

Love in the Library

A close-up photograph of an open book with its pages fanned out, forming a heart shape. The lighting is warm and golden, creating a soft, romantic atmosphere. The book is positioned on the right side of the cover, with the heart shape formed by the pages curving upwards and outwards.

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COVER: there are many different types of love and while the library may not be able to cater to all of these, we can play matchmaker between people and books, DVDs and magazines from different genres, and on a huge range of subjects. For anyone with a love of reading, Masterton Library is the answer to their heart's desire.

Compiled by Jon Adams, Masterton District Library
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Getting to know your Library staff in ten questions...

What is your name?

Charlotte Algie.

Where were you born?

Lower Hutt.

Favourite book from your Childhood?

The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle.

What is your position at Masterton Library?

Team Librarian.

Have you had any previous, non-librarian jobs?

Bookstore night manager and many student jobs including cleaner, call centre work, bartending, waitressing, retail, and temping.

Name the book and author you are reading at the moment

The Little Paris Bookshop by Nina George.

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

The Luminaries by Eleanor Catton.

If you had one magazine subscription it would be for...

Healthy Food Magazine.

Favourite place to read...

Anywhere I'm not going to be interrupted.

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

I know this Much is True by Wally Lamb.





From your Library...

Library Manager, Sandy Green

How important is Romance to the Masterton Library fiction collection? Contrary to the popular belief that the majority of books published and on the shelves are thrillers or suspense, the most read fiction books are those that have a romance included as one of the themes in the story. The inclusion of a romantic relationship in the story is often key to the success of the book.

While there are authors writing serious thrillers and adventure stories, or exploring the many different ways people relate to each other, at the heart of most of these stories is the romantic relationship between two of the main protagonists.

Great writers are responsible for some of the best quotes on love: *“Love loves to love love.”* James Joyce; *“The one thing we can never get enough of is love. And the one thing we never give enough is love.”* Henry Miller; *“Who, being loved, is poor?”* Oscar Wilde; *“A loving heart is the truest wisdom.”* Charles Dickens; and *“It doesn’t matter who you are or what you look like, so long as somebody loves you.”* Roald Dahl. Writers of ‘romantic fiction’ ply their craft in the same way as all other writers, they develop characters and a plot, they set a scene and a time, and do research to ensure that the background of the story is factual for the setting they have depicted. That the romantic relationship is the centre of the story, and there is mostly a happy ending after trials and tribulations, is appealing to many readers, affirming the meaning of life and relationships.

The titles that have a romantic relationship at the heart of the story are the most issued items from our library. Nora Roberts, Danielle Steel and the many other popular authors that write in this genre unsurprisingly achieve the highest incomes amongst authors writing today. Romance writing started with the ancient Greek novels of the 1st to the 4th century A.D. Only five of these novels remain one of which is Heliodorus’ “Ethiopian Romance” and does not show any signs of diminishing its appeal to the readers of the 21st Century.

Try one of the ‘Blind Date’ books for ‘Love Your Library’ week and you too may be lucky enough to discover the appeal of a Romance Novel.



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

Z zinio for LIBRARIES

Here are two new magazine titles, now available from Masterton Library through Zinio. See Library staff if you haven't already signed up to Zinio.



BBC Gardeners' World

is the authoritative voice in gardening and has become the UK's best selling garden magazine since its launch in 1991. Packed with practical advice from gardening experts and inspiring images of beautiful gardens.



Little Treasures

is New Zealand's most read parenting magazine and a trusted source of information that demystifies parenthood and reassures and inspires new and expecting parents.

Love Your Library

February 14 is not just Valentine's Day, it's Library Lovers Day, a day to acknowledge our love for books, reading, and libraries. Here at Masterton Library we didn't think a day was long enough, so we're celebrating our love for a whole week.

We will be organising displays so people can share the books they love with others, running a shortbread baking/decorating competition, and presenting a heart-related craft activity. On Tuesday the 14th of February Library Manager and Romance buyer Sandy Green will be delivering a talk on romantic fiction entitled 'Romance books and romance readers: the story behind the love story'. We will also be organising 'Book Blind Dates' where we will encourage inquisitive readers to take home an unknown book wrapped in brown paper - a chance to discover a book or author you may not normally read.

