

checked OUT

COVID-19 ISSUE

at Masterton District Library



HELP
STOP THE
SPREAD
AND STAY HEALTHY

Welcome our new Library and Archive Manager



I am delighted to have joined the Masterton District Library as the Library and Archive Manager. I started on April the 1st, which could be an auspicious date at the best of times, but was made even more so by the current Lv 4 lockdown in New Zealand and us all working from home.

I've had a varied career working around New Zealand in libraries and covering all library types. I began my career at the University of Canterbury in their library, and also worked for Massey University in their library in Palmerston North. I have spent the last 14 years of my career working either in public libraries or supporting them. I was lucky enough to be the Manager Digital Services for

Manakau Libraries and then Auckland Libraries after the merger of the cities there. I then went on to support public libraries, spending 4 years as the Manager Services to Public Libraries at the National Library of New Zealand.

My partner and I moved to the Wairarapa in October last year and although the plan was to keep working over the hill, when the role leading the Masterton District Library became available I could not let it go by. I was lucky enough to be successful and am delighted to now be spending all my time on the Wairarapa side of the hill. We have two dogs and 5 chickens and when I am not looking after them, I can be found singing in my rock covers band "The Gentlemen of Rock".

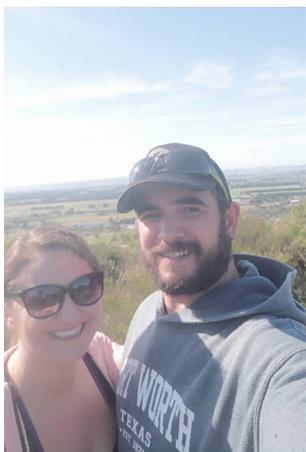
My ambition for the library is to build on the great work that has been done over the years to provide the people of Masterton District with an excellent library service. There is always more to be done to progress the library as the community develops and changes in the 21st century. For me this includes working with the community and listening to the community to ensure we are

providing the services and opportunities they are looking for. It also means leading the community at times to present things that a modern library can provide, to support reading for pleasure, lifelong learning and literacies in all their forms. Libraries are place of enjoyment, learning and enrichment. In the current period we have already moved to increase the e-book content available and add more online resources. We will continue to do this as and when it is appropriate even after the stay at home period of Level 4 has passed.

Lastly I am looking forward to working with the fantastic library team to grow the library together. I feel lucky to be working with such dedicated people. When we do re-enter the building and open to the public we look forward to welcoming you back in. In the meantime please continue to enjoy our online content and programming.

Cheers

Corin Haines, Library and Archive Manager



Tiffany, the Children's and Youth Services Librarian has been adapting to life in isolation quite well, although she is itching to get back into the library. She has been busy with bringing our new Library and Archives Manager, Corin, up to speed on the library.

Working from home has allowed her some time to create some new programmes. She has been adapting a programme called 1000 Books before Kindergarten to debut this winter. The programme encourages you to read 1000 books to your child before they start school.

While in isolation, she celebrated her 40th birthday, has been taking long walks with her husband and dog Oscar, and enjoying homecooked meals and wine.

Her favourite book she has read in isolation was "Writes and Lovers" by Lily King.



Georgia-May, our Māori liaison librarian has been taking her family on plenty of bear hunts around their neighbourhood. They have also been baking, making crafts with stuff they have at home, and lots of reading, anything to try and keep 4 kids occupied in their bubble of 9.



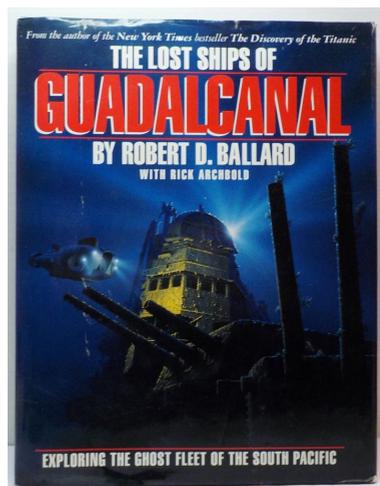
She has enjoyed the book "Legacy" by Whiti Hereaka which was the book our Teen Book club chose to read this month. If you are interested in joining, keep an eye out on our Facebook page for our next book and meeting.



Mark, the Archives Assistant spends his day indexing all the local stories in the Times-Age, quite important as in future times people will want to look back and find the stories relating to COVID-19, and by indexing the stories properly in our newspaper database researchers will be able to find them.

He has been writing for the Times-Age, writing three stories for the paper and so far, one has been published.

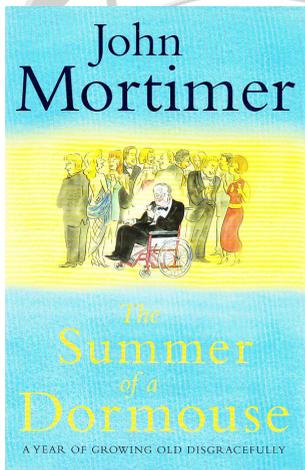
Additionally, Mark has been working on a collective abstract of all the oral histories so subjects will be searchable in one doc file. A big job but an important one.



