

NOTES BOOKS AUTHORS

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Special Prize for Gardening
School and Sunday School prizes
in New Zealand during World War I:
some examples from the Dorothy Neal White Collection

Mary Skarott

*Special Prize for Gardening
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some examples from the Dorothy Neal White
Collection*

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Introduction

In 2014 I curated an exhibition for the Turnbull Gallery, *A child's war* (24 Nov 2014 - 27 Feb 2015), which looked at life in New Zealand for children during World War I. School prizes came up at various points during my research and I decided it would be an interesting topic to explore further.

One of the most interesting aspects of the Dorothy Neal White Collection is that it includes books that originated in personal collections. These have been donated by the original owners themselves, by family members, or sometimes by people who have purchased them second hand. So, many of the books contain inscriptions and bookplates that provide a fascinating insight into their provenance. These are noted on the catalogue record, making it relatively straightforward to identify books that had been given as prizes at school and Sunday school during World War I.

My initial research was presented at the *Sense of wonder* Centre for the Book symposium, held in Dunedin in November 2015. This version of my findings has been adapted for print and includes some additional material in the form of brief biographies of some of the prize winners.

The social environment for children in New Zealand during World War I

Before looking at the books that were given as prizes, it is worth remembering the social environment in New Zealand during the war years, and the expectations placed upon children.

It was very much a time of militarisation and commitment to the cause of the Empire. For example, the Empire Day message in the June 1918 *School Journal* asked children to obey orders 'as promptly and willingly as your soldier brothers at the front', and be 'truthful and honest, courteous and kind.'¹ Patriotic activities were a regular part of school life, such as saluting the flag and performing patriotic tableaux.

Children were also involved in all kinds of fundraising and war work, including growing and selling vegetables and flower and vegetable seeds, participating in bottle drives, rag-and-bone collections, concerts, plays, poetry readings, bazaars and military drill displays. Large numbers of girls and boys were taught to knit, and they made a multitude of socks, scarves, balaclavas and other items for soldiers. Children also wrote letters to the soldiers, sewed, baked, and helped prepare care packages to send overseas.

In addition, many schools and Sunday schools chose to contribute to the war effort by donating the end of year prize money, normally spent on books, to fundraising appeals such as the Belgian Children's Fund and the Red Cross Fund. For example, children at Victoria Avenue School in Wanganui held a secret ballot and voted by 413 to 5 to give their prize money for the relief of distress in Great Britain.² Wellington College replaced prize books with certificates for the duration of the War. The school magazine noted in 1919 that:

*"From the outset of the war the boys decided to forego all school prizes and all prizes for sports, and the winners of those cheerfully received certificates in order to devote all the prize-money to the patriotic funds. We may safely say that the holders of these certificates are prouder of them than they would have been of the prizes they would have received in normal times."*³

Identifying books in the Dorothy Neal White Collection that were given as prizes during World War I

Giving up prizes during the War was not a practice that was universally followed, and I presume that it was decided by each school individually. Maybe in much the same way that some schools preferred to cheer the flag rather than salute it, perhaps some felt that giving up prizes was a step too far and preferred to retain some degree of normality during the war. Maybe they felt that all their other fundraising activities were sufficient commitment to the cause. Some of the books that were given as prizes eventually found their way to the Dorothy Neal White Collection.

Since I did my initial research, in mid-2015, the National Library's published catalogue has been migrated from Voyager to Primo, but the principles of identifying material remain the same. The general process was as follows:

Search the National Library Children's Collections (which include the Dorothy Neal White Collection) using keywords based on what would be in the note on the bibliographic record (i.e. bookplate *or* inscribed *or* inscription *or* awarded *or* presented). Sort results by publication date, identify items published between 1904 and 1918 and check the notes on the full bibliographic record to see if the item is a school or Sunday school prize (rather than a birthday, Christmas or other gift). I selected my publication range to start 10 years before the beginning of WWI because I was already aware that books given as gifts at that time were not always hot off the press.

This method is reliant on the required level of detail having been added to the catalogue records. There were numerous items (around 30) published within the chosen date range and described as having an inscription or bookplate of some kind, but without a presentation date. I chose not to go to the shelf and check all these inscriptions to see if they fell within the World War I years; maybe the date wasn't given on the book, or it is there but was not added to the catalogue record.

Taking a closer look at the prize books

Once I had identified and retrieved my sample of books (46 in total) I wanted to answer some questions about them:

Q 1: *What were prizes given for? What did a school child have to do to be given a prize?*

The prizes fell into three categories:

- For excelling in a specific subject or subjects (Category 1)

There were 28 books in this, the largest, group. Subjects awarded included gardening, cookery, spelling, needlework, arithmetic, and English. Prizes were also given for place in the class, Dux or honours in multiple subjects. A few Sunday school prizes were given for both excelling in a subject and showing desirable attributes. I have counted these combination prizes in Category 1.

- For showing desirable attributes (Category 2)

Eight books fitted this description, and they were awarded for punctuality, regular attendance, diligence and good conduct.

- For no stated reason at all (Category 3)

There were 10 books in this category. Some prizes are inscribed with the student's name and their class, but with no other information. This suggests to me that at some schools, or at least in some classes, perhaps every student received a book to mark the end of the academic year.

Q 2: *What kinds of books were given as prizes? What were they about?*

Broadly speaking, the books were "prize books". These were books of a standard size and price (both fiction and non-fiction) which were specifically marketed by bookshops as prize books, at a price of 6d or a shilling, plus discounts. None of the books in the sample are expensive, oversized or lavishly illustrated books.

