

**COLLECTORS AND HOARDERS
OF OLD-FASHIONED CHILDREN'S
STORIES**

CONFERENCE

JANUARY 2017





9.00am

Registration

Welcome

Kia Ora and Welcome to the Collectors and Hoaders of Old-fashioned Children's Stories (CHOCS) Conference. The conference has developed from the Annual Collector's Book Sale which has been running in Palmerston North for the last thirteen years. Though open to all Children's books, the Sale has mostly attracted collectors of Girls Own books and this is the focus of the conference today

We are delighted to welcome all our speakers, but in particular Harry Ricketts, Professor at Victoria University of Wellington, and Cheryl Paget, New Zealand Co-ordinator for the Arthur Ransome Society. Harry will be speaking about Antonia Forest's work while Cheryl concentrates on Arthur Ransome, the man behind the books.

It is also with great pleasure that we are able to introduce *Anna-Charlotte*, a previously unpublished Clare Mallory title. Copies of this book will be on sale during the Conference.

Many thanks are extended to Wainuiomata Gospel Church for the allowing us to host the Conference here and also to John Vallely, Paper Plus Lower Hutt for providing the Conference Bags today.

We hope you enjoy the day and find a few treasures during the Collector's Book Sale



9.30am

Antonia Forest Talk

Harry Ricketts

Harry, from the UK originally, is a long time resident in Wellington, where he is a Professor in the English Programme at Victoria University of Wellington

He has published around 30 books; these include poetry collections, literary biographies and personal essays.

As far as GO books go, Harry focuses on reading and collecting Antonia Forest. He (belatedly) started reading Antonia Forest at Christmas 1994 at his sister-in-law's house in Pahiatu and has been collecting, reading and rereading Forest's novels ever since.

He has taught "Autumn Term" from time to time as part of a second-year children's literature course at Victoria University of Wellington and has presented papers on Antonia Forest at Children's Literature Conferences.

Special interests: Antonia Forest, Arthur Ransome, Susan Cooper, Alan Garner, Diana Wynne-Jones, Rudyard Kipling, Margaret Mahy

Harry is still searching for copies of *The Marlows and the Traitors* and *The Thuggery Affair*.

He will be talking about rules and codes in Forest's novels and look at their literariness. Both aspects fascinate him.



Barbara Roberston

Barbara Robertson is from Wellington. She was a Mathematics teacher for 42 years in a variety of schools both in New Zealand and overseas. She is currently the Editor of *The Abbey Gatehouse*, the magazine of the NZ Abbey Girls Club.

Barbara has been reading GO type books since the mid 1980s. She picked up a copy of *You're a Brick, Angela* at a book sale at University when she saw that it had been sent for review to *The Listener* to Miss Fraser, her old French teacher at Wellington Girls' College. Later while following her husband round secondhand bookshops, she bought a copy of *Barbara at School* (Josephine Elder), read it and enjoyed it. Then a friend asked her to look out for books by Clare Mallory which she had owned as a child. Barbara had never heard of Mallory, but they found some in Bronwyn Waite's Abbey Bookshop in Auckland. In this shop Barbara also noted that books by Elsie Oxenham (by their prices), were obviously collectable. So she tried reading some and the rest, as they say, is history.

Early in 1989 they saw a notice in Quilter's bookshop in Wellington inviting readers of Elsie Oxenham's books to join the newly formed New Zealand Abbey Girls' Club. Barbara swiftly became the 16th Member.

Her main interests are Clare Mallory, Elsie Oxenham, Dorita Fairlie Bruce, Mary Grant Bruce, Antonia Forest, Elinor Brent-Dyer, Josephine Elder, Elfrida Vipont, . . .

One of Barbara's best finds was in Raumati in 1993 - a first edition of *A Go-ahead Schoolgirl* for just \$6.50. Her most treasured Clare Mallory Book: the proof copy (with an extra illustration) of *Leith and Friends* which Janet Maconie gave her before she found her own copy of that title.

Barbara's topic for this Conference is Clare Mallory, and she will concentrate on the author rather than her books and disseminate information she has gained through various research opportunities.