He's been reading "The Lost Ships of Guadalcanal" by Robert Ballard.

Thea, our homebound librarian has been keeping in touch with all of our customers who usually receive a delivery of books every fortnight.

"Paul is the gardener in our household but I'm usually the one to pick and wash and cook or make salads. The cat also enjoys a good scratch around in there. It's amazing how well plants grow in Masterton without too much effort.



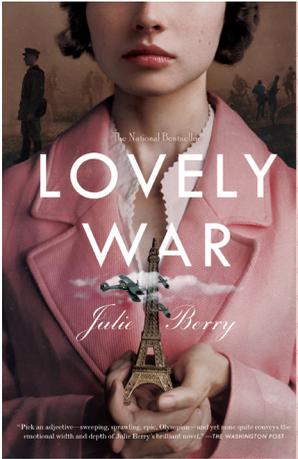
As for the piano - have been playing since I was about eight or nine. I need to practise every day and don't. So lock down is a good opportunity to make melodies more often and try some more challenging pieces too.

Currently I am reading John Mortimer's "The summer of a dormouse: a year of growing old disgracefully." I'm also attempting a tricky jigsaw - one of the kimonos. Lots of red background and intricate designs. It's sitting on my kitchen bench (away from the sink and the stove) so I can stand up to work at it. A nice change from all the sitting at the moment."

Michelle, our Archives Librarian says isolation has been business-as-usual, just in pyjamas and a different location! "The work I do on the newspaper database has transferred to remote work seamlessly, the large collection I'm currently working on can be done digitally, and all the other bits and pieces seem to be falling into place. The only issue is trying to find the time to do any of it while entertaining a pre-schooler!"

As for her favourite read in isolation... Michelle, studying for her BA in History, says she hasn't read anything but textbooks in a while.





Shanti, the star of a lot of our Facebook videos has been busy walking her doggo, reading, making jewellery and spending far too much time on the internet!

Although she is binge watching a few shows, some of her time has been productive - check out our Facebook page to see some of her crafty TikTok's.

Shanti said "It's definitely been weird not seeing you all and I miss the community, the banter and even the kids that sass me during programmes! I've also spent this time catching up on YA fiction that I've always wanted to read, the best so far has been "Lovely War" by Julie

Berry which is available on Libby!"

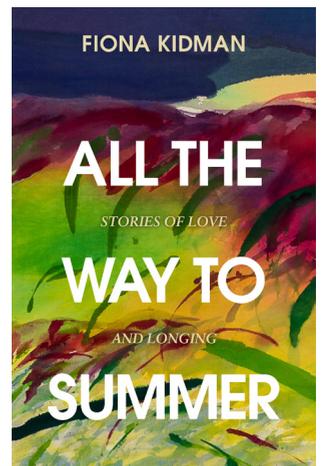


Charlotte, our Children's and Youth Services Team librarian has been bringing you, our customers, online story times, book clubs and challenges for the kids.

She says of her time in isolation "in our house we have been baking, puzzling, playing with Lego and reading lots. The walks we have been taking around the

neighbourhood have really helped to keep sane while trying to work with all of us home at the same time.

I have been reading and loving Fiona Kidman's new book "All the way to summer". Her new book is a wonderful collection of short stories all centred around love. Not just romantic love but all types of love. Engaging and meaningful as only Fiona Kidman's writing is."



Gareth, our District Archivist has been working the on the Intelligence desk in the EOC. "For the first two weeks I was in Waiata House, but for the past week I have been working remotely from home. I have largely been occupied in what is called "situational awareness" – knowing what is going on in the community, what businesses are open, that sort of thing.

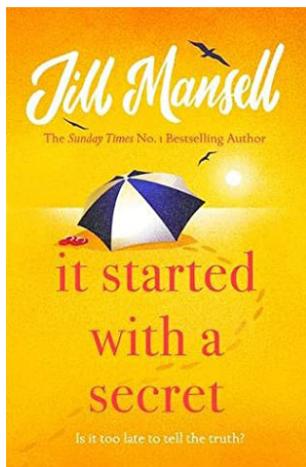
I had a birthday shortly before lockdown and bought myself a present of Sophie Cunningham's 'City of Trees' as a treat. It is a set of essays about life, death and the need for trees and nature in general. It traverses grief, lots of walking, history and trees – just my sort of book. My next book is Robert McFarlane's 'Landmarks'.



You will notice that my home office is just as cluttered as my work one!"

Cindy, our lovely librarian in charge of ordering adult fiction is enjoying working inside her bubble, saying "I have enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere of not having to rush off to appointments, picks up, drop offs and our busy everyday life. I must say I'm getting use to going to work in my slippers! Being one of the lucky ones and being able to work from home has been great but it's not the same and I am

missing my library family and our wonderful public. I have been able to catalogue new books, so we have a great selection ready for you when we are able to open again. I've also spent a lot of time ordering new books, so we have something to look forward to."



As a fan of Jill Mansell's books, Cindy was lucky to have been able to get a copy of her latest title "It started with a secret", to bring home with her. "This book doesn't disappoint and is a fun feel good chic lit romance, perfect for escaping what's going on outside our bubbles all over the world."

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