

# uncover

December 2016–February 2017 / issue 02



# hauraina

[christchurchcitylibraries.com](http://christchurchcitylibraries.com)

Christchurch  
City Council 

Christchurch City  
**Libraries**  
Ngā Kete Wānanga-o-Ōtautahi

# CHRISTCHURCH CITY LIBRARIES' HOLIDAY HOURS

Happy holidays from all of us at Christchurch City Libraries!

Please take note of our opening hours across the festive season.#

## FRIDAY 23 DECEMBER

All libraries\* close at 6pm except Akaroa, Little River, Diamond Harbour and Te Hāpua: Halswell Centre, which close at their usual times.

## SATURDAY 24 DECEMBER

Normal weekend opening hours for all libraries. Little River closed.

## MONDAY 26 DECEMBER

All libraries closed.

## TUESDAY 27 DECEMBER

Te Hāpua: Halswell Centre and FingerTip reference library open 9am–4pm. South, Shirley and Fendalton open 10am–4pm. All other libraries closed.

## SUNDAY 25 DECEMBER

All libraries closed.

## THURSDAY 29 DECEMBER

All libraries\* close at 6pm except Akaroa, Diamond Harbour and Te Hāpua: Halswell Centre which close at their usual times. Little River closed.

## FRIDAY 30 DECEMBER

All libraries\* close at 6pm except Akaroa, Diamond Harbour and Te Hāpua: Halswell Centre which close at their usual times. Little River closed.

## WEDNESDAY 28 DECEMBER

All libraries\* close at 6pm except Akaroa, Diamond Harbour and Te Hāpua: Halswell Centre which close at their usual times. Little River closed.

## SATURDAY 31 DECEMBER

Normal weekend opening hours for all libraries. Little River closed.

## SUNDAY 1 JANUARY

All libraries closed.

## MONDAY 2 JANUARY

All libraries closed.

## TUESDAY 3 JANUARY

Te Hāpua: Halswell Centre and FingerTip reference library open 9am–4pm. South, Shirley and Fendalton open 10am–4pm. All other libraries closed.

## WEDNESDAY 4 JANUARY

Normal opening hours resume for all libraries.

\* This includes FingerTip reference library, which will be open 9am-6pm.

# The Mobile Library will be closed between 25 December – 4 January.



Jonathan is showing a crab  
his family caught earlier.  
CCL-EE2016-06-JG-6176

# Kia Ora

Throughout the past few years, I've been delighted to witness many new partnerships developing between our libraries and local communities. In addition to strengthening relationships, these partnerships have become effective channels to meet community needs and sustain active and engaging environments for our customers.

In this issue of *uncover - huraina*, we share a wonderful example of such a partnership, the Edge of the East photographic documentary project. A collaboration between Christchurch City Libraries and the University of Canterbury's School of Fine Arts, this project has captured stunning, and often thought-provoking, images of our city's seaside communities. I encourage you to read more on pages 2–5.

In this issue, we also celebrate summer and the many ways that your local library can keep the entire whānau entertained during the holiday season!

I encourage you to take your time exploring this magazine and would warmly welcome any feedback or suggestions via [uncover@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:uncover@ccc.govt.nz)

Ngā mihi,  
Carolyn Robertson

Head of Libraries and Information Unit  
Christchurch City Council

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Discovery, Enriching Communities"  
PO Box 73045, Christchurch 8154  
Aotearoa, New Zealand

Cover photograph: From the documentary photography project *Edge of the East* by Janneth Gil.

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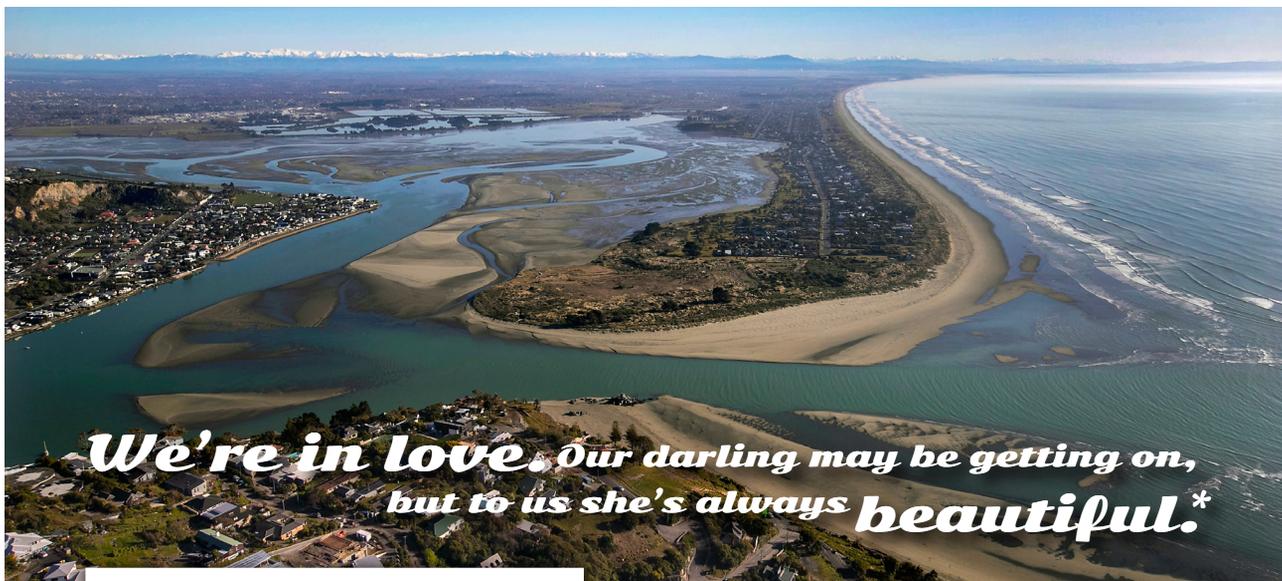
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*We're in love, our darling may be getting on,  
but to us she's always beautiful.\**

