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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

Compiled and edited by GeorgianaD

Masterton District Library

georgianad@library.mstn.govt.nz

Good time to be creative indoors

The July issue of Shelf Life has a focus on crafting and the Masterton Library is a great place to start if you're keen to learn a new crafty skill or if you're looking for creative inspiration.

The **cover photo** shows a few of the many gorgeous pure wool garments made and donated by library members for newborns at Wairarapa Hospital.

Winter is the perfect time to be creative indoors and the library has many craft books and magazines (including online) to inspire you, whether you're a beginner or looking for new ideas. See page 4 for a few of our new craft books and pages 8-9 to see some incredible quilted creations by one of the library staff.

There is a weekly session for pre-schoolers on Wednesday mornings which includes a fun craft, and the Sit, Knit and Yarn group meets every Friday morning to share their passion for knitting (see page 5).

If you're already a crafter making hand-made works, or have made something for the first time we would love to see what you're up to – please share photos of your creations on our Facebook page.

This month **Mayor Lyn Patterson** will be in on 24 July with a talk on *Keeping Current*, followed by tea, coffee and biscuits.

The July **school holiday activities** are on our Events page on the website, so register now to participate.



From your Library...

Masterton Library - Year of reading & literacy 2018

Crafting is alive and well!

One of the most used nonfiction areas at the Masterton Library is the craft books. Most of our library staff are keen crafters including knitting, crochet, quilting, sewing and art based crafts.

The Library knitting group meets on a Friday from 10am to 12pm and members of the group have contributed to the hundreds of singlets, booties and hats that have been donated to the Maternity Unit at Wairarapa Hospital.

Crafting and particularly knitting is recognised as having similar benefits as reading:

1. It gives you a sense of pride and achievement
2. It has the same benefits as meditation
3. It alleviates symptoms of anxiety, stress, and depression
4. It helps improve motor functions
5. It slows cognitive decline
6. It helps prevent arthritis and tendonitis

Masterton Library has a great selection of craft books for the beginner to the advanced and the Knitting/Craft group are happy to teach people to knit or crochet and to help with sorting out any

problems. There are many books with knitting and crochet patterns for just about everything you can think of.

There are fiction books based on the crafts as well:

The knitting diaries / Debbie Macomber, Susan Mallery, Christina Skye.

Granny McFlitter, the Champion Knitter / Heather Haylock

Blossom Street series by Debbie Macomber which is largely set in the Good Yarn Knitting Shop

Library staff select the books for the craft section and have an interest and skills in crafting. Ask the staff if you would like to start a craft or learn more advanced methods, we will have a book, or the staff experience to assist you. Don't forget the magazines, we have paper copies of some well-known craft magazines plus online through PressReader there are magazines for many crafts. All you need to access them is to download the App through the link to PressReader on our website and use your Library Card Number and Password to login and access over 7,000 magazines and newspapers. Do a search for your craft and access craft magazines from across the world.

Library Manager, Sandy Green

New Craft Books at the Library



50 DIY Gifts

A rich source of inspiration and step-by-step projects for handmade gifts ranging from easy jewellery projects to simple sewing patterns to quick ideas with paper, yarn, shrink plastic and clay. This book will be your go-to manual for DIY gifts forever more with the minimum of skills.

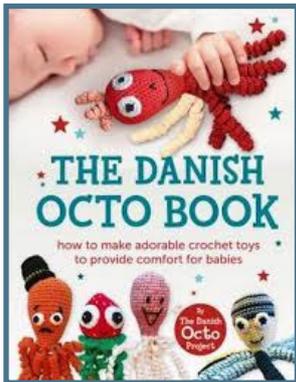
60 Quick Knits for Beginners

All the essential knitting techniques to learn to knit or expand your basic knitting abilities with 60 projects using 220 Superwash from Cascade Yarns.



