

NEWSLETTER

Friends of Christchurch City Libraries

January 2021

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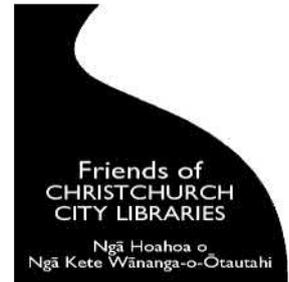
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From the Chair

Kia ora

How hard it is to believe that we're almost into the second month of 2021! I hope that all of you managed to have relaxing times over the Christmas / New Year period and that you were able to do the things you enjoy most.

Recently I've spent a lot of time on family history research, using the library version of [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) which, until 31 March 2021, is available remotely to members of Christchurch City Libraries - all you need to get started is your library card number and password (PIN). (The Library version of Ancestry is always free to Library card holders but normally it is only available in Libraries, so it is a treat and a privilege to be able to use it from home.)

This has been a fascinating experience and it has led me to reflect on how lucky we are to have Christchurch City Libraries in our lives. It also set me exploring CCL's website for other treasures.

With 6 February approaching I decided to investigate the eResource - the Treaty of Waitangi Collection. What a treasure trove - and all you need to explore it is your library card and password! Apart from comprehensive information resources Christchurch City Libraries has another treasure trove - its staff.

At the Christmas Party I sat spellbound as Carolyn Robertson described the things that Library staff had envisioned, developed and implemented during lockdown. Who would have thought that, from their own homes, librarians would 'beam' themselves into the homes of library members, reading stories to youth and seniors? Customer Service at its best! Of course this wasn't all they did - their entrepreneurial achievements were too many to detail here!!

This is why I'm proud to be a member of The Friends of Christchurch City Libraries. I like that as 'Friends' we are able to advocate for and offer support to Christchurch City Libraries.

Our biggest contribution is the labour and staffing we provide to the annual Booksale. Without our support these very successful sales couldn't go ahead and I know that Library staff, Library management and our Council are grateful for our efforts.

Inside this newsletter you will find Barbara's request for assistance with this year's sale. Even if you have only a few hours to spare we would appreciate your help with:-

- . Setting up and dismantling sale tables, before and/or after the sale.
- . Unpacking cartons of stock and repackaging unsold stock at the end of the sale.
- . Replenishing & tidying sale tables throughout the sale
- . Counting & pricing the items that customers wish to buy

This year's sale takes place 18, 19 & 20 March. I appreciate that everyone is busy but as I said before - even a few hours will be really helpful, if you can spare them

Thank you in anticipation

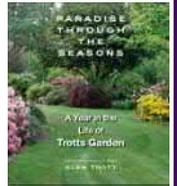
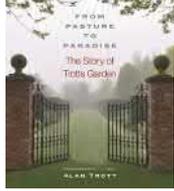
Chris Baxter

BOOK TALKS 2021

9 February 12.30pm

Fendalton Library

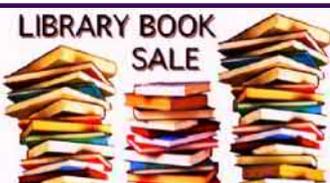
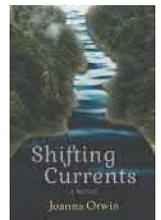
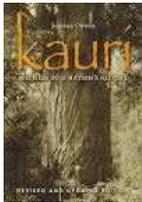
Alan Trott is best known as the founder of Trott's Gardens in Ashburton. He has written two books about the gardens, "From Pasture to Paradise: the story of Trotts Gardens", and "Paradise through the Seasons: a year in the life of Trotts Gardens". He has been gardening from an early age and is also a keen photographer, using his photos in his books. Alan has written for magazines and newspapers throughout New Zealand and speaks often about his garden on radio. He has also been a speaker at The Ellerslie International Flower Show. Alan and Catherine travelled to Europe looking at the world's great gardens, and now their garden in Ashburton is visited by people from around the world. It has featured on television, in magazines and books, both within New Zealand and internationally.