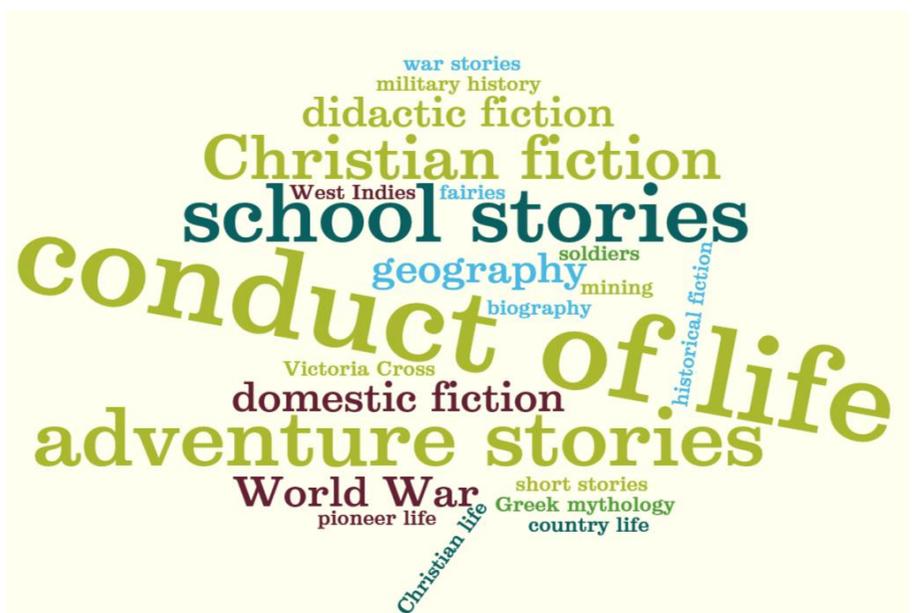
It is interesting that none of the books in the sample were published in New Zealand. Of the 46 books, 44 were published in London and 2 in New York. This is because children's publishing in New Zealand at that time was focused on the large market for school text books. The sample does include books by two New Zealanders, Isabel Maud Peacocke (*My friend Phil*) and Edith Howes (*Fairy rings*), but they were published in London.

Not all the books were new. As mentioned above, I started my search strategy at a publication date of 1904, ten years before the War began, and I may well have missed some even older books that were presented as prizes. I found one published in 1904 and presented in 1914 (*The heiress of Wylmington*, by Evelyn Everett-Green). Another (*Guy Powers' watchword*, by J. T. Hopkins) spanned eleven years from publication in 1906 to prize giving in 1917. Many were several years old. There may have been stockpiles held at schools, perhaps bought up in bulk when money was available. The prize books also included perennially popular titles that were frequently reprinted. For example, Ballantyne's *Gorilla Hunters* was originally published in 1861, and his *Deep down* in 1868. Hesba Stretton's *In prison and out*, was first published in 1879 and Catherine Sinclair's *Holiday House* was originally published in 1839.

While selecting books with a war theme for display in *A child's war* I had noticed that some of them had been presented as prizes, and I wondered how common this was. As it turned out, the books in the sample that were given as prizes covered a wide range of genres, and books about the war and military subjects appeared only occasionally, in fact just three times out of 46 (*The boy allies on the North Sea patrol*, by Robert L. Drake ; *Our soldiers*, by W. H. G. Kingston ; *Wonderful stories: winning the V.C. in the Great War*).

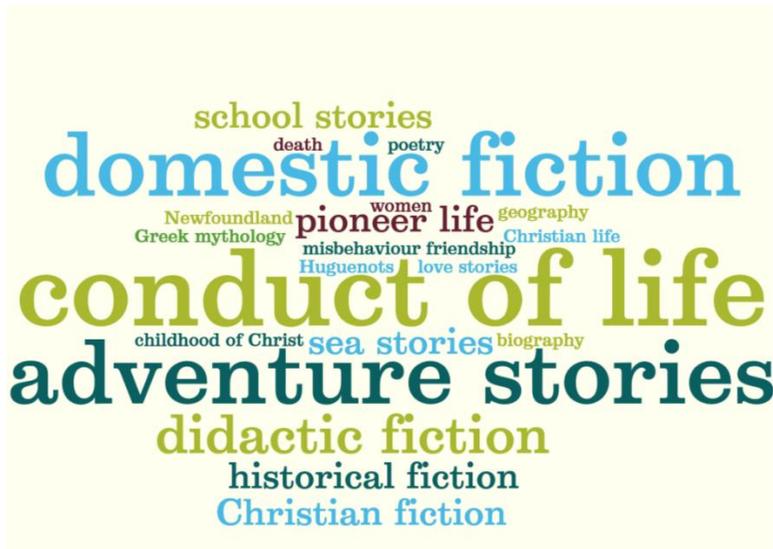
Looking at the books in two groups, we can get an overall idea of their content by using tag clouds. This is a good way to get a visual picture of the dominance, or otherwise of individual subjects, because tag clouds show headings in larger typeface the more often they occur. The tags are based on the catalogue record for the books, using subjects and genre headings, with some minor modifications. You can see the tags for each book in Appendix 2. Remember that books usually have more than one subject.

Tag cloud for school prizes:



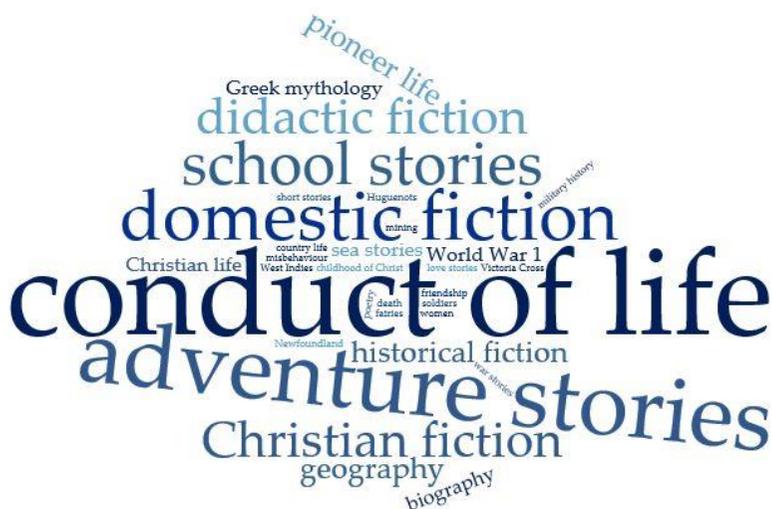
Notably prominent subjects are *conduct of life*, *school stories*, *adventure stories* and *Christian fiction*. Stories with *conduct of life* as a tag would have strong themes of good behaviour, treating others well, showing positive character traits such as honesty and hard work. *Christian fiction* is for works that focus on good religious behaviour.

