

BDS Footnote

AUGUST 2009 - # 3



NEWSLETTER OF THE BOOK DISCUSSION SCHEME

36 YEARS OF GOOD READING

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1 RE-ENROLMENT FOR 2010

Thank you to all BDS members, but in particular to the convenors for helping us make our Scheme such a success. We have grown considerably in the last few years and now have approximately 850 groups, the majority being in Christchurch and Auckland.

As devoted book lovers it is our aim to keep the membership of reading groups affordable to all. The membership fee has remained at \$50 since 2007 but with increasing costs we now have to increase the fee to \$56 per person. This extra \$6 works out at less than \$1 a month so we hope you will continue to consider your membership fee as very good value for money.

The membership fee for Convenors remains at \$30 and this is in recognition of all the work that convenors do for the BDS.

We are offering new programmes for readers and the full details are shown over the page. The Re-Enrolment Pack will be forwarded to groups in the September book parcels and we ask that you return your amended form and book selections by 7 December 2009 – either scan and email back, or fax or send by post. Payment of fees is due by 28 February 2010 and to keep our staff costs as low as possible, we ask also that you arrange to pay your group membership in one payment.

Best wishes to you all for good reading in 2010.

Murray Jones
Chairperson

Barbara Brown
Manager

2 COURIER BAGS

Site Codes

CourierPost offers a service to help you with the collection of book parcels. If you register a site code with them, then each month you can phone CourierPost's 0800 number, advise your site code number and your book parcel will be picked up at no extra charge – it means that you don't have to give your address every time you phone the courier. To register for a site code, phone CourierPost on 0800 268 7437 and speak to their Customer Service team (this service is not available for rural deliveries).

Purchase of Courier Bags

We have been advised by CourierPost that there will be an increase in the price of courier bags from 1 October. If you'd like a supply of courier bags at the current costs, then please get your orders in quickly!

3 MEMBERSHIP FEES & BDS PROGRAMMES AVAILABLE

From 2010 we will have two new reading programmes for groups, in addition to the usual 10 books a year. The reading programmes are:

1] FULL PROGRAMME – one book a month for 10 months (our current programme)	
Groups of 7–12 members	\$56 per member (excluding convenor) \$30 for the convenor
Groups of 6 or less members	A minimum annual fee of \$366 per group

2] HALF PROGRAMME – one book every two months (five books in total)	
Groups of 7–12 members	\$40 per member (excluding convenor) \$25 for the convenor
Groups of 6 or less members	A minimum annual fee of \$265 per group

3] STUDENT PROGRAMME – one book a month from February–June (when senior students have more free time)	
Groups of 7–12 members	\$30 per member (excluding convenor) \$20 for the convenor
Groups of 6 or less members	A minimum annual fee of \$200 per group

Fee for new members joining through the year

New members are very welcome to join at any time throughout the group's financial year – their membership fee will be calculated at \$6 a month for the remainder of the group's membership year.

4 BOOK CHOICES FOR 2010

The 2010 Catalogue will be included in the Re-Enrolment pack. Please make your book choices on the back of the Re-enrolment form and return by 7 December 2009. Your monthly titles will be selected by a computer programme in 2010. If you do not put your titles in priority order, then titles will be chosen at random from any place on your list.

Titles for 2011 will become available mid 2010. This year we are giving groups the opportunity to indicate that they would like to receive a 2011 title when one becomes available. The book choice will be left to BDS staff, so have a think about this option and advise us on the form when you receive it.

We will advise you throughout 2010 of new titles that have been added to the scheme – you are very welcome to add any of these new titles to your 2010 book list.

5 WHAT'S HOT WITH THE BOOK GROUPS

At least once a month Shelagh will be updating our What's Hot part of the website, so please drop by to see what groups think of the books they've read. It will help you with your 2010 book selections. A taste of the site is shown below:

The Glass Castle (Jeanette Walls)

Non-Fiction

Groups are having lively debates over this unusual family.