Love Your Library Week - a chance to show how much books, reading and libraries mean to us.



Book Groups - sharing the love (of books)

Millions upon millions of people love to read books, and some people like to share their love of reading in book clubs or groups, getting together with friends and like-minded people to discuss books. Masterton Library currently runs three book groups: our monthly Masterton Library Book Group who meet at 1pm on the fourth Monday of each month; our Book Bugs Book Club (for ages 10-13) who meet at 5:30pm on the first Wednesday of each month; and The Last Thursday Book Group who meet (unsurprisingly) on the last Thursday of each month. If you're interested in joining one of our book groups please contact Thea (theap@library.mstn.govt.nz) for the Masterton Library Book Group; Cindy (cindya@library.mstn.govt.nz) for Book Bugs; or Charlotte (charlottea@library.mstn.govt.nz) for the Last Thursday Book Group

Masterton Library's book groups tend to be more casual meetings, discussing a range of authors and books rather than a set text. We do, however, also have book sets available featuring multiple copies of selected titles for any groups wanting to run their own book club. The sets of 10 books come complete with a folder containing information about the book and the author, and a list of questions about the book that clubbers may want to share. Our book club sets are issued for an extended period, usually six weeks, though this can be negotiated. Masterton Library currently has over a dozen book sets available for book group borrowing including *The Cuckoo's Calling* by Robert Galbraith (aka J.K. Rowling), *The Apple Orchard* by Susan Wiggs, and *The Rosie Project* by Graeme Simpson.

Occasionally book groups can themselves become the subject of a work of fiction. In *The Book Club* by Kate McCabe, Dubliner Marian Hunt decides to start a book club in order to pass the cold winter nights - and take her mind off her lying ex. The book club throws together a diverse mix of people and intrigues and twists ensue. Book clubs can also become a creative force in their own right. *The Painted Sky* is an Australian outback saga brimming with romance, mystery and suspense. Its author, Alice Campion, is actually a pseudonym for five members of a Sydney book club who challenged themselves to write a '21st Century Thorn Birds'.



Finding Love in the Library

Although it is sometimes looked down upon, romance fiction remains an incredibly popular genre and represents a significant component of the worldwide publishing industry. It is estimated that a Mills & Boon book is sold every five seconds in the UK, and with romance accounting for around 30% of the total number of fiction titles sold in the US, romance fiction is certainly something anyone working with books needs to take seriously. It is no surprise then that Masterton Library holds a large number of romantically themed books and that these feature very highly in our issuing statistics.



***Bride in Flight* by Essie Summers, published by Mills and Boon in 1964. Christchurch-born Essie Summers (1912-1968) sold more than 19 million copies of her romance novels in 105 countries.**

The romance novel can generally be defined as one which describes the development of a romantic relationship between two people, ending with a satisfying, or at least promising, conclusion. One of the earliest romance novels was Samuel Richardson's ***Pamela or Virtue Rewarded***, first published in 1740. There had of course been romance stories before this including the plays of Shakespeare, though notably *Romeo and Juliet* (which is often described as a great love story) fails as a romance because of the distinct lack of a happy ending.

In the 1920s Georgette Heyer introduced the world to the Historical Romance, and the genre really took off in the 1930s when British publishing company Mills & Boon made the decision to concentrate on romance fiction. The company now publishes 120 new titles each month from a worldwide author base of 1,500, including several from New Zealand. Today there is a great deal of variety within the romance genre including: Contemporary romances (the largest sub-genre) which are set in the time they are written; Historical romances which are those set before the Second World War and include the popular Regency romances; and Romantic suspense, in which the protagonists have a mystery to unravel while at the same time a relationship develops between them.

Paranormal romance is when the romance is complicated by otherworldly elements, vampires being a particularly popular theme in recent years; Science Fiction and Fantasy romances are set in other or future worlds, and then there is Time-Travel Romance in which relationships develop while having the added complication of the characters living in different time periods. Inspirational Romance combines Christian themes with the development of a romantic relationship; Multicultural romances feature

protagonists from different ethnic backgrounds; and for those looking for something a bit spicier, Erotic Romance blends romance with erotica (distinct from pornography in that it does still have characters and a story to tell).