Tag cloud for Sunday School prizes



Christian fiction shows up again in this group but is certainly not a dominant heading. However, *didactic fiction* (moralising works intended to teach a lesson to the reader) is slightly more prominent than in the first cloud. *Conduct of life* is equally prominent, and *domestic fiction* and *adventure stories* have a strong presence.

Combined tag cloud – school prizes and Sunday School prizes



In this combined cloud of all the prize books together we can see the core of popular subjects are *adventure stories*, *Christian fiction*, *conduct of life*, *didactic fiction*, *domestic fiction* and *school stories*.

Having identified the most popular tags in my sample of prize books, I had one more question to answer:

Q 3: *Do prize books differ from the wider group of children’s books that children in New Zealand were reading at the time and, if so, in what way?*

Specifically, I had wondered whether the prize books, having been chosen by teachers at a time of strict expectations on children in terms of behaviour and morals, would be skewed towards the didactic and improving. The table below compares the most prominent tags in the sample of prize books with the same tags in the Dorothy Neal White Collection as a whole over the same publishing period. The next table compares the ratio of fiction and non-fiction in the prize book sample and the Collection as a whole.

Books examined have publishing dates 1904-1918 inclusive. Figures relate to the collection as it was in mid-2015. One book can have more than one subject.

Selected subjects/genres	Prize book sample (46 items)	DNW collection fiction (812 items)
Conduct of life	11 (24%)	187 (23%)
Adventure stories	9 (20%)	244 (30%)
Christian fiction	5 (11%)	85 (10%)
Didactic fiction	5 (11%)	111 (14%)
Domestic fiction	5 (11%)	216 (27%)
School stories	6 (13%)	76 (9%)

In terms of subject content of fiction items, the prize books contain a smaller proportion of *adventure stories* and *domestic fiction* and a slightly higher proportion of *school stories*. However, the ratios of *Christian fiction*, *didactic fiction* and conduct of life (those tags which would be applied to books considered as “improving literature”) are very similar in the prize group and in the Collection as a whole. So, improving literature doesn’t make up the majority of the prizes, and it forms no larger a proportion of them than of the Collection as a whole.

	Prize book sample (46 items)	DNW collection (1097 items)
Fiction	35 (76%)	812 (74%)
Non-Fiction	11 (24%)	285 (26%)

The proportion of fiction and non-fiction is virtually identical in both groups.

Concluding comments

In conclusion, a close look at this sample of school and Sunday school prizes given to New Zealand children during World War I has revealed some interesting information about the books and their recipients.

The most common reason for receiving a prize was for excelling in a particular subject or subjects. Prizes were also given for displaying desirable personal traits, as well as being awarded for no stated reason. The books themselves were reasonably priced and were not always new.

In terms of subject matter, the books given as prizes are proportionally very similar in content to the wider group of books that New Zealand children were reading at the time. They cover a wide range of subjects and are not skewed towards books about the war or “improving” literature.

Notes:

1 New Zealand Department of Education. (1907). *The School Journal*. Part II, June 1918, p.67

2 <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/grey-river-argus/1914/8/29/6>

3 "Wellingtonian": War number, 1919. (1919). p.13

Appendix 1: Lists of prize books

School Prizes (21 books)		
Author, title and publication details	Prize details (prize category 1, 2 or 3)	Tags (fiction or non-fiction)
Ballantyne, R.M. <i>Deep down: a tale of the Cornish mines</i> . London ; Melbourne : Ward, Lock & Co., [1911?]	Presented to Allen Pringle, Dux, Duntroon School, 20/12/17. (1)	Mining (fiction)
Ballantyne, R.M. <i>The gorilla hunters</i> . London ; Glasgow : Collins' Clear-type Press, [191-?]	Presented to Wallace Hull for good attendance 1917, Mangere Bridge School. (2)	Adventure stories (fiction)
Bone, Florence. <i>Margot's secret, or, The fourth form at Victoria College</i> . London : S.W. Partridge & Co., [1910]	Std 6, Middle School. Awarded Pauline Pilcher, Needlework, 16/12/14. <i>(School not identified. Bookseller's label for Hyndman's, Invercargill)</i> (1)	Conduct of life School stories (fiction)
Bruce, Mary Grant. <i>From Billabong to London</i> . London: Ward, Lock & Co., 1915.	Special prize for gardening awarded to Cyril Kerr 1915, Northland State School, Wellington (1)	Country life (fiction)

School Prizes (21 books)		
Drake, Robert L. <i>The boy allies on the North Sea patrol, or, Striking the first blow at the German fleet.</i> New York: A.L. Burt Co., c1915.	Awarded to Charlie Oliver, 1918. <i>(school not identified)</i> (3)	War stories World War I (fiction)
Ellis, Edward S. <i>The cabin in the clearing: a tale of the far West.</i> London: Thomas Nelson and Sons, [1909]	2 nd prize awarded to Charlie Oliver 1916. <i>(school not identified)</i> (1)	Adventure stories Pioneer life (fiction)
Ellis, Edward S. <i>Work and win: the story of a country boy's success.</i> New York: A.L. Burt Co., 1909.	Mr. Howie's special [prize] awarded to Charlie Oliver, attendance, 1918. <i>(School not identified)</i> (2)	Didactic fiction Conduct of life (fiction)
Enock, Esther E. <i>Those dreadful girls.</i> London: Religious Tract Society, [1913]	Hurford School, Awarded to Violet Loveridge, December 16th 1914. (3)	Didactic fiction Christian fiction (fiction)

