

Greetings

To all Friends of the Libraries around the Hurunui District. In this, our second newsletter, you will find an update of where we are with the new District Library, a review of our activities since September last year, and information on coming events.

New District Library

The Friends' committee members were delighted with the Council's decision to commit \$1 m to the building of the new district library. Despite the best efforts of the Friends, the generosity of donors and the extension of the deadline, we were unable to raise the \$400,000 needed to meet the previous fundraising target because of the failure to attract significant corporate sponsorship.

Information on the two options for the building has been before the public for some weeks now and submissions are invited. The Friends have based their fundraising efforts on the concept plan for Option 1, and as supporters of the library, we would like to see the best possible building. Donations which have been made to the building fund will only go towards the building if Option 1 is chosen. If the public decides on Option 2, donors will be contacted and asked whether they approve of their money being spent on fixtures and fittings. Friends' members have been out on the streets in Amberley giving out information sheets and urging people to make their opinions count by writing submissions. Submission forms are available at all local libraries and the Council, and must be in by Friday May 21.

AGM

This year's AGM will be held at the Council Chambers, Amberley at 7.30pm on Wednesday June 16, 2004. John Reynolds will speak on valuing and selling old books, and members are invited to bring along any items of interest, which he will use to illustrate his talk. All Friends, volunteers and supporters of the library are warmly invited to this meeting.

Donations and Membership

Membership of the society is free to current library volunteers and honorary members. Members outside these categories are asked to give an annual donation. The membership period begins at July 1 each year and membership may be renewed at any of the libraries. Membership does not commit you to involvement in the society's activities but if you could spare some time to help us, please indicate on the renewal form at the end of this newsletter. Our membership stands at about 100, but many Friends have not renewed their membership for the current year.

Fundraising Review

Garden Tour

Our tour of Amberley and Leithfield gardens, organised by Leonie Verity and Chris Foster and held in October, was an unqualified success and raised \$4000. Despite a dreadful weather forecast in the preceding week, and patchy weather on the day, garden lovers came from everywhere. A highlight was seeing the pleasure visitors took in the gardens, which was matched by the enthusiasm of the owners. A huge thank you to all who

took part in any way and made the day such a success.

Milo's Wake

Those who attended this show at the Court Theatre in November were treated to a wonderful night's entertainment.

CPIT Computing

The building fund received an unexpected boost in December when Naomi was contacted by the IT department of Christchurch Polytech asking whether the library wished to be a beneficiary of their free computing course. For each person who signed up for the course, CPIT offered to donate \$20 to the building fund. This proved popular and raised about \$1200.

Highlighting Hurunui Arts

Our first project for 2004 was an exhibition of work by local artists and craftspeople, which ran during February at the Amuri Gallery in Hanmer Springs. The committee would like to thank all those members who travelled to Hanmer to look after the exhibition – we were delighted to be able to fill the roster and open every day of the month. Although the money raised from commissions was less than we hoped, we felt that the exhibition was valuable in publicizing the new library, and showing the wide range of talents among our local artists

Chic and Sweet

(aka Sheik and Sweet!!)
Despite what you might have thought from reading the report in one of the local papers, there wasn't a belly dancer in sight when Sally Mac presented her autumn collection to an appreciative audience in the Waipara Hall at the beginning of April. Local ladies showed their modelling skills, and the Friends provided a sweet treat for supper.

Clothing Sales

Our range of monogrammed garments in navy and gold is still available.

They wear well, look smart, and many volunteers find them good to wear while on library duty. Garments can be ordered from all local libraries and can be viewed at the Amberley library.

Book Sale

Our next book sale will be on Friday May 28, in the Amberley RSA, starting at 9.30am. Donations of books are welcomed and can be left at Amberley Library. Be early for the best bargains!!

Book Marks

These have proved surprisingly profitable, raising over \$100.

Friends Workshop

Recently a group of Friends and library staff attended a workshop run by Daniel Ferguson, Executive Director of Friends of the Libraries Australia. It was interesting to hear what other groups do and to chat with Friends and librarians from all over the northern South Island.

Where to Now??

Our group was formed with the intention of supporting all the libraries in the Hurunui district in any way they felt was needed, but the urgent need to raise funds for the new library took over as the main focus. Now that a new library is assured, the Friends can return to their original objective of general support for all local libraries. We welcome your ideas on our direction for the future.

Membership Renewal, July 2004-5

Please return to your local library.

Name: _____

Membership Type (please indicate)

Current library volunteer

Subscribing member

May we call on you to help with Friends' activities? YES/NO

Do you require a receipt? YES/NO

Contact details (if changed)