Romance writers are some of the most popular authors writing today. Along with the huge stable of authors writing for Mills and Boon, authors such as Diana Gabaldon, Linda Howard, Jude Deveraux, Julie Garwood, Nora Roberts, La Vyrle Spencer, and Amanda Quick enjoy a huge readership. Despite generally being aimed at women, there are a significant number of men who enjoy reading romance fiction, and quite a few who have made careers writing it - including some who have written under a female pen name. The authors Monica Barrie, Victoria Gordon, and Gill Sanderson for example, are in fact all men.

Dating back to its first emergence, Romance fiction has suffered a certain amount of criticism, derision and even condemnation. Some of the early criticism can be attributed to blatant sexism and the perception that women had more impressionable minds and may have been unduly influenced by what they were reading. It was therefore felt that women's reading should be restricted to household manuals and devotional texts. Simply because it is a genre largely written by and for women, romantic fiction is still often regarded as a lesser concern, in much the same way that women's sport is. Ironically Romance fiction has also been the target of some feminist criticism which suggests that it is oppressive and encourages women to conform to sentimental and traditional roles. Romantic fiction also receives criticism for being formulaic, and indeed the majority of Mills and Boon novels even have a prescribed number of pages.

What these criticisms don't take into account is the ability of the readers to be very much aware that they are reading a certain style of book. It is escapist fiction and that is precisely what they want. Romance fiction provides an opportunity to read something with a reasonable expectation of a satisfying conclusion, much as most crime readers would expect the denouement of the mystery, and the identification and punishment of the killer. Romance fiction is escapist fiction in just the same way that fantasy, science fiction, even crime are. The criticism also doesn't always take into account the huge variety the genre now embraces and the different lives and lifestyles it covers..

Given the popularity of romantic fiction it would be a failure on the library's part not to make this genre widely available to our borrowers. We certainly make no judgements about the reading of romantic fiction, in fact we are keen to see even more of it being read and have books to cater to every taste. So if you've been looking for love in all the wrong places, try the library.



Dame Barbara Cartland (1901-2000) wrote 723 novels and is estimated to have sold more than 750 million copies. Known particularly for her Victorian era romances, Cartland generally presented herself in pink, and somewhat incongruously, is credited with devising the troop-carrying gliders used by the Allies in WWII.

Baked with LOVE



Most people enjoy eating, and as far as treats go, its hard to go past fresh home-baking. For bakers themselves, however, their affection for baking is often not just the enjoyment of eating the finished product. For them baking is more than the sum of its ingredients, and it is not uncommon to hear of something being ‘baked with love’.

Bakers enjoy the processes of baking - measuring, sifting, mixing, and then witnessing the transformation of raw ingredients into delicious baked goods. This transformation, somewhere between magic and science, is accompanied by the delicious smells of baking that waft from the kitchen. Scent has been shown to have a strong effect on memory and the smell of baking has been determined to be the number-one smell for making people nostalgic about their childhood. Baking is often a communal act in that the cakes, cookies and slices are usually shared with friends and family, often for a special occasion such as a birthday. It is not surprising then that we associate baking with good times and being with the people we love.

The enjoyment of baking can begin with a browse through cookbooks, looking for inspiration, and Masterton Library has hundreds of cookbooks to satisfy the needs of bakers. These are produced by local and international bakers and cater to all levels of ability and experience. Amongst the more recent local releases are **Homestead Baking** with Alison Gofton which collects recipes from families featured in the Country Calendar television series; **The Great New Zealand Baking Book**, created by Murray Thom and Tim Harper which collects recipes from over 60 of NZ’s finest bakers; and **Clean Bakery: Wholesome & Nourishing Baking for New Zealanders** by Carine Claudepierre which includes dairy-free, egg-free, gluten free, nut-free, Paleo-friendly, raw and vegetarian recipes.

Baking also features prominently in a large number of fiction titles in books like **The Plumberry School of Comfort Food** by Cathy Bramley and **Stories from the Little Beach Street Bakery** by Jenny Colgan. Many of these books feature recipes and a list of authors who include recipes in their stories is available as a book mark from the Library .

