

## Going For Gold

# CONTENTS

A Closer Look at Our People.....	2
From Your Library.....	3
Going for Gold.....	4-5
What's On In the Library.....	6
From the Wairarapa Archive.....	7
Judging Book Awards.....	8-9
Asterix.....	10-11

Follow us:

Facebook: Masterton District Library

Twitter: @mstnlib

Instagram: mstnlib

Contact:

Masterton District Library

54 Queen Street Masterton

PO Box 444, Masterton 5810

P: (06) 370 6253

F: (06) 377 1195

info@library.mstn.govt.nz

www.library.mstn.govt.nz

COVER: Gold medals will be the ultimate prize for those competing in Rio this month, a tangible symbol of their talent, hard work, and supremacy in their specialist event. Medals and prizes are not exclusive to sporting events however, and there are numerous awards handed out in the world of literature. Winning a prestigious literary award can be as career defining for an author as an Olympic gold is for an athlete, and this month we look at both the Olympic competition and some of the many literary competitions around.

Compiled by Jon Adams, Masterton District Library

jona@library.mstn.govt.nz

## Getting to know your Library Staff in ten questions...

**What is your name?**

Te Konehu (Lynn) Paku

**Where were you born?**

Masterton

**Favourite book from your childhood?**

*Black Beauty* by Anna Sewell

**What is your position at Masterton Library?**

Acquisitions/Cataloguing Librarian



**Have you had any previous, non-librarian, jobs?**

Yes - Office Receptionist, Secretary, Roustabout, Supervisor at Standard Telephone Cables.

**Name the book you are reading at the moment:**

*The Wild One* by Janet Gover

**Name a book you haven't read but know you should:**

*The Struggle for Māori Fishing Rights* / Brian Bargh

**If you had one magazine subscription it would be for:**

*The Shed*

**Favourite place to read:**

In bed.

**If you were stranded on a desert island, what one book would you want with you?**

*Swiss Family Robinson* by Johann Wyss



## From your Library...

*Library Manager, Sandy Green*

**The recent publication of the Whitcoulls top 100 list highlights the book to movie phenomenon that is turning into gold for the movie makers and the authors of the books. Six of the top ten titles on the list have been made into movies, or telemovies, with others potentially being made into movies in the future.**

**One example is the Jason Bourne phenomenon which has continued for both the movies and the books, each feeding the demand for the other. While Robert Ludlum no longer writes the books they are still being produced under his name by Eric Van Lustbader, we are now up to number 13 in the series while Robert Ludlum only wrote three Bourne novels. We are expecting renewed interest in the books with the release of the latest movie 'You know his name - Jason Bourne'**

**What does all this mean for the public library? To meet the high demand that ensues when a book becomes a hit movie we need to have multiple copies - sometimes 4-5 copies of the title. Some of the titles that were made into movies a number of year ago are being read by a second and third generation of readers and we need to keep replacing our worn out copies.**

**What all this tells us is that a good story is a good story and will still be a good story with a well done screen adaptation. There are readers who will choose not to watch the movie, of what for them was a good book, as they don't want the images they created about the book spoiled. There are also those who will only do one or the other but most people see the movie and want to read the book, or read the book and must see the movie as well.**

**Whichever way you look the track record for books to movies is for winners earning gold.**



**Like us on Facebook for the latest  
Library news, events, and some  
random fun stuff.**

# Going for Gold

The 2016 Rio Olympics (officially the Games of the XXXI Olympiad) are being staged in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and will run from the 5th to the 21st of August. More than 10,500 athletes from a record number of countries will compete across 28 different sports and a total of 41 disciplines, including new inclusions golf and rugby sevens. Sky television will have 12 channels covering the games but extensive free-to-air coverage will also be available on Prime, and of course Masterton Library has many books available for those wanting to learn more about the Olympics, particularly New Zealand's involvement, and the sports being contested.

The modern Olympic games were inspired by the ancient Olympics which were held in Olympia, Greece, from the 8th Century BC to the 4th Century AD. The International Olympic Committee was established in 1894 and the first games held under their auspices were contested in Athens in 1896, with 241 participants representing 14 nations. The library holds numerous books on the Olympic Games and the sports involved. **The Official history of the Olympic Games and the IOC: Athens to London 1894 - 2012** by David Miller is a comprehensive (683 pages) volume on Olympic history and there are many smaller books also available. Less authoritative, but possibly more amusing, **Twenty Twelve** is an English comedy series starring Hugh Bonneville as the beleaguered head of the Games Deliverance Team.

