

FRIENDS' FRIDAY FLASH AUGUST 2024



The big news from the Friends is the outcome of our Raise the Roof for Randell Cottage fundraising concert. The National Library auditorium was packed out for a for an amazing night of high entertainment, thought provoking moments, sorrows and joy from twelve great readers.

The readings were chaired with the wit and wisdom of Justice Sir Stephen Kos and, by video link, Her Excellency Madame Laurence Beau, the Ambassador for France. Madame Beau was unable to attend in person because our concert happened to be on the same night as Bastille Day was being celebrated here in Aotearoa. She and Sir Stephen were joined in readings by Vincent O'Malley, Ngahuia te Awekotuku, Dan Henry, Emily Perkins, Justice Sir Joe Williams, Damien Wilkins, Anna Fifield, Denis Welch, Rachel O'Neill (these last two are former Randell Cottage Fellows), and our newly resident Fellow, fresh from Berlin, Hinemoana Baker.

We could not have achieved the result we did, without a wonderful team of volunteers who have worked tirelessly over several months to create such a successful night. Thanks to Robyn Skrzynska, Pip Murdoch, Tracey Schuyt, Lorna Bingham, Melissa Wastney, and Ruth Jeffery.

So, what did we make? Over and above ticket sales, thanks to many donations including outstandingly generous ones from the Price/Randell family, Beverley and Susan, Sir Peter Jackson and Dame Fran Walsh, and Willis Bond, the total on the night was \$33,065. Since then, the final tally is close to \$35,000.

Thank you so much to all our supporters for making this happen. You are amazing and we are so grateful.

Fiona
(Dame Fiona Kidman, Acting Chair)

P.S. Please note that later in the year the Friends of the Turnbull Library will be running a similar event. We wish them all the very best for this event.

SAVE THE DATES

ALFRED MEMELINK WATER COLOUR UNVEILING – 8 SEPTEMBER 2024

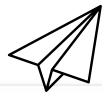
Friends are invited to unveiling of the Alfred Memelink watercolour of the Randell Cottage.

Sunday, 8 September, 2–4 pm, Karori Arts and Crafts Centre, Main Room, 8 Beauchamp St, Karori.

* Afternoon tea will be served after the unveiling

**Catch Bus no.s 21, 2 & 18

Please RSVP to robynskrz@gmail.com or ring Robyn (04) 476 4823



Raise the Roof: Live Letters



New Randell Cottage Cards and Postcards

The cards and postcards feature the watercolour painting of the Randell Cottage commissioned by the Friends, sponsored by the Randell Price family and painted by Alfred Memelink, a prominent Wellington artist whose Gallery is based on the Petone Esplanade.

A standard card size (160mm x 110mm), they are made of high-quality card and come with an envelope. The two inside pages are free of text and the back page has a brief history of the cottage. The post card has the same historical text.

Prices are:

Cards: \$5.00 00 Members / \$5.50 Non-members
Postcards: \$2.00 each

*Postage costs will apply for orders that cannot be picked up in person.

Orders can be placed by emailing: randellcottage.events@gmail.com the number of cards and /or postcards, your name and address, please.

For Online Bank Payments, please use your name and the word 'CARDS' in the Reference fields.

Friends of the Randell Cottage: **06 0545 0329586 00**

THIS YEAR'S OPEN DAY – 27 OCTOBER 2024

Also, pop this date in your calendars. Your committee is working hard on this year's programme and you'll be the first to know once we get things licked in.

[Hinemoana Baker](#) @ NATIONAL LIBRARY – 14 November

Introducing 2024 New Zealand Randell Cottage writer, poet, and performer Hinemoana Baker (Ngāti Raukawa-ki-te-Tonga, Ngāti Tukorehe, Ngāti Toa Rangatira, Te Āti Awa, Kāi Tahu, England, Germany). She moved in during July and will be residing until December, using her six months in residence to work on a new collection of poetry, Exhaust World.