10.15am

Clare Mallory Talk

and Introduction to the previously unpublished *Anna-Charlotte*

*Copies of Anna-Charlotte will
be available for purchase
during the Lunch Break priced
at \$29.00*



Morning Tea

Morning Tea and Light refreshments will be available at the back of the Hall

11.00am

Morning Tea





Cheryl Paget

Currently living in Havelock North, Cheryl was born in Scotland and brought up in Suffolk, England and has lived in several places in between. Emigrating in 2009 as a single Mum with two boys has proved to be the best move yet.

Cheryl spent her childhood weekends borrowing books from the library and spending her pocket money one week on a novel and the next week on the latest number one hit single. Her interest in books soon overtook her interest in music, and consequently each house move has necessitated packing up more and more boxes of books.

Cheryl cites *Anne of Green Gables* as the biggest influence on her life, deciding at a very early age that she would go to University to study English Literature just like Anne Shirley. Nothing swayed that decision, and the course of the rest of her life, chiefly becoming a career civil servant, followed that initial goal. At times, Cheryl wonders what course her life might have taken had she not read about (and actually been) that red headed girl with a wild imagination. Cheryl completed her studies at Warwick University with an MA in Literature for Children in 1994.

The other biggest literary influence was Arthur Ransome's *Swallows and Amazons* series. Depending on the occasion, Cheryl has been Nancy, Peggy, Susan or Titty at some point in her life, and continues at times to pretend she is a Nancy when she knows really, life as a working Mum means she is a Susan. As the New Zealand Co-ordinator for the Arthur Ransome Society, Cheryl gets to release the inner Nancy every year when organising the society's annual weekends, as well as trying to indulge a desire to continue her studies in Literature for Children. Arthur Ransome's life and work continues to provide a wide source for research, and Cheryl would like to acknowledge and thank the Red Slipper Research Fund from the Arthur Ransome Society in assisting with the preparation for her presentation.

Cheryl's presentation is entitled "Arthur Ransome: story-teller, journalist, sailor, fisherman and suspected spy." There was much more to Ransome than the *Swallows and Amazons* series alone and he wrote more than 25 other books on a wide range of subjects, mainly related to his own life, which was exciting and deeply fascinating. The presentation will explore why he never wrote about his experiences in Russia, whether he really was a spy turned children's author, and whether there is still a place for books for children in today's online world.

11.15am

Arthur Ransome: story-teller, journalist, sailor, fisherman and suspected spy



11.45am

Cleeve Abbey Then and Now

(Elsie J Oxenham Interest)

Jane Webster

Jane enjoyed reading her mother's three Abbey books (Elsie J. Oxenham) as a child, so much so that she took them with her when she left home. Seeing other Oxenham titles in a second-hand bookshop while she was living in Christchurch was the enticement Jane needed to get over her dislike of 'used' books.

With the exception of the Oxenham books, almost all of the old children's books which now fill Jane's shelves are by authors she has been introduced to through the members of the Abbey Girls club since she joined the group in the early 1990s - particularly via the 'wants lists' they published in their newsletters. Additionally many of the cosy mysteries and young adult science fiction and fantasy authors that she have given shelf-room to have been recommended to her by those same like-minded readers and collectors. (And she suspects they might say she has returned the favour as far as introducing them to new authors goes.)

Jane began collecting old postcards of Cleeve Abbey after visiting the UK and being shown the collection of photos and postcards that had belonged to Elsie Oxenham. She preferred them to modern photos from her own visits because they showed the 'Abbey' as the author would have known it and as time has gone on the collection has developed a life of its own, growing beyond just the easy to store postcards. Jane will be using some of her collection to illustrate her talk on 'Cleeve Abbey: Then and Now'.



12.30
LUNCH

Lunch will be served
upstairs on the
Mezzanine.

THE
ROSE AND SQUIRREL
TEA-HOUSE & CRAFT-SHOP
TEAS, LIGHT LUNCHES
AND SUPPERS PROVIDED
Handwoven Goods & Craftwork for sale



13.15

CHOCS BOOK SALE

Collectors' Book Sale.....

