



## **LESBIAN INFORMATION LIBRARY AND ARCHIVE CENTRE**

187 Willis Street, Wellington  
PO Box 427, Wellington 6140

### **NOTICE OF THE LILAC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020**

In keeping with the Constitution, a 40-day notice is given that the twenty-fifth Annual General Meeting of LILAC will be held in the LILAC Lounge on the second floor of 187 Willis Street at 6.00pm on **Thursday, 19 November 2020**.

There are no amendments to the LILAC Constitution proposed by the Collective. Any amendments proposed by current financial members must be in writing, specifying which part of the Constitution is to be amended, providing the precise wording to be considered and also include a brief rationale for the amendment. Any such proposed amendment, signed by two current financial members, must be in the hands of the Collective not later than **30 October 2020**. All such proposed amendments will be circulated to all current financial members not later than **5 November 2020**.

Nominations for members of the Collective should be in writing, moved and seconded by current financial members and have the signed acceptance of the nominee. Nominations must be received by the current Collective not later than **30 October 2020** and will be posted on the LILAC website. The nomination form is on the final page of this document.

The Financial Report and audited accounts will be distributed in due course and at least 14 days before the date of the AGM.

#### **Annual Meeting Agenda**

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of 2019 AGM
3. Annual report July 2019 – June 2020
4. Armstrong & Arthur Charitable Trust for Lesbians
5. Financial report and audited accounts
6. Future of LILAC
7. Amendments to the Constitution - if any
8. Appointment of auditor
9. Election of Collective
10. General Business of which due notice has been given or is deemed permissible to be considered by the financial members present at the AGM

***Light refreshments will be available from 5.30pm.***

## ANNUAL REPORT: JULY 2019 – JUNE 2020

### **The year at a glance**

The Collective has been working under difficult conditions throughout the year. The Constitution specifies up to 10 members with a minimum of six (6). While we started the year with a full quota of 10, one member resigned very early in her term of office, another resigned in the middle of the year, and others have been absent due to work and personal commitments, which again has left the burden of running LILAC with a very small group. Consequently, not a great deal of time or energy has been available to work through forward-looking policy issues. Given the failure to attract many more financial members, it has been necessary to focus our efforts on fundraising. More detail on this matter and possible way(s) forward are contained in the Financial Report.

Despite various limitations, including those presented by the Covid-19 global pandemic, we've successfully held several promotional and fundraising events throughout the year. These included a stall at the annual fair, *Out in the Park*, which is a major opportunity to publicise the existence and resources of LILAC, a fundraising outing at Circa theatre, two interesting evening events held at LILAC, an impromptu visit by Val McDermid, and a mindfulness workshop held via Zoom. More details about all of these can be found in the addendum to this report.

### **Armstrong & Arthur Charitable Trust for Lesbians**

LILAC has received more than \$50,000 in funding from the Armstrong & Arthur Trust (A&A Trust) during the 15 years to April 2020. We are very thankful for the Trust's commitment to LILAC as these funds have enabled us to rent our various premises throughout that period. As the income of the Trust is dependent on interest received from investments, the very low interest rates have reduced the size of the grants available to support the lesbian community. LILAC is extremely grateful to the A&A Trust for its most generous grant this year, without which we may not have survived in our current premises.

We can all help keep the [Armstrong & Arthur Trust](#) viable and able to support lesbians in the region by making donations or leaving it money in our wills.

### **Collective Membership**

The current members of the Collective are Helen Barlow, Ellen Faed, Mary Gilbert, Amy Greenwood, Carole Hicks, Debbie Stephens, Sue Street and Jenny Whyte. Regretfully, both Lou Brandon and Marnie Hubmann resigned during the year. Clare Lennard briefly stepped in to join the Collective but was unable to continue as employment took her away from Wellington. Not an active member this year, Sally Elborn has continued as a strong supporter and 'communication' member from afar.