"This book engendered a wonderful discussion ... great that Jeanette allowed herself to be so honest and tell us how it really happened . . ." [Wellington 074]

"We thought NZ would be too small for such a family to abscond so often - they would not hide so easily here." [Te Kuiti 002]



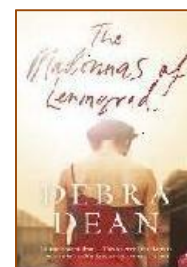
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The Madonnas of Leningrad (Debra Dean)

Fiction

"We all enjoyed this book and the discussion was about Russia, the Siege [of Leningrad] and its history. One of our members was in St Petersburg last month and brought along photos of the Winter Palace and the Hermitage, plus books. We all want to go there!" [Queenstown 005]

"We had a long and good discussion on this book and linked it with various other books and films we'd seen or read. Wonderfully descriptive (and occasionally surreal) also sad . . ." [Lower Hutt 004]



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How to Stop a Heart From Beating (Jackie Ballantyne)

Fiction (NZ Interest)

A first novel set in New Zealand that is proving to be a favourite.

"What a delightful story. Very readable. Many commented on the freedom to roam that we had at that age unlike today's children." [Masterton 007]

"We all loved this book - from start to finish it was beautifully written, gripping, tender, surprising and a delight." [Doubtless Bay 001]

6 NEW BOOKS ON THE SHELF (check the 'What's New' part of our database for more new titles)

ENGLEBY (Sebastian Faulks)

Fiction

This is the story of Mike Engleby – we learn of his life from his difficult childhood through to Cambridge University where he becomes totally obsessed with a female classmate. The young woman mysteriously disappears and Mike finds himself under police investigation. Many years go by and the case remains unsolved. Through his journal-like account, Mike gradually tells us more of what happened – or at least a version of it – but there seems to be something missing . . .

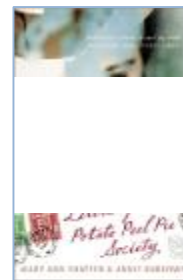
Comments from BDS book reviewers: "Great read, almost unable to put it down."

"A fascinating look into the mind of a vulnerable and fragile personality. It is both readable and challenging and very beautifully written."

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GUERNSEY LITERARY & POTATO PEEL PIE SOCIETY, THE (Mary Ann Shaffer) Fiction

It's just after the second world war in London – a newspaper columnist (Juliet) receives a letter from a book lover in Guernsey. This letter is the start an amazing correspondence and friendship between Juliet and members of the fascinating Guernsey Literary & Potato Peel Pie Society who are recovering from the German occupation of their island. A delightful read – a must for those groups wanting something a little lighter in style.



Comments from BDS book reviewers: "The story, set against a recent backdrop of dark despair and grief, is nevertheless light-hearted and uplifting. It is a gem of a story."

"This is a story for book lovers, collectors, readers and people who enjoy talking about all and every book. It is funny, laugh aloud at times and equally it reminds us of the total horror and impact of war and the importance of loving relationships."



LOTTERY (Patricia Wood) Fiction

Perry has an IQ of 76 and while he's a little slow, he will tell you he's not stupid. He was abandoned by his parents and siblings as a baby and was brought up by wonderful grandparents, his grandmother in particular arming Perry well with what he needed to know. After his beloved grandmother dies he wins the lottery and suddenly becomes very popular with his family . . .



Comments from BDS book reviewers: "This is a delightful read! Full of human feelings, raw, tender, very insightful."

"Very easy to read, flows well. Full of wise thoughts. Poignant examination of human nature, their failings and the nature of greed."



THREE CUPS OF TEA (Greg Mortenson) Non-Fiction

In 1973 Greg Mortenson's attempt to climb the K2 mountain comes to a disastrous end when he loses his way on the descent. He is rescued and cared for by villagers in a remote village in Pakistan. Touched by their kindness, he promises to return to build them the school they so desperately need. This is the amazing story of how Mortenson was able to build 55 schools in remote villages in Afghanistan and Pakistan over the next 10 years. (Mortenson speaks of Sir Edmund Hillary, a man he admired greatly.)

Comments from BDS book reviewers: "This book must be in the top 2% of books I've reviewed for the BDS. I have no hesitation in recommending it for the scheme."

"The book is a fascinating insight into the world of ordinary Muslims in impoverished parts of Pakistan. The book is a page-turner and the story builds up momentum as it progresses."



