

# NEWSLETTER

Friends of Christchurch City Libraries

August 2018

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Friends of  
CHRISTCHURCH  
CITY LIBRARIES

Ngā Hoahoa o  
Ngā Kete Wānanga-o-Ōtautahi

## Chairperson's Report from AGM May 2018

I'd like to start this report by acknowledging the work of the Friends Committee. Their support throughout the year has been greatly appreciated. I'd particularly like to thank Elaine Sides, our Library Liaison person and Norma Porter, the Treasurer and Membership Secretary, for their expertise. Thanks also to Diane Bargas, the book talk co-ordinator who organised nine really interesting speakers and to Janice Lavelle, our newsletter compiler. I'd also like to thank committee members Chris Baxter, Alan Crisp, Shirley Edwards, Dorothea Gosser, Wilma Tully and Elizabeth Williams for their valuable and consistent contribution. Sadly, vision problems caused the resignation of Margaret Harrison, our Minutes Secretary during the year. Margaret had been Minutes Secretary for a remarkable ten years.

This year's book talks covered a wide range of interesting places and subjects – from Joanna Orwin talking about Riccarton House and the Deans family, to Erin Aldridge's book 'The Ivan' set in post-World War II's Berlin and Frankie McMillan's portrayal of flash fiction (short stories of less than 300 words) in her book 'My Mother and the Hungarians and other small fictions'. Then we had rafting guide and chef Genevieve King vividly describe the people, life style and produce of the Clarence Valley in her book 'Valley gatherings' which now also provides a photographic record of the valley pre-quake. Photos of early Papanui from Murray Williams' book 'From timber town to city suburbs' revived memories for many and Peter Clements was an interesting Christmas party speaker telling of his aviation background and the trials of publishing his five novels. In March Tracy Chollet spoke of 'Alignment' a novel twelve years in the writing and influenced by her own experiences living in France.

## Chairperson's Report continued...

Then we had Suz Verrell recount some of her East Africa adventures and speak lovingly of gardens she landscaped in Ethiopia. Earlier this month Bruce Shalders provided a fascinating insight to the history of the 'Railway Houses of New Zealand'

In the past year the Friends have continued to assist Christchurch City Libraries. We helped at the opening of Matuku Takotako: Sumner Centre. Last year the committee agreed to fund to a limit of \$1000 an item which might not be covered by CCC funding when community libraries re-opened after earthquake repairs or opened in new premises.

This year we have funded an art work by local artist Hannah Benhre for Lyttelton Library when it re-opened and are currently waiting for a formal request from Bishopdale Library. We have also been asked to sponsor a wireless tour guide system for the new Turanga/Central Library when it opens in spring. We're planning a tour of Turanga for our Christmas Party this year.

The biggest event of the Friends' year is always the three days assistance we give the Libraries at their annual book sale in March. As you'll have read in our April newsletter the 2018 book sale was very successful despite the dismal weather and the need to navigate road works around Pioneer Stadium. Numbers were down on last year but over 5600 eager bargain hunters passed through the doors on the two public sale days. Over the three days 38 Friends volunteers helped set up 200 trestle tables, unpack 1524 boxes of books and magazines, process sales and, at the sale's conclusion, repack unsold items. With all the profits from the Book Sale being returned to the Libraries, it's a very worthwhile project. Our special thanks, as always, to Jane Hackett, the Libraries' Book Sale Manager and Sharon Christofides for their superb organisational skills and sheer hard work.

Barbara Clarke

## Christmas Party 2018

This year we will meet at Turanga and this will include a tour of the new library. We hope to see you there on

**Saturday 1st December at 2pm**



## In memory of Ruby Fowler, 1919 -2018

Ruby Fowler, daughter, sister, wife, teacher, City Councillor and passionate advocate for Christchurch City Libraries was a remarkable woman who helped form the Friends of Christchurch City Libraries. When the three local councils were about to form the enlarged Christchurch City Council in 1988, there was talk of the libraries becoming user-pays. This concept alarmed many customers and Ruby organised a meeting with the City Librarian to see if there was anything that could be done. A public meeting was called and the first Friends of Christchurch City Libraries committee formed. The minutes of that meeting recorded the aims of the group were to

Advocate for the Libraries

Provide a programme of book talks

Provide previews of the book sales

Provide limited equipment not provided by the CCC

In 1989 the new Council drew up a budget based on charging customers for every book borrowed. The Friends organised a petition objecting to these fees which was signed by 7,500 people. The Council withdrew the proposed fees but in the 1990 budget removed the Libraries book vote. The Friends organised another petition which resulted in the restoration of a reduced book vote.

Ruby retained her commitment and interest in the Friends of Christchurch City Libraries for the next 30 years helping to organise booktalks, providing help with the Libraries Booksale, organising Christmas parties and other social activities and supporting Library programmes like Books for Babies. In later years Ruby was given Life Membership of the Friends of Christchurch City Libraries and until just a year ago was a regular attendee at many social functions.

Ruby had a kind and caring nature. She was a woman with a strong social interest and the Friends of Christchurch City Libraries owe her a huge debt of gratitude for her many years of dedicated advocacy for library users throughout the city.



## Turanga Update



Turanga is due to open on Friday 12th October.

It is located at 60 Cathedral Square (on the corner of Gloucester and Colombo Streets). The library will be open from 9am to 8pm Monday to Friday. Weekend hours are 10am to 5pm.

The \$92.7 million five-storey facility is set to become the most modern public library in the southern hemisphere and the largest in the South Island.



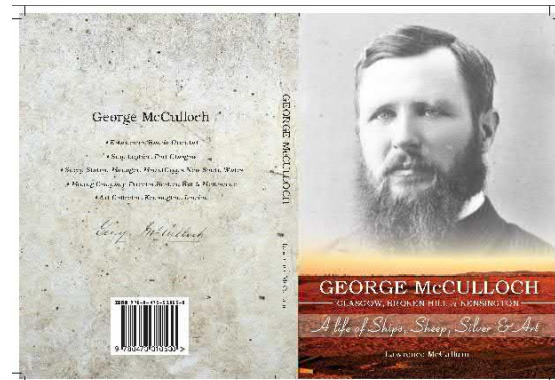
- Central Library Manchester closed for good 5pm Saturday 18 August.
- Central Library Peterborough closed for good at 5pm Sunday 26 August.

# BOOK TALKS

**Laurie McCallum**

**11 September 12:30 pm**

**at Fendalton Library**



Laurie McCallum is a retired town planner/resource manager with masterates in geography and resource management. He has written the biography of George McCulloch (1848-1907) a founding director of BHP and art collector in Kensington London. The book is now in the national libraries of Scotland, England, Australia and USA. He is completing a second book on George and his art collection. He will talk about researching, writing and speaking engagements in relation to his work on George McCulloch.

BHP is Broken Hill Proprietary Company Ltd, one of the world's largest resource companies.

**Llyween Couper**

**9 October 12:30pm**

**at Fendalton Library**



October's speaker is Llyween Couper ( founder of The Children's Bookshop) who has written a book called "Learning and Connecting in the School Playground: Using the Playground as a Curriculum Resource'

Co-written with Dr Dean Sutherland, this book gives an inclusive approach to education is not confined to the classroom. The school playground is where the real test for diversity and difference occurs, and a focus on play during break times is needed for the health, well-being and learning of all students. .

Did you know 40,000 schools in US have no break-times ? Finland is wonderful as play is a high priority, breaks every 45 minutes! )”