School Prizes (21 books)		
Hopkins, J.T. <i>Guy Powers' watchword, or, Ready and willing.</i> London: Thomas Nelson and Sons, [1906]	Awarded to Ernest Tilbury, IV St. Muritai, 20th Dec 1917. (3)	Christian fiction Domestic fiction Christian life Conduct of life (fiction)
Howes, Edith. <i>Fairy rings.</i> London: Cassell and Company, 1913.	Archerfield. Christmas 1917. May Farquharson. Form I. Hons. 8 subjects. (1)	Fairies (fiction)
Kingston, W.H.G. <i>Our soldiers.</i> London: Henry Frowde ; Hodder and Stoughton, 1910.	S.5 20.12.16. Special prize awarded to Eric Maunsell, Arithmetic. Arthur Street Public School, Dunedin. (1)	Military history Soldiers (non-fiction)
Lang, Jean. <i>A book of myths.</i> London: T.C. & E.C. Jack, [1915].	Auckland Girls' Grammar School. December 1918, VIB Form Prize for English essay. (name of recipient erased) (1)	Greek mythology (non-fiction)
Morris, Alice Talwin. <i>My book about the West Indies.</i> London: Blackie and Son, [ca.1910]	Fraser Conway, Std 1, Petone School, Dec., 1914. (3)	Geography West Indies (non-fiction)

School Prizes (21 books)		
<i>Herbert Strang's book of adventure stories.</i> Herbert Strang (ed.). London: Henry Frowde, [1914]	Les Kearney, prize for good conduct, Marist Brothers School, Napier, 1917. (2)	Adventure stories Short stories (fiction)
Traice, Elizabeth C. <i>Wee doggie.</i> London: Thomas Nelson and Sons, 1907.	Beatrice Hall for spelling, Otautau School, 1917. (1)	Domestic fiction (fiction)
Turley, Charles. <i>The Minvern brothers.</i> London: Thomas Nelson and Sons, [1909]	3 rd prize awarded to Tarrant Ivan. 7/12/17. (school not identified) (1)	Conduct of life School stories (fiction)
Turley, Charles. <i>The new broom.</i> London: Thomas Nelson and Sons, 1911.	First prize for attendance awarded to Lily Morris, Kensington School, Dec. 1915. (2)	Conduct of life School stories (fiction)
Vaizey, Mrs G. de Horne. <i>Etheldreda the ready: a school story.</i> London: Cassell and Co., 1911.	Awarded to Jean Campbell. First class for attendance. Waitara State School 1915. (2)	Conduct of life School stories (fiction)

School Prizes (21 books)		
<i>Wonderful stories: winning the V.C. in the Great War.</i> London: Hutchinson & Co., [1917?]	Momona Public School. Prize awarded to Jessie Walker, standard 5 or 6 for spelling, 20 Dec 1917. (1)	Victoria Cross World War I Biography (non-fiction)
Wallace, Lew. <i>Ben Hur: a tale of the time of our Lord.</i> London: Seeley, Service & Co., [191-?]	Margaret Jamieson, 2 nd prize for cookery, North East Valley School, 17 December 1914. (1)	Christian fiction Historical fiction Adventure stories (fiction)
Wyss, C. von. <i>The world in pictures.</i> London: Adam and Charles Black, 1912.	Awarded to John Grainger, Class III Sandymount School 18/12/14. (3)	Geography (non-fiction)

Sunday School Prizes (25 books)		
Author, title and publication details	Prize details	Tags

Sunday School Prizes (25 books)		
<p>Adams, W.H. Davenport. <i>Stories of the lives of noble women</i>. London: Thomas Nelson and Sons, [1911]</p>	<p>Presented to Dorothy Attwood from the Warkworth Methodist Sunday School. 24.3.18. G.T. Civil, Supt. (3)</p>	<p>Biography Women (non-fiction)</p>
<p><i>Adventures in the bush: Australia's story</i>. Herbert Strang (ed.). London: Henry Frowde & Hodder & Stoughton, [19-?]</p>	<p>Kilbirnie Presbyterian Sunday School. Awarded to Fred Furkert for attendance, 1915/16. (2)</p>	<p>Historical fiction Pioneer life (fiction)</p>
<p>Ballantyne, R.M. <i>The coral island</i>. London: Collins' Clear-Type Press, [1914?]</p>	<p>Doyleston Sunday School 1st prize, Stanley ?Money, II Boys, Merit, 7/3/18. (1)</p>	<p>Adventure stories Sea stories (fiction)</p>
<p>Butler, Annie R. <i>Little Kathleen, or, Sunny memories of a child worker</i>. London: Morgan and Scott, [1908]</p>	<p>St Asaph Street Sunday School Prize awarded to Doris Soole, for repeating the 4th chapter of John from memory, May 1917. (1)</p>	<p>Christian life Death (non-fiction)</p>

Sunday School Prizes (25 books)		
Chapell, Jennie ; Mockler, Geraldine <i>The mystery of Kittie-Boy</i> / by Jennie Chapell. <i>Two children in black</i> / by Geraldine Mockler. London: Blackie and Son, [19-?]	Caversham Baptist School, prize awarded to Lily Morris, Dec 15 th 1915. 1 st class prize for gaining 92% of marks. (1)	Domestic fiction (fiction)
Cule, W.E. <i>Two little New Zealanders</i> . London: Sunday School Union, [1909]	Presented to May Francis for regular attendance. Miss Patmore, Teacher. 1918. (2)	Adventure stories (fiction)
Dudley, Robert. <i>The children's saviour</i> . London: John F. Shaw, [19-?]	Presented to Betty Knox, St. Matthew's Sunday School, Christmas 1918, Arthur Stone Vicar. (3)	Childhood of Christ (non-fiction)
Everett-Green, Evelyn. <i>Battledown boys, or, An enemy overcome</i> . London: Pilgrim Press, [19-?]	Palmerston North Sunday School Union. Presented to Roydon Symcott. 89 marks 25/10/15. (1)	Conduct of life (fiction)