Most recently based in Berlin. She has published four previous collections of poetry with Te Herenga Waka University Press: mātuhi | needle (2004), kōiwi kōiwi (2010), waha | mouth (2014) and Funkhaus (2021).

You can read more about Hinemoana on the [Randell Cottage website](#).

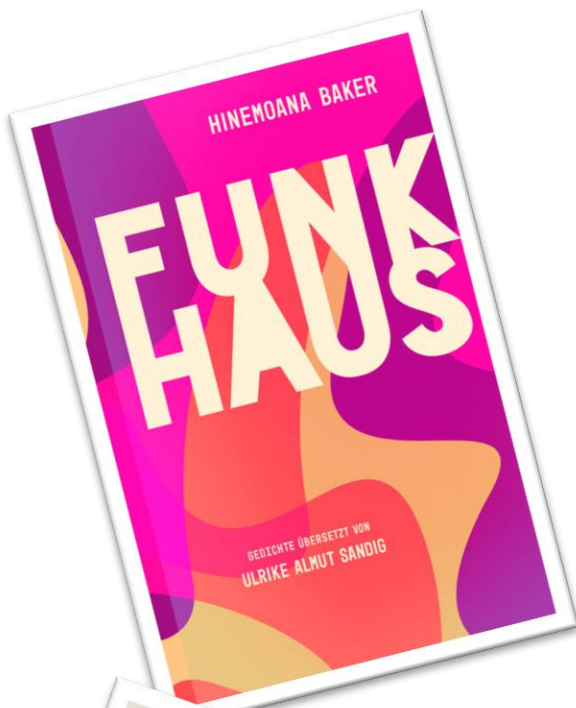
Also, we will be showing our newest video on the most recent French resident, Julien Blanc-Gras, whose latest publication 'Bungalow' is attracting critical acclaim in France. You can read his full report of his time here both in English and French, [here](#).

Thursday November 14 5.30 for 6 pm, National Library auditorium

Hinemoana's reflections on her time at the Cottage so far

So entirely unhelpfully, I left my wallet on the Number 2 bus the day after I landed. I'd made myself and all my ancestors proud by managing to travel into town and secure myself a Snapper card and a mobile plan within hours of waking up -- something which would have taken a couple of weeks at least in Berlin. Then on the bus ride back to the cottage I'd





stood up and Snapped with such glee that I'd missed the fact that my wallet was still on board. Cue: Quintessentially New Zealand Experience. Within minutes I'd found the number, rung the bus lost property, and been told to simply wave down the same bus as it came back around in 23 minutes. The bus arrived at exactly 2:13 pm, I explained briefly to the driver, he said "sure have a look". I did. The wallet was still there.

The night before when I arrived to the airport at midnight, a taxi driver said I wouldn't have to pay if my cashpoint card (which I hadn't used for a year) didn't work in his machine. It did, I tipped generously. Just before the taxi, when I arrived off the plane and my luggage didn't, it took me a mere 5 minutes to fill in the forms required, all the while being constantly reassured my bags and I would for sure be reunited in the next few days. We were.

All of this to say: many things are a lot easier here than they are in Berlin. It's not a competition! But, of course, for me, this has made for quite the smooth and stress-free landing.

The most Quintessentially New Zealand Experience though, of course, is the cottage itself. We do love our colonial objects here -- be it buildings, street signs or school curricula. Randell Cottage is a beautiful example of how treasured and cared for this aspect of our past often is, and from the moment I stepped inside I could feel how much aroha is and has been part of this whare. And not just from my contemporaries and the Trust, but from the families who lived there in the past. From the small amount of reading I have done, times were certainly not easy, but the families seemed to have lived good lives, mostly happy lives. I can feel that also, now I'm on the inside.

