



Friends of The Randell Cottage Writers Trust  
Chair's Report 2019 - 2020

I took over from Sian Robyns at the 2019 AGM. Here are some of the highlights of the 2019 - 2020 year:

*New Zealand Writer*

Paddy Richardson was the 2019 NZ Writer. Her project was "The Green of the Spring" focusing on the experiences of Otto Bader, a German internee on Matiu Somes Island during WWI. After her departure we awaited news of publication - and it was announced on 14 July that it is to be published by Quentin Wilson Publishing.

*Creative New Zealand Funding*

Creative NZ unexpectedly moved the Trust from 3 yearly to annual funding. This entailed a fresh grant application which was approved. Those measured words do not capture the worry this caused as the Trust was in limbo between grants. We thank Sian for carrying this load and getting to a successful conclusion.

That shock has reaffirmed to your committee that a long term fundraising strategy is necessary and we have set up a subcommittee to progress this in partnership with the Trust. Friends committee members Dame Fiona Kidman, Gillian Cameron and Susan Stevens will work on this, along with Christine Hurley, one of the trustees.

*2019 Open Day*

Again we teamed with the Rita Angus Cottage (the Thorndon Society) and the Douglas Lilburn Residence to mount an Open Day on Saturday 2 November as part of Wellington Heritage Week. Again the numbers were high to the point where we lost count of the visitors. Everyone on the committee lent a hand to make this event a success. To our afternoon tea we added raffles for prizes of books for which we thank Dame Fiona's publisher. The day featured readings including by Paddy and Fiona. On the website you can see some photos by Tim Gruar of the gloriously sunny day. We will be doing this event again.

**Randell Cottage Writers Trust, P O Box 25204, Wellington 6146,  
New Zealand**

*French Writer*

Amaury da Cunha was the 2020 French Writer with a project on Minnie Dean. What a time to visit! He managed an appearance at VicBooks Kelburn at the instigation of Victoria University of Wellington lecturer in French Yuri Cerqueira dos Anjos. Then the lock down put an end to most of the writer's outreach programme. Two later events were held in Wellington - the first on Wednesday 10 June at VicBooks Pipitea along with Christchurch writer Karen Zelas, author of "The Trials of Minnie Dean: a biography in verse". And the second here at the Alliance, for the francophones.

*New Zealand Writer*

Michalia Arathimos is in residence, having undergone 14 days isolation on the way in from Melbourne. We are delighted to have her here today! You can read on the website something of her mission to get here. Her project is "Cartographia" about which I will say no more as she will speak to us shortly.

*2020 Open Day*

Planning is in hand for our 2020 Open Day, probably on Sunday 1 November. Again we aim to do this with the Rita Angus Cottage and Douglas Lilburn Residence as part of Wellington Heritage Week. We are forming an organising subcommittee with the Trust to deliver this event. A successful event does require that New Zealand stay no higher than Level 1 on the COVID19 scale so we hope for the best.

*French Writer 2021*

Applications closed 10 July via the Embassy of France. I hope we will see an announcement by Open Day. What the state of our borders will be we do not know. The Michael King Writers' Centre in Auckland has already had to grapple with this and have had overseas writers unable to arrive.

*New Zealand Writer 2021*

Applications will open 1 September. As with the 2020 Writer this will be subject to the Trust gaining another year of Creative NZ funding.

*Almost The End*

If I may be allowed a plug – Beverley Randell is just releasing her latest book "Heart of Flame – Katherine Mansfield's Flowers and Trees" with illustrations by Jenni Shoemith and published by Steele Roberts. I hope we will have an opportunity soon to hear first hand from Beverley about this.

*Conclusion*

I thank you for your support and look forward to seeing you at Open Day!

Leslie Brown  
Chair of the Friends

[www.randellcottage.co.nz](http://www.randellcottage.co.nz)

The Randell Cottage residency is supported by Creative New Zealand, the New-Zealand France Friendship Fund, the French Embassy and the Wellington City Council.