Despite noble intentions of equality and fairness, the Olympics have not been free from incident or controversy. The Games were suspended in 1916, 1940 and 1944 due to World Wars; the 1972 Munich games were marred by a terrorist attack; and the 1976, 1980, and 1984 Games were affected by boycotts. In his book **Berlin Games: how Hitler stole the Olympic Dream**,

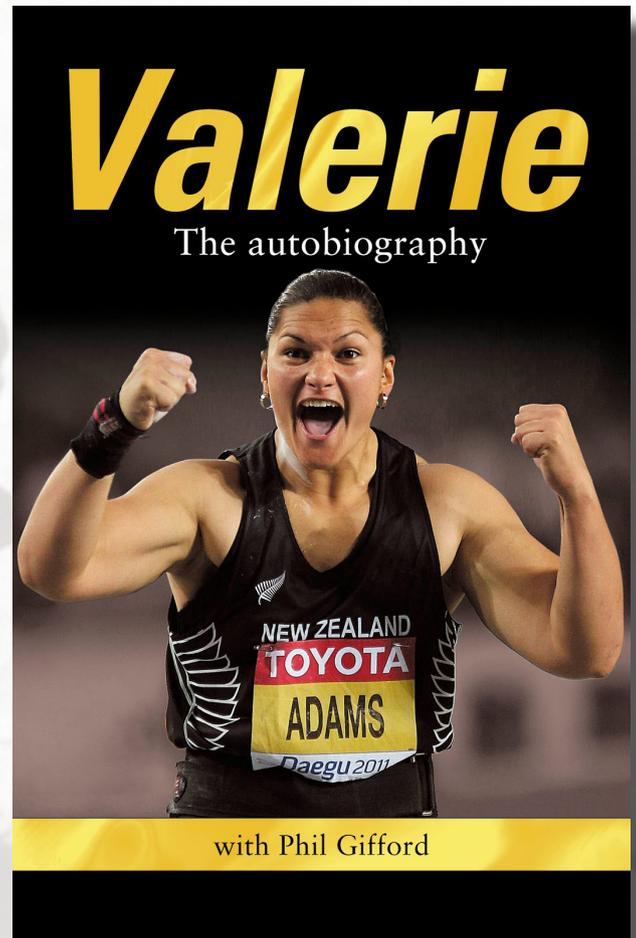
Guy Williams looks at how Adolf Hitler used the 1936 Berlin games to showcase the Third Reich and supposed Aryan supremacy. Today's biggest issue in Olympic competitions is doping and our own Valerie Adams was initially denied the gold medal at the 2012 London Olympics when she was beaten by Belarusian Nadzeya Ostapchuk who later failed two drug tests. In **The Dirtiest Race in History: Ben Johnson, Carl Lewis and the 1988 Olympic 100m Final**, Richard Moore looks at what should have been one of the great races of Olympic history, tarnished forever by the intrusion of performance enhancing drugs.



*Ben Johnson wins the 100m final at the 1988 Seoul Olympics, only to be disqualified three days later for doping.*

New Zealand has a rich Olympic tradition and has sent a team to compete in every Summer Olympics since 1908 (although at the 1908 and 1912 games we competed alongside Australia in a combined Australasia team). On a per-capita basis New Zealand has performed strongly at previous Olympics, the most successful being the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics where we won 8 Gold medals, and 11 overall; followed by the 2012 London Olympics where we won 6 Golds, and 13 overall. In past Olympics, New Zealanders have tended to do well in sports that involving sitting down: Sailing, Rowing, and Equestrian for example - not that any of these should be confused for sedentary activities! There are several books in the Library that look back on NZ's Olympic record including **The Games** by Ron Palenski and **Our Olympic Century** by Joseph Romanos

New Zealand's hopes for the 2016 Olympics are high with athletes such as canoeist Lisa Carrington, the men's rowing pair of Eric Murray and Hamish Bond, and sailors Peter Burling and Blair Tuke in the men's 49s, all expected to do well. The addition of Rugby Sevens to the 2016 Olympics is another potential medal prospect for New Zealand, although the 2015/16 world series has been very competitive. A lot of interest will also fall on arguably New Zealand's greatest ever track and field athlete, shot-putter Valerie Adams. Adams is a four-time World Champion, three-time Commonwealth and two-time Olympic Champion. For a period Valerie seemed unbeatable but in 2014 and 2015 she had to undergo surgery and her performances since haven't reached the same lofty heights. Her most recent performances however suggest she may be on the comeback trail so the Rio Olympics could provide an incredible opportunity to achieve a historic hat-trick of Olympic golds. Whether or not she wins, Adams' career has been phenomenal and her story can be read in her 2012 autobiography **Valerie**.



