



Friends of the Randell Cottage Writers Trust
President's Report 2020 - 2021

Here are some highlights of the 2020 – 2021 year, my second as President:

Creative New Zealand Funding

I reported last year on the move by Creative New Zealand from funding the Trust for a term of 3 years to annual – which meant annual applications with the attendant uncertainty about whether the application would be approved. Again, we thank our (about to be outgoing) committee member, Sian Robyns, for carrying this load and again getting to a successful conclusion.

New Zealand Writer 2020

Michalia Arathimos has been and gone. Her project was “Cartographia” which she spoke about at our last AGM. As the New Zealand COVID situation improved she managed a full programme including our Open Day and appearing in a video walk around of the Cottage.

2020 Open Day

Again, we teamed with the Rita Angus Cottage (the Thorndon Society) and the Douglas Lilburn Residence to mount our Open Day in conjunction with Wellington Heritage Week. Again, the number of visitors was high to the point where we lost count of them. Everyone on the Committee lent a hand in making this event a success. The weather was so kind that we served afternoon tea in the garden – which went nicely with the readings. Planning is in hand for our 2021 Open Day, set for Sunday 31 October.

French Writer

What can I say – when we farewelled our 2020 French Writer Amaury da Cunha we looked forward to publication of his work on Minnie Dean and to the arrival of his successor. The Trust managed to arrange the timing of the 2021 New Zealand Writer (more in a moment) in the hope that a journey from France would be possible in the second half of 2021. Not to be. Perhaps next year.

By way of explanation I might point out that there were no applications called for last year for a 2021 French Writer the 2020 Writer carrying over as it were.

New Zealand Writer 2021

Lynn Davidson is with us. She appeared at the National Library event I shall mention in a moment and will have an evening to herself shortly.

More recently

This year we have sent subscription notices out a little earlier with a pleasing response. I will leave it to our Treasurer to say more.

We have had a very successful event at the National Library to launch the Trust's video featuring Beverley Randell. And a smaller group had the treat of a behind the scenes visit to Te Papa to see the collection of Cottage artefacts there.

Fundraising

With the 20th Anniversary upon us our fundraising subcommittee (Dame Fiona Kidman, Gillian Cameron and Susan Stevens together with Trustee Christine Hurley) will be working on an anniversary fundraising. More about this later in the meeting.

Conclusion

I thank you for your support and look forward to seeing you at our next event!

Leslie Brown

President of the Friends

27 July 2021