# EDGE of the EAST

THE CHRISTCHURCH DOCUMENTARY PROJECT

**Bruce Ansley's memoir-cum-love-letter** to New Brighton defines a sentiment shared by many in the east. You only need to cross the dunes and set foot on the broad stretch of beach that is as rich in character as the community it sustains, to know this place is a taonga.

Collectively the communities from Waimairi to Southshore define the eastern edge of a city that since the 1980s has flowed steadily west, against the run of the Avon and away from the expanse of the South Pacific Ocean. Change has been present long before the Canterbury Earthquakes turned the city on its head, and will continue with the New Brighton Centre Master Plan, the New Brighton Project and other local enterprises aiming to breathe new life into the beach suburbs.

Waimairi Beach, North Beach, New Brighton, South Brighton and Southshore – it's these iconic Christchurch seaside communities and the people who proudly call them home that have been the focus of three documentary photography students from the University of Canterbury, School of Fine Arts: **Janneth Gil, Rachel Pugh and Tegan Hollis-Ristow**. The resultant work, *Edge of the East*, is a portrait of a beloved piece of Christchurch and the latest addition to The Christchurch Documentary Project, a contemporary photographic archive produced in collaboration with Christchurch City Libraries and the University of Canterbury.

Beginning with The Halswell Project in 2015, The Christchurch Documentary Project set out to create a documentary photographic record of communities across our city. Over the course of five years talented photography students are hitting the streets to document the people and physical environment of Christchurch communities.

Look out for  
the exhibition in  
early 2017 at the  
newly reopened  
New Brighton  
Library.

\* Ansley, Bruce. (2009).  
*Gods and little fishes: a boy and a beach*.  
Dunedin, N.Z: Longacre Press.

At the completion of Edge of the East I caught up with **Janneth, Rachel and Tegan**, to ask them about their experience working on this project.

**Sam Ludemann**  
*Associate Team Leader*



## JANNETH GIL

I liked the process of working with and learning from the community and then at the same time doing something of value for them. This is going to be a record that in a few years' time will give a little taste of the past. For today though, through this work others can learn something about New Brighton and what it has to offer. The place has an active sense of community and a strong local commitment to celebrating and improving the area. People there still have such a strong sense of belonging.



Clint and Sabina with their children Mia and Jett

CCL-EE2016-11-JG-5944



Cafe Colombia stall owners Sol and Eduardo demonstrate salsa dancing at the Saturday Seaside Market

CCL-EE2016-03-JG-6353



Look out for the exhibition in autumn 2017 at the newly reopened New Brighton Library.

# TEGAN HOLLIS-RISTOW

For me, I have been discovering New Brighton through this project. The defining moment was the whale stranding at Waimairi Beach. Standing in the middle of two hundred people who had all brought their own buckets and towels down to the beach to save this whale was pretty special. I felt like I was part of something, part of a community rather than just an outsider trying to capture a moment.



False killer whale stranding, Waimairi Beach

CCL-EE2016-THR-9109



Pulmonary Rehabilitation, North New Brighton Community Centre

## RACHEL PUGH

They were so pleased we were there and someone was paying attention. “There’s a beating heart of Christchurch out here,” a man told me when I took his picture, “and nobody is listening to it.” That was the impression I got from people on the street and that’s what really impressed me about New Brighton and the east - the resilience and creativity of the residents there. We may only be three student photographers working over a year, but if at the end of this we’ve managed to capture a snapshot of life in the east, then we know we’ve succeeded. Building off last year’s Halswell Project is equally exciting, because if we can turn this into something bigger, well, that’s a success in my book.



Gary Gilmore, Happy Feet, New Brighton Mall

CCL-EE2016-RP-IMG-0082

You can check out the full collection of images at [christchurchcitylibraries.com](http://christchurchcitylibraries.com)

# What's on...

Here's a taste of some of the activities on offer at Christchurch City Libraries.

## Mahjong for Beginners

Learn to play the Chinese strategy game, Mahjong. An experienced staff member will be available to help.

Fendalton Library

Fridays 2–4pm



## Library Fun at the Margaret Mahy Playground

Visit the Mobile Library for all library services and special storytimes sessions.

Margaret Mahy Family Playground

Thursdays between 1 December–26 January (except 29 December), 9–11.45am

## Christmas Stories & Colouring-In

Stories and songs with a Christmas theme for children two years and older.

Spreydon Library

16 December, from 10.30am

## Bishopdale Book Club

The Bishopdale Library is running a book club at Sundbye House on the first Monday of each month. Come and share what you've been reading. Everyone welcome.

Sundbye House, 100 Farrington Avenue

First Monday of each month, 9–10am

## New Brighton Christmas Parade

New Brighton Library staff will be joining the procession to welcome Santa to the seaside!

New Brighton Library

10 December, 10.30am start



## Makerspace @ Redwood Library

Come along and take part in some fun technology or craft based activities.