# What's on in the Library this month...

## **Story-Go-Round Pre-School Programme**

**Wednesday the 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st of August, 10:30am**

## **Book Bugs Book Club (ages 10-13)**

**Wednesday the 3rd of August, 5:30pm - 6:30pm**

## **Puanga Kohanga Te Reo Pre-School Programme**

**Thursday the 4th, 11th, 18th, and 25th of August, 10:30am**

## **Winter Warmers Finale**

**Thursday the 11th of August, 5:30pm**

## **Masterton Library Book Group**

**Monday the 22nd of August, 1:00pm**

## **Seniors Celebrate**

**Tuesday the 23rd of August, 2:00pm**

## **National Poetry Day -**

**poetry readings in the library  
Friday 26th of August  
4:00pm**

**There are lots of events and activities happening at the Library over the next few months. Check them out on our Events page <https://masterton.spydus.co.nz/events>**

**Also check the Library Noticeboard for more Wairarapa events**



**Justices of the Peace play a very important role in the administration of documentation and justice in New Zealand. Justices of the Peace, or 'JPs' as they are often known, commit themselves to serve their community for no reward, and to administer the law without fear, favour or ill-will. JPs can witness your signature on a document, certify copies of documents, administer affidavits, and complete statutory declarations. JPs try to make themselves available to help members of the public as quickly as is possible, but inevitably there will sometimes be delays. To assist people to access their services, a JP is available at the Library every Saturday morning from 10:00am to 12:00pm.**

# ***From The Wairarapa Archive...***

## **Masterton's 'gold rush'**

The lure of gold was often present amongst the early Pakeha settlers of Masterton. News of nuggets found in other parts of the country led locals to believe the Tararuas must also hold hidden seams of gold. Companies were formed and prospectors hired to go up into the valleys of the mountains, searching out the quartz veins where gold was believed to be found. But it was all to no avail until mid-1884, when sensational news spread through the town.

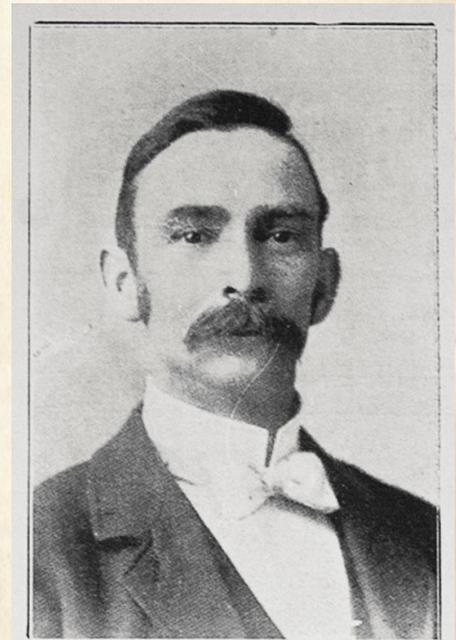
Two prospectors, McKenna and Perry, working to the north-east of town, claimed to have found gold on some Māori-owned land. They said they had tracked their way through bush and found the seam behind a waterfall. The town was abuzz with the news of the strike, and people sought to find out where the lucky goldmine was located.

Others decided to hitch their fortune to that of Perry and McKenna, and bought shares in a company the two men floated. They anxiously awaited news of the development of the mine, but were sorely disappointed as things seemed to grind to a halt. In the end, one of the investors, Robert Hornblow, insisted on being shown proof of the gold mine, and the two miners reluctantly agreed.

What followed was like a scene from a Hollywood movie. The men took Hornblow to the mine at midnight, and led him blindfolded on a horse until they reached the depths of the forest north-east of Masterton. There he was let down from the horse in a clearing, then carefully taken up a stream bed until the party reached a waterfall. There was a cave behind the waterfall, and there Hornblow was able to see some stones, glittering with metal, and he was allowed to take some specimens.

A search party, acting on Hornblow's description, soon found the "gold mine" behind the waterfall, and saw immediately that the stone Hornblow was allowed to bring in had been salted by rubbing a brass item across it. The scam was up. There was no gold, and Perry and McKenna were promptly brought before the court.

Masterton's gold rush was over almost as soon as it began.



MR. R. E. HORNBLOW,  
Government Candidate for Oroua.

