



FRIENDS

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Newsletter No 16
June 2011



'Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth, for the touch of a friendly hand and for a talk beside the fire: it is the time for home - Edith Sitwell (1887-1964). Well, Dame Edith Sitwell did have the right idea, but don't let's forget that there's another place in town where you can enjoy warmth, friendliness—and the odd cup of soup too—in the cold winter months. The Friends of the Taupo Library have plans for some stimulating talks, sumptuous soup and splendid ideas for those cold months ahead, so we'd like you to indulge yourselves and come along and join us in the library as we make the most of the winter weather.

What's on offer for the rest of 2011?

Peter Smith of Starlight Cinema Centre in Taupo has long been a supporter of our town. He's the man behind our great fireworks displays. He's the man who supports so many local charities—and he's the man who will be with us on Thursday the 23rd of June, to tell us all about his experiences in the film business. Who better than Peter to give us some ideas for good film viewing? He'll also tell us a bit about the development of the movie theatre scene in Taupo. Not only will we have Peter with us, but we'll also have experts giving us ideas for school holiday DVD viewing (note to parents and grand-parents), the latest DVDs at the library and of course, reviews from our committee and other Friends. Come along for some soup and a roll at 11.30 and then at 12 noon sharp it'll be time for 'an hour at the movies.' Why not bring a friend with you for the fun?



So what's an alpaca got to do with crafts? If you join us for our July Crafts talk you'll be able to find out. Barbara and Sylvia have got together an interesting bunch of speakers who want to share their expertise with us. You certainly don't need to be a handicrafts whiz to enjoy seeing and hearing about designing, inventing and creating things—but we do know that you'll be fascinated by what our guests have to say. You may be surprised at the wonderfully creative people we have found right here in our town. Soup and sandwiches will start the show and then it'll be over to the experts. That's Thursday the 14th of July from 11.30—2pm. This is a free event.

Please note the changed dates of some of our meetings.

The Great Debate. Come August it'll be that time of the year again. Tauhara College are probably already in training for the event they've won for five years now. Can anyone beat them? Anna's on the hunt for a team that will give them the challenge they need—and we're on the lookout for a moot that will give plenty of opportunity for us to hear debating at its best. This year's Great Debate will be held in the Great Lake Centre, so make an entry in your diary now—Thursday the 18th of August @ 7pm at the GLC—for a really great debate.



Food & Wine. OK—we whetted your appetites for this event and now we're changing the date for it. That's the bad news. The good news is that we've got some wonderful guest speakers who'll be with us on Thursday the 20th of October (yes, that's October) to inform and entertain us on matters gastronomical and viticultural—with anecdotes, ideas and expertise. It should be a fascinating evening. We'll let you know more about it all nearer the time.

If more of us valued food and cheer and song above hoarded gold, it would be a merrier world. J.R.R. Tolkien (1892-1973)



Christmas Carols. We don't have a date in December for these yet—but it's never too early to start practising.....

Could you help us?

- Do you have any suggestions for functions for the Friends?
- Read any good books lately? Would you like to write a book review or two? They need only be a paragraph long.....

If you've answered 'yes' to either of the above, we'd love to hear from you. Contact Hélène Everest (377 2958).

Sincere thanks to those of you who have volunteered to make soup or a 'plate' on the odd occasion. We'll be in touch....

The origin of the Latin word for book, liber, comes from the Romans who used the thin layer found between the bark and the wood (the liber) before the times of parchment. The English word comes from the Danish word for book, bog, meaning birch tree, as the early people of Denmark wrote on birch bark.

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CHILDREN'S BOOKS



A favourite of Alison's grand-son Robbie's at the moment is one of the Schnitzel von Krumm series - *Basketwork* - by Lynley Dodd of course. SvK loves his smelly old basket and when the family buy him a new one he hates it and goes off to try other beds elsewhere. The recurring question is - is it cosy and comforting? "NO" yells Robbie - a fun book for the age when "no" is the word of the moment.