.....Collectors selling to other Collectors

Introduction

The Collectors' book sale began in 2004 and was founded with the idea that, as members of a collecting community, we would prefer to sell to, and buy from, other collectors at reasonable prices.

Because this is a sale by collectors to collectors we do ask that people not buy to make a profit by on-selling.

Background

For the first nine years the collectors book sale was held in the garage at Jane's place in Palmerston North but in 2014 it relocated to the back room at Beth's workplace, the Trash & Treasures bookshop in Palmerston North. This is the first time it has been held in Wellington

The sale is only open to registered attendees at the conference.

Preparation

Inside each book the seller will include their name and the price (in pencil, on post-it notes, or on slips of paper, all inside the front cover).

The books are placed in boxes with spines facing up so that people can easily read them.

Boxes should be open topped or lidded (like the ever-popular banana boxes) so that they can be placed on the tables with the books showing. (The sort of boxes which have four top flaps are not really suitable.)

The seller's name needs to be included on the outside of each box so that at the end of the sale sellers can find their boxes for removal.

HOW THE SALE WORKS

When arriving for the conference, sellers will be able to drop their boxes off at the sale venue.

When the sale opens everybody is free to look around and select the books they would like to buy. Sellers don't need to hover by their boxes to take payment (and miss out on bargains elsewhere) as buyers pick up what they want and then 'settle up' with each applicable seller when they have finished shopping.

Note: Afternoon tea will be available during the sale.

When their shopping is over (or after the first half-hour), buyers should settle up what they owe with each seller. Buyers need to take the money to the seller, or the seller's labelled 'honesty jar', and make their payment. Some sellers like to know what books have sold, so check if they also want the tags (paper or post-it) from the books.

We recommend paying one seller at a time to avoid mistakes.

When they leave the conference, sellers will need to take their unsold books. (There is no option to leave them to be donated this year.)

What Sort of Books?

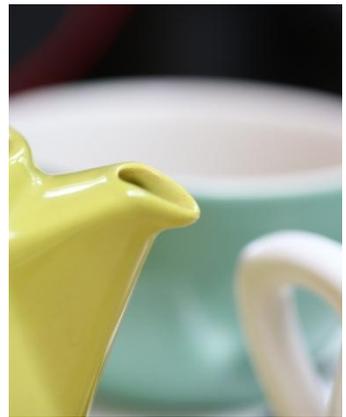
As well as the old children's books we all love there is usually a huge range of books available because of the wide range of 'other' interests that our sellers share. Those who have attended before will realise that this sale isn't just flogging the junk that's built up around our bookshelves over the year - books are specially put aside for **this** sale so that they can be offered to New Zealand collectors first.

Buyer or Seller?

Please try to be both a buyer **and** a seller; offer your books at reasonable prices just as the sellers are offering their books to you.

Reminder

Every book must be priced and include the seller's name. Books should be placed in boxes spine upward. Boxes should be named for easy collection.



15:00

Afternoon Tea

(Book Sale will continue)



Marianne Dobie

Marianne started reading the Chalet School books as a child. The early ones are her favourites, as her father is Austrian, so the setting has family meaning.

Marianne was introduced to the Abbey Girls Club by Jane Webster, who she contacted regarding the *Girls Gone By* reprints. Since then she has made friends with kindred spirits around New Zealand, and overseas as well.

Marianne has extended her collection significantly since joining the club.

Her best find is *The School by the River* by Elinor Brent Dyer. Apparently only twelve or so copies are known to exist, as the plates were destroyed in a bombing raid during World War II.

Beth and Marianne will be showing slides and talking about their wonderful trip (or book pilgrimage) in 2016. They visited some amazing places, including Rye, Arundel, Cleeve, Bath, Guernsey, St. Malo, Interlaken, Innsbruck, Pertisau and Salzburg, all settings for some of their beloved books.

15:30

A Girls Own Literary Pilgrimage (slideshow)

Beth Drysdale

Beth started reading Chalet books when she was 9. Naturally, she couldn't find them in order, but would scour her friends' bookshelves when visiting. She could only find the abridged Armada paperbacks, so can remember the thrill of reading *The School at the Chalet* and *The Chalet School in Exile* unabridged for the first time.

