



**LESBIAN INFORMATION LIBRARY  
AND ARCHIVE CENTRE**  
2<sup>nd</sup> floor, 187 Willis Street  
PO Box 427, Wellington

## LILAC ANNUAL REPORT

**October 2013**

**Number 19**

### 18<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting

Notice is given that the Eighteenth Annual General Meeting of LILAC will be held in the LILAC room at its venue on the second floor of 187 Willis Street at 7pm on Wednesday, 16 October 2013

Note there is a lift as well as the stairs.

#### Agenda

**Apologies**

**Minutes of 2012 AGM**

**Annual report**

**Accounts**

**Armstrong & Arthur Charitable Trust for Lesbians**

**Election of Collective**

**New premises**

**General Business**

**Election of Collective**

Nominations for positions on the Collective will be accepted at the Annual General Meeting, you can email them to [lilac@lesbian.net.nz](mailto:lilac@lesbian.net.nz), or post them to LILAC, P O Box 427, Wellington, to arrive before Friday, 11 October 2013.

Nominations need to be signed by the person nominated and by the person nominating them, both of whom must be current financial members of LILAC.

The Collective formulates policy, organises fundraising, discusses what books and other resources to buy, organises the library's duty roster, manages the library's finances and subscriptions, plus any other relevant matters. There is a minimum of six (6) members and a maximum of 10 members to form the Collective. If you have the time, energy and ideas to offer, then please put your name forward. We need women with skills in keeping track of our money, who can write successful grant applications and who generally have lots of good ideas and some time to help LILAC continue its service to its community.

**Coffee, tea and biscuits will be supplied**

**Bring a friend to join LILAC !**

# Annual Report 2012/2013

## The year at a glance:

### Big Move

We moved into our new premises at 187 Willis Street in Dec 2012 after a long search for suitable premises. This was a big move. Time was well spent designing and fixing the shelves to the walls before we replaced the books to their allotted places. The earthquakes this year have shown how well these shelves were fixed as we had no books or shelves fall.

This is the first time LILAC has actually had its name on the lease of our venue and, provided we keep paying the rent (!), we now have a permanent "home".

### Big Re-Opening

With the generous donation of lovely furniture we organised our space so we decided to tell the world where we were. Invitations were sent out far and wide. On the big night - 30 May 2013, we welcomed our many guests with live music, wine and delicious morsels to eat. The crowd was very appreciative of the delightful space we had created. There was a welcoming speech to explain LILAC's herstory and sketch out our future. We all had a great night.

### Art at LILAC

Since we moved into our new rooms we have enjoyed having bright cheery walls to display our members' art. We are happy to sell the displayed art with a small commission coming our way. The art enlivens our environment. LILAC is grateful to Elizabeth Kerikeri for her donation gracing our walls.

### Out in the Square

We raised around \$1600 on a gorgeous Wellington day on 19 January 2013. LILAC Collective members and friends were there selling books and other donated goods. This year we introduced the sale of delicious baking produced by a number of our members, which proved popular. People often added a small package of baking to their purchases of books and other bits, thereby increasing our revenue. We had two raffles and sold two books of raffle tickets, with several Collective members taking turns to walk through the Square selling tickets and raising the profile of LILAC.

### Book Group

We continue to meet on the last Tuesday of the month at 6.30pm. We have an average of 8 attendees and we have been slowly making our way through LILAC's shelves. Sometimes we choose a category, like 'memoirs', or 'kiwi lesbian author', then we have no trouble getting a book each either from Lilac or our closest public library. Sometimes we choose a specific book when it's special enough, like 'Who Was That Woman, Anyway?' by Aorewa McLeod. When we were studying the Bloomsbury Group we watched the movie 'Orlando' in a member's home. The discussions are always humorous and enlightening. Each time we meet we share a carefully crafted cake to add to the special friendly atmosphere. Some call this the LILAC Book and Cake Group.