Not in the least bit haunted, in other words, except perhaps by the ghosts of writer's past: a child's black sports cap on a bookshelf, various adapters for international appliances and their panicking owners, and of course the books themselves, by Lynn Davidson, Kirsty Gunn, Whiti Hereaka...I'm spoiled for choice. And at least for these first chilly months, curling up in a big, warm bed with a (very) good book seems an extremely appealing prospect.

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(she/her) August 2024

Hinemoana's Poetry set to music

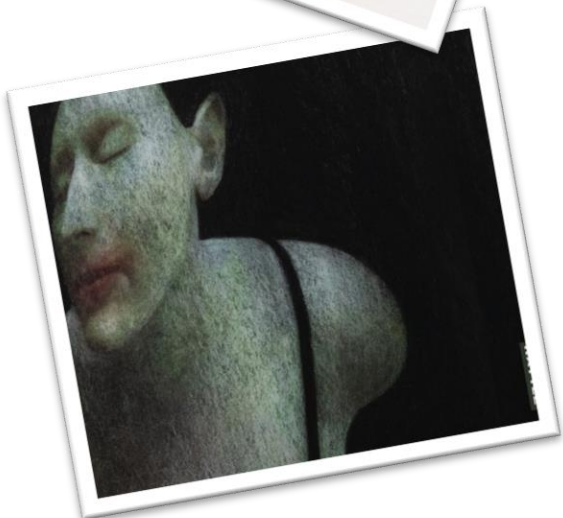
Recently, jazz artists Hannah Griffin, Thomas Joyce, Norman Meehan recorded [Wahine](#), an album of poems set to music by Hannah Griffin, Thomas Joyce and Norman Meehan. This includes poetry of Hinemoana Baker, Cilla McQueen, and Janet Frame.

The House Within – Directed by Joshua Prendeville

It's not often you get the chance to watch a feature-length documentary film about an author you're lucky enough to meet for coffee now and then. But last weekend I did just that, by attending the sold-out world premiere of *The House Within*, a film about Aotearoa literary taonga and Randell Cottage founder Dame Fiona Kidman.

Directed by Joshua Prendeville, *The House Within* examines the way in which the lines between life and fiction can intersect and how, over time, they can blur and merge. It's a beautiful work set mostly in Fiona's home, a classic Wellington villa, and in other familiar places.

The cinematography by Bill Bycroft is exquisite, and I thought the wild weather swirling around and the house's concrete steps could nearly be supporting characters in the film. Our beloved Randell Cottage also stars,





with Fiona explaining that the international nature of the residency works to expand the writing world for so many authors.

Alongside passages from novels and poems, Fiona tells us about her life, describing a solitary childhood and the revelatory experiences of learning to read and write. A love of both helped forge her way into adulthood in what was a fairly conservative society, and one with an undercurrent of male anger and frustration. She reflects on her role in the second-wave feminism movement that shaped a generation of women in Aotearoa. The author describes her fascination with the surface of things, especially water, and the everlasting mystery of what lies beneath – an interesting theme to be threaded through a film about an author's life and work. After the closing credits, Fiona took part in a short Q&A session. One of the audience members to speak up was Gaylene Preston, commending both filmmaker and subject on an excellent work.

I believe the Wellington screenings of *The House Within* have now finished but if you missed them, please do seek out this beautiful film soon.

– Melissa Wastney (Trustee)

Click through to more information on the [Whānau Marama website](#)

Still from the film's [Boosted page](#)

Annual Subscription

Business \$100 / Joint / Family \$50 /
Individual \$35 / Senior \$20 /
Student \$0 (up to 3 years, then \$20/yr)

Or Donation (\$ State amount)



Randell Cottage Writers Trust
PO Box 25204
WELLINGTON 6140
New Zealand
Email: info@randellcottage.co.nz
[View us on a map](#)



2024 – 25 SUBS & DONATIONS

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Please include your name and the words 'new sub' as references.

Please also email randellcottage@gmail.com with your contact details, category of membership, and details of payment via internet banking.

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