



Friends of the Randell Cottage Writers Trust  
President's Report 2021 - 2022

Here are some highlights of the 2021 – 2022 year, my third as President:

*Creative New Zealand Funding*

I reported last year that the Trust is on an annual funding cycle with Creative New Zealand. This means annual applications with the attendant uncertainty about whether the application would be approved. So, I should start by thanking trustees Sian Robyns and Christine Hurley for carrying this load and again getting to a successful conclusion.

*New Zealand Writer 2021*

Lynn Davidson has been and gone. Her project is a volume of memoir and poetry, which she spoke about at our last AGM.

*2021 Open Day*

Alas, this was not to be. The surge of Delta put paid to this event although a small number of socially distanced Wellington Heritage Week events were able to go ahead. But planning will soon be in hand for our 2022 Open Day.

*French Writer*

Progress at last! The 2021 French writer, Caroline Laurent will be able to travel to New Zealand to take up her residency in instalments. And the Trust has called for applications for 2023.

*New Zealand Writer 2022*

Rose Lu is with us. She will be speaking to us shortly so I will say no more.

*More recently*

COVID, this time Omicron, stymied our plans to do an open afternoon at the cottage before Rose started.

But we have been able to help the Trust. We funded half the cost of a professionally produced video featuring Lynn that we hope will be the first of a series.

And we have funded the cost of what we call the 'blue plaque'. An official heritage plaque to go on the cottage. This has been manufactured and we await the setting of a date to unveil it.

I hope I may say that we seem to be past the worst of COVID and may feel more confident about hosting events.

So, we await with great interest the anniversary publication of the Trust and the occasion of its launch. I thank Dame Fiona Kidman for sterling work fundraising for the book.

*Next to last*

We have farewelled our Treasurer, Tracey Schuyt. Tracey worked hard to deliver our accounting function including invoicing subscriptions and receipting donations. She leaves a gap.

So too does the departure of committee member Gillian Cameron. Gillian is looking forward to more time for her own writing.

*Conclusion*

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

Leslie Brown  
President of the Friends  
25 May 2022