The Danish Octo Book

This is the official book on the adorable knitted and crocheted octopus puppets that have become a huge phenomenon in Denmark and are now spreading across the globe. With tentacles reminding babies and young children of an umbilical cord, what started as a means to soothe and calm premature babies in hospitals has turned into an unstoppable movement with Octo groups forming all over the world.



Coloring with Thread

You'll find 17 of Tula Pink's animal and floral designs from her best-selling fabric collections rendered and primed for hand embroidery. Step-by-step stitch instructions for over 20 embroidery stitches are included to help you bring adorable bunnies, chipmunks, octopi, and elephants to life right in your hands.

Plum Dandi Knits: Simple Designs for Luxury Yarns

Polished knits. Plush yarns. Perfect match. Sometimes nature's most beautiful details are the perfect inspiration for creating simple yet luxurious knits.



Vogue Knitting: The Ultimate Knitting Book

This updated knitting reference offers an expanded library of stitches, sections on new favorite techniques, dozens of projects for hats, mittens, gloves, socks, and shawls; and revised chapters on finishing and garment care. better than ever before. Crafted by the editors of Vogue Knitting magazine to be the ideal reference for every knitter, from beginner to expert.



Sit, Knit and Yarn



Sit Knit & Yarn is an informal group that meets in the Library each Friday between 10 and 12. It is an opportunity for crafty people to share their ideas and skills, assist each other with their knitty problems and draw others in to learn something new. Group members also enjoy the friendships and support that have grown around the regular contact with



each other. Members knit for donation, most notably for newborns at Masterton Maternity, as well as working on their own projects for family and friends.



The group is facilitated by Mary with other staff joining in when they can (or when they have some knitting to show off!).

This is a free activity and everyone is welcome! (Tea, coffee and biscuits are provided.)



From the Wairarapa Archive

Embroidered Postcards from World War One

You might not think that times of war would cause an outburst of artistic endeavour but New Zealand soldiers serving in Europe during World War One sent letters back to their loved ones on hand embroidered postcards.

Although in production before the war they reached their height of popularity during the conflict, almost disappearing shortly after 1919. They were generally hand embroidered on strips of silk mesh with as many as 25 on a strip. Although they appear to be machine-made, they were in fact mainly produced by French and Belgian women refugees who embroidered the strips of silk in their homes and refugee camps.



The finished strips were then taken to be cut and mounted onto postcards in factories.

As they were made for the overseas soldiers serving in Europe, they frequently featured flags and other patriotic symbols, but many were designed to be sent back to loved ones and were decorated with flowers and small homilies. Some even featured Maori language.

The majority of the cards in the Wairarapa Archive collection were sent to family, such as these sent home by Samuel Dawson of Mangamahoe.

- Gareth Winter



Book Review - Young Adult

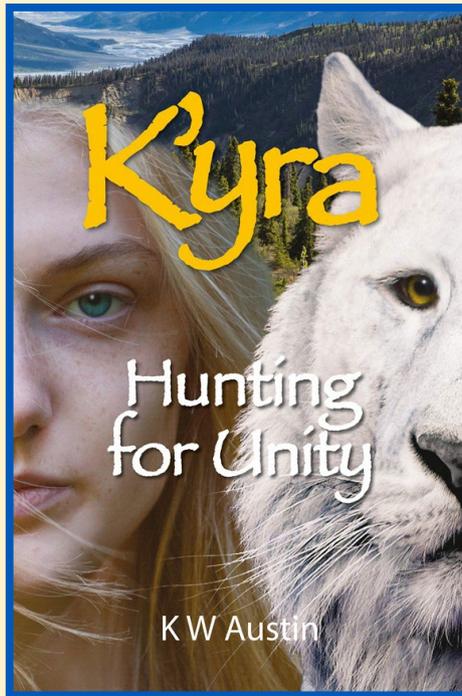
By Aroha Witinitara

K'yra: Hunting for Unity **By K W Austin**

K'yra: Hunting for Unity is the debut novel of Masterton author, K W Austin. This Young Adult fantasy thriller has been 21 years in the making and is the first instalment in a trilogy.

K'yra is the story of a young Englishwoman who is thrust into a savage prehistoric land, and her quest to survive in it. In this prehistoric land of K'yra there lives a band of villagers called the Skeraan - natural survivalists who are guided by tradition. The rhythm of village life is interrupted when, one day, a young woman like no one has seen before appears. With no memory of how she came to be there, the mysterious figure is sheltered by the Skeraan. The leaders keep a watchful eye over her; is she a sign of good luck, or could she be a bad omen?

The villagers share the land with two creatures, the Horraba, monsters of unknown origin, and the Kehan, mighty cats whose fur has the power to horde them away. In the realm of mythical creature media, big cats don't get much time in the spotlight. Most people have heard of creatures such as vampires, werewolves and fairies and know what to expect when picking up a book about them. Fewer people are versed in the lore of big cats, and it is obvious that the author is knowledgeable in the behaviours of



these creatures, which adds to the interest of the story.

On every page you will be bombarded with foreign words in the fictional language of -lxt, which at first glance can seem daunting. Luckily, early on in the story the language of -lxt is described to the reader. The description is

easy to understand even though the sounds of -lxt are very different from English. Trying to pronounce the new vocabulary is fun but will make you sound like a child trying to pronounce their first words.

The book commands your full attention. It is best read in a quiet place, free from distraction. In order to understand the story you must first delve into the history of this world, and Austin's passion for the project is apparent in the details.

The parallels that Austin draws between K'yra and our own society adds an extra dimension to the novel. It's thought-provoking and makes the reader ask questions, as many great Young Adult novels do.

K'yra: Hunting for Unity is undeniably unique and doesn't follow trends, which may not suit everyone. Being different comes with its pros and cons, but in this case the pros outweigh the cons. If you identify as a bookworm this is a story that will expand your horizons, engage your brain and leave you eagerly waiting for the next instalment.

Our Librarians ...

Continuing our look at some of our staff, focusing on the skills, understanding and talents they bring to their job through their experiences in other areas of their lives, be it through their hobbies/ former jobs/voluntary work or travel adventures!

This month we hear from Chris Hawker, our Customer Services Manager, who has been crafting hand-made artworks since she was a young girl.

Both my Mum & Dad were knitters and at

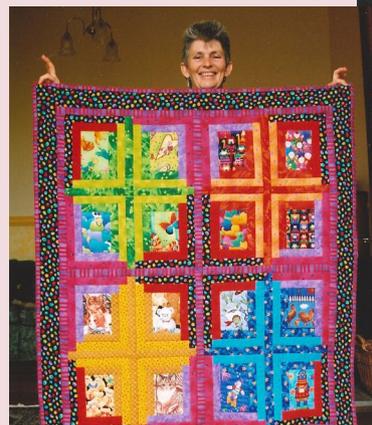


nine I was desperate to do the same as my older friends. I finally listened and learned properly and made my first garment – a jumper for myself in poo coloured tan! It was so satisfying - I was hooked and immediately made another for my younger sister (pictured in it here).



I have come and gone from knitting throughout my life but it has been a bit of an obsession since I took up the needles again to make special warm handcrafted garments for my grandbabies.

In between I have tried lots of other handcrafts – spinning, crochet, macramé and I also sew.



In the nineties I made over 30 quilts and there is a fabric stash waiting for when I have more available hours . It will compete with the knitting yarn stash though!