Beth's very best find was finding about twenty hardback Chalet books with dustjackets for \$10. She wasn't collecting at the time, but it was great to finally be able to read some of the series in order.

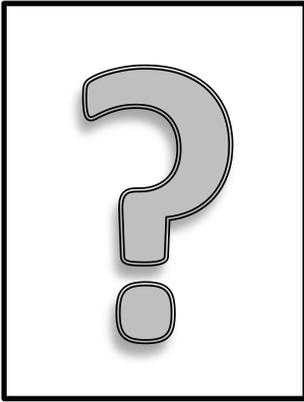
Marianne and Beth are doing a talk on their wonderful book trip with Jane Webster and her husband, Gary Danvers. It was Beth's first time overseas and to go with people who understood why it was important to have *Kaffee und Kuchen*, walk to the Dripping Rock, take the Steamer a lot of times, and do as much as they could just like some of the characters in books made it extra special.

Some other highlights were going to 'Rosamund's Castle', imagining Joy and Jen dancing on the Garth at Cleeve, and Tazmin climbing down the drain pipe at The Vicarage, where they actually stayed.



15:30

A Girls Own Literary Pilgrimage (slideshow)

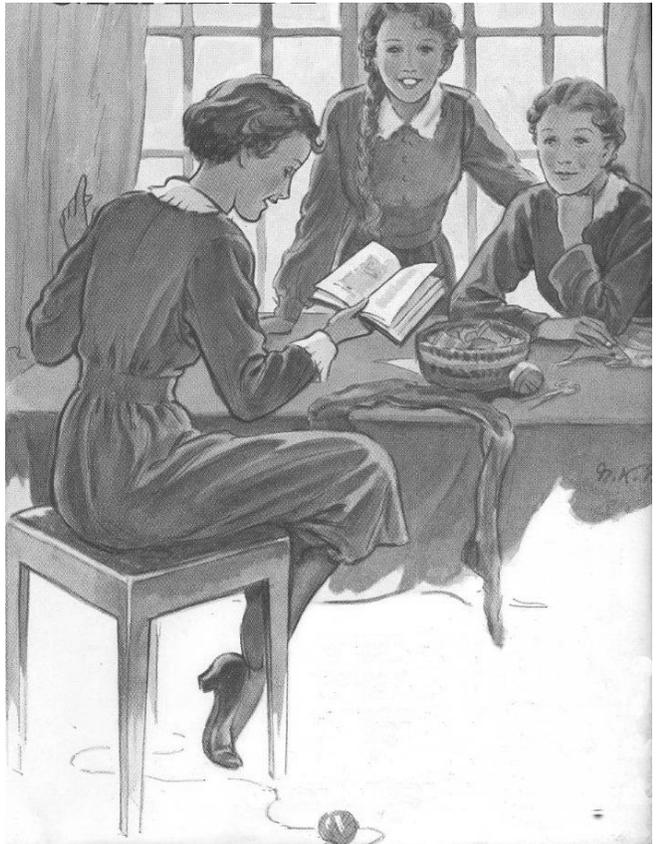


Wendy Adlam

Wendy's Team Quiz will challenge your knowledge of those Old Childrens' Stories that we all love so much. See how many you know and take note of what you don't. There's obviously a lot more reading to be done....

16:00

Quiz





18:00

Dinner

Jackson Street Bistro,
306 Jackson Street,
Petone

Tel (04 589 8585)

<http://www.jacksoncafebistro.co.nz/>

Jackson Street Bistro Petone

Driving Directions

Follow Fitzherbert Road. At the roundabout, take 3rd exit onto Wainuiomata Road.

At the next roundabout, take the 1st exit.

Once over the Hill, take the ramp to Wellington/
Seaview/ Eastbourne

Continue onto Gracefield Road

At the roundabout, take the 2nd exit on to Bell Road

Turn Left onto Parkside Road

At the roundabout, take the 2nd exit on to Seaview Road

At the roundabout, take the 2nd exit onto Waione St

Continue onto the Esplanade

At the Lights turn right onto Cuba St

Turn Left onto Jackson St. The Bistro is on the left.