While we started out with ideas and energy, we were all affected in various ways by the changes demanded to keep us safe from the dangers of the Covid-19 virus. We tried to get a virtual programme available for members; however, work and other significant commitments saw fewer and fewer Collective members able to contribute to the activity on any regular basis.

Although not members of the Collective, Clare Lennard and Jane Selby provided significant advice and support in our attempts to raise funds to bolster our decreasing bank account.

The Collective continues to extend its very best wishes to Sal Elborn, undergoing treatment in London. We understand she is booked to return home later this year, at least for a visit. It will be great to welcome her back to LILAC. Without her amazing donation last year, we would have been in dire straits.

### **LILAC Membership**

LILAC welcomed 14 brand new members and 7 members re-joined, bringing the membership total to 73 at the end of the 2019-2020 financial year. This is an increase of 4 to the number of members at the same time last year.

We have some outstanding membership fees but understand we have all had a very uncertain time with Covid-19 over the last few months, so a reminder email will be sent out ahead of the AGM as subs must be up to date to attend. Payments are accepted at the AGM from anyone who wishes to join or renew on the day – please arrive early and bring cash! New and returning members are always welcome.

If you're not sure whether your subs are up to date or would like to make an online payment, email [lilac-subs@lesbian.net.nz](mailto:lilac-subs@lesbian.net.nz).

Thank you for your continuing support of the Lilac Library.

### **LILAC Collections**

We have continued to buy new books locally at Unity Books, and we thank Tilly Lloyd for her support. You can always see the latest purchases listed on the [new books webpage](#) with links to reviews. DVD purchasing and borrowing has declined this year – it is not always easy to source DVDs in the preferred Region 4 format, and it seems many members now access movies online.

LILAC currently has 2,738 books and 168 DVD titles. We gratefully acknowledge the ongoing donation of DVDs and books to our collections and invite suggestions for purchases. At the end of the 2018-2019 year we subscribed to two print magazines. But since then LOTL (Australia), as well as Curve (US), have ceased print publication. Diva (UK) has ceased print publication during the UK's prolonged Covid-19 disruptions.

You can check LILAC's online catalogue to see if we have the books you want before you visit the library. The books catalogue is available on [LibraryThing](#). There you can search the catalogue, browse sections of it, and follow links to book reviews and discussions. There are also text-based [author-title lists](#) on the LILAC website that work well on phone browsers.

Many thanks to Ellen for keeping our catalogues up-to-date.

## LILAC Statistics

	July 2019 – June 2020	July 2018 – June 2019
Visitors	278	356
Books borrowed	306	477
DVDs borrowed	12	32
Magazines borrowed	6	1

Note: visitor numbers and borrowing were somewhat lower than in previous years because of the Covid-19 lockdown.

## Book Club

Regretfully the vagaries of Covid-19 and this being the strangest of years, has meant we were not able to resuscitate the Book Club. A project for the coming year! If you are interested, just email us at [lilac@lesbian.net.nz](mailto:lilac@lesbian.net.nz) if you'd like to come along or have a suggestion for a monthly theme.

## The Coasters

Collective members take a selection of books, DVDs and magazines to the monthly Coasters pot-luck dinners. Members can borrow their selection for a month, returning them at the following dinner. This service is greatly appreciated by the women living on the Kapiti Coast.

## LILAC on Facebook - @LILAClibraryWellington

LILAC posts bookish information such as links to book reviews and to interviews with authors, as well as notices about LILAC events. Go to the [LILAC Facebook page](#) and 'like' us.

## Clippings

With great dedication, Sue Alexander has been collecting clippings, mainly from mainstream media, about lesbians. She has been doing this for over fifty years. Her carefully gleaned articles can be viewed at LILAC. They are collated from the sixties through to the current day in chronological order.

We are most grateful to Sue for this brilliant collection and making it available for general reading at LILAC. In particular, she provided one discussion of the material to more than 20 women before 'lockdown' and is planning another one to bring the stories up to date.

