



FRIENDS OF THE RANDELL COTTAGE WRITERS TRUST

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting on 27 July 2021

held on Tuesday 27 July, 2021, 11.30 am, Alliance Française, Wellington

- 1. Present:** Leslie Brown, Dame Fiona Kidman, Beverley Randell, Susan Price, Kate Fortune, Sarah Dennis, Sian Robyns, Tracey Schuyt, Tim Gruar, Gillian Cameron, Susan Stevens, Jackie Chong, Robyn Skrzyńska, Maggie Rainey-Smith, Linda Burgess, Mary McCallum, Rachel Underwood, Harold Hyde, Anne Harré , Libby Clark and Lynn Davidson.
 - 2. Apologies:** Bernadette Rundle , Kon Kuiper, Jenny Ang, Robyn Cooper, John Joliffe, Des Smith, Juliet Smith, Renée Taylor, Mary-Jane Monaghan, Jessie Munro, Liz Willmott, Christine and Nick Hurley, Anita Woods and Karen Pullar.
1. Welcome: As President, Leslie welcomed all attendees to the AGM.
 2. The Secretary read out the apologies which were carried. LB/SR
 3. The Minutes of the 27 July 2020, Annual General Meeting of Friends of the Randell Cottage Writers' Trust were accepted. LB/GC
 4. Matters arising from the Minutes: Correction to the spelling of Dennis in members present. Under No 8 in the Notice of the AGM, subscriptions, the amount of \$45.00 for a family needs to be added.
 5. The Annual Report from the FRC Committee President: Leslie Brown presented the annual report and among other matters thanked Sian for her efforts in obtaining the next round of funding. He also signalled

that the date for the resident writer's National Library Event was being planned. Carried. LB/FK

6. Sarah announced that Amaury da Cunha's book, written during his residency in Wellington, had been published in Paris and copies would arrive in NZ soon. Tim also mentioned that Ruby Solly's book had been published earlier in the year.

7. The Annual Financial Statements from the Treasurer: Tracey Schuyt presented the 2021 financial position, commenting that we had made a profit of \$2, 167.37 and the recent money from subscriptions had been transferred into the savings account.

Rachel Underwood asked about the amount of donations and how they were acknowledged. Tracey replied that most people added it to their subscription and receipts were duly sent out. To Kate Fortune's question if the koha was related to the National Library event Tracey replied that it was. Carried LB/RS

8. Recommendation of the annual subscriptions for the year (2022/23): that subscriptions for 2022/23 remain at \$15.00 for seniors/students, \$30.00 for individuals, \$45.00 for joint/ families and \$60.00 for businesses, as set at the 2021 AGM. Carried FK/KF.

Fiona moved a vote of thanks to Tracey which was received with acclamation.

8.Election of the Officers of the Society:

President: **Leslie Brown re-elected unanimously** as **President**. FK/KF

Treasurer: **Tracey Schuyt** re-elected unanimously as **Treasurer**.LB/FK

Secretary: **Robyn Skrzyńska** re-elected unanimously as **Secretary**. LB/McC

9.Election of at least **three** Ordinary Members of the Executive Committee.

Gillian Cameron, Susan Stevens, Dame Fiona Kidman and Tim Gruar were nominated and elected en bloc as ordinary members of the Committee. LB/RU
Leslie expressed our thanks to Sian Robyns who was standing down from the committee after having held many roles over the last 10 years. She remains active as a Trustee of the Trust.

NB In accordance with the Rules of the Friends the Chair of the Trustees is automatically on the Friends' Committee. This will be the incoming Chair, Christine Hurley.

11. Life Membership for Beverley Randell & Susan Price. In nominating Beverley and Susan to Life Membership of the Friends, Leslie mentioned his long friendship with Hugh, Beverley and Susan, starting with the publication of his father's book " The Rise of NZ Labour" , published by Price Milburn. He

mentioned the publication of Beverley's book "A Crowded Thorndon Cottage", Susan's gift of Chevening and the purchase of the Cottage as well as the Te Papa collection of objects found on the site of the cottage during its renovation.

Nominated by Leslie Brown and seconded by Sarah Dennis who endorsed what Leslie had said, reiterating the immense debt the Trust and Friends owe to Beverley, Susan and Hugh for their generosity in donating the cottage and enabling the Writers Trust to be established and underlining our commitment to maintain the spirit of their legacy. Carried unanimously.

Susan replied expressing her gratitude to all around the table for their support of the idea for the two residencies. Beverly explained how the purchase of the Cottage had come about and endorsed the reciprocal arrangement expressing her delight that it had brought so much happiness to so many.

She graciously handed over four of their publications for the Cottage: A Crowded Thorndon Cottage, Old Wellington in Colour, Wellington at Work and Beverly's latest, Heart of Flame. Beverly also acknowledged the connection with Leslie, being that his father, Bruce Brown, had been best man at Hugh's and Beverley's wedding.

- Beverley and Susan noted cottage, in rundown condition, was on the market.
- cemented deal with Neil Harrap who purchased it and sold it to the Prices.
- engaged heritage architect, Martin Hill, to commence renovations.
- heard that Dame Fiona and others were looking for a writers' residence in Wellington.
- made the generous offer of the renovated cottage to that group and handed over the keys.

Rachel Underwood moved that the story of how Neil Harrap was involved in the purchase be minuted. RU/KF

12. Any other business:

Mary McCallum introduced the author, Anne Harré, née Falkner, who had been an early member of the Trust. She had just published her first novel, The Leaning Man, and generously donated a copy of her book to the Cottage. Leslie thanked Mary for bringing her along.

Leslie finished with mention of the events planned for the 20th anniversary in 2022: a garden party, a reception to be held by the French Embassy, a publication and a birthday cake.

The business part of the meeting was followed by a conversation with our resident NZ writer, **Lynn Davidson**, which was ably chaired by **Sian Robyns**.

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

Refreshments were served at the end of the meeting.

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.**