Rom Coms - Love on the Big Screen

Romantic comedies or 'Rom Coms' as they are often known, are motion pictures (and some television series) that add a comedic element to the traditional conventions of the romantic story. The addition of humour to this convention can enliven the story and dilute any cloyingness, and although romantic comedies don't feature highly amongst lists of blockbusters, they are still enormously popular. The great strength of the rom com is that even those who don't enjoy the romantic side of the story, should at least find something to laugh at.

Below are 10 classic Rom Coms available on DVD from Masterton or the other SMART Libraries.



Groundhog Day (1993)

Starring Bill Murray and Andie MacDowell, Groundhog Day combines comedy, romance, and fantasy as weatherman Phil Connors finds himself stuck in a time loop.



Sleepless in Seattle (1993)

Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan are a couple made for each other - they just need to get past existing relationships, hundreds of miles of separation, and the fact they've never met.



Four Weddings and a Funeral (1994)

It takes four weddings and a funeral for bachelor Charles (played by Hugh Grant) to work out he has discovered the love of his life, played by Andie MacDowell.



10 Things I Hate About You (1999)

Heath Ledger and Julia Stiles star in a teen romantic comedy based on Shakespeare's 'The Taming of the Shrew' and set in an American High School.



Bridget Jones's Diary (2001)

32-year-old Bridget Jones (played by Renee Zellweger) is determined to get her life together, a goal complicated by a love triangle involving her boss Daniel Cleaver (Hugh Grant) and the aloof but alluring Mark Darcy (played by Colin Firth).

Amelie (2001)

Shy Parisian waitress Amelie (played by Audrey Tautou) attempts to improve the lives of those around her and, along the way, discovers love herself.



The Princess Bride (1987)

Farmhand Westley must rescue his true love Princess Buttercup from the odious Prince Humperdink. A winning combination Fantasy, Comedy, Romance and Adventure,



My Big Fat Greek Wedding (2002)

Written by, and starring, Nia Vardalos, with John Corbett as her romantic interest, 'My Big Fat Greek Wedding' is the highest-grossing romantic comedy of all time.



When Harry Met Sally (1989)

Harry (Billy Crystal) and Sally (Meg Ryan) have known each other for years and are very good friends. Can they ever be anything more?



Love Actually (2003)

A Christmas-themed romantic comedy, written and directed by Richard Curtis, and with an ensemble cast that includes Colin Firth, Hugh Grant, Laura Linney, Emma Thompson, Alan Rickman, Keira Knightly, Bill Nighy and Rowan Atkinson.



From the Wairarapa Archive

A love story from early Masterton.

Sarah Masters was the first daughter of Joseph Masters and his wife Sarah, born in June 1828. She came to Wellington with her family in the early 1840s and met Richard Iorns, and they married in 1847. Sarah and Richard Iorns shifted to Masterton in early 1855, but in November of that same year tragedy hit the family.

Clothing was found near the Waipoua River - a traveller was thought to have drowned. A party searched for the body and Richard Iorns dug a grave, choosing the public reserve, near the river. It was a wasted effort - there had been no body- someone had discarded the clothing. Iorns was too fatigued to be upset. His fatigue turned to a chill, which in turn quickly turned to pneumonia and he died. He was buried in the grave he had dug.

Sarah Iorns was left with four children. She became Postmistress for the town and went to Wellington on estate business. On her way she passed some road workers, including one Henry Bannister, a childless widower. He was smitten by the widow Iorns and, discovering who she was, came to Masterton to pay his respects to her.

An argument had developed between Sarah and her neighbour regarding stock wandering over Sarah's land. Bannister fixed the fence but the neighbour was not pleased with his actions and fought Bannister who was bested in the fight. His leg was broken. He needed nursing and Sarah Iorns offered to tend her champion. The nurse fell for the patient, and the couple wed in Masterton in 1857.

They had eight children before tragedy again struck. Sarah gave birth to her last child in January 1870. Following the birth she suffered from toothache, which led to an ulcer, and in turn septicaemia. She died in July 1870 aged 42.