... other lives



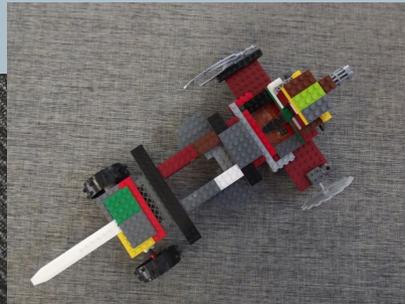
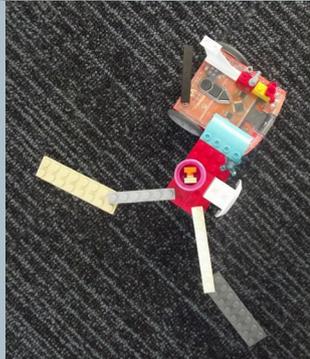
My finest hour quilting wise was when I had a charity quilt, made to fundraise for the Paralympics in Sydney 2000, selected for placement in the permanent art collection at Parliament House in Canberra. Works are stored

and rotated for display. I know it was chosen at one time by a Cabinet Minister to decorate his office. I hope to see it hanging one day!



School Holiday Fun

Robots + Lego



These creative kids added Lego to Edison robots to make an amazing variety of colourful vehicles

What's on in the library...

Pop in for one of our popular weekly or monthly programmes!

School Holidays

Check out the [Events](#) page on our website or at the library for all our school holiday activities.

Device Advice

Every Monday at 11am. Sit with each other and our staff experts and get the tutoring you need to get the most out of your device!

Story-Go-Round Pre-School Programme

Every Wednesday during term time, 10.30 - 11.30am
Fun with stories, singing and crafts.

Sit, Knit and Yarn (knitting & craft group)

Every Friday 10.00am - 12.00pm.

Spark Jump Workshops

Spark Jump Workshop for families with children who do not have an internet connection in their homes.
\$10 for 30GB, pre-pay service with no fixed contract.
Free wifi modem.

Tuesday 10 July, 10am-12 at the *Archive*

Thursday 26 July, 6-8pm at the *Library*

– Please *register* by following the link on our website, by phoning us, or talk to staff at the desk.

OUT on the Shelves

Check out our LGBTQIA book display in the Young Adult area - connecting rainbow people with the stories that represent them.

Book Bugs Book Club (ages 10 - 13)

Wednesday 4 July, 5.30 - 6.30pm.

Fun for all with crafts, speakers, activities & books.
First Wednesday of each month.

Puanga Kohanga Te Reo Pre-School Programme

Every Thursday during term time 10.30 - 11.30am. This programme is delivered in Te Reo Māori and is open to all.

Write On Masterton, with Catherine Cooper

Thursday 5 July, 6.30 - 8.00pm.

A writers get-together to explore creativity through the written word. Free and open to anyone who loves - or longs - to write.

First Thursday of each month.

BookEnds Book Club

Monday 23 July, 1pm

Members choose their own titles to discuss.
Fourth Monday of each month.

Spotlight On... Mayor Lyn Patterson

Tuesday 24 July, 2pm on *Keeping Current*

Monthly speaker session with light refreshments to follow, 2-3pm.

Fourth Tuesday of each month.

'Last Thursday' Evening Book Club

Thursday 26 July, 7pm. Members read the same book and meet to discuss it and exchange views.

Last Thursday of each month.

If required, you can *register* for our events at <https://masterton.spydus.co.nz/events>
You can find the *events* link at the home page of the library website.

Spotlight On

Mayor Lyn Patterson



Keeping current

Masterton District Library

Tuesday 24 July 2pm

Tea, coffee and biscuits will be served at the conclusion

'Spotlight On...'

Library talks for 2018:

27 February - Age Concern

Services for You

27 March - Sarah Dill

An interactive musical
experience

24 April - Neil Frances

Remembering the Belgians

22 May - Gareth Winter

100 years, 100 lives

26 June - Karina Gough

Chair yoga

24 July

Mayor Lyn Patterson

- Keeping Current

28 August - Maria Travers,

Wairarapa Quilters

A quilting journey

25 September - Te

Wharekura o Wairarapa

Waiata-a-ringā action songs

23 October - Zane Saba

Chef on demand

27 November - Hadlow Choir

Carols & cake

Fourth Tuesday of the month,
2-3pm, followed by coffee, tea &
biscuits.