9 March 12.30pm

Fendalton Library

Joanna Orwin is an accomplished writer of fiction and non fiction and her novels often carry underlying themes of the natural environment, New Zealand history, flora and fauna and folklore and heritage. She has written two books set in kauri times, 'Kauri: Witness to a Nation's History' and "Shifting Currents" which was inspired by the intertwined lives of two real women, and is set against the fast-changing and challenging world of remote pioneer New Zealand. It is a gripping and touching story of struggle, love and unlikely friendship. In her talk she will focus on the different decisions/responsibilities involved when dealing with fiction vs non-fiction, using these books as examples.



Book Sale

Thursday 18th — Saturday 20th March
Pioneer Stadium, Lyttelton Street

The Libraries' Book Sale is the Friends' biggest fundraiser and, as usual, we need your help. Remember all the proceeds from the book sale go directly to Christchurch City Libraries.

We need:

- Fit and strong volunteers to help set up trestle tables and unpack the boxes of sale items from 10.00am to 1.00pm or 1.00pm to 4.30pm, Thursday.
- Volunteers for each of the six sessions of the sale to keep the tables tidy and stocked up, to count and calculate the cost of items before purchase or to staff the cash and EFT-POS points. The six sessions are:
- Friends' Preview, Thursday 4.30 pm to 7.15 pm
- Friday's Public Sale - 8:30 am to 12.30pm; 12.15 pm to 4.30 pm and 4.15 pm to 7.15pm.
- Saturday's Public Sale - 8.30am -12.30pm and 12.15pm to 4.15pm.
- When the sale closes at 4.00pm Saturday lots of fit and strong helpers are needed to pack any unsold items and dismantle the trestle tables from 4.00pm to approximately 5.30pm.

Please ring or email **Barbara**, this year's book sale co-ordinator, **NOW** – either **980-8596** or **friendsofchchlibrary@gmail.com** adding 'Book sale help' in the subject line.

What's on my bookshelf?



Working in the role of Content Manager, you could say I have all 20 libraries plus the Mobile and Digital Library on my bookshelves, and have the relevant policies in place to define what I buy, what I keep, and why I need to remove some titles after a certain period of time. So, taking a hard look at my bookshelves at home, I realised how static my collection has become over the years and that I really need to apply some of that professional knowledge I hold to remove some titles I have not touched for ages and add other newer titles currently languishing in a pile elsewhere in the house.

Regardless, many titles will remain. These include those which have special significance to the places I have lived or visited regularly. Highway One, which covers photographs of places from one end of SH1 to the other, including an image of the small town I grew up in. Then there is South Canterbury: a Record of Settlement; In a Southern Churchyard; Our St Clair: a Resident's History; TSS Earnslaw: Celebrating 100 years; On a Saturday Night: Community Halls of Small Town New Zealand; and City and peninsula: historic places of Christchurch and Banks Peninsula. Along side these is my family history - Bennett Families of Canterbury 1862-1979; and an ex-workplace history, Freedom to Read: a Centennial History of Dunedin Public Library.

Titles covering my interest in art will remain with Banksey: Wall and Piece; The Art of Peter Siddell; New Zealand Art: from Cook to Contemporary; Art of New Zealand Icons; and Llew Summers: Body and Soul, to name a few. Another couple of favourites are Mauri Ora: Wisdom from the Maōri World; and Mophead: How Your Difference Makes a Difference – both shelved next to Robert Consedine's Healing our History, Michael King's History of New Zealand, Witi Ihimaera's Maori Boy; and Mum's the Word: the Untold Story of Motherhood in New Zealand.

I mostly read fiction, but it seems my shelves do not reflect that. What I do have includes Daphne du Maurier's Rebecca; Mary Scott's Pippa in Paradise; Nevil Shute's A Town Like Alice; Alex Haley's Roots; Witi Ihimaera's Bulibasha, Paulina Simons' Tully; Donna Tartt's The Goldfinch; Patricia Grace's Chappy; Deborah Challinor's From the Ashes and The Jacaranda House; and a few titles by Dan Brown, Lee Child, Camilla Lackberg, and Stieg Larsson. The rest of the shelves are made up with various craft and gardening books I might consult one day when I have time. There is an atlas, plus travel guides or pictorial coffee table type books on places I have visited on overseas trips, and various titles I used for study purposes.

Lastly, on the bottom shelf, there is a number of favourite children's books sitting waiting to be read when the grandchildren visit either in person, or digitally - some of these stories being the same as those I read to my own children at that age.

Elaine Sides

Here's a challenge for you.

How well do you know Christchurch City libraries? See if you can answer the 10 questions correctly in the Otautahi Quiz.

Go to my.christchurchcitylibraries.com and scroll down to the Otautahi Quiz heading. Good luck!

To get you started, what was the previous name of Cathedral Square?

- Main Square
- Main Street
- Ridley Square
- Market Square





Head of Libraries and Information, Carolyn Robertson, reflects on the year that was

What an unusual and challenging year 2020 has been. This time last year we would not have predicted the two month lockdown we had earlier in the year, or the service changes needed before, during and after that.

Thanks to the wonderful efforts and ingenuity of staff, we managed to provide ongoing services for our customers to the best of our ability – with initiatives such as Librarian in your Lounge, At home school and Matariki resources, online Storytimes, and Campfire stories, while at the same time increasing our digital collections significantly to ensure we continued to provide choice.

Despite the challenges, we achieved the following highlights:

- The design for the New Hornby Centre was developed by Warren and Mahoney following engagement with the local community, and has now been signed off by Council. This facility will feature a library, customer services, swimming pools, and sports facilities on Kyle Park.
- Both Shirley and Diamond Harbour Libraries had makeovers, giving them a whole new look and feel
- Te Iwa o Matariki – the nine stars of Matariki was celebrated digitally this year with weekly Matariki posts and stories, songs, and craft activities on the Library's Facebook page
- Multicultural initiatives included Book a Librarian Chinese speaking service, celebrations of Dia de los Muertos (Spanish Day of the Dead), Polish Independence Day, Korea Day, Japan Day, and Chinese Language Week
- Christchurch City Libraries were part of a collaboration with The Royal Society (Te Apārangi) and The Antarctic Centre to work with Rowley School to encourage their participation in the 'Antarctica through fresh eyes' competition. The Rowley film crew accepted first prize in the Year5-8 team category.
- The Inaugural High School eSports Tournament was held in October, with 8 schools and 40 players participating
- Canterbury Stories, our digital heritage repository, reached the milestone of storing and providing access to over 10,000 digital heritage items
- Photo Hunt collected another 377 historic photographs from the community
- The Christchurch Family History Expo virtual event in August was very successful with just over 240 registrations for the day. Due to Covid restrictions, the two day expo in person was adapted to a one day online event with a mix of local and international speakers
- We hosted some wonderful exhibitions. This included 'From paper to pixel' celebrating over 20 years of digitising and providing 24/7 access to digital heritage collections at Christchurch City Libraries; 'Talanoa | Measina' – sharing our stories, with an amazing Pacific Island living room and photographs in the SouthBase Gallery in collaboration with the local Pasifika community; and 'Sifting through the ashes' exhibition at Lyttelton Library to recognise the Great Fire of Lyttelton which happened in 1870.
- Summertime Reading programme which had already received over 2000 entries prior to Christmas.

Finally I would like to acknowledge the ongoing support the Friends has provided throughout the year, and in particular mention the large number of volunteers who helped make the October Booksale as successful as it was. Your time and commitment is highly valued by us all.

All the best for 2021

Carolyn