

October 2024

From the Librarian

Kia ora koutou,

There have been many visitors to the library this month. We held two tours for Hocken library staff. They were interested in hearing about our history and the archivists were happy to see our mysterious basement.

There was an open day on the 19th of the basement. Some of you may have attended. This was hosted by the landlord, Lawrie Forbes. He shared his exciting plans for the building, and we are excited to be a part of these plans. More to follow in the coming year.

- **Holly Fletcher**

What's Happening

Dunedin Zine Festival is happening on the first weekend of November. We will be hosting the following events in the library:

Friday 1st November.

Zine making workshop from 3.30pm. Come along and make a Zine- which is short for magazine. Which is basically a wee book.

All materials supplied.

Then at 6pm there will be a panel discussion with various guests including poet David Merrit.

These events are free and require no booking.



University Bookshop Book Launch:

Liar, Liar, Lick, spit

by Emma Neale

Launched by Lousie Wallace

Thurs 14th November 5.30pm

RSVP- events@unibooks.co.nz



Book Review

William Boyd

Gabriel's Moon

Set in the 1960s the novel follows Gabriel Dax, a young British journalist who is drawn into the shadowy world of cold war spycraft.

The story begins with a fire that claims the life of Gabriel's mother. This opening scene immediately

pulls you into the story. Giving the novel a pace of a thriller. Gabriel is offered a chance to interview a political figure, which in turns leads him into a complex series of events. It also introduces him to the enigmatic and efficient Faith Green.

He is young, independent and at times overly confident to the point of being unlikeable. The gentle humour of Boyd's writing artfully explores these traits. At one point mocking Gabriels own writing with its grandiose descriptions of the places he has travelled to. Which implies a self-awareness to the novel's own language, which is immense. I found myself frequenting the dictionary, to look up words such as Crapulous, flocculent, garrulous, the list goes on.

It was a joyful experience immersing oneself into Boyd's world. There are numerous scenes that are enriched with the actions of eating, drinking and smoking. The ability of this character to drink and travel unabated by self-doubt or at times morals is brilliantly crafted by the writer.

