



FRIENDS' FRIDAY FLASH OCTOBER 2024

I am delighted, and somewhat daunted, to have been co-opted to the Friends of the Randell Cottage as Acting Chair. Daunted because I am following in the footsteps of the wonderful Dame Fiona Kidman who has led this group for nearly three years. And delighted because I have a long association with the Randell family and a lifetime's passion for reading. If you want to, you can find more about me under [Governance](#) on the RCWT website.

Since the successful fundraiser, *Live Letters: Raise the Roof*, which I produced, I have hit the ground running, with the unveiling of the Alfred Memelink painting and the once-a-year Open Day, when we join two other historic Thorndon houses, Rita Angus and Lilburn, to celebrate the Wellington Heritage Festival. These Friends events are profiled later in this Friday Flash.

I am very much looking forward to working with the Friends committee, a dedicated hardworking group of volunteers who all care deeply about the RCWT, the cottage and its resident writers.

Ruth Jeffery
Acting Chair, Friends of the Randell Cottage

ALFRED MEMELINK WATERCOLOUR UNVEILING

A chatty group of Friends and Trustees gathered on a warm Sunday (September 8th) at the Karori Arts and Crafts Centre for the unveiling of the Alfred Memelink water colour of the Randell Cottage.

Dame Fiona, the former Acting Chair of the Friends, welcomed the 20 present and Robyn who initiated the project gave some background to the commissioning of the painting. Beverley Randell and Susan Price, who were the sponsors, were sadly not present for the unveiling owing to ill health. The unveiling was ably carried out, however, by the newly elected Acting Chair, Ruth Jeffery, as her first public duty. She described her close association with the Randell family from the age of 2 and the Cottage from her flatting days.

Tim Gruar was on hand to take photos of the occasion (see left).

Afternoon tea was provided and there was much conversation over the orange cake, ginger crunch, asparagus rolls, Swiss roll, cheese nibbles and date and nut loaf. It was an occasion that succeeded in enabling Friends' Committee, Friends' members and Trustees to get to know each other better.

You can order cards now (see below) or look for them on sale at our upcoming Open Day.





SAVE THE DATES

OPEN DAY – 27 OCTOBER 2024

This year we are part of Wellington Heritage Festival's *Poneke Focus Weekend 26-29 October*. You can visit the Cottage between 1 and 4pm on Sunday 27 October, where the programme includes readings from past Randell Cottage writers, raffles, sales of cards and books, afternoon tea, and an opportunity to walk through the Cottage and garden. While there will be the facility for internet banking, it would be good if you brought cash. Check out the [Wellington Heritage Festival site](#) for our Open Day listing.



The Friends of the Turnbull Library
Ngā Hoa o te Whare Pukapuka Turnbull

LETTERS OUT LOUD – 24 OCTOBER 2024

From 5.30-8pm, at National Library Auditorium, join the Friends of the Turnbull Library for an enchanting evening as familiar voices bring to life selected letters from the Alexander Turnbull Library collections. Spanning from 1856 to 1982, these letters range from the poignant to the hilarious, offering a captivating glimpse into surprising events over 126 years.

[Click here](#) for more information about speakers and booking details.

A CONVERSATION WITH HINEMOANA BAKER 14 NOVEMBER 5. 30 for 6PM-8PM, NATIONAL LIBRARY AUDITORIUM (free)

We are excited to hear Hinemoana talk about her Randell Cottage experience and her writing life, and read some of her work.

Also screening will be our video on the most recent French resident, Julien Blanc-Gras, whose latest publication 'Bungalow' is attracting critical acclaim in France.

REFLECTIONS FROM HINEMOANA BAKER

I'm currently about to sleep in a beautiful refurbished barn at Tunnel Beach in Ōtepoti Dunedin. Through the generous efforts of poet and academic Kim Cope Tait and other enthusiasts in the Dunedin writing scene, I have been invited to read tomorrow 7/10. Equally wonderful is that the South Island sojourn continues after this, as I'll be reading for the Canterbury Poets' Collective in Ōtautahi Christchurch on 10/10. I miss the cottage, and I hope all its beloved struts, studs and objects of crockery are doing ok after the early morning earthquake today!

Aroha nui

STOP PRESS: Hinemoana will be reading with other Gen-X poets at Te Papa on 19th October in response to the Chartwell Collection exhibition. [Link here](#).



ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT FRENCH WRITER

Titaua Peu has been announced as the next French writer-in-residence, the first writer from French Polynesia. The Trust is excited to welcome her in early 2025. You can read more about Titaua [here](#).

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.

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.

Cards: \$5.00 00 Members / \$5.50 Non-members
Postcards: \$1.00 each

*Postage costs will apply for orders beyond Wellington that cannot be picked up in person or cannot be delivered locally.

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

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**

Annual Subscription

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

Or Donation (\$ State amount)



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2024 – 25 SUBS & DONATIONS

A quick reminder - If you have not yet paid your subscription, please pay as soon as you can.

Our ANZ account number is **06 0545 0329586 00**
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.


ARTS COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND TOI AOTEAROA

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ET AUX SAMOA**

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