

March 2025

From the Librarian

Kia ora koutou,

The library is ticking along well. We have some great books on display that showcase our vast collection. Saskia has recently put together a new display at the front door - *A Literary Life*. Books ranging from memoirs to writers writing about writers.

The AGM meeting was on Thursday the 20th of March. It was attended by about eight members. Thank you to those who could join us.

- Holly Fletcher

What's Happening

Did you know that all the library books on the ground floor are listed on our online catalogue? You can search the catalogue here:

https://www.librarycat.org/lib/Dunedin_Athenaeum

If you have any questions, please email or call. I am happy to place books on hold for you.

If you are unable to make it into the library, there is the possibility that books can be delivered to you. Please contact the library for more information.

Opening hours:

Tuesday - 10am -2pm
Wednesday- 10am-2pm
Thursday - 2pm-6pm.



Book Review

Nesting

Roisin O'Donnelly

Roisin O'Donnelly's debut novel *Nesting* has earned a spot on the longlist for the Women's Prize.

The story centres on Ciara Fay, a woman trapped in a suffocating marriage with a controlling husband and two young children. Though she feels her life slipping away, the pull to escape – even at the risk of homelessness – is too strong to ignore.

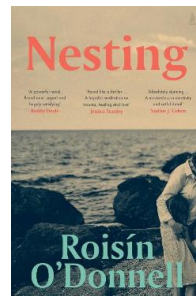
As Ciara ventures into the unknown, the urgency of her decision mirrors the broader struggles of women seeking autonomy from oppressive relationships.

At its heart, *Nesting* is a raw, poignant and necessary exploration of the housing crisis in Ireland and

the societal challenges women face when trying to break free from toxic relationships.

While O'Donnelly's metaphors and imagery are striking, the narrative often feels formulaic. Despite its strong thematic foundation, the plot lacks a certain spark, leaning too heavily on familiar tropes. For example, the husband Ryan, rescues three baby birds – only one survives, which he keeps on a leash. This overt symbolism of control is effective but perhaps a little too obvious.

Nesting sits among a long list of interesting and diverse novels. It has had great success and reviews. However, I would be very surprised to see it make the short list.



New Books at the Library

Twist - Colum McCann

Nemesis – Gregg Hurwitz

Three Days in June- Anne Tyler

Cutting for Stone- Abraham

Verghese

Nesting – Roisin O'Donnell

The Mires – Tina Makereti