Redwood Library

Thursdays  
3.30–4.30pm



## Summertime Reading Club

Pick up your Summertime Reading passport from any library, complete the exciting activities and be in to WIN! Prizes

include an iPad mini 2, an Orana Park family pass, family pool passes, movie passes and more!! Best suited for ages 5–12.

16 December–31 January

Visit [christchurchcitylibraries.com](http://christchurchcitylibraries.com) for terms and conditions.

## Christmas Extravaganza & Festive Crafts at Central Library Peterborough

We've gone Christmas crazy! Visit our Christmas displays and make some of your own Christmas crafts.

Central Library Peterborough

17–23 December, 2–3 pm daily

Most  
activities  
are  
FREE.

# Dec 2016–Feb 2017

Visit [christchurchcitylibraries.com](http://christchurchcitylibraries.com) for session times and any booking details.

## Learning Centre School Holiday Programmes

Discover, connect and play at our exciting holiday programmes for young people aged 5–13. Programmes include Minecraft, animation, sewing, robotics, photography, and family fun and games.



South Library, Upper Riccarton Library and Te Hāpua: Halswell Centre

16–27 January. Various times.

Cost: Between \$7–\$22

Bookings essential. Email [learningcentre@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:learningcentre@ccc.govt.nz) or phone 03 941-5140

## Display of Library Books and Resources on Te Tiriti o Waitangi

Central Library Peterborough

1–8 February



## Lunar New Year Family Fun Day

Celebrate the Year of the Rooster with a free, family fun day, packed with festive performances, crafts, storytelling and other themed activities.

Te Hāpua: Halswell Centre

4 February, 11am–3pm

## Parklands @ Play – Community Fun Day

An event for the wider Parklands and Queenspark community to have fun! There will be a huge array of exciting activities for the whole family to enjoy!

Parklands Reserve

4 February, 3–6pm

## Music Trails through the Libraries

The Christchurch Symphony Orchestra (CSO), in partnership with Christchurch City Libraries, is delighted to introduce *Music Trails through the Libraries*.

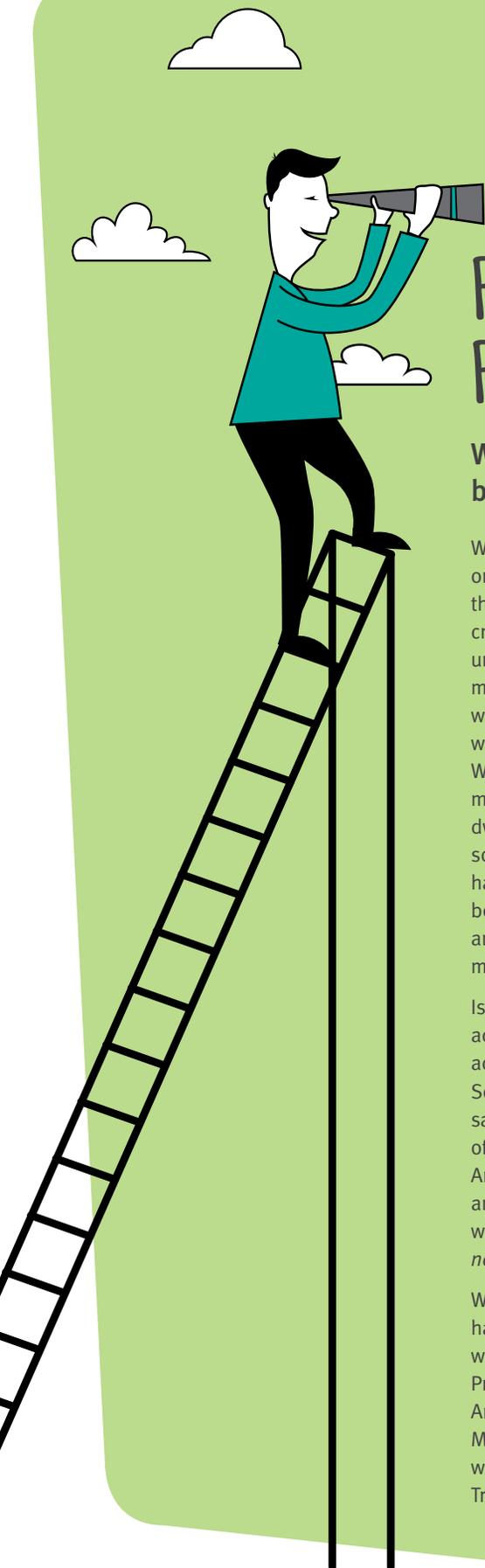
Throughout 2017, CSO ensembles will visit ten libraries across the city to deliver free 45-minute performances.

With elements of dance, song and stories, *Music Trails through the Libraries* is a great opportunity for younger children to see the instruments up close and join in with the musical fun.



The first performances will be at Fendalton Library 8 January, 2 and 17 February, 10.30–11.15am

Suitable for ages 3–6 years



# FICTION FORECASTING FOR THE NEXT YEAR

What will be the fiction trends for 2017? Will it be more of the same or are we in for change?

Will crime fiction keep on keeping on or will it dampen down and the present saturation of the crime market die down? Will the unreliable narrator (as seen in the mega-selling tale of the woman who got on the train) tail off? Will we see narrators we can trust? Will we see the Scandinavian mystery start to dwindle (already some critics say it has done so well because it's gloomy and if it's gloomy it must be "serious").