Sarah Bannister (nee Masters, prev. Iorns) and child, c. 1860

Gareth Winter

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

Book Bugs Book Club (ages 10 - 13)

Wednesday 1st February
5:30pm - 6:30pm

Waitangi Day (Library and Archive closed)

Monday 6th February
10:00am - 5:30pm

Story-Go-Round Pre-School Programme

Wednesday 8th, 15th, and 22nd February
10:30am

Puanga Kohanga Te Reo Pre-School Programme

Thursday 9th, 16th and 23rd February
10:30am

Library Lovers Week

Monday 13th to Saturday 18th February
See story page 4

Unmaking (taking electronic equipment apart)

Monday 13th February
3:30pm (registration required)

Clubcraft (Minecraft Club)

Monday 20th February
3:30pm (registration required)

Lego Club

Monday 27th February
3:30pm (registration required)

Masterton District Library Book Club

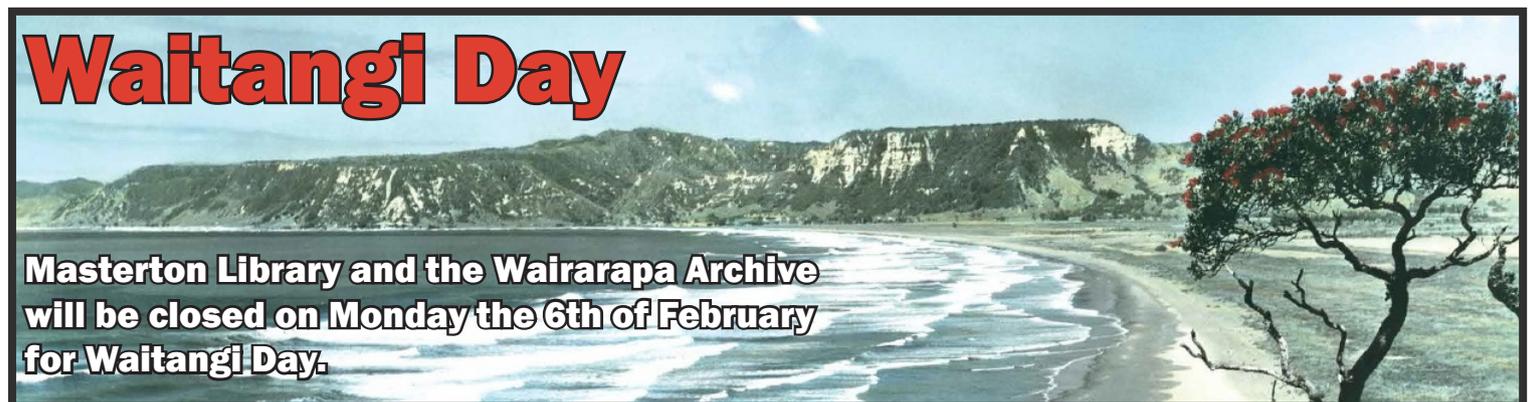
Monday 27th February
1:00pm

Seniors Celebrate

Tuesday 28 February
2:00pm

There are always lots of events and activities happening at the Library. Check them out, and register if necessary, at our EVENTS page <https://masterton.spydus.co.nz/events> or click on the link from the Library/Archive website.

Check the library noticeboard by the Queen Street entrance for more Wairarapa events.



For many people the love they have for their pets is a very strong bond. It has even been suggested that people can begin to look like their pets. Can you match the Masterton Library and Wairarapa Archive staff members below with their pets? Complete the form below and hand into the library by 5:30pm on the 28th of February to go in the draw to win a voucher, generously provided by Ladymead Boarding Kennels and Cattery.



Ladymead Boarding Kennels and Cattery

298 State Highway 2, RD 11, Masterton

ph. 06 377 5595

ladymead@xtra.co.nz



✂

Jon's pet is.....

Charlotte's pet is.....

Chris's pet is.....

Cindy's pet is.....

Jane's pet is.....

Georgia-May's pet is.....

Rachel's pet is.....

Thea's pet is.....

Angela's pet is.....

YOUR NAME:

CONTACT PHONE/eMAIL

.....