

# New Books at the District Library

## FICTION

### Blue Heaven, by C.J. Box

So many retired Los Angeles policemen have moved into the woods of North Idaho, it has been nicknamed "Blue Heaven" by locals. Mostly the newcomers are welcome, although they do not mix much. When some local children witness the execution style killing of one ex-cop by a group of his former colleagues, they become the prey.



### The Likeness by Tana French

A second detective novel by this young author, who won the Edgar Award this year for her first novel, *In The Woods*, which introduced her character, Dublin policewoman Detective Cassie Maddox. Cassie is persuaded to go undercover again when the body of a young woman is found who both closely resembles her, and is using one of Cassie's former undercover identities.



### Blood Brother by J.A. Kerley

Homicide Homicide detective Carson Ryder is summoned from his Alabama home to the NYPD. They have found a videotape on which a woman victim has mentioned his name. The horribly mutilated dead woman had been a colleague, an expert in psychopathic killers. So is Carson, because his brother Jeremy Ridgecliff is in prison for the similarly brutal murders of five women. At least, he was.



### Blue Smoke And Murder by Elizabeth Lowell

A feminist rancher in Mormon country is killed when a thief comes to steal some Western paintings she has hidden away for her great-niece. Although Modesty Breck's death is made to look accidental, Jill Breck is suspicious. When she receives a death threat, Jill calls in a favour owed her by the owner of a detective agency. The bodyguard they send her is an art expert, and together they must protect Jill's inheritance from the deadly greed of rogue collectors.



### The Birthday Present by Barbara Vine

Barbara Vine is also Ruth Rendell, the creator of the Inspector Wexford murder mysteries. When using the Barbara Vine name, her books are deeper and more complex in characterisation. In this one, a Tory MP arranges the mock abduction of his mistress to add to the excitement of their affair. Unfortunately the car she is kidnapped in crashes, and the woman dies. The real drama lies in Ivor Tesham's struggle to avoid the scandal that would finish his political career.



### High Potential, by Ber Carroll

Katie Horgan has always wanted to be a partner — not a lawyer, a partner. Her efforts ensure her a place in the development programme of a prestigious law firm. This involves a posting to Dublin, where Katie tracks down her Irish family, and her mother's well-kept secret.



### Say Goodbye by Lisa Garden

A psychological thriller which doesn't need to rely on the fact that the villain has a taste for tarantulas to make the skin crawl. A child abuser and kidnapper who also preys on women, the Burgerman preselects his victims by making each of those he is about to kill disclose the name of someone they love. Kimberley Quincey, FBI Special Agent, is appealed to by a young woman who is in the Burgerman's power.



### The Time Of Terror by Seth Hunter

Horatio Hornblower has a lot to answer for. Yet another eighteenth century British Navy epic, this one set in the time of the French Revolutionary government and the famous Terror. Naval commander Nathan Peake is given the secret mission of undermining the fragile French economy. Finally he is released from his undercover activities to rejoin the Fleet and engage in the first major battle against the French navy.



### The French Gardener by Santa Montefiore

Miranda Miranda Claybourne is the new chateleine of Harrington House, while her husband spends the weekdays at their flat in London. Like their two children, Miranda finds country life difficult to adjust to. She is relieved to discover a mysterious Frenchman who promises to restore the house's famous garden to its former glory. Jean-Paul was once in love with the former owner of the house, and history begins to repeat itself.



### Fine Just The Way It Is by Annie Proulx

Another collection of Wyoming stories by the author of *Brokeback Mountain*. Proulx's spare style and dry humour are a good fit for the harsh country her characters struggle with.



## NON FICTION

### The Bolger Years, 1990-1997

Well known politicians such as Bill Birch, Wyatt Creech, Jenny Shipley, Colin James and Ken Douglas provide insightful views of Jim Bolger's term as Prime Minister. Useful revision for voters on the last time National was in government. From this distance, a certain amount of misty nostalgia can creep in. Jane Clifton fondly remembers many members of the Bolger government as endearingly batty, "The journey started in Te Kuiti on election night 1990, with the most abandoned party since Richard Prebble's state house eviction party. Joan played Wild Thing on the ukulele, and Jim sang Danny Boy..."



### Ngaio Marsh, Here Life In Crime by Joanne Drayton

A sound biography of this famous crime writer, Shakespearean director and Canterbury icon, including descriptions of her book plots and their place in the genre. Much of the biographical material seems to be lifted straight out of Ngaio Marsh's 1966 autobiography, often in the form of direct quotes. Therefore the author is already accepting the authorised version of Marsh's life, despite her claim to be carrying out detective work on well-kept secrets. However, it is an interesting read, and places Marsh firmly among the leading Queens of Crime.



### Animals In Translation, The Woman Who Thinks Like A Cow by Temple Grandin and Catherine Johnson

Temple Grandin is autistic, and her different view of the world allows her insights into how animals see things. As she says, "Animals and autistic people don't see their ideas of things; they see the actual things themselves. We see the details that make up the world, while normal people blur all those details together into their general concept of the world." In her native United States she has redesigned many stock handling facilities so as to improve animal welfare as well as efficiency. A fascinating view of animal behaviour and inheritance.



### A Nest Of Singing Birds, 100 Years Of NZ School Journal

How's this for nostalgia? Remember those safe and satisfying story readings on the radio in the classroom? Founded in 1907, the School Journal has included the work of many famous New Zealand writers and artists. Short biographies of some of the more famous are included, together with brief examples of their work. And of course the book is lavishly illustrated with art work through the years.



