

Friends of Horowhenua Libraries

October 2021



Hello Friends

Although we are at Covid19 level two this still presents difficulties with hosting Morning Tea in our libraries so we are sorry to have to tell you that our November morning tea, which would have been our last gathering for this year, will not go ahead. We are hoping for a much more open world in the new year and hope to see you all back again then.

Meanwhile our wonderful library staff are coping well with current restrictions. Folk are scanning or signing into our libraries and keeping their distance where possible and wearing masks. We thank you all for that and encourage you to give the staff who must be feeling stressed at this time a friendly word when you see them.



On the Te Takere events page it is sad to see so many popular events cancelled But we are living in uncertain times and must do all we can to keep each other safe. Thank goodness for the escape offered by the huge selection of books in our libraries and for the people who make it possible for us to access them.

We are in a healthy financial situation at present with close to \$17,000 in our Friend's bank account and are therefore able to help out with a few more items our libraries need and programmes that are on the horizon.

The **two new book trolleys** that have been ordered have not yet arrived, probably due to current shipping delays but shouldn't be too far away.



We have also agreed to again fund the **Bonus Books for Under 5s** programme which makes a gift of a book for every pre schooler who is enrolled in the library. The earlier our young ones are introduced to the joy of books and reading the more likely they are to become lifelong readers.

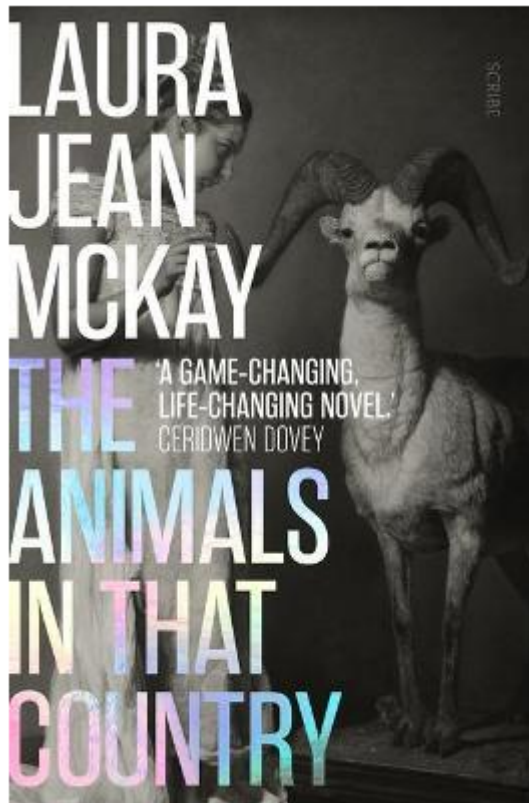
During the summer holidays the Children's library will again run a **Summer reading programme**. We will also be funding this programme for primary school children and teens.

It has been reported many times that the children who participate in this programme which encourages them to read during their holiday break perform much better when they return to school the following year. Reading practise of any kind is valuable .



I am so grateful for the escape reading offers in these troubled times as I am sure most of you are too. The weather is still a little erratic so on those days when it is too damp or windy to get outside in the sunshine having a good book on hand is essential

If you are wondering what to read next - here is a recommendation from one of our avid readers



BOOK REVIEW: *The Animals in That Country* by Laura Jean McKay

It's a book unlike any other and while it's not going to be everyone's cup of tea, it's a wild, immersive and original read.

Laura Jean McKay's *The Animals in That Country* is set in a not too distant future Australia. Ecological impacts are being felt and although written before Covid hit, it's about a 'zoo flu' infecting humans.

The flu gives them the ability to understand animals although the book is deliberately vague as to whether this is actually happening or if people believe it is happening. But it doesn't matter. The idea of being able to communicate with animals has not led to greater harmony across species but has led to societal collapse.

The likeable unlikeable anti-hero crosses the Aussie badlands with a half breed dingo in search of her granddaughter. At its essence it's a simple quest story but the premise is bold and imaginative, and the writing assured and confident.

It's no wonder the book has picked up a slew of awards including the Arthur C Clarke Award and the Victoria Prize for Literature. Australian writers are generating some serious, and seriously good futuristic 'climate change' fiction at the moment and this is a worthy addition to that genre.

I picked up a signed copy in Bruce McKenzie Booksellers in Palmerston North where the author now lives as a lecturer at Massey University. The book is available in Te Takere.

There are **4 new staff members** on site now - do say hello to them when you see them. Sarah Langtry is now in Foxton, Jodie and Nicola are new faces on the AA counter and another Sarah is working at Visitor information,

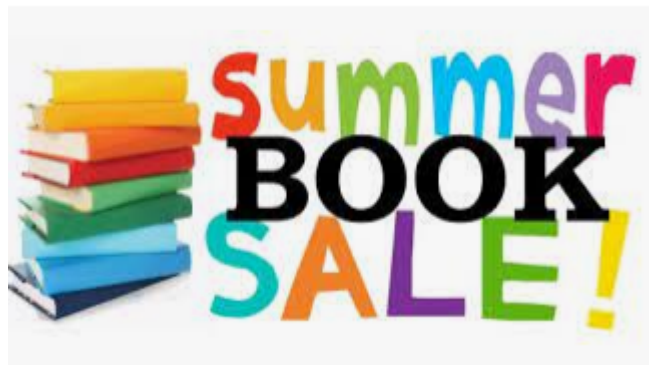


Tea and Tales is scheduled to run again on Thursday November 4th.

Jennifer and her team will be delighted to welcome you. Just check at the main desk for the location of this event on the day.

Our Annual Summer Book Sale

is scheduled for January 2022



Set up for the sale will be on the afternoon of Sunday 16th with the sale running from Monday 17th to Friday 21st.

If you are able to assist with the book sale please contact Tony Straw indicating when you would be available. You can send a message to Tony at tonystraw@xtra.co.nz

Wishing you all a peaceful and enjoyable summer and hoping that we are free to get together with friends again soon with lots of books to read and discuss.