### Rose Collis Author Talk - Trousers Wearing Characters. 20 Feb 2013

In collaboration with Tomboi Productions we hosted Rose Collis at Lilac Library.

Rose is a celebrated author from Brighton, UK, and was in town for the Arts Festival.

She was an entertaining interesting speaker. We enjoyed her presentation about her writing, then some of the members went into town and watched her show.

### **Wine Fundraiser**

Ohau Wines very generously offered a fundraiser whereby LILAC received a donation for each case of one of their wines sold during February-April 2013. Purchasers simply entered the promotional code "Lilac" to receive a discounted price per case. This was promoted through many email lists across New Zealand. We chose to use the funds raised to purchase a case of Ohau Wine, which we used at our opening event. Thank you to Donna and the team at Ohau Wines for supporting LILAC in this way.

### **Aro Fair 19 March 2013**

Treena co-ordinated our stall at the Aro Street Fair. The unsold items from our stall at Out In The Square in January were cleverly and attractively displayed. We also had a raffle, and altogether we made a tidy sum from the efforts of those who worked at the fun event.

### **The Coasters**

Each month Chris and another collective member take a selection of books, dvds and magazines to the Coasters Pot-Luck dinner. Members can have their selection for a month, returning them at the following dinner. This service is greatly appreciated by the women living on the Kapiti Coast.

### **Planning Day**

The Collective met for a planning day on 12 May 2013. Thank you to Chriss Bull for facilitating the day. A copy of the document we produced is available by contacting the Collective. This is a "live" document for the Collective to refer to at our monthly meetings.

### **2013 Survey**

Following the planning day we ran a survey to gather information and ideas from Lilac members and the wider community. The survey was circulated to the membership list, the gQ newsletter, the Kapiti email list, and publicised on the LILAC Facebook page and Twitter account. We had 56 responses to the survey, including a 20% response rate from people who have never been members. Respondents commented favourably on the new premises and provided many ideas for events and fundraisers. There was support for an increase in membership fees, with 35% supporting a \$5 increase and 32% supporting a \$10 increase. The Facebook group is very active and 40% of respondents reported using the Facebook page.

### **Rainbow/Unity Book Review Night 11 July 2013.**

Two collective members were reviewers of lesbian literature at the Rainbow/Unity Review Night. This was an extremely successful evening with many members in the large audience. Our own Alison was the Best Lesbian Reviewer and given a prize by Unity to reflect her skills.

### **Writing Group**

In August 2013 we saw a writing competition (OutStanding 2013 LGBTIQ Short Story Competition) so we started a Writing Group which met weekly during August. Together we submitted seven stories by 1 September 2013. Other stories were also

submitted by members who couldn't come to the group, and there was general encouragement and discussion in the wider Wellington queer community for this venture.

### **Quiz Night**

Lilac held a very successful quiz on Friday 13 September 2013, following requests for such an event from our 2013 survey. 40 women packed the library for an evening of laughter and friendly rivalry hosted by Tobi. Everyone was extremely generous and we raised over \$700 which will be used to buy new books and help pay the rent.

### **LILAC Twitter account & Facebook group**

The LILAC Facebook group now has 221 members, some of whom are current or past LILAC members. Mari has taken the lead with this group, being very successful in growing this group by 75 members over the last year. Posts include lesbian-related news and photos, conversations about the Lilac Book & Cake group, Coasters Service, plus new collection additions to the library over the last year.

Our other social media presence - @lilac\_library on Twitter - has 421 followers, including Wellington women, lesbian authors and LGBT news and magazine sites. This is an increase of 89 followers over last year. An account isn't necessary to view the Twitter feed which can be found here: [http://twitter.com/lilac\\_library](http://twitter.com/lilac_library) . It includes news updates, and links to reviews and other items of interest in the lesbian literary world.

### **LILAC on Lesbian Radio**

Collective members Porleen and Ellen present a programme about LILAC several times a