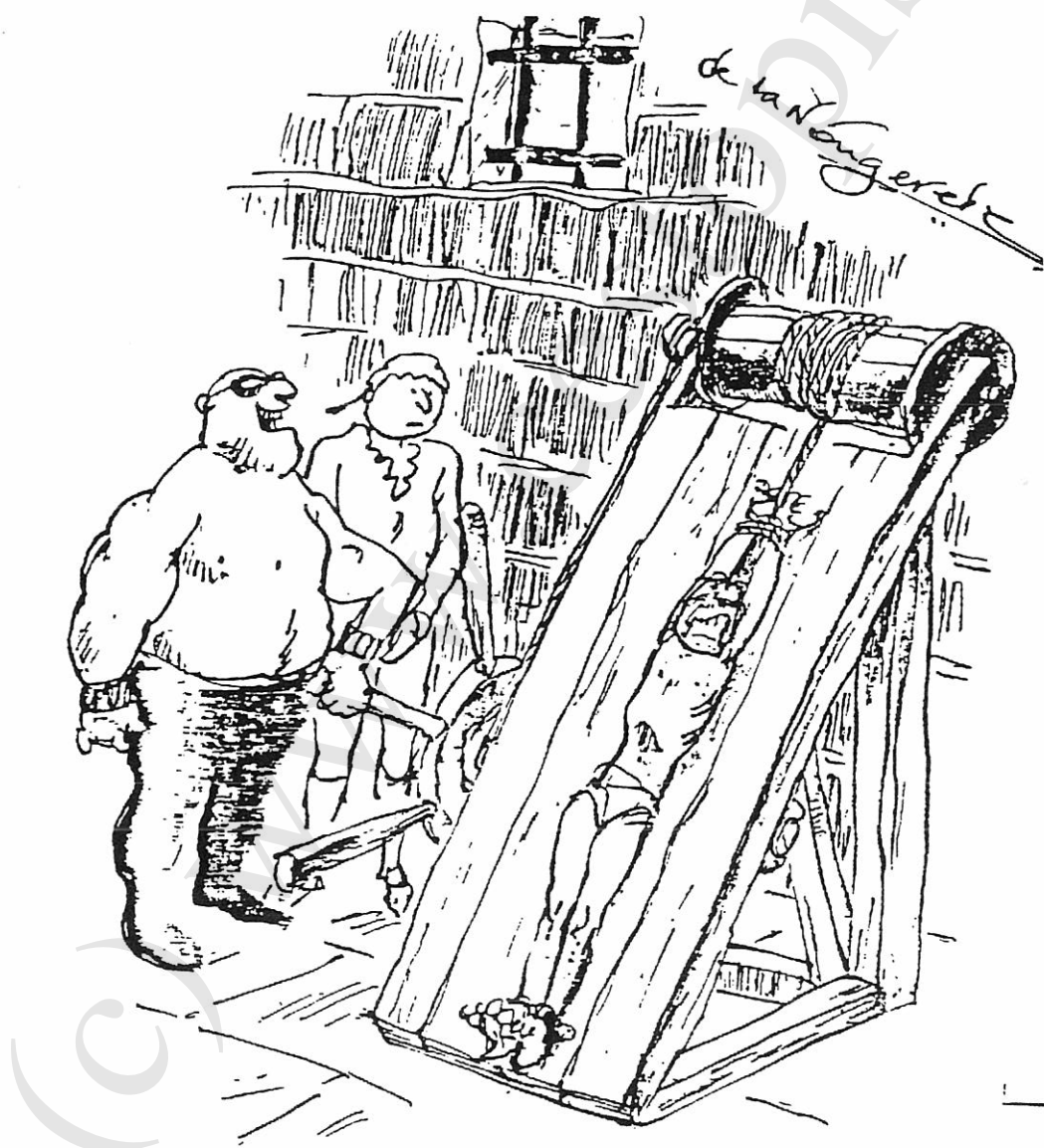


Friends of the Nelson Library Inc.
Private Bag 41
Nelson
MARCH 2010



"Behold - an efficient information retrieval system, with on-line access to stored detail..."

2009–2010

Friends of the Nelson Library Committee

Barbara Rhodes. (chairperson) 545 1646.
Mary Belser. (secretary) 548 9721
Dixie St Johanser. (treasurer) 545 1688
Jill Blechynden. (book sales) 548 0075
Priscilla Wardell
Joanna Innes Walker
Helen Newnham
Jim Roxburgh
Christopher Vine
Nola Leov (co-opted re-Microfilming sub-committee)
Jeannie Woodhouse (publicity)
Bill Fleming (Welcome back, Bill!)

*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.

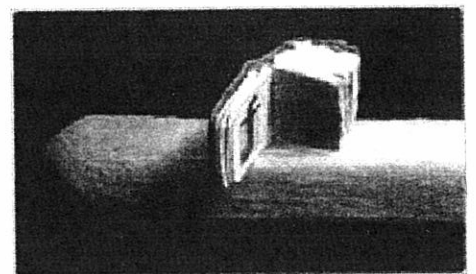
Remember: Members will receive a 10% discount on (non-sale) books at Page & Blackmores!!! You'll have to show your current Friends' card.

Going to Extremes!

Bhutan: A Visual Odyssey Across the Last Himalayan Kingdom checks in at more than 5 x 7 feet and weighs 133 pounds. Certified by Guinness World Records as the largest published book in the world, it features 112 pages of spectacular images and showcases a variety of digital, photographic and printing techniques. Each copy is printed only on demand, and uses a roll of paper longer than a football field, more than a gallon of ink and 24 hours' printing time.



The World's Smallest Book, an ABC, with one letter per page, is perhaps one of the world's finest publishing accomplishments. Edited by German typographer, Josua Reichert, it measures 2.4 mm by 2.9mm. Manufactured in Leipzig (the "book city"), the leather-bound volume comes in a mahogany box with a magnifying glass. The pages are actually readable.



However, a rival for the title of smallest book in the world is one Mark Palkovic's book, Chekhov's *Chameleon*, which measures just .9 by .9 millimeters, not much larger than a grain of salt. Mark is treasurer of the Miniature Book Society, an international group founded in Ohio in 1983. Amazingly, this miniscule book has 30 pages and three colour illustrations. You can check out these books online.

Friends of the Nelson Library 2010 Talks

Planning continues for another series of Talks. These will be held on the third Sunday of the month from April to August.

Sunday 18th April. **KAREN WARREN** will speak about the history of the Boulder Bank. Activity Room, Elma Turner Library. 1:30 pm start, please be on time as seating may be limited. \$2 pp.

Sunday 16th May speaker still being finalised. Same time & place. Details will be in The Leader and Live Nelson, and on noticeboards in libraries.



"Read this! — It's a must!"

A Few Words From Barbara

Recently I visited my youngest son who, with his Taiwanese wife, lives in Taichung in Taiwan. They took me to the National Palace Museum, where, along with throngs of other visitors - many from mainland China - we slowly circulated the galleries full of fantastic, rare, and beautiful displays. While the crowds were thickest in other areas, I found the "Rare Books and Secret Archives: Treasures from the Collections of the National Palace Museum" section fascinating. Documents from the Song (c. mid 10th - mid 13th centuries), Yuan (c. mid 13th - mid 14th centuries) and Ming (c. mid 14th - mid 17th centuries) dynasties; western cartographers' maps of disputed borders between Russia and western China; rare books displaying superb craftsmanship, design and decorations; manuscripts annotated in red by an emperor. What a tribute to the scholars, archivists, and, indeed, the emperors themselves, who valued their history, and preserved, catalogued, and stored the precious items over the centuries.

The microfilming of the Nelson Evening Mail back issues, and the just completed digitising of the Nelson Historical Society newsletters, is one way to preserve such documents and make them available for future viewing, and I am proud the Friends of the Nelson Library have 'done our bit' for posterity! Even if there are no emperor's comments in red!

Beginning-of-the -Year Function

The Friends recently hosted this enjoyable social event (instead of having an "end-of-year-function" before Christmas). This was a relaxed and enjoyable occasion with the highlight being a talk by Annette Monti on her experiences riding the Otago Rail Trail. Annette had actually just retired from library work, and the Friends' committee took the opportunity to thank her for all she had done for them over the years, and to present her with flowers as a sign of their appreciation.

Half a century of Nelson history goes online

More than half a century of Nelson history is now available online with the digitisation of the journals of the Nelson Historical Society, thanks to a collaborative project between Friends of the Nelson Library and the New Zealand Electronic Text Centre.

The digitisation of the society's journals provides access to valuable local history research on a wide range of topics including people, places, businesses and events.

Tony Hunter, the president of the Nelson Historical Society says "The society is excited by the opportunity to present the journals to the public via the internet. These valuable and interesting documents chart the Nelson and Marlborough regions development from the 1840's and will prove helpful to anybody researching this time."

A separate Friends of the Nelson Library microfilm sub-committee, led by Nola Leov, has been the driving force behind the project, with years of fundraising taking place to allow the project to succeed. The project required that the authors of each article give their consent for the digitisation, and two years were spent tracking them down. To date all but six authors have been successfully located.

The project has been supported by the Nelson Historical Society, the Marlborough Historical Society, Nelson Public Libraries: Nga Whare Matauranga o Whakatu, the Nelson Provincial Museum: Pupuri Taonga o Te Tai Ao. Additionally the New Zealand Electronic Text Centre, and National Library of New Zealand: Te Puna Matauranga o Aotearoa have collaborated to provide links from index entries in Index New Zealand to the full text of the journals on the New Zealand Electronic Text Centre.

1 millionth of a fish = 1 microfiche
2 monograms = 1 diagram

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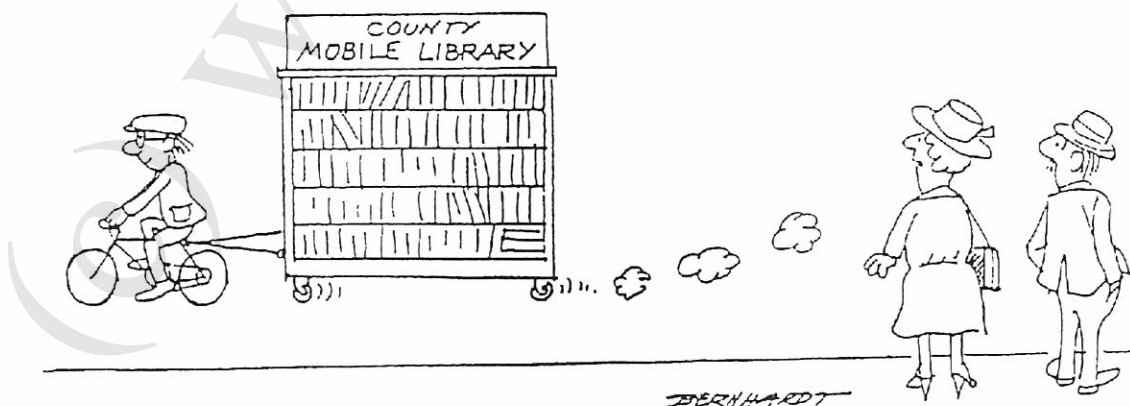
The textual content of this project is available under a Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-Share Alike 3.0 New Zealand license, which allows for re-use of the work for non-commercial use.

The Nelson Historical Society was formed in 1954 with the objective of collecting archival material relating to the history of the northern part of the South Island and encouraging research. Public meetings were held at which talks were given on aspects of Nelson history, and it was decided in 1955 to publish these talks.

The first issue of the *Journal of the Nelson Historical Society Incorporated* was published in November 1955. In 1981 the Marlborough Historical Society joined the enterprise and the title changed to *Journal of the Nelson and Marlborough Societies*.

When the Marlborough Historical Society withdrew in 1996, the title became the *Nelson Historical Society Journal*, with publication continuing as copy becomes available.

For enquiries or further information contact Karen Price at info@contexo.co.nz



“A pity the way they’ve cut library funding.”

Just for Laughs

Some choice snippets from *Don't Quote Me: What people said - and then wished they hadn't* by Don Atyeo and Jonathon Green.

Quick Change.

In 1973 a New York City swimsuit corporation promoted their new season's costume, 'the trikini'. This seaside seducer, basically two pasties and a pair of panties, was 'a new concept designed to add new dimensions of poise. Most important the cups cover bosoms fully and stay on in the water'. (The reader can see where this is going!!!) As eager press and buyers crowded around the poolside, a model dived in to demonstrate the trikini. When she emerged it appeared the tri was now the mono back to the drawing board.

Unhappy Landings

In a 1973 issue of *World Magazine* the following classified ad was placed: 'If you bought our course "How To Fly Solo in Six Easy Lessons" we apologize for any inconvenience caused by our failure to include the last chapter, entitled "How to Land Your Plane Safely". Send us your name and address and we will send you the last chapter post haste. Requests by estates also honoured.'

Reassurances

"On entering the war zone tomorrow, we shall be securely in the care of the Royal Navy" the captain of the *Lusitania* told his passengers. Shortly afterwards, the passenger liner was sunk by German U-boats with the loss of 1198 souls.

September 30th 1938. *Daily Express* seven column banner headline: **The Daily Express Declares That Britain Will Not Be Involved In A European War This Year Or Next Year Either.**

As the present day Tui Beer bill boards would say: yeah right!



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

Home Delivery Service

Nelson Public Libraries offers a library service to people who are housebound, permanently or temporarily, through a major illness, disability or advanced years, and who have no access to transport for getting to the Libraries. Items are selected by library staff and delivered to the housebound person's home by a volunteer, usually once a fortnight. Books, magazines, 'talking books' on cassette and CD, music CDs and DVDs are available.

If you are a housebound person, or you know of someone who is, please contact us to discuss this service.

For more information 'ph.546-8100, or visit the Home Delivery page on the Library website

<http://www.nelsoncitycouncil.co.nz/home-delivery-service/>

Tammet's Talents

Those who have read *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime* (Mark Haddon) or seen the film 'Rainman' must have been affected by the strange world of those on the autism spectrum.

Daniel Tammet, with high functioning Asperger's Syndrome, is exceptional on many counts, not least for his readiness to write so lucidly about the way his mind works. His early years were difficult; tantrums and isolation from everyone, in spite of wonderfully patient parents. He had a major epileptic seizure at four, which he believes may have been instrumental in his becoming autistic. Schooling was equally hard. He was lonely and unable to make contact. He has had painstakingly to learn to 'read' facial expression, the need for personal space, the use of metaphor, many things that come instinctively to most of us. One of the abilities that singles him out is his power to analyse, observe and try to explain his wonderful world of synaesthesia, savant skills, mathematical memory and linguistic abilities.

His first book, *Born on a Blue Day*, an autobiography up to his early twenties, gives a vivid account of his problems, then leads into his teens when he left home to teach English in Lithuania, which seems to have triggered his phenomenal linguistic interest; he was later sent to Iceland where he was challenged to learn its notoriously difficult language in a week, which he did.

His second book, published in 2009, *Embracing the Wide Sky*, is a series of essays on areas connected with his abilities. It is noticeably more fluidly written, and has some stimulating insights into the means by which he acquires his skills, particularly in language (as of this writing he knows twelve and counting!). His comments about intelligence testing are particularly insightful; though his IQ is 150, he has no time for MENSA, which he feels is too obsessed with puzzles. There is a fascinating chapter on creativity, and its association with personal and physiological traits.

Perhaps the best recommendation I can make is that in the thirty plus years I have been a member of the Teal Valley book discussion group, we have never spent the whole evening solely devoted to the text. No gossiping! (well, hardly any!).

Born on a Blue Day is that sort of book.

Christopher Vine.

Some More Loopy Conversions

- 10 rations = 1 decoration
- 100 rations = 1 C-ration
- 1000 grams of wet socks = 1 litre hoses
- 365.25 days = 1 unicycle
- Basic unit of laryngitis = 1 hoarsepower
- 2000 pounds of Chinese soup = Won ton
- 10 cards = 1 decacards

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 :

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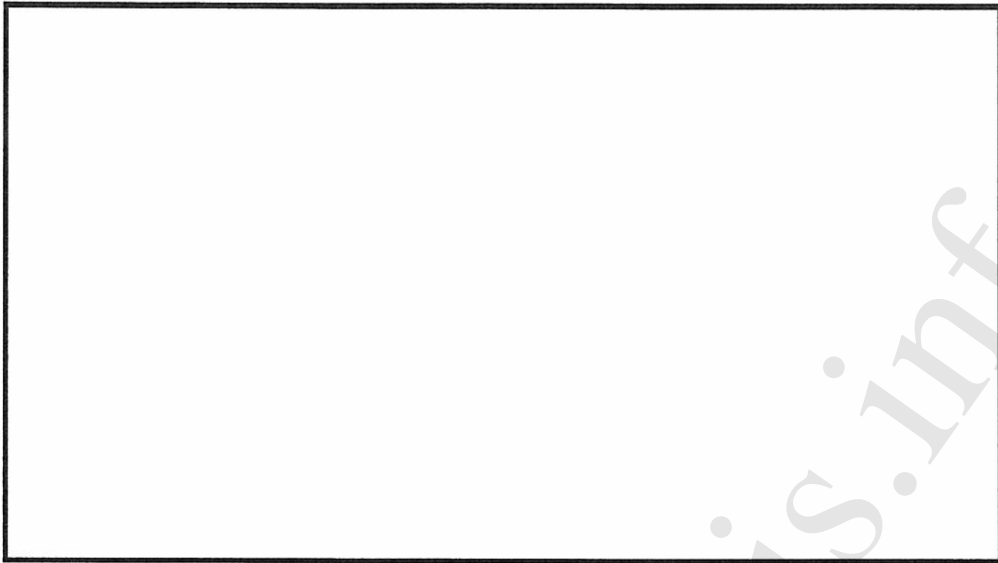
Phone

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