Sunday School Prizes (25 books)		
Everett-Green, Evelyn. <i>The heiress of Wylmington</i> . London: T. Nelson and Sons, [1904]	Presented to Ada from her S.S. teacher B. Bailey, Christmas 1914. (3) (bookplate from Sunday School Supply and Stores, Dunedin)	Christian fiction Love stories Conduct of life (fiction)
Fairford, Ford. <i>Newfoundland</i> . London: Adam and Charles Black, 1912.	Presented to Clarence Vosker, Salvation Army Waihi Corps, Dec. 1917. 500 marks (divided between attendance, conduct, lessons) (1)	Geography Newfoundland (non-fiction)
Glasgow, Geraldine Robertson. <i>Troublesome comforts: a story for children</i> . London: Thomas Nelson and Sons, [1910]	Presented to Lily Wildbore 11-12-17. 141 marks. (Feilding, Salvation Army bookplate) (1)	Domestic fiction Adventure stories (fiction)
Haverfield, E.L. <i>Dauntless Patty</i> . London: Henry Frowde, Hodder & Stoughton, [1909]	Caversham Baptist Sunday School, Awarded to Lily Morris, 85% 1 st class prize. Dec 20th 1914. (1)	School stories Conduct of life (fiction)

Sunday School Prizes (25 books)		
<p>Higginson, C.F. <i>Schoolboy courage and its reward.</i> London: Religious Tract Society, [1909]</p>	<p>Tinkertown Methodist Sunday School, 2nd prize, presented to John Dockerty. 1915 (1)</p>	<p>School stories Conduct of life (fiction)</p>
<p>Kenyon, Edith C. <i>Christine, the Huguenot.</i> London: Religious Tract Society, [1913]</p>	<p>Lincoln Sabbath School, 1st prize awarded to Helen Minto Scott for attendance and proficiency, 1914. (1)</p>	<p>Historical fiction Huguenots (fiction)</p>
<p>Kingsley, Charles. <i>The heroes: being the stories of the Argonauts and Theseus: from Kingsley's Heroes.</i> London: Blackie & Son, [1911]</p>	<p>Donald McLean Street [church] Awarded to Cliff Oxley for Church attendance 1916 (2)</p>	<p>Greek mythology (non-fiction)</p>
<p>Longfellow, Henry Wadsworth. <i>Longfellow.</i> Illustrated by Charles Robinson. London: Wells Gardner, Darton & Co., 1912.</p>	<p>Presented to Muriel Mercer, Class V, S. Margaret's S.S. Taihape 1915-1916. (3)</p>	<p>Poetry (non-fiction)</p>

Sunday School Prizes (25 books)		
Maitland, Agnes C. <i>The story of Madge Hilton</i> . London: Thomas Nelson & Sons, [1909]	St Andrews Presby S.S. Wanganui. Presented to Marjory Calves for catechism & attendance, Xmas 1914. (1)	Didactic fiction Conduct of life (fiction)
Peacocke, Isabel Maud. <i>My friend Phil</i> . London: Ward, Lock & Co., [1915]	Kindergarten S.S. Edith Lewis. Special prize presented by Miss Dickson. Dux. 187 marks. May 1918. (1)	Friendship (fiction)
Saxby, Argyll. <i>The call of honour: a tale of adventure in the Canadian prairies</i> . London: S.W. Partridge, [1912]	To Wallace Hull, 2nd prize, Junior Boys, Otaua, Dec. 1914. J.C. Fussell, Vicar. 396 marks (1)	Adventure stories Pioneer life (fiction)
Sinclair, Catherine. <i>Holiday house: a book for the young</i> . London: Ward Lock, 1909.	Special prize presented to Eliza Wilson for diligence and general knowledge, by the Superintendent, A.L. Quennell, for year ending 1918, Church of Christ S.S., Argyle St., Mornington. (1)	Domestic fiction Misbehaviour (fiction)
Sitwell, Isla. <i>Poppy</i> . London: Nelson, 1910.	1916, St Paul's, Oamaru, awarded to Lillian Mitchell. Scripture & catechism (1)	Didactic fiction Conduct of life (fiction)

Sunday School Prizes (25 books)		
Stables, Gordon. <i>Stanley Grahame, boy and man: a tale of the dark continent</i> . London: Humphrey Milford, Oxford University Press, 1917.	Mt Eden Methodist Sunday School. Prize awarded to Wycliffe Reed, 191 marks, 30 Sept. 1918. (1)	Adventure stories Sea stories (fiction)
Stretton, Hesba. <i>In prison and out</i> . London: RTS, [1906]	Trinity Methodist Sunday School. 1 st Prize awarded to Nellie Willis, 1916. (1)	Christian fiction Didactic fiction (fiction)
Thorne, Eglanton. <i>The old Worcester jug</i> . London: Religious Tract Society, [1911]	Presented to: Olive Ferguson, Gospel Hall, S. School, June 1918. (3)	Domestic fiction (fiction)
Whipple, Amy. <i>The children of the crag</i> . London: S.W. Partridge & Co., [1913]	Knox Church, Sunday School, Dunedin, First prize awarded to Peggy Thomson. 11 Dec. 1917. (1)	Domestic fiction (fiction)

Appendix 2: Brief biographies of selected prize winners

Using the small amount of information in the inscriptions and bookplates as a starting point (name, approximate age, town of residence), it is possible to use resources such as shipping lists, electoral rolls and newspapers to find out something of the lives of the children who received prizes.

