



LESBIAN INFORMATION LIBRARY AND ARCHIVE CENTRE

187 Willis Street, Wellington
PO Box 427, Wellington 6140

NOTICE OF THE LILAC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022

In keeping with the Constitution, a 40-day notice is given that the twenty-sixth Annual General Meeting of LILAC will be held in the LILAC Lounge on the second floor of 187 Willis Street at 6.00pm on **Tuesday, 15 November 2022**.

There are no amendments to the LILAC Constitution proposed by the Collective.

Any amendments proposed by current financial members must be in writing, specifying what 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 **27 October 2022**. All such proposed amendments will be circulated to all current financial members not later than **2 November 2022**.

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 **27 October 2022** 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 20 days before the date of the AGM.

Annual Meeting Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of 2021 AGM
3. Annual report July 2021– June 2022
4. Armstrong & Arthur Charitable Trust for Lesbians
5. Financial report and audited accounts
6. Amendments to the Constitution - if any
7. Appointment of auditor
8. Election of Collective
9. 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 2021 – JUNE 2022

The year at a glance

Over the 2021/2022 reporting year, LILAC experienced fewer disruptions due to the Covid Pandemic. LILAC closed briefly from mid August until mid September, then reopened under official mandates requiring face mask-wearing and social distancing.

The November AGM 2021 saw the departure from the Collective of Carole Hicks, who had been a tower of strength, and of Mary Gilbert and Sue Street, who are also missed. The new Collective was invigorated by the addition of Valda Edyvane, Robynne Beech, Lizzie Kerr and Amanda Beddis, who have brought new energy and ideas to LILAC.

This year the Collective organised a number of different events. The first was an exhibition of photographs of women's tattoos, which was organised and mounted by Sue Street. Lesbian Herstory month brought numerous women to the LILAC Lounge for four events: a talk by Hilary Oxley about the big map of historical lesbian places in Wellington, a talk by Valda Edyvane about the history of *Circle* magazine, the relaunch of LILAC's book group with a presentation by poet Angele Toomey, and an evening of reminiscing about lesbians in sport organised by Carole Hicks. The Winter Art Exhibition, organised by Lizzie Kerr, was opened in June. More details about these events can be found in the addendum to this report.

Fundraising was stymied by the lack of a Pride Festival in Wellington, which, in past years, has been LILAC's main fundraising event. However, there was a successful fundraiser at Circa Theatre of the double billed plays *I'll Tell You This for Nothing*, and *Milord Goffredo*. Other similar outings are planned. LILAC also received koha from visitors at events in the LILAC Lounge.

Armstrong & Arthur Charitable Trust for Lesbians

LILAC has received more than \$66,000 in funding from the Armstrong & Arthur Trust (A&A Trust) during the 17 years to April 2022. We are very thankful for the Trust's commitment to LILAC as these funds have enabled us to rent our 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 bequests in our wills.

Collective Membership

The current active members of the Collective are Helen Barlow, Sal Elborn, Ellen Faed, Debbie Stephens, Valda Edyvane, Liz Kerr, Robynne Beech, Amanda Beddis and Jenny Whyte. Carole Hicks, Mary Gilbert and Sue Street retired from the Collective at the 2021 AGM; we thank them for their outstanding contributions. The new members Valda, Lizzie, Robynne and Amanda have brought some fresh talents, ideas and energy to the Collective.

LILAC Membership

LILAC welcomed 10 brand new members from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022 notwithstanding Covid disruptions. The total membership was 75 at the end of the 2021-2022 financial year., including 52 financial and 3 life members

Members are sent a reminder email, usually in the month their subs are due. Also, members who have not renewed will get a reminder 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 welcomed.

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.

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 them for their support. You can always see the latest purchases listed on the [new books webpage](#) with links to reviews. DVD purchasing and borrowing has declined in recent years – 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 2799 books and 160 DVD titles. We gratefully acknowledge the ongoing donation of DVDs and books to our collections and invite suggestions for purchases. Diva (UK) is now the sole print magazine available; it ceased print publication during the UK's prolonged Covid-19 disruptions but is now back.