Is dysfunction in adult and young adult titles fading? Some pundits have said that in our present world of Middle Eastern violence and American elections being stranger and more awful than a fiction writer could invent, *why would we need more in our fiction?*

Will we see more leading authors having a bash at the classics as we've seen in the Shakespeare Project where writers such as Anne Tyler, Howard Jacobson and Margaret Atwood have a go at the works of WS? (Next year will see Tracy Chevalier take on *Othello*,

Gillian Flynn on *Hamlet* and Jo Nesbo making a bloodbath of *Macbeth*).

Will there be more novels that blend fantasy with the literary novel (*Cloud Atlas* is the leader here)? Are tales of tea shops and little cafés and dress shops likely to hit the nostalgia button

in a world of online shopping? Will huge books that attract huge advances, like *City on Fire*, get publishers in a lather? Will erotic books slowly banish themselves into eBooks alone so customer anonymity will be preserved?

Will there be a discovery from a non-prolific classic author: the publishing trade couldn't believe their luck when a Harper Lee novel was discovered and the fact that it wasn't deemed that good was irrelevant.

Predicting success in publishing is always hard and the Hollywood maxim that came from novelist/scriptwriter William Goldman still holds true: **nobody knows anything.**

## PREDICTING SUCCESS IN PUBLISHING IS ALWAYS HARD

**Philip Tew**  
Selection and Access Librarian

**Philip Truettum**  
Contemporary  
painter



# my library

Interview by:  
**Joyce Fraser**  
Information  
Librarian

## Who instilled a love of reading in you?

My Mum and Dad. We lived out at Oxford, but we'd take trips into Christchurch on the Midland bus and buy condensed classics like *David Copperfield* and *The Last of the Mohicans* from Whitcombe and Tombs. I don't remember learning to read; for me it was like breathing. Later I remember liking illustrated histories, particularly *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*: the black and white line drawings of spear-wielding warriors made quite an impression on me.

## What do you read now?

I read very widely. The range of magazines at Central Library Peterborough is superb and I read anything from new technology magazines like *The Wire* to literature and art serials like *Takahē*. The art books are fantastic and I also enjoy crime fiction like James Lee Burke, Robert Crais and Norwegian author Karin Fossum.

## What do you think libraries will be like in the future?

I don't think books will be lost. The demise of painting has been prophesied several times but people still love and need painting. Likewise I think books will endure, and where there are books there will inevitably be libraries. Books and the imagery they create in your mind are unique, and reading is magical.

## What do you like about Christchurch?

I love the libraries, particularly Central Peterborough and Central Manchester; they offer a great range of materials and I come home with at least 8 or 9 serendipitous finds on every visit. Hagley Park is largely unchanged and I enjoy playing tennis there once or twice a week. It is also important to have the Art Gallery back. Van Heiningen chocolates from Ballantynes also make life in Christchurch more pleasant!

Find out what Philip's favourite books are at [christchurchcitylibraries.com](http://christchurchcitylibraries.com)

# WRAPPED UP IN BOOKS

## 2016'S TOP TITLES BUMPER SPECIAL

2016 has been a fab year full of good books, movies, and music. Here are some of the year's top titles, as chosen by your Staff Pickles team.

### FICTION

#### The Vet's Daughter

By Barbara Comyns (*Joyce's pick*)

Written in the 1950s, this slim volume is domestic, sinister and soaked in sadness. Alice is the vet's daughter and a very unhappy creature. As her life takes turn after turn for the worst she literally starts to untether. Weird but wonderful.



#### My Struggle. Book Three, Boyhood

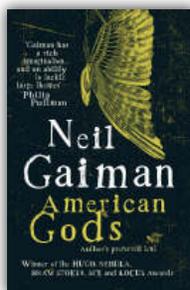
By Karl Ove Knausgaard (*Robyn's pick*)

This is my best book of the year so far. I had to be on holiday to read this because once you start you cannot stop. I am not a man and I am not Norwegian and I am not a genius (and I think I'm a lot nicer person than Karl) but I have felt every emotion he describes, I just wouldn't be able to express my feelings with such incredible skill.

#### American Gods

By Neil Gaiman (*Bronwyn's pick*)

Re-re-reading this fabulous tale in preparation for the upcoming TV miniseries (so I can be all showy-offy when it's on...)



#### Britt-Marie Was Here

By Fredrik Backman (*Roberta's pick*)

#### His Bloody Project

By Graeme Macrae Burnet  
(*Dan and Joyce's pick*)

#### One

A young adult novel by Sarah Crossan  
(*Masha's pick*)

#### The Course of Love

By Alain de Botton (*Roberta's pick*)

#### The Panopticon

By Jenni Fagan (*Joyce's pick*)

#### Our Souls at Night

By Kent Haruf (*Roberta's pick*)

#### To the Bright Edge of the World

By Eowyn Ivey (*Dan's pick*)

#### The Broken Earth series

By N. K. Jemisin (*Alison's pick*)

#### My Sister Rosa

A young adult novel by Justine Larbalestier  
(*Alison's pick*)

#### Swimming Home

By Deborah Levy (*Joyce's pick*)

#### Eileen

By Ottessa Moshfegh (*Moata's pick*)



# WRAPPED UP BOOKS

STAFF PICKLES

## MEMOIR, BIOGRAPHY & NON-FICTION

**Five Presidents.  
My Extraordinary Journey with  
Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson,  
Nixon, and Ford**

By Clint Hill (*Glenn's pick*)

**Lab Girl. A Story of Trees, Science  
and Love**

By Hope Jahren (*Alison's pick*)

**How to Decorate**

By Joa Studholme and Charlotte Cosby  
(*Joyce's pick*)

**First Day of the Somme**

By Andrew Macdonald  
(*Katherine's pick*)

**The Unbeatable Squirrel Girl**

By Ryan North and Erica Henderson  
(*Moata's pick*)

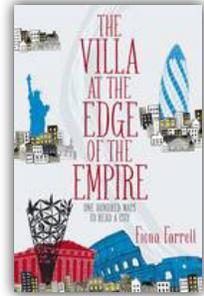
**The Beauty in the Beast.  
Britain's Favourite Creatures and  
the People Who Love Them**

By Hugh Warwick (*Alina's pick*)

### **The Villa at the Edge of the Empire: One Hundred Ways to Read a City**

By Fiona Farrell (*Bronwyn's pick*)

100 tiny pieces of perfect writing about the city we live in.



### **The Bad-ass Librarians of Timbuktu: And Their Race to Save the World's Most Precious Manuscripts**

By Joshua Hammer (*Donna's pick*)

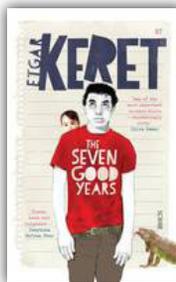
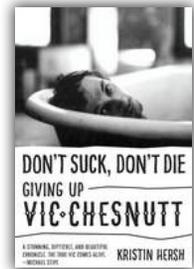
This is the true story of manuscripts gathered in Timbuktu, Mali and how they are threatened when militants take over the city. This is an utterly brilliantly told story about brave and bold librarians and citizens. Better than any thriller.

### **Don't Suck, Don't Die: Giving Up Vic Chesnutt**

By Kristin Hersh (*Donna's pick*)

How can such a small book be so big? Kristin Hersh conveys all the griminess of life as well as its light in this musical memoir. I hadn't heard Vic's music

before, but I listened to it after reading this book. It is heart-opening.



### **The Seven Good Years**

By Etgar Keret (*Dan's pick*)

The best autobiography I've ever and am ever likely to read!

Book cover images sourced from Nielsen Book Services Ltd.



# OUR PEOPLE

An interview with Robyn Stewart  
by Moata Tamaira

Robyn Stewart is the Team Leader of the FingerTip Library, one of our Digital Library branches. She has a passion for collecting and can often be found haunting second-hand shops in search of plastic treasure. We asked her some questions:

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## Tell me a bit about yourself and your background.

---

My family are from Central Otago but I was born and bred in Christchurch.

I've worked at Christchurch City Libraries for 25 years and before that I worked as a relief teacher at Hagley College.

I like to collect things. Doll parts. Plastics (like Lucite). Bakelite jewellery, and other jewellery as well. Royal memorabilia. Crowns, which is a bit of an offshoot of the royal memorabilia. I've got a few handbags...

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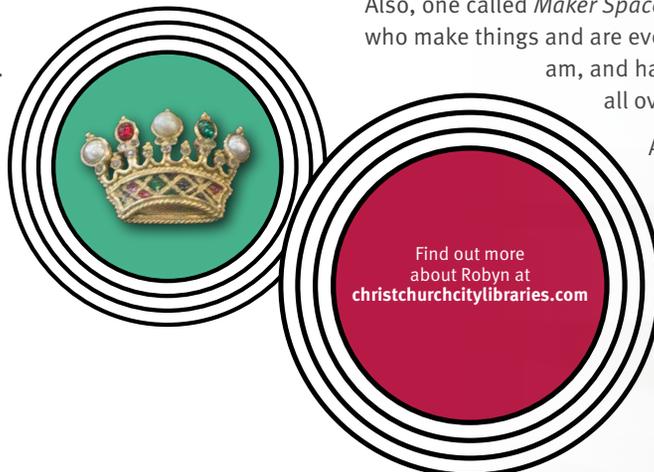
## What does your average work day look like?

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I'll check in on the team, look at my emails. I might spend some time speaking to customers on the phone. I might have a meeting.

I work on various projects. At the moment I'm working on what public programming we might offer at the new Central Library, which is pretty exciting but very big. And I'm involved with Young Adult services in an advisory way so I might do a bit of that.

I also might write something for the library website, a blog post, or an update to my Staff Pickles reading recommendations.



---

## What role does the library play for you and your whānau?

---

I read a lot. I just love physical books so I've been accused of possibly running my own lending library. I get *so many out*. I love the physicality of them – books about art and fashion especially, and more recently also about houses.

After the earthquakes I wasn't living in my own house for years and I got obsessed with decorating books because I didn't have a house to decorate, I think.

I truly believe the library makes a difference in people's lives and not everybody can say that when they get up and go to work in the morning.

---

## What are you reading now?

---

I've got a book called *Eclectic Collections* about Australian collectors out at the moment. Collections of everything from rare books to amazing pieces of art that are huge sculptures, and modern jewellery.

Also, one called *Maker Spaces* which is about people who make things and are even more crowded than I am, and have got fabric and things all over the show.

And also magazines. I love magazines... I think they're an art form in themselves, some of them.



---

**You are in the library in 2050. What does it look like?**

---

I'd like to think that there would still be physical books but I don't know. I hope that there will be a building, that there'll be things that people want to do in that building, and there'll be books that resemble the books we have now and have got beautiful pictures and smell like new books.

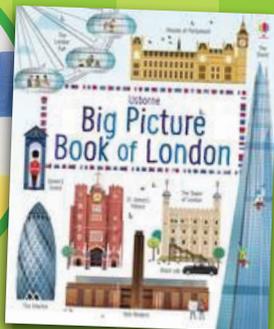
I hope it feels like libraries do now. That they're welcoming and that the people who work there want you to be there. They want to share what they've got with you. I'd like to think that all those great principles we live our working lives by are still there – of inclusion, that you don't have to be rich or well-dressed. You're a citizen and this is the place that you can be a citizen. You don't have to be a consumer to be here. I genuinely do believe that. I think that it's an honourable occupation and an honourable thing that we try to do.

# KIDS' PICKS

Check these out during your holidays!

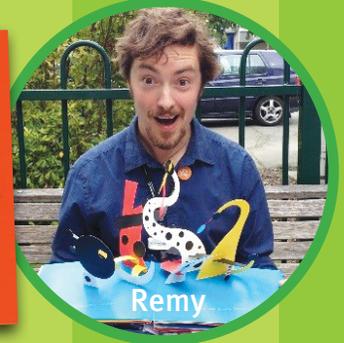
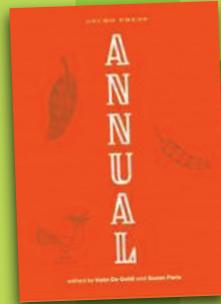


Lindsey



**Usborne  
Big Picture Book of London**  
By Rob Lloyd Jones

Want to go on a tour of one of the most exciting cities in the world? You can! Awesome illustrations, a fold out view of the River Thames, castles, skyscrapers, Beefeaters and dinosaurs. You might even spot the Queen!



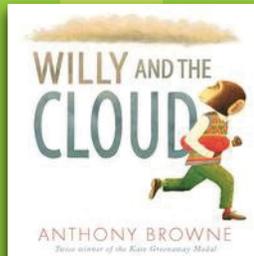
Remy

**Annual**  
Edited by Kate De Goldi

Wow! 136 pages of intrigue! Stories, comic strips, essays, poems, games, puzzles and more. Ask Santa for this to be in your stocking!

**Willy and the Cloud**  
By Anthony Browne

A classic Willy tale. One day Willy goes to the park. It's a sunny day, but a cloud hovers over him and he can't join in the fun. What can Willy do to make this mysterious cloud go away?



Sarah

## GOING IN THE CAR?

Try a read-along or an audiobook. OverDrive and BorrowBox are great picks!

And don't forget our CDs! Congratulations to both local duos *Itty Bitty Beats* and *Petite Music Box* for their entries into the APRA Best Children's Music Song of 2016. *Itty Bitty Beats* took the prize! You can hear both songs on Musicbox 2016!



Book cover images sourced from Nielsen Book Services Ltd.

# KIWI CHRISTMAS

## Spot the Difference

Can you spot ten differences between these photos?  
What's your favourite item?



Look out for  
the library team at the  
**NEW BRIGHTON  
CHRISTMAS  
PARADE**  
on 10 December!

# YOUNG ADULTS

2016 WRAP:

Our top picks of some of our favourite young adult books this year!

## The Changeover

**Margaret Mahy**

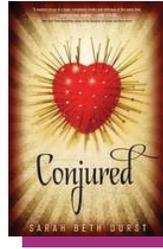
Filming of this great story started in Christchurch in September so there's plenty of time to read (or re-read) it before the movie comes out next year! There's a bit of romance, a few witches, a sort of vampire and a lot of tension as Laura battles to save her little brother from the ancient being who is sucking the life out of him.



## Conjured

**Sarah Beth Durst**

Not everyone loves a book featuring a library assistant but I do. This one is all about Eve, who is in the witness protection programme. She remembers nothing about her life before, but she's plagued by dreams about buttons being sewn into her skin. Sound creepy? It is, especially as Eve tries to stay safe from the serial killer who is stalking her.



## Picture Me Gone

**Meg Rosoff**

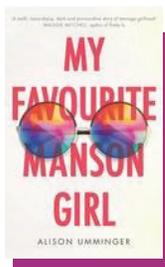
Meg Rosoff's first book, *How I Live Now*, is one of my favourite books and this one is just as good. In this story, 12-year old Mila is on a road trip with her father. They're looking for her father's friend Matthew and Mila is just the girl for this job as she can see and feel things no-one else can. As Mila tries to solve the mystery, she's also working on growing up and learning that adults don't know everything...



## My Favourite Manson Girl

**Alison Umminger**

Anna is 15, her mother has a new wife and a new baby and it seems that there's no room for Anna. So she steals a credit card and heads to Los Angeles to spend the summer with Delia, her actress sister. But that's not much fun either when she scores more of a nightmare job than a dream one, researching the Manson girls for Delia's creepy ex-boyfriend. Story, characters and ideas combine to make this a real page-turner. Definitely for older teens.



## Tomboy: a Graphic Memoir

**Liz Prince**

A look at what it's like to not quite fit in with what society expects a girl to be. Liz Prince looks back on her early years - popularity, pity kisses, punks and the endless search for the perfect outfit. It's a quick read, very funny and really makes you think.



*Book cover images sourced from Nielsen Book Services Ltd.*

**Robyn Stewart**

*Team Leader Fingertip Library*



# Connect, learn and create with our Learning Centres

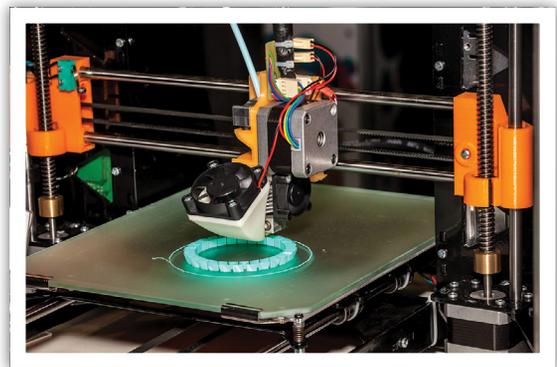
## Do you want to learn about using computers or get more confident with your iPad?

Christchurch City Libraries' Learning Centres are dedicated learning spaces that offer a range of exciting programmes. There are many opportunities for children and young adults through our school, after school and holiday programmes. There is also a wide range of courses that we provide for adults around digital technologies.

## Community Connections for Adults

We have beginner and beyond beginners courses designed to develop your technology skills, and to teach you useful tips and tricks. From the basics of learning how to use a computer or iPad to emailing, searching the internet, or using our amazing library eResources, our classes are a friendly and social way to gain confidence and skills.

Courses run during school term time at several of our Learning Centres. A nominal fee of \$15 is charged for each six - eight week course.



## Beginners' 3D Design and Printing

Learn how to use free 3D modelling software to design and 3D print your own creation, using biodegradable PLA plastic. Basic computer skills are required, such as how to save a file and use a mouse. A \$25 fee is charged for this two hour class.

We also have a number of technology help drop-in sessions around the library network at various times across the week. These free sessions are designed to help you with specific issues or general technology related questions.



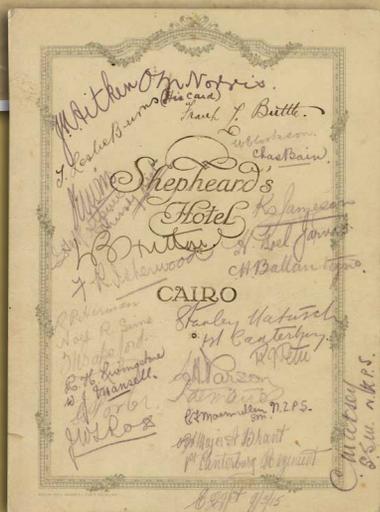
For more information  
visit [christchurchcitylibraries.com](http://christchurchcitylibraries.com)  
or phone the Learning Centres on 941 5140.

# LAST CHRISTMAS in CAIRO

Jean Erwin collection, CCL-1-Erwin-Ph-014



Menu card:  
Christmas dinner  
at Shepherd's  
Hotel, Cairo, 1914  
CCL-Arch44-007



In December 1914, sixty-five men met at Shepherd's Hotel in Cairo for a Christmas dinner. A reunion of friends, colleagues, soldiers and sporting rivals who were all a long way from home. For many this would be their last Christmas; by the following year most had been wounded or killed in action.

Before the war they had been involved with sporting clubs including Christchurch Boys' and Canterbury College football clubs – sometimes whole teams had joined up but had been drafted to different units, rarely able to see anyone outside their own company. Someone had the idea that Christmas would give them the opportunity to get the old

chums together, celebrate Christmas and pay homage to absent friends and family.

It had originally been intended to be "a small spread for about a dozen companions" but so many wanted to join in that sixty-five in total attended. A story in *The Press* on 9 February 1915 lists the names of those who had been lucky enough to enjoy this Christmas reunion and the eight course meal.

A signed menu, donated to Christchurch City Libraries by Oswald Norris' family, bears

the signatures of 26 men from the 1st Canterbury Regiment who attended the dinner. Some of these men are also seen in photographs in our Digital Collection.

Another photograph from the Jean Erwin collection shows her brother, John, and men from the 1st Canterbury Company on the banks of the Suez Canal in February 1915.

**You can read the biographies of the soldiers who signed the menu on Kete Christchurch or see more World War One memorabilia in our Digital Collection at [christchurchcitylibraries.com](http://christchurchcitylibraries.com)**

**Karen Gorsuch**  
Resource Description and Access Librarian



# Fifty Years Ago

THURSDAY 1 DECEMBER 1966

The first of December marks the official beginning of the summer season.

**Glenn Coster**, an **Information Librarian at Central Library Manchester**, looked through the 1st of December 1966 editions of *The Press* and the *Christchurch Star* newspapers to see what was being reported fifty years ago.

Here's a selection of news stories and items that caught his eye...

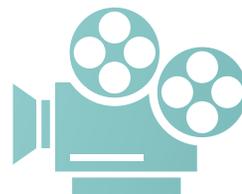
The Ashton's circus had arrived at Lyttelton after a 6 day voyage from Australia. The Christchurch Star reporter commented that it was as if "Noah's Ark" had docked at Lyttelton. The first performance was set for Friday 8pm at Hagley Park at the corner of Deans Avenue and Moorhouse Avenue.



A group of Christchurch Girls' High School pupils visited the Psychology Department at the University of Canterbury and were given a demonstration of the "Olfatometer" – an apparatus for studying the sense of smell. The article was accompanied with a photo depicting "Dr Gregson at the control panel [of the "Olfatometer] directing a smell to a girl in the cabinet".



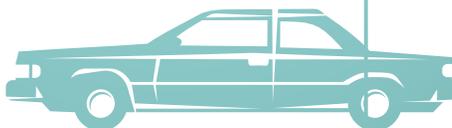
Some of the movies screening at the city movie theatres included *Alfie* (Avon), *Fantastic Voyage* (Savoy) and *Those Magnificent Men in Their Flying Machines* (State). The Carlton announced a "Czechoslovak Film Festival" to be launched at the weekend.



Local woman, Miss Carole Gowans, a Dental Nurse, was announced as the winner of the "New Zealand Smile Girl" contest. She out-smiled 1500 entrants and was awarded a car valued at 1500 pounds (equivalent to \$43,000 in today's money).



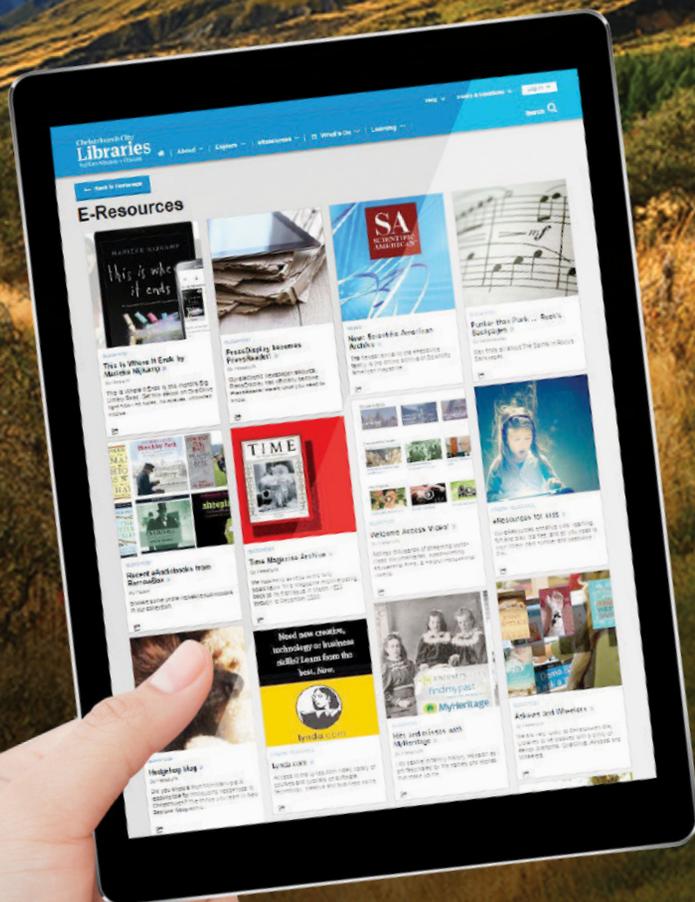
The road toll had reached 504 deaths (at the same time in the previous year the toll stood at 510). [Compare this with 287 deaths for the same period in 2015].



On the local CHTV3 television channel programmes on offer included *Green Acres* at 6.12pm, *Town and Around* at 7.50pm, and *The Richard Boone Show* at 9.32pm.



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Ngā Kete Wānanga-o-Ōtautahi

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City Council 

# Ōpāwa School kids celebrate life in Christchurch

*A group of Ōpāwa School children have turned their term's study into a gift for the city.*

Immersed in their Term Three topic – “Our World – Your Neck of the Woods”, the children of Room 8 had an idea.

After learning about cultures around the world – Italy, Vietnam, Samoa and Japan – they put their minds to their hometown and what makes it special.

The result – a book of ideas to welcome new children to Christchurch.

They felt so proud of the book, they sent it to “the boss of the city” Mayor Lianne Dalziel to see if she could share it with children visiting her office.

Teacher Robyn Drummond said the term's work proved the children were passionate about the city.

“We didn't start out with a plan to do a book. It just evolved. We decided to look at New Zealand and Kiwiana and then the cultures of the children within our own team ... Each of the four classes in the Year 2 and Year 3 group became a country. We created a ‘passport’ and the children visited each country. In Vietnam the children had noodles, in Japan they made sushi, in Samoa they ate fruit kebabs and in Italy they made pizza.”

Learning about other cultures prompted the children to reflect on



*Eileen Lee (7yrs old) reads the book her Rm8 class at Opawa school has had published.*

their own culture and city, and how they could share it with visitors.

“We talked and brainstormed about the things we could do in Christchurch. The children thought of an idea that suited them, something they had done, and crafted their sentence.”

The book features a favourite Christchurch experience outlined by each child, and a picture to illustrate it.

“We just thought, how can we get these ideas out there? We should talk to the boss of the city – just like the boss of the school – the Mayor! We hoped she would be able to have it in her office and when visitors came to see

her it would be available for the children to look at.”

Mayor Lianne Dalziel said she was delighted to see children so involved in with the city.

“I was delighted to receive this book from Room 8 at Ōpāwa School and it was great to hear all their ideas about what children can do when they visit Christchurch. It's wonderful to see our children so engaged with what the city has to offer, and I'll certainly be keeping the book on my desk for any children who visit the Mayor's office.”

**NEWSLINE**  
Christchurch News & Events

[ccc.govt.nz/newsline](http://ccc.govt.nz/newsline)

Newsline provides residents with daily news and information about what is happening in Christchurch.

Click the Newsline link on the Council website to find stories like the one above, videos and pictures every day of the working week about Christchurch issues, events and activities.



*uncover - huraina!*  
**[ to disclose,  
lay bare,  
make known ]**

Oxford English Dictionary



# uncover

*“Connecting People, Inspiring Discovery, Enriching Communities”*

# huraina

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