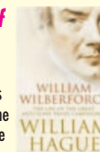
### Street Wise Parenting by Glenn Compain

A policeman and parent himself, the author sets out to offer practical suggestions on recognising different sorts of criminal activity at the outset, and preventing young people adding to the ever-growing youth crime statistics. In 2002 he became Pacific Liaison Officer for a large part of the Auckland region, with the tasks of breaking the hold of youth gangs, reducing fatal road crashes, and addressing domestic violence in the Pacific community. There is a firm basis of experience for his warnings and recommendations. It is his belief that youth problems can only be solved at a family level, and that by deciding on their own vision and values each family can set rules which will defend their children against harmful outside influences.



### William Wilberforce, The Life Of The Great Anti-Slave Trade Campaigner by William Hague

If you like great thumping biographies, this is a corker. William Wilberforce spearheaded the 20 year campaign to abolish the Atlantic slave trade, which he achieved in 1807, making it his life's work. Before he died in 1833 Wilberforce had the satisfaction of seeing slavery itself abolished throughout the British Empire. Author William Hague is a former Conservative party leader, and his political knowledge adds colour to Wilberforce's struggles for support in the House of Commons.



### Jones On Management by Bob Jones

Love him or hate him, Bob Jones is always capable of an engaging and thought-provoking rant. Here he sets out his views of management, and the undesired solemnity with which this basically common sense activity is surrounded. Tiers of management comprise the box-tickers, head-noddors, CEO and the Board — emperors with no clothes. This is an interesting read, but I didn't get the bit about the dwarves.



### My Father's Shadow, A Portrait Of Justice Peter Mahon by Sam Mahon

A poetic and absorbing portrait of the man most will remember as heading the Commission of Enquiry into the Mt Erebus air disaster of 1979. Despite some annoying spelling mistakes, it is very readable, and reveals Mahon's character as seen through the eyes of his artist son.



# New Books at the Children's Library

## Picture books

### Whale Gets Stuck by Charles Fuge and Karen Hayles

It is midsummer in the Arctic and Whale is feeling playful. He does a gigantic leap out of the water and gets stuck on an ice floe. The animals and birds gather to help but nothing seems to work. I'm not sure that I believe in the special friendship between Whale and Fish, given their respective places in the food chain. However this is a great introduction to problem solving, and to a variety of marine creatures.



### Delilah Darling Is In The Classroom by Jeanne Willis, illustrated by Rosie Reeve

Delilah thinks that she is a Queen on a land far away. She really wants a pet rhinoceros but has to make do with the cat and the dog. Delilah's imagination makes her a constant challenge. You won't be able to guess what happens when she gets to take Polly and Dolly, the class hamsters, home for the weekend. Delilah is autistic and sassy. The humour will appeal to children but also to their parents.



## Chapter books

### Attack Of The Lizard King by Rex Stone, illustrated by Mike Spoor

This is the first book in a series called Dinosaur Cove. Eight-year-old Jamie and his father shift to an old lighthouse. With his new friend, Tom, he finds a way through an old smugglers' cave, into a land where dinosaurs still roam freely. Suddenly Jamie's passion for fossil hunting turns into a close encounter with Tyrannosaurus Rex himself! Perfect for newer chapter book readers.



### The London Eye Mystery by Siobhan Dowd

Ted and Kat watch as their cousin, Salim, boards the London Eye. Thirty minutes later they are in vain for him to reappear. How can anyone disappear from a closed pod on a giant ferris wheel? Ted's brain works in its own unique way, skilled at reading the weather but not at understanding other people. He and his more practical sister, Kat, are forced to pool their talents to solve the mystery. Recommended.



## Non fiction

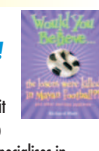
### Colour by Penelope Arlon

Colour is a part of the Eye Know series, from the publishers Dorling Kindersley. This is a great series to share with a young child, or for newly independent readers to discover for themselves. Flaps and cut-outs are used to introduce topics such as the colours of the rainbow, dyes and camouflage. Penelope Arlon has managed to pack plenty of interesting information into a little book.



### Would You Believe The Losers Were Killed In Mayan Football?! by Richard Platt

This would make a refreshing change from modern sport, where it often seems to be the losing team's coach who gets the chop. The Would You Believe series specialises in gathering together miscellaneous information that is fun to dip into. Whether you want to know about roller coasters or bog snorkelling it is all here. Mayfield farmers might be interested to know that Russian racing pigs are trained by coaches and psychologists at a special Sport Pig Centre.



## Teen reads

### Kill The Possum by James Moloney

Every second Sunday Kirsty's stepfather returns her younger sister home after a visit. Every second Sunday he torments Kirsty, her mother and her brother. The abuse is psychological. Nothing that will leave visible scars. Nothing that can be proved. Kirsty's boyfriend, Dylan, accidentally witnesses one of these sessions. He wants to help but Dylan has issues of his own. This is a book about anger and the destruction it causes.



### Finding Darcy by Sue Lawson

Darcy's Mum drops a bombshell. She needs to go away for a couple of months. Darcy will have to stay with her Grandmother and Great-grandmother — nicknamed Misery and Betty. To make matters worse Darcy's exile coincides with a bad patch at school and an awkward assignment. How can she write about her family in World War Two when no-one will talk about it? Digging into secrets helps Darcy to understand her family and the reasons for their silence.