You can check LILAC's new online books catalogue on [TinyCat](#) to see if we have the books you want before you visit the library. There you can search the catalogue, read information about titles, and follow links to book reviews and discussions. [TinyCat](#) works on phones as well as larger devices. There are also text-based [author-title lists](#) on the LILAC website.

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

LILAC Statistics - some tentative at this stage

	July 2021 – June 2022	July 2020 – June 2021
Visitors	399*	333*
Books borrowed	342	341
DVDs borrowed	3	21
Magazines borrowed	4	5

*includes Tuesdays at LILAC and events.

Tuesdays at the LILAC Lounge

Tuesdays at the LILAC Lounge was launched in August 2020 with the aim of keeping LILAC open for more hours, and with activities having a more social focus around games and ukuleles. It was paused in mid August 2021 when the country returned to Covid level 4 settings and did not resume later.

Book Group

Book Club was relaunched 20 October 2021 with an author talk by poet Angele Toomey about her book *Harbour*, as part of LILAC's Lesbian Herstory Month. Fourteen members came to hear Angele and along with wine and nibbles it was a great way to rekindle the book group.

Since then the group (ranging from five to eight women) have met monthly and discussed a range of authors, themes and genres of lesbian writing. These have included the works of Jeanette Winterson, Emma Donoghue and Sarah Schulman, and a focus on autobiography, poetry and humour.

With plenty of discussion, different insights, lots of fun, tea and biscuits book group has been a real success at LILAC.

Keep up to date on the [Book Group page](#) on the LILAC [website](#) and in our newsletters. If you are interested, just email us at lilac@lesbian.net.nz if you'd like to come along and/or have a suggestion for a monthly theme.

The Coasters

Collective members take a selection of books and DVDs 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.

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 or with organising events. Thank you so much. Without your dedication there would be no LILAC.

Conclusion

We look forward to seeing you at LILAC, especially at the AGM on Tuesday, 15 November 2022 at 6.00pm. Refreshments will be available from 5.30pm.

The LILAC Collective

ADDENDUM:

LILAC events July 2021-June 2022

Tattoo Exhibition opening

Wednesday 4th August 2021

A display of photographs of women's tattoos with descriptive information provided by the subjects. Many thanks to Sue Street for organising the exhibition – finding and liaising with the subjects and mounting the photographs. The exhibition ran until August 2022

Lesbian Herstory Month

October 2021

This was celebrated with four events on Wednesday evenings:

- Lesbians are everywhere – a talk by Hilary Oxley about the fascinating Wellington map prepared by local die-hard dykes showing the locations of lesbian hangouts from decades past. It is still on display at LILAC.
- *Circle* magazine and early lesbian publishing – an illustrated talk by Valda Edyvane
- Relaunch of LILAC's book group, with an author talk by poet Angele Toomey about her book *Harbour*.
- Lesbian representation in sport – a fun discussion organised by Carole Hicks with women reminiscing about their sporting exploits.

Lesbian Coming Out Meetup

Saturday 23 April 2022

A fun and relaxing event in the LILAC Lounge organised by Jean Kahui.

His/Her Story – Circa Double Bill

Sunday 1 May 2022

In *I'll Tell You This for Nothing*, Kate JasonSmith brought to life the dramatic and often humorous tale of her mother's life in an acclaimed show about war, courage, danger and romance. *Milord Goffredo* was Jan Bolwell's dynamic re-creation of her father Geoffrey's WWII exploits. An excellent night out organised by Sally Elborn.

Winter Art Exhibition opening

Thursday 16 June 2022

The exhibition curated by Liz Kerr featured works by local lesbian artists in a variety of media. Some works were for sale and two were offered in a silent auction.

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 26 October 2022. You can:

- email an image of the signed form to 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