# Judging Book Awards

Striving for gold and awards is not the sole concern of athletes and each year numerous literary prizes are awarded among different categories and genres. The concept of literary awards is not without controversy - the notion of what makes a book 'good' being a subjective one and less easy to judge than who won a race or lifted the heaviest weight for example. Winning these awards can, however, create a great deal of publicity for authors which can lead to increased sales and have a profound effect on their literary careers. They are also very useful to Librarians as an indicator of books that are likely to be of a high literary standard, and for which there will probably (once the winners have been announced) be great demand.

There are hundreds of awards handed out every year for literary achievements, some specific to distinct genres, some to individual countries, and others which are international in their scope. Genre specific literary awards include the Hugo awards for science fiction or fantasy, the Edgar awards for crime writing, and the RITA Awards for romance. Perhaps the most famous of the international awards is the Man Booker Prize for Fiction, which although based in England and originally open only to writers from the Commonwealth, is now available to any novel written in English.

Being short-listed for the Man Booker prize can be a tremendous honour and achievement, and the eventual winners receive not only a significant monetary prize but worldwide attention. Past winners of the award include such notable literary figures as Iris Murdoch, Salman Rushdie, and Margaret Atwood, and J.G. Farrell, J.M. Coetzee, Peter Carey and Hillary Mantel have won the award twice. So far two New Zealand authors have won the Booker prize, Keri Hulme with *The Bone People* in 1985, and Eleanor Catton with *The Luminaries* in 2013.

New Zealand has several of our own literary awards. The Sir Julius Vogel Award (named after the former Prime Minister and author of probably New Zealand's first science fiction novel, *Anno Domini 2000*) is awarded by the Science Fiction and Fantasy Association of New Zealand for science fiction, fantasy or horror writing. The Ngaio Marsh Award (named after the famed New Zealand crime writer Dame Ngaio Marsh) has been awarded each year since 2010 to recognise the best crime, mystery and thriller writing. The Ockham New Zealand Book Awards (formerly the New Zealand Post Book Awards, and prior to that the Montana Book Awards) are handed out each year in the categories of Poetry, Fiction, Illustrated Non-Fiction, and General Non-Fiction, with additional awards given for best first book in several categories. The Prime Minister's Award for Literary Achievement honours New Zealanders who have made a significant contribution to New Zealand literature in either fiction, non-fiction or poetry and past winners include Janet Frame, Lloyd Jones, Sam Hunt and Judith Binney.

Awards and prizes are at least as common in the world of children's literature, and while they may not have the prestige and influence of awards for adult writing, they are hugely valuable as indicators of quality books and authors for parents and caregivers to choose for their children. A complicating factor in children's literature is the different ages and reading levels the books must cater for, so the awards are sometimes administered for categories such as picture books, junior fiction and young adult fiction. Illustration is also an important consideration in children's literature and there are numerous awards given to acknowledge excellence amongst book illustrators.

Internationally some of the best known book awards for children are the Newberry Medal which is awarded by the American Library Association and is probably the oldest award for children's literature, and the Carnegie Medal which is conferred by the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals in the UK. Newberry medal winners include Beverly Cleary, Louis Lowry, and Louis Sachar; Carnegie Medal winners include Terry Pratchett, Philip Pullman, and C.S. Lewis; Neil Gaiman won both for *The Graveyard Book*. The Kate Greenaway Medal annually recognises "distinguished illustration in a book for children" and has been won by such notable illustrators as Anthony Browne, Shirley Hughes and Lauren Child.

The New Zealand Book Awards for Children and Young Adults have a number of categories including Young Adult Fiction, Junior Fiction, Non-Fiction, Picture Book, Illustration, Te Kura Ponamu and Children's Choice. There is also the Joy Cowley Award which is for a picture book manuscript; the Esther Glen Award which is presented by the Library and Information Association of New Zealand Aotearoa to an author who has made a "distinguished contribution to New Zealand literature for junior fiction"; and the Margaret Mahy Award which is presented to a person "who has made a significant contribution to children's literature, publishing or literacy", past recipients including Dorothy Butler, Lynley Dodd, Kate De Goldi, and Fleur Beale.

Perhaps the world's premier prize for children's writing is the biennial Hans Christian Andersen Medal which is awarded by the International Board on Books for Young People to authors or illustrators whose complete works have made a lasting contribution to children's literature. In 2006 the medal was presented to the incomparable New Zealand author Margaret Mahy.

