

FRIENDS OF THE RANDELL COTTAGE WRITERS TRUST

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 27 July 2020 at the Alliance Française , Mercer St, Wellington

Leslie Brown, President, opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees.

- 1. Present:** Leslie Brown, Dame Fiona Kidman, Kate Fortune, Sarah Denis, Sian Robyns, Tracey Schuyt, Tim Gruar, Alison and Koenraad Kuiper, Virginia Warbrick, Bernadette Rundle, Gillian Cameron, Susan Stevens, Jessie Munro, Winston Roberts, Jackie Chong, Anita Woods, Robyn Skrzynska, Gordon Stewart, Maggie Rainey-Smith, Christine Hurley, Mary McCallum.
- 2. Apologies:** Rachel Underwood, Sheila Williams, Tony Simpson, Jenny Jones, Jenny Ang, Marion Castree, Robyn Cooper, Jane McBeth, Kerry Popplewell, Christiane Mortelier, Beverley Randell, Susan Price, Susan Wylde, Linda Burgess, John Joliff, Des Smythe, Libby Clark, Christine Thompson, Kristine Downey, Juliet Smith, Marlene Ware, Renee Taylor, Wilf and Lyndal Layburn.
- 3. Minutes of AGM 20 August 2019** Confirmed: KF/TG
- 4. Matters arising:** None
- 5. President's Annual Report:** Leslie read the President's Annual Report which was circulated on the day to members. Accepted LB/FK (See Appendix 1)
Sarah suggested alternative wording for the funding statement and this was agreed to.
Kate Fortune mentioned that the Vic Books launch of the Trials of Minnie Dean was available as a video on the Friends of the Turnbull Library website who as well as Makaro Press had been involved in the launch on 10 June. Tim made the suggestion that the video could be put on the Randell Cottage website too.
Fiona thanked the Chair for his report.
- 6. Treasurer's Report:** Accepted LB/SD
Tracey presented the Annual Financial Statement for the tax year 2019-2020. She reported a profit of \$1422.82 and commented on the higher proportion of paid subscriptions and revenue from the book sales, donated by Fiona's publisher, as well as the raffles on Open Day.

General expenses were lower this year but higher overall due to a donation made to the Trust.

Gordon asked how the membership numbers by category compared to 2018-2019. Tracey listed: 47 individuals, groups/families 6 and 3 corporate in 2019-2020 compared with 37 in the individual category for 2018-2019. Christine made the suggestion that there should be only one account for people to put their subscription and a donation amount into on the website. Tracey said she would attend to this as a committee matter and suggest that there be the possibility of donating to a special objective eg the roof fund. Accepted LB/SD. (See appendix 2)

7. Subscriptions: It was moved LB and seconded KF that the recommended subs of \$15 for seniors/students, \$30 for individuals, \$45 for families and \$60 for businesses be received. Moved LB and seconded TS that families be amended to \$45 as it was intended to be recorded. (See above now.)

8. Election of Officers:

President: Leslie Brown, nominated by RS from the chair and seconded by KF, was elected unopposed to the position of President again.

Treasurer: Tracey Schuyt, nominated by LB and seconded by RS, was elected unopposed to the position of Treasurer again.

Secretary: Robyn Skrzynska, nominated by LB and seconded by MR, was elected unopposed to the position of Secretary again.

Committee: Moved by RS and seconded by KF that the 5 current committee members: Dame Fiona Kidman, Tim Guar, Susan Stevens, Gillian Cameron and Sian Robyns be elected *en bloc* to the committee again. Carried unanimously.

9. General Business:

1. On the occasion of the publishing of Beverley Randell's book *Heart of Flame* which was circulated, Sarah asked that the Friends express their delight with the book to Beverley and await with anticipation the launch in August as well as the opportunity to have Beverley present her power point talk to the Friends.

2. Open Day was tentatively set for Sunday, 1 November, but has yet to be confirmed by the other residencies. Once the date is confirmed Christine would see that it was put it on the website.

Meanwhile an alert to the occasion would be advertised.

At the conclusion of the AGM our NZ resident writer Michalia Arathimos talked informally with Sian Robyns about her writing and current project. The meeting concluded @ 1. 15pm and refreshments were served.

Appendix 1

Friends of The Randell Cottage Writers Trust President'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

Last year Creative NZ unexpectedly moved the Trust from 3 yearly to annual funding. This entailed a fresh grant application which was approved for 2020. 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. The 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.

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

President of the Friends

Appendix 2

Friends of the Randell Cottage					
INCOME STATEMENT for the Year Ended 31 March 2020					
		\$	\$	\$	
Income					
	Membership Fees	1455.00			
	Donations	470.00			
	Koha	188.10			
	Fundraising	360.00			
	Interest	376.12			
			2849.22		
Expenses					
	AGM/Events	24.91			
	Printing	69.00			
	Admin	89.74			
	Donations to Trust	1242.75			
			1426.40		

Net Profit				1422.82
BALANCE SHEET as at 31 March 2020				
Assets	ANZ Cheque Account	2209.27		
	ANZ Savings Account	24820.45		
		27029.72		
	Banner	466.00		
Liabilities		0.00		
			0.00	
Net Assets				27495.72
Equity				27495.72

Statement of Accounting Policies: These financial statements have been prepared on a cash basis. The banner has been valued at cost.

Treasurer's Report 2019-20

A profit of \$1422.82 was generated for the year ended 31 March 2020. This is \$209 more than last year. Despite a drop in interest income of \$130 due to low interest rates, our income overall was significantly higher than last year – an increase of \$958, made up in the most part from a higher proportion of members renewing their subscriptions, as well as extra fundraising revenue from raffle tickets and book sales. This income gain was reduced by higher than normal expenses - they were lower in terms of general admin and printing, but we paid out \$1243 to Randell Cottage Writers Trust as contributions towards electronic letterhead, website costs and plants.

Our total bank balance at 31 March 2020 was \$27029.72.

The number of paid-up members for 2019-20 (re-categorised) was as follows:

Individuals; 47; Groups/Families; 6; Businesses: 3.

Tracey Schuyt, Treasurer

Friends of the Randell Cottage