## Volunteers

Where would LILAC be without all our volunteers? The whole organisation is voluntary, from the Collective to all those who help out on the occasional library shift. Thank you so much. Without your dedication there would be no LILAC. Your efforts have kept LILAC functioning despite the stopping and starting use of the venue in this most peculiar Covid-19 year. So, once again, thank you all.

## Conclusion

We look forward to seeing you at LILAC, especially at the AGM on Thursday, 19 November 2020 at 6.00pm. Refreshments will be available from 5.30pm.

*The LILAC Collective*

## **ADDENDUM:**

### **Events at LILAC July 2019-June 2020**

#### **Out in the Women's Weeklies – presented by Sue Alexander**

Wednesday 21 August 2019

More than 20 women came to LILAC to hear Sue Alexander's fascinating account of her clippings collection "Out in the Women's Weeklies". Sue illustrated some of the ways in which lesbians are portrayed in the 'straight' print media, mainly in popular magazines.

Some stories are outrageous, others more modest. We were all able to find a snippet or several that resonated with our own experiences.

Examples from Sue's collection, spanning from the 1970s to present day, continue to be displayed on LILAC's walls, replacing her popular retro greeting cards exhibition.

Now we are back at level 1 Sue will soon bring the collection up to date. Check the LILAC website for details.

#### **Fundraiser at Circa: *The Pink Hammer***

Tuesday 10 September 2019

This comedy starred Ginette McDonald as a woman trying to bring a conservative (backward!) guy into the real world of 'women can do anything'. There were a number of changes of relationships and perspectives among the several women who had signed up for the carpentry course run by the bloke. Women in the man-cave! It was a well-written and acted play.

#### **Visit by Val McDermid**

Saturday 9 November 2019

We didn't advertise this event but news of it spread and several members appeared anyway. Val visited with her wife, discussed how and why she wrote the very different characters in the various book series, with members of the Collective. She then went to a Verb Writers Festival event where she appeared with Renée.

#### **Out in the Park**

Saturday 22 February 2020

The annual fair, Out in the Park, which is a major opportunity to publicise the existence and resources of LILAC, was held on February 22 at Waitangi Park. With a good stall location, fine weather, and lots of visitors, we raised more than \$850 through merchandise sales, second-hand books and a raffle. This was better than recent years, many thanks to Marnie's merchandise which was all kindly donated.

### ***Spies and Lies* – a talk by Julie Glamuzina**

Wednesday 26 February 2020

LILAC welcomed the return of lesbian author Julie Glamuzina to LILAC talking about her forthcoming book “*Spies and Lies*”. This is about Dr Hjelmar von Dannevell, the only woman incarcerated on Matiu/Somes Island during World War I. Supposedly she was a spy (just because she was German), but ultimately she was imprisoned because of her relationship with another woman. She was in fact a woman of her times, a lesbian, global traveller, health advocate - and much more.

### **Mindfulness – a talk by Jan Rivers**

Tuesday 5 May 2020

We were well into ‘Covid-19 lockdown’ at this time so the session was conducted via Zoom. This excellent presentation by Jan outlined what mindfulness ‘is’ and worked us through several examples of meditation, which we found fascinating and helpful. We did not have a huge number of participants, but it was a diverse group, one of whom joined in from Gisborne. We are grateful to Jan for her generosity providing Zoom as well as her expertise.

## NOMINATION FORM FOR MEMBERS OF THE LILAC COLLECTIVE

I nominate ..... for membership of the LILAC Collective.

Signed:

Nominee: ..... Membership no.....

Nominator: ..... Membership no.....

Nominator: ..... Membership no.....

.....

The person on duty will be able to sign it if you need a nominator.

The signed form must be received by LILAC not later than **30 October 2020**. You can

- email an image of the signed form to [lilac@lesbian.net.nz](mailto:lilac@lesbian.net.nz)
- deliver your form to LILAC when we're open or drop it in the book return box
- post your signed form to LILAC PO Box 427 Wellington 6140