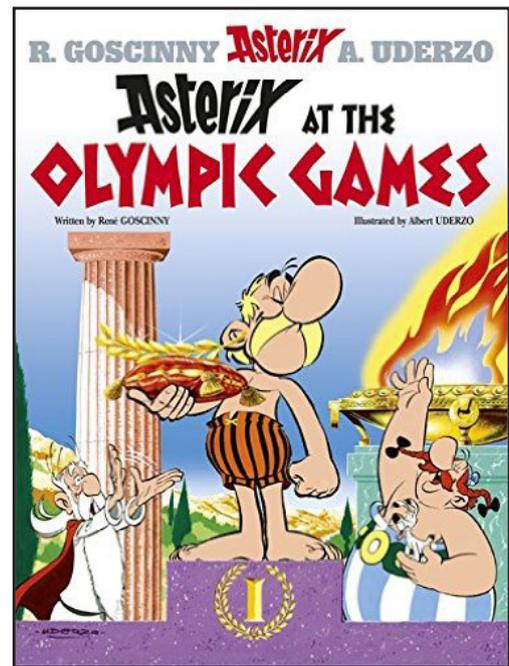


# Asterix

October 2015 saw the publication of **Asterix and the Missing Scroll**, the 36th volume in the adventures of Asterix. The books relate the exploits of a village of indomitable Gauls who resist the might of the Roman empire in around 50 B.C. with the help of a magic potion brewed by their resident druid, Getafix. The adventures are typically headed by the titular character Asterix and his best friend Obelix. First appearing as a serial in French magazine **Piote** in 1959, the first Asterix book **Asterix the Gaul** was published in 1961, and the adventures of Asterix have become a publishing phenomenon. The stories have been translated into over a 100 different languages, adapted into both animated and live-action movies, and sold in the hundreds of millions.

The Asterix books were originally written by Rene Goscinny and Albert Uderzo. When Rene Goscinny died in 1977, Albert Uderzo took over both writing and illustrating duties following requests from readers to keep the series going. He continued producing the books until 2009 when he went into retirement, handing over the reigns to writer Jean-Yves Ferri and illustrator Didier Conrad. In 2015 Uderzo came out of retirement to produce two Asterix cartoons honouring the seven cartoonists from French satirical magazine **Charlie Hedbo** who were murdered by Al-Qaeda terrorists.

The stories involve the adventures of Asterix, Obelix, and the other villagers, and are set either in or around their small village in Armorica (present-day Brittany), or various locations around the world including Spain, Switzerland, and Belgium. At one stage the series alternated between an adventure at home and an adventure away, and Asterix's exploits have brought him into contact with historical characters such as Brutus, Cleopatra and Julius Caesar with whom he has an ongoing antagonistic relationship. In 1968 Goscinny and Uderzo released **Asterix at the Olympic Games** in which our heroes travel to Olympia to compete in the Olympic Games. In this story Asterix must succeed using his natural talents as the famous magic potion has been banned as a performance-enhancing drug, a subject very prevalent today and which the book satirizes with glee.



The humour of the Asterix books is their defining characteristic, and much of this is based on puns and comic stereotypes of European nations - the British villagers in **Asterix In Britain** for example, who halt in the middle of a battle for a drink of hot water (before Asterix introduces them to tea), and never fight on the weekend. The puns are most widely used in the names of characters and neither villagers such as the chief Vitalstatistix, the fishmonger Unhygenix and his wife Bacteria, or Romans such as Gluteus Maximus and Encyclopaedicus Britannicus are spared. Mention should be made of the fantastic achievement of translators Anthea Bell and Derek Hockridge who have translated the books into English since the beginning, and managed to re-capture the spirit of the humour, despite the change in language.

The Asterix books have entertained and amused children and adults for more than 50 years. Part of their appeal is no doubt that of witnessing the little guy winning against the big guy, the small Gaulish village holding out against the might of the Roman Empire. Although these victories often require the use of magic potion, Asterix's cunning and courage are equally important. They are also a fantastic introduction to the ancient world, and although the history presented might not be entirely accurate, the books do give some insight into the world at this time. Most importantly though, they are tremendous fun: with their visually appealing illustrations; with their fantastic word play; and with their wry social, political and historical commentary.

All of the Asterix stories are available from Masterton Library and several of the movie adaptations can be borrowed either from Masterton or one of the other SMART libraries.





# PHANTOM BILLSTICKERS

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# NATIONAL POETRY DAY **AUG 26**

**POETRY READINGS AT THE LIBRARY FROM 4:00pm**