Doris Soole: Presented with *Little Kathleen, or, Sunny memories of a child worker*. St Asaph Street Sunday School Prize for repeating the 4th chapter of John from memory, May 1917.

Doris Amy Soole, an only child, was born in England in late 1905 and emigrated to New Zealand when she was 7 years old. Doris and her parents, Ernest and Caroline, left London on 22 May 1913 on board the *Arawa*. Their ship made the voyage to Wellington via Tenerife, Capetown and Hobart, and they arrived in port on 7 July 1913.

The family settled in Christchurch where Ernest worked as a joiner. Their home was in Tuam Street, not far from St Asaph Street where Doris attended Sunday School. She was a student at St Michael's School, and then attended Christchurch Girls' High School. Doris was a good student, appearing regularly in the lists of school prize winners published in the newspaper. In 1922 she was in Form V Middle B, and was 1st equal in English, 1st in geography, 2nd equal in history and 3rd in commercial work. She later attended Miss Digby's Commercial School and passed her Pitman's Shorthand Theory Certificate at the end of 1924.

In 1928 she married Norman Alexander Malcom, a teacher, and they settled in Feilding. Doris was widowed in 1944.

Fred Furkert. Presented with *Adventures in the bush: Australia's story*. Kilbirnie Presbyterian Sunday School, Prize for attendance 1915/16.

Frederick Plimmer Furkert was born in 1907, the middle child in a family of three boys. His father, also Frederick, was a civil engineer who held various positions in the Public Works Department. In 1912 he was appointed as Inspecting Engineer for the Dominion, necessitating a move to Wellington, and he later became Chief Engineer of the Public Works Department, retiring in 1932.

Fred was a student at Kilbirnie School, and then at Scots College where he was awarded Dux in 1922. He went on to study medicine, graduating from Otago University in January 1929. He married in 1931 and established a medical practice in Auckland. During World War II he achieved the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel in the 2nd N.Z.E.F. and was mentioned in dispatches for gallant and distinguished service in the Middle East.

He died in 1964, aged 57.

Lily Wildbore. Presented with *Troublesome comforts: a story for children*. 141 marks, 11.12.17, with bookplate for Salvation Army, Feilding.

Lillian Doris Wildbore was born in 1906, one of a family of six children. Her parents were Venus and Frederick Wildbore, and when Lily received her prize, the family was living in Feilding where her father was working as a mechanic.

Lily attended Feilding District High School, a school which catered for students from Primer I to Form V. At the end of 1920 Lily had completed Standard V and she received a prize for the most improved student. A couple of years earlier, Lily had another achievement noted in the Feilding Star when her pet lamb won the menagerie race at the first annual Feilding District High School sports meeting, held on Saturday 23 March 1918. The paper reports that Lily's lamb came in ahead of Bessy Hewett's lamb and Don Perry's calf.

In 1927 Lily married William Pedley, a gardener, and they settled in Rongotea.

Ernest Tilbury. Presented with *Guy Powers' watchword, or, Ready and willing*. 20th December 1917, Muritai School.

Ernest Alfred Tilbury was born in 1906, the year after his parents married. His father, Albert, was a market gardener. There were no other children in the family, and on 1 February 1908 Ernest's mother, Lydia, was killed in a tragic accident during a visit to Nelson with her husband and sister. The Motueka coach collided with a railway engine at Appleby, and Lydia was the sole casualty.

Ernest attended Muritai School in Eastbourne and won an end of year prize in 1919 when he completed Standard VI. He followed in his father's footsteps and worked as a gardener.

In December 1940 Ernest had a letter to the editor published in the Evening Post. During World War II the Government Transport Department had an Oil Fuel Controller who expected motorists to be economical in the use of petrol and oil. Ernest was concerned about the fuel consumption of three new omnibuses purchased by the Eastbourne Borough Council and favoured increasing the timetable of the coal powered steam ferry, the Cobar.

Sources:

Papers Past

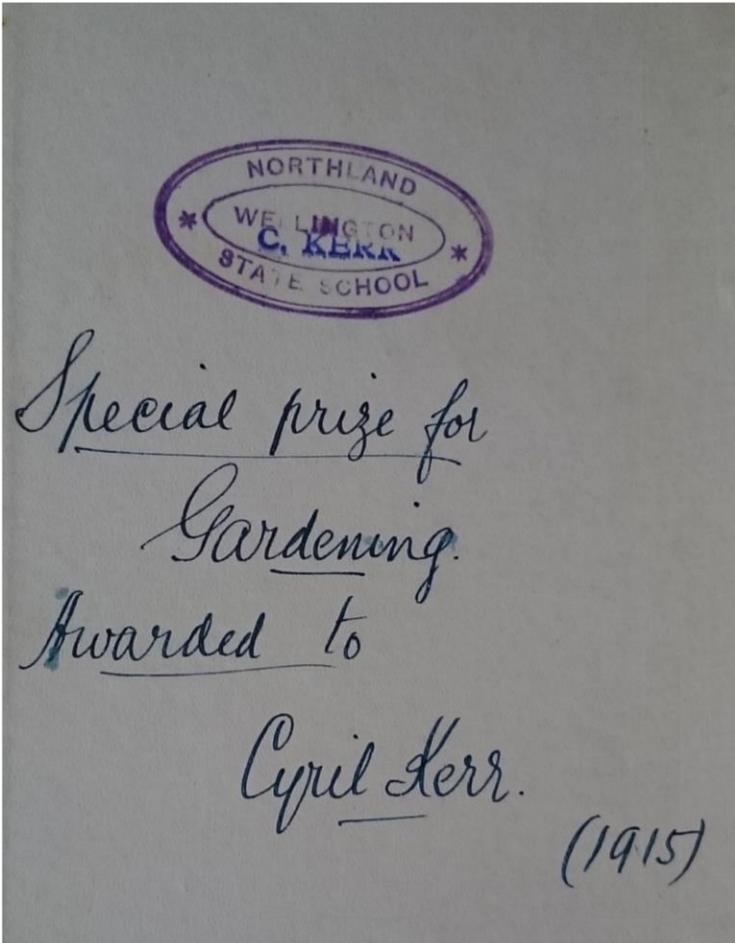
<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/>