The Mysterious Benedict Society by Trenton Lee Stewart. Four children, each incredibly gifted, brought together for some secret reason to create The Mysterious Benedict Society. Reynie, loyal and logical. Sticky, an extremely intelligent boy who never forgets anything he reads, Kate, with her ever-present bucket full of useful things and acrobatic skills and Constance, a very short, stubborn girl with a talent for making up clever poems on the spot. Together they must embark on an adventurous undercover mission for Mr Benedict, the brains of the whole operation, to foil a megalomaniac's evil plans and save the world from a fate worse than Constance in a bad mood. The schemes are clever and make you wish you'd made them up. This is a really enjoyable and exciting book for anybody 10 - 13 and I can't wait to read the next two books in the series. Published 2007 by Little, Brown and Company. It also has a cool website! (*Mina Bixley*)



The Travelling Restaurant by New Zealand author Barbara Else. In the land of Fontania 'magic' has been outlawed. The land is ruled by Lady Gall, who keeps herself beautiful by injecting a special fluid called Beauteen into her wrinkles. Jasper's father, Dr Ludlow, is the inventor of Beauteen and works for Lady Gall, but when Jasper discovers that his sister, Sibilla was poisoned by Lady Gall, the family must escape. When 12 year old Jasper Ludlow falls asleep on the docks, his family flee the city without him. In search of them, he finds refuge on The Travelling Restaurant, a colourful sailing ship captained by old Dr Rocket and crewed by feisty Polly. On board, Jasper faces many challenges - raging rapids, troublesome monkeys and hungry pirates - and it soon becomes clear that his sister could be the key to saving Fontania. A magical story set in a kingdom full of colourful characters with sumptuous descriptions of food on The Travelling Restaurant to make your mouth water and your stomach grumble. Barbara Else has created a world you will never want to leave. Age 9+. (*Tracey*)

Looking back—February—May.

Well, we started with a Quiz in February—and what fun it all was. Teams and audience started arriving in plenty of time and while some enjoyed a glass of wine, others, intent on winning the competition, stuck with the fruit juice. Anna outlined the rules, Barbara was ready with the white-board and chalk, Roger had the questions—and the quiz was on! As the competition progressed the lead changed hands several times, tension was high at half time as glasses were re-charged and scores compared, but in the end the A Team held their nerve and came up trumps.

Winners of another kind were those of us lucky enough to be at our Sports evening in April. What a line-up we had, with former sports greats John Reid and Trevor Colyer, and Taupo's own Steelo (David Steele) who talked about their careers and filled us in with what really goes on in the sporting world. Under Tracey's relaxed command the evening was full of fun and laughter and the anecdotes arrived thick and fast. Aren't we lucky to have sporting people of such calibre in our town, who are willing to share their experiences with us? Thanks guys—you did us proud!



L-R John Reid, Tracey Lidington, Trevor Colyer and David Steele

At the Annual General Meeting of the Friends, held on Thursday the 19th of May, president Deb Burton outlined the growth of the group in her report and thanked the committee for their work. Treasurer Joan Shepherd then spoke of the healthy state of finances of the Friends and mentioned that membership was increasing at an excellent rate. Hélène Everest was elected the new president, with Joan Shepherd (treasurer),

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Deb Burton, Anna Bixley, Sylvia Kristenssen, Tony Tompkins, Barbara Grainger, Jo Bixley, Lorraine Chomondeley-Smith, Linda Boyd and Debi Woodward on the committee. Once the business side of the evening was over, New Zealand's former High Commissioner to the Solomons, Rhys Richards, gave a fascinating talk about the history of the islands and his time there. Our thanks go to Barbara Lovie and Graham Bellamy for organising such an interesting and informative speaker.

Book Reviews.....

As Denis Norden's aunt once said of him..... *'He's a vivacious reader'.....*

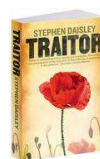
Well, we like to think of ourselves as pretty vivacious readers too, so we'd like to share a few of the books we've enjoyed recently with you...



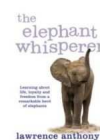
House Rules, by *Jodi Picoult* Another brilliantly researched book from the mind and pen of Jodi Picoult, this time on Asperger's Syndrome and its symptoms which make sufferers so strangely different from most other people. The 635 page story is told from the point of view of a 17 year old boy with Asperger's, a younger brother, a solo mother, a lawyer and a policeman and takes you through the ache of difference. Highly recommended. (*Deb*)

How to land an A330 Airbus and other vital skills for the modern man by *James May*. This book answers questions we blokes face on a daily basis: "How to invade the Isle of Wight" or "How to diffuse a German WWII bomb" or "How to deliver twins" and other important stuff. All his answers are apparently technically correct and provide informative and humorous reading. A must read. You never know when you might

need it! (*Roger*)



Traitor by *Stephen Daisley*. This most moving story is Stephen Daisley's debut novel. It is a story of love and betrayal. David, a young New Zealand soldier fighting in Gallipoli, helps a Turkish doctor fighting to save a boy's life. They are caught in a shell blast and both end up in the same military hospital. The bond that forms between these two men is so strong that David betrays his country in trying to save his friend. The story moves between the battlefields of the Great War and a back country farm in New Zealand during the 1960s. This is a powerful book that highlights the inhumanity of war. (*Anna*)

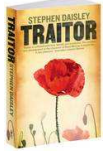


The Elephant Whisperer. *Lawrence Anthony* is an ardent conservationist and owner of his own game reserve, Thula Thula, in the heart of Zululand, where elephants once roamed freely. Out of the blue he received a phone call asking him to take on a herd of "rogue" wild elephants. Dangerous and unpredictable, they would be killed if he wouldn't take them in. His common sense told him to refuse but somethingsomething ...persuaded him otherwise! Anthony risked his life to create a bond with these troubled elephants: Nana the wise matriarch who guided the herd, her warrior sister Frankie, always ready to see off any threat and their children, fighting so hard to survive. Overcoming incredible challenges hurdling innumerable ups and downs, dangers and sorrows, Anthony and his devoted staff learnt about Life, Loyalty and Freedom from a remarkable herd of elephants. (*Sally*)

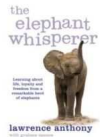
Newton and the Counterfeiter by *Thomas Levenson* starts by outlining just how much our civilisation owes to Isaac Newton through his work on gravity, optics, mechanics, astronomy, mathematics and philosophy. Levenson details these extraordinary feats in layman's language, with enough background history to make a riveting read. Newton left the relative quiet of Cambridge University after 25 years to become Warden of the Royal Mint in London, and now the book becomes a genuine thriller as we learn how he captured the counterfeiters, and in particular the infamous William Chaloner. A meticulously researched 'must read.' (*Roger*)

Unbroken by *Laura Hillenbrand* is the amazing story of WW11 veteran Louie Zamperini. Zamperini was an Olympian, running the 5,000 metres at the 1936 Berlin Olympics. He was on the brink of breaking the 4 minute

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mile when war intervened. Louie's war memoirs are fantastic. In May 1943 the B-24 bomber carrying him across the Pacific went down. The story that follows is one of endurance beyond belief. He and two other crew-mates were adrift on the ocean for nearly seven weeks. They travelled 2000 miles only to be picked up by the Japanese. Zamperini spent the rest of the war as a POW, first in the Pacific and then on Mainland Japan. This is a fantastic story of survival. Every day hundreds of WWII vets are dying and their stories are lost. How fortunate that the author, Laura Hillenbrand, managed to capture Louie's story before it was too late.

(Anna)

Goodbye Sarajevo is co-written sisters *Atka Reid & Hana Schofield*, who lived through the terrifying years of the Bosnian war as it escalated from months into years. In May 1992, Atka (21) manages to get two seats on one of the last UN evacuation buses fleeing the besieged city of Sarajevo, for two of her younger sisters, Hana and Nadia.

Thinking that they will be apart for no longer than a few weeks, Atka & Hana promise each other to "be brave". Atka remains behind to take care of the five younger siblings. As the war escalates Hana & Nadia are forced to cope as refugees in Croatia far from home and family. Meanwhile Atka is battling for survival not only for herself but for her precious family, as Sarajevo is surrounded by the Serb forces, snipers and mortar attacks. Death of family and friends and desperate food shortages become part of their daily existence. Atka, desperately working to the family together and safe, finds work with a photojournalist who just happens to be a New Zealander, and life slowly but surely takes an unexpected turn. The many incredible and often dangerous events that follow change Atka's life and also the lives of her family. Read on.....(Sally)

Achieving the impossible by *Lewis Gordon Pugh*. If you think that swimming in the AC Baths on a cold morning is tough—read this book! Lewis Gordon Pugh swam across the North Pole in a temperature of 1.7°C. This maritime lawyer, explorer, endurance swimmer, polar protector and environmentalist has lived his life pursuing goals which most of us would never even dream of—let alone accomplish. It's a fascinating book about a man driven by passion, curiosity and a desire for a better world. (Hélène)

[Friends of the Library Contacts:](#)

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