

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



Friends of the Randell Cottage Writers Trust  
President's Report 2022–2023

Here are some highlights of the 2022–2023 year, my fourth as President:

*Creative New Zealand Funding*

I report each year that as 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 retiring trustee Sian Robyns and Trust Chair Christine Hurley for carrying this load and again getting to a successful conclusion.

*New Zealand Writer 2022*

Rose Lu has been and gone. Her project, which she spoke about at our last AGM, is to write her first novel. This follows the story of Moon, a second-generation Chinese-New Zealander, and Hsiao-Han, who migrated to Aotearoa New Zealand in her mid-twenties.

*2022 Open Day*

After the surge of Delta put an end to our hope of a 2021 Open Day this time providence smiled on us. The day began with an event to mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary and unveil the plaque we Friends funded. Then in the afternoon came Open Day with over 100 visitors passing through the cottage. Planning will soon be in hand for our 2023 Open Day.

*French Writers*

With borders now opened the Cottage welcomed the long delayed French writer, Caroline Laurent, to take up her residency in instalments. She was here for the

[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.

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

excellent event at the residence of the French Ambassador officially launching the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary book, "Room to Write". And she will be back with us at the end of 2023.

We also have welcomed her successor, Sedef Ecer, who spoke at the recent National Library event.

*New Zealand Writer 2023*

Rachel O'Neill is with us. They will be speaking to us shortly so I will say no more.

*More recently*

We held a successful event at the National Library on 7 March with French writer Sedef Ecer and the latest in the Trust's series of videos – this of Caroline Laurent. Again a collaboration with the Friends of the Turnbull I hope such joint efforts become an annual fixture.

*Next to last*

We have welcomed our new Treasurer, Jie Fang. And two new committee members, Redmer Yska and Pip Murdoch.

*Conclusion*

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

Leslie Brown

President of the Friends

1 June 2023

[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.