Ancestry Library Edition

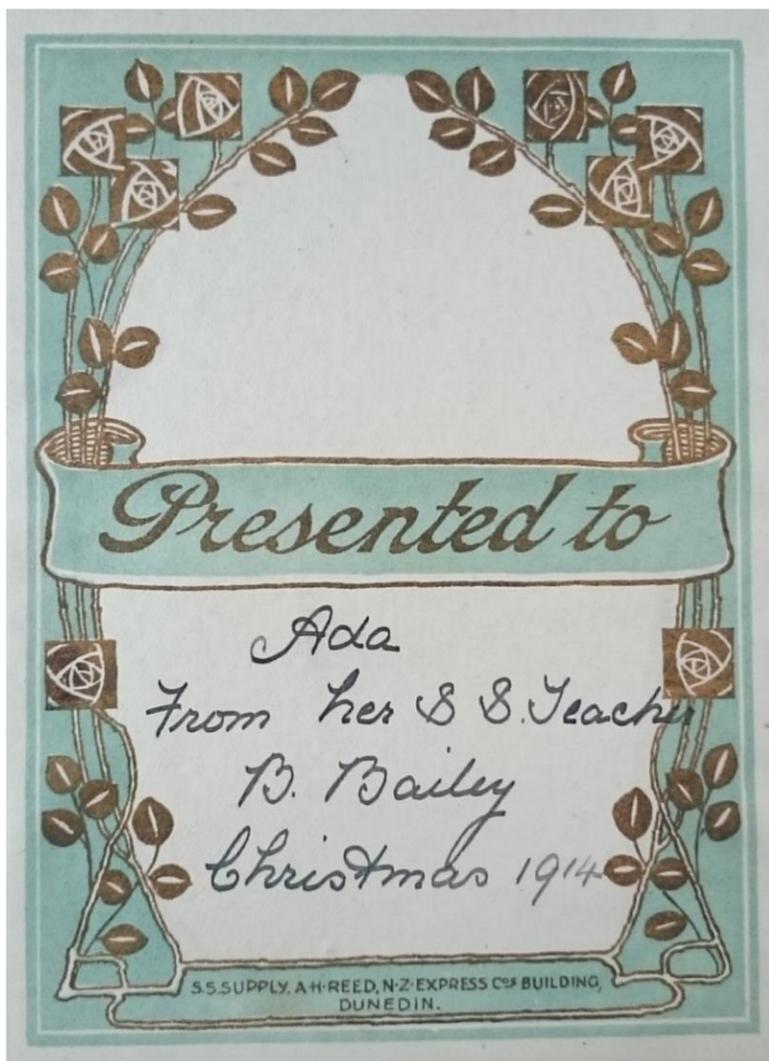
Birth, death and marriage historical records

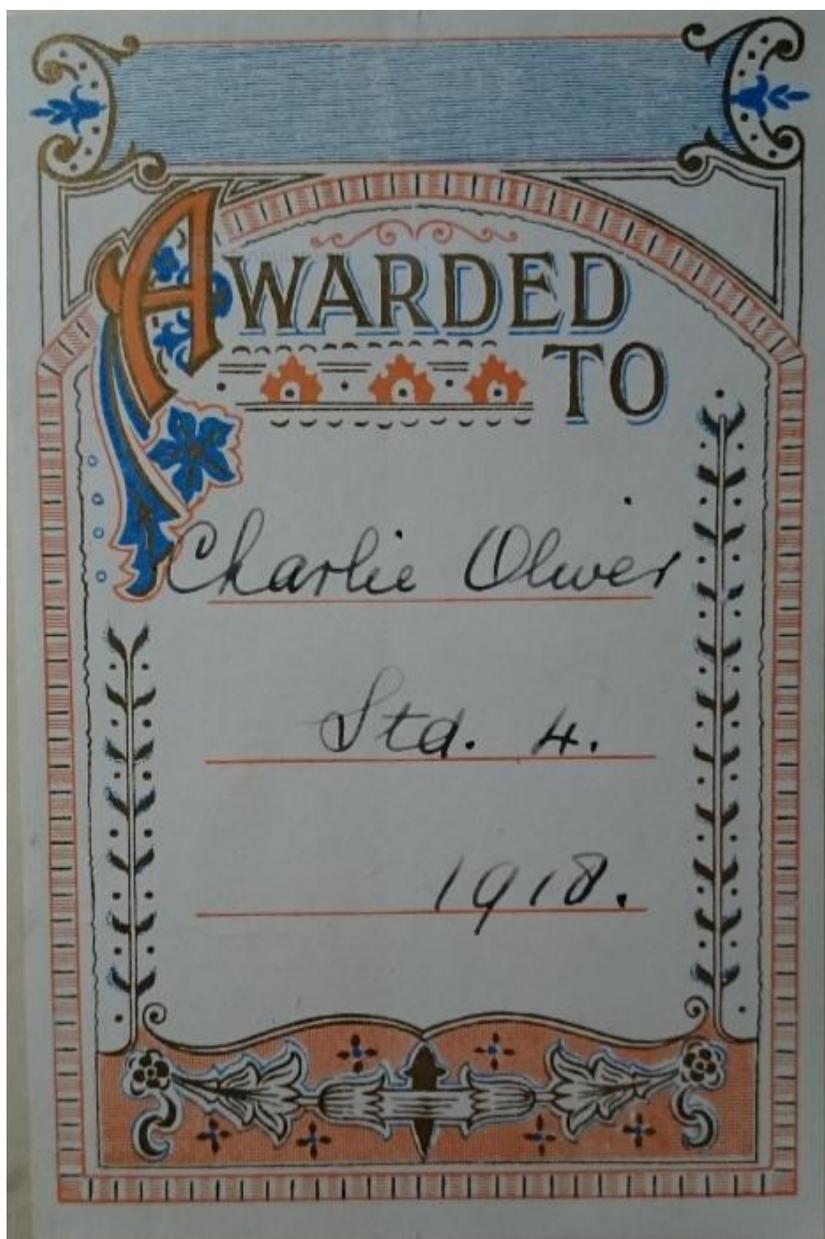
<https://www.bdmhistoricalrecords.dia.govt.nz/home>

Appendix 3: Selected bookplates and inscriptions



Special Prize
Presented to
Eliza Wilson for
Diligence & General
Knowledge by the
Superintendent
A. L. Duennell
for year ending 1918
Church of Christ
S. S. Shybe St.
Mornington







Angular Snip

PRESENTED
TO

Lily Wildbore

	FOR	MARKS
Attendance		_____
Conduct - -		_____
Lessons - -		_____
Total		<u>141</u>

With Prayers, that God may guide you
through life, make you a True Soldier.

W. R. Home F.O.

W. Baker P.S.M.

Building Corps

Date *11-12-14*

DONALD McLEAN STREET.

AWARDED

Cliff Oxley

for

Church attendance
1916.

Ed. Feltham Super

S. P. Collier Secy.

K. Z. Bible, Tract & Book Society, Willis Street, Wellington.

Archerfield.

Rectangular Grip



Christmas 1914

Name *May Tarquharson*

Form *I*

Subject *Hous. & Subjects.*

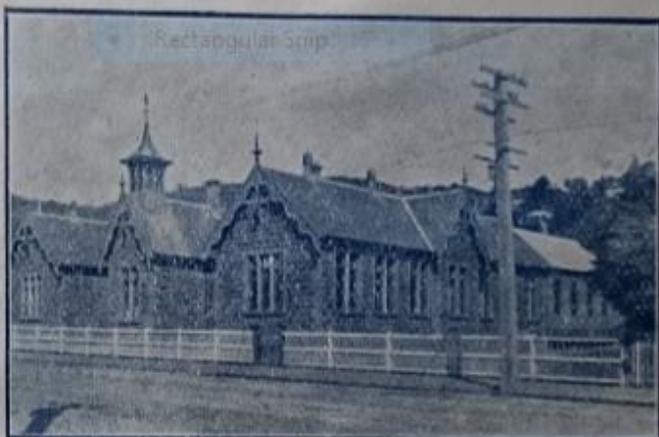
M. S. Libby

MISTRESS.

S. Smith

PRINCIPAL.

N.E. Valley School.



DECEMBER.....17..... 1914.

2nd Prize for *bookery*

Standard *5*

Name *Margt Jamieson*

A. Kenney Class Teacher.

O. D. FLAMANK, Headmaster.

W. R. Roberts Chairman of Committee.

The National Library of New Zealand: Children's Literature Collections

The National Library Children's Collection

The National Children's Collection (NCC) is our largest collection of books written for children and young people.

It's based on the collection built up by the School Library Service which, from its establishment in 1942 until 1993, selected a range of books from publishers in Great Britain, the United States, Canada, Australia, the Pacific and New Zealand. From mid-1993, additions to the NCC have focused on New Zealand and Pacific children's books and a smaller selection of overseas titles.

The NCC contains approximately 124,000 books that are available for interlibrary loan.

The Dorothy Neal White Collection

The Dorothy Neal White Collection (DNW) is a research collection of children's books that were enjoyed by young New Zealanders before 1940. The collection contains books from Britain, the United States, Australia and New Zealand that illustrate the overall development of children's literature during the period.

While fiction predominates, non-fiction of a recreational nature is also included. Many of the books in the collection were received as prizes from school or Sunday school and many others bear gift inscriptions.

The collection comprises approximately 11,000 books and these are not available for interlibrary loan.

Susan Price Collection

The Susan Price Collection is a private collection gifted to the National Library in 1991.

At present it is curated by Susan Price in her home. At a future date it will be housed in the National Library as an example of an individual's collection.

Her collection of approximately 20,000 books concentrates on fiction for nine to 18 year olds. Most of it is published since World War II and reflects Susan's strong interest in history. It contains a non-fiction history section, children's poetry, chapter books for the under nines, picture books, and folk tales.

Susan continues to add her choice of the best children's books written in English from around the world up to the present day.

NOTES BOOKS AUTHORS

Number 1 May 1985

Papers on the Dorothy Neal White Collection, edited by Audrey Cooper and Margot Crawford.

Number 2* July 1989

Clare Mallory: a personal memoir, by Janet Maconie.

Number 3 December 1989

Mrs George Cupples, by Elspeth White.

Number 4* August 1991

How names became people, by Celia Dunlop.

Number 5* September 1995

Charles Hamilton and the "All Blacks", by R. V. Moss.

Number 6* June 1996

J.H. Ewing and the self-determined child, by Julie K Eberly.

Number 7* 1998

Dorothy Neal White: a tribute

Number 8 2002

LM, KM, EL, ME and me, KDG: a talk to the Friends of the Dorothy Neal White Collection, by Kate De Goldi.

Number 9* 2006

The writings of Elsie J. Oxenham: a New Zealand perspective, by Barbara Robertson.

Number 10* 2007

'Willingly to War': British and imperial boys' story papers, 1905-1914, by Andrew Francis.

Number 11* 2009

*Keeping "each of the twos in its right place". The problematic return journey in *The Cuckoo Clock* and *The Tapestry Room* by Mrs Molesworth*, by Beatrice Turner

Number 12 2014

The nineteen-forties: A turning point in writing for children, by Trevor Mowbray

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Digitised copies are also available on the Society's website
<http://www.dnwfriends.nzl.org>