

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT
Friends of Nelson Public Library AGM
17 August 2016

The year since the 2015 AGM has been a busy time for the Friends of Nelson Library committee. We have continued in our role of supporting the Library, by our booksales, Sunday afternoon talks, sorting books and funding various items. We also made a submission to the Nelson City Council Draft Annual Plan on the Proposed redevelopment or relocation of the Elma Turner Library.

Before I talk about some of those activities I would like to pay tribute to Fay Eades, a member, committee member and former Chairperson of the Friends of the Library, who died earlier this year. Fay became a committee member in September 2010 as a new member of the Friends, and then became Chairperson in 2012. She continued as Chairperson until the 2014 AGM, and as a Committee member until her death in February 2016. Several of us went to her funeral. Fay's qualities were deeply appreciated by all of us. She was committed, enthusiastic and knowledgeable. Her wise and helpful voice is greatly missed.

The Library has continued with deselection of books and other materials. The Friends monthly booksales are continuing, as is the very successful Sales trolley in the Library. These two sales outlets are an excellent way of re-homing deselected books and magazines. We have continued with the two very successful changes we made to our monthly Saturday booksales last year. Books are sold at \$1 each in the monthly Saturday sales, and any unsold books are put on the Sales Trolley for the rest of the weekend, still at \$1. The price is reduced further on Monday. As well as the usual Craft, Cooking and Gardening sales we have had some very successful themed sales during the past year, including Holiday Reading, History, Sport, Outdoors & Gardening, Biography, Travel and Art. In addition to the monthly sales we have given books to the Police for prisoners, (not crime books!), Menz Sheds, Nelson Hospital, Nelson Tasman Hospice, and other special interest groups. Large Print books are regularly sold to retirement villages and homes in the local area. The volume of deselected books continues to keep the Committee members busy as they sort books, as well as running the monthly Saturday sale.

Our Sunday afternoon library talks have once again featured a wide range of speakers. It is always interesting to hear from the range of talented people in the Nelson area. This year we began in February with a joint talk with the Nelson Institute. The speaker was Peter Lukas of Denmark who told us about his planned book of photographs of Nelson in which old images will be juxtaposed with new images of the same spot. He was fascinated by the negatives in the Museum collection. The March speaker was Nelson archaeologist, Amanda Young, who has worked on various sites in Nelson and Tasman. This was a fascinating talk as Amanda told us of her work investigating various sites in the Nelson area, including a now-demolished building on Bridge St which was much older than anyone realized, and former bridle trails in the forests. In April Devon McLean spoke to an interested group. His talk titled 'Rats and Rainbows' or 'How to think like a rat' shared fascinating insights and anecdotes about the technology that has helped his conservation work with Project Janzoon in Tasman Bay. The May speaker was Jan Treyes, a member of the Nelson School of Music Board of Trustees. Her topic was the "Nelson School of Music: Present and Future". Our June speaker was Sally Mason, who spoke about wabi-sabi, a very old Japanese philosophy centred on

simplicity, transience and imperfection. She used her own photographs to illustrate these concepts. In July Jessie Bray Sharpin entertained us with her talk "The Mad, the Bad and the Bawdy" tales of the underside of early Nelson.

The Friends continue to fund projects and make donations to the Library. The Committee members have realised that we like funding specific projects or items within the Library rather than giving an annual lump sum. During the past twelve months we have paid for a portable projection screen for Stoke Library, a large colourful Dewey Decimal themed mat for the Elma Turner Children's Area, new toys for Elma Turner, Stoke and Nellie Nightingale Libraries, six CD players for the Home Delivery customers, and twelve ukuleles which are used in all three libraries. I had the pleasure of listening to the ukulele group and learning that several are so enthusiastic they have now bought their own ukuleles. We are also planning other purchases including a new chair for Nellie Nightingale Library. In October 2015 we enabled Catherine Robertson to fly to Nelson for the inaugural Nelson Public Libraries Award for New Zealand Fiction 2015. It was a pleasure to show Catherine some of Nelson and for the committee members to share dinner with her. This year we paid the return air fare for young Auckland writer Ben Sanders so that he could be a part of the July Crime Week panel. Ben had not been to Nelson before and enjoyed his welcome so much that he plans to come here again. We have also helped fund the Community Law initiative

In December 2015 we were sorry to farewell Andrea King, who had been our Library Liaison. In early 2016 I attended the farewell for Library Manager, Ian Littleworth. Both Andrea and Ian had been a pleasure to work with. It is a pleasure to be involved with the Library and the staff, and to feel that we are filling an important role. We would like new committee members to join us in this role and to share not just the work but the pleasures of being involved with the Library.

Gillian Ruthven-Eagar