Nelson Library, and Susan Price from Elma Turner Library, remained constant, indefatigable ‘movers and doers’ on the sub-committee. Nola has now stepped aside as convenor of the group and Joanna Innes Walker has taken over her role, with the next task being the digitising of the old *Nelson Photo News*. Susan Price continues to be closely involved with the project.

Finally, any of our members who have indicated they would like to be active might like to consider a contribution to the next newsletter? Due out early September. Some artwork? A book review? A poem? We are also keen to hear of possible speakers for our talks, though at this stage we will be looking ahead to the 2011 series.

If so, contact me at 545 1646 or leave in an envelope at the issues desk at Elma Turner— put “Chairperson, Friends of the Nelson Library” on the envelope, please.

See item about the Photo News project elsewhere in the newsletter.

The cover illustration, and others in the newsletter have been provided by Nola Leov, and are the work of Georges-Goulven Le Cam.

The Winter Talks Continue!

TUESDAY 15th JUNE

1 pm

Joan Rosier-Jones, the Top of the South writer-in-residence, will be speaking on 'writing your family history', which is the subject of one of her books.

SUNDAY 20th JUNE

1.30pm.

Grahame Anderson on "Rocks Road: Seawalls, Stanchions and Chains". Grahame has a long-time interest in seawalls and he rates those built at different times along Rocks Road as the most impressive in New Zealand in terms of design excellence and cultural significance. He will talk about the history of their construction and also about the iconic chain-link fence which was added to prevent pedestrians being washed away during storms!



SUNDAY 18 JULY

1:30 pm

Christopher Vine presents an illustrated Armchair OE "Persian Impressions: views of Iran".

The talks will be held in the Activities Room at Elma Turner Library.
\$2 pp.

Two fish swim into a concrete wall. The one turns to the other and says, 'Dam!'

Nelson Photo News

Nelson Photo News to be preserved for posterity!

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 series captures personal and community events through photographs and lively commentary. 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 Microfilming Subcommittee have been responding to community pressure to do something about preserving and making accessible this valuable resource. Now, with the awarding of a \$10,000 grant from Digital NZ, the digitisation of the *Photo News* is set to commence. It is expected the project will take around a year. On completion, copies of the *Nelson Photo News*, produced under the editorship of Barry Simpson and Peter Skinner, will be available for searching online. The *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 revisit these magazines. On a wider aspect, there is huge content of historical value to the Nelson region and its people. "

For those interested in making a financial contribution towards the project, donations can be made at the Information Desk at Elma Turner Library, Nelson.

Two antennas met on a roof, fell in love and got married. The ceremony wasn't much, but the reception was excellent.

BOOK REVIEW

THE WILDEST DREAM : in the footsteps of Mallory and Irvine by Mark Mackenzie. Published by John Murray 2009.

George Mallory and Sandy Irvine were last seen alive on June 6th 1924 heading strongly for the summit of Mt Everest. Whether they reached the summit or not has been the subject of conjecture ever since.

Mallory's body was found on 1st May 1999 by Conrad Anker, an American, at about 27,000 feet. The body was remarkably well preserved and bore the signs of severe injuries suffered in a prolonged fall. He had been roped to Irvine but the rope had broken during the fall. Irvine's body has never been found, but it is possible it may have been sighted by a Chinese party in 1960, though it was not reported at the time.

In 2007 Conrad Anker and Leo Houlding, an Englishman, set out to follow, literally as far as possible, 'in the footsteps of Mallory and Irvine'. They were accompanied by a film unit and originally intended to wear period climbing gear, including hobnail boots, but after Houlding almost lost his toes to frostbite they reverted to modern gear.

A successful summit bid really proved nothing one way or the other. Irvine had a camera which was never found; Mallory had been carrying a photograph of his wife which he promised he would leave on the summit. It was not among the papers on his body. At present there is no way of knowing if they fell on the way up or on the way down.

Mark Mackenzie writes for *The Times* and *The Guardian* and he accompanied the Everest Expedition of 2007. He has written an absorbing account of the lives of Mallory and Irvine and their modern counterparts.

Brian Prendergast.

A note from the Editor

While searching on-line for a pictures of Mallory and Irvine, I was side-tracked by one of many websites containing speculation and theories about the climbers. This particular site held instructions for the handling of their missing camera, and developing (if possible) of any surviving film within it should someone be lucky enough to discover said camera www.velocitypress.com (click on the Mallory/Irvine link at the side). The VelocityPress home page describes itself as: "The web journal of *Forbidden knowledge*. A skeptical examination of controversial subjects based on experience, logic, uncommon sense and (oh, how rare) the inclusion of exculpatory evidence."

Apparently, in the early 1980's, Tom Holzel, author and editor of the above website, approached Eastman-Kodak's USA Scientific & Technical Department for their advice, and subsequently put together *A127 Film: Care & Developing Suggestions* as to how to obtain images from A-127 film stored at 27,000-ft on Mt. Everest for over 80-years. As he points out, success would depend on many factors, only some of which would be within the control of the researchers who retrieve the camera. Basically the idea would be to save any part of the film that might have been protected from light, for instance if the camera was in its leather case in the dead climber's pocket. Even if the camera had been broken, some segment of the film might yet be protected. "This suggests that the body be searched using metal-detecting wands such as used by airport security screeners. Once a hit is made, instead of rushing to grab the precious treasure, think for a moment about how it might be recovered without exposing any part of it to light." Holzel suggests an "airport pat down" technique be used on the body, preferably done at night! The reader is urged "THIS IS A ONCE IN A LIFE-TIME MOMENT. DON'T BLOW IT!!"

Keeping the recovered camera frozen is emphasized eg packed in snow in a well-insulated boot or mitten. Holzel's instructions urge calm, and suggest "If you have to wait a few days to make an unobtrusive exit from Base Camp, do so."

Airport baggage x-rays must be avoided at all costs - the only safe method of transport by air would be in a diplomatic bag from the American Embassy in Kathmandu. Far better to get fresh developing chemicals from the USA and have the job done in a "trusted" photo lab in Kathmandu, at all times keeping media security in mind.

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“ **COMPLETE SECRECY** is strongly advised as there are many competing rapaciously (sic) claims to the camera and its images. Consult with an attorney before making the existence of the film or its images public.”

Hmmm. It all sounds a bit “Raiders of the Lost Ark”-ish to me, like looting an archaeological site. These were British climbers — surely any artefacts belong to any of their descendants and to Britain? Am I alone in detecting a whiff of rum, and the shadow of the Jolly Roger? It sounds as if, in the rush to secure the camera, no provision is to be made for the body. There is no suggestion that the climber’s remains would deserve to be treated with dignity, perhaps even retrieved.

Or have I missed the point entirely, and the whole section is an elaborate hoax, including the pages of instructions reproduced from Kodak’s letter to Hozel?

Library Week 2010
August 16th—22nd

The Friends committee is planning to host a public talk one weekday afternoon during Library Week. One or more Police officers will be invited to discuss their work, and their role in the community. Questions will be welcomed. Given the interest in detective novels, and police dramas on TV and at the movies, we feel this will be an excellent chance for some of the realities of (NZ) police work to be explored.

The talk will be in the Activities Room, as usual, and when the day is finalised, notices will be in The Leader and Live Nelson, and posters up at each Library.



Georges-Goulbeny

www.theprow.org.nz

The website with our stories from the Top of the South is now ONE YEAR OLD, with more than 130 stories to search.

Why not contribute a story? Visit the website to see how you can do this, or for more information email admin@theprow.org.nz

To receive an email copy of *The Prow* newsletter, contact nicola.harwood@ncc.govt.nz

WRITING FOR "THE PROW"

An illustrated workshop and talk are being planned for members of the public who would like to find out more about writing a story for "The Prow". Topics will include the type of stories, where to find help with writing and uploading, and the question of copyright.

You will be able to view the format, read sample stories, and discuss the use of photos or illustrations.

Some people question the value of their, or an older family member's, story. Come and hear what someone who has already had their item accepted for the website has to say.

The workshop will be held in the Activities Room at the Elma Turner Library starting at 1:15 pm on Sunday 22nd August. All are welcome, and there is no charge for this event.

Queries: Call Susan Price or Nicola Harwood at Elma Turner Library
ph. 546 0416

Some Rather Loopy Definitions

ADULT: a person who has stopped growing at both ends and is now growing in the middle.

CANNIBAL: someone who is fed up with people.

CHICKENS: the only animals you eat before they are born and after they are dead.

EGOTIST: someone who is usually me-deep in conversation.

HANDKERCHIEF: cold storage.

TOOTHACHE: the pain that drives you to extraction.

WRINKLES: something other people have - similar to my character lines.

Cut here

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:

.....

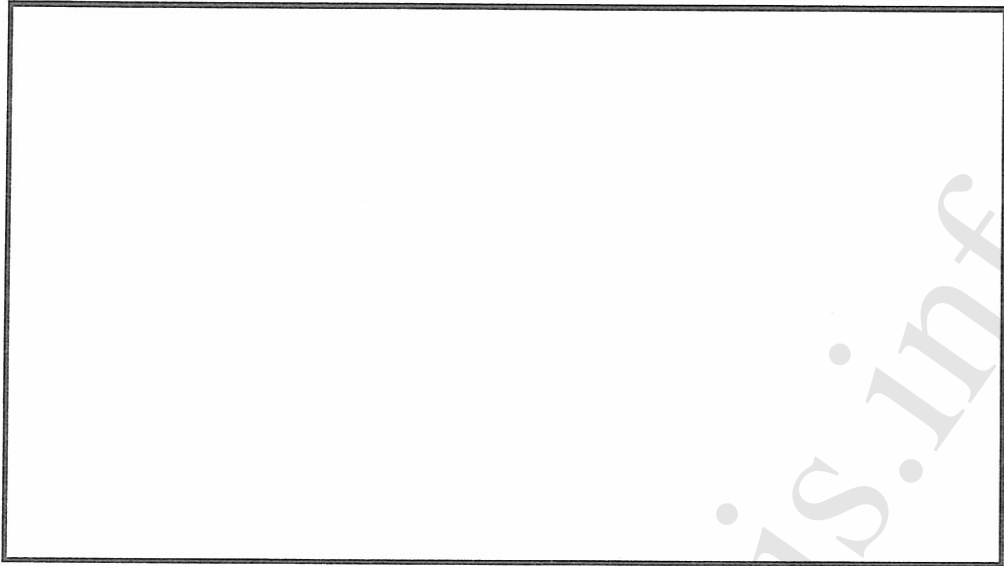
Phone

Date

Email (optional)

Preferred membership type: Active Supporting

Members receive \$6 of Library vouchers each year that can be used for reserving books, CD's etc.



Affix stamp here

The Friends of the Nelson Library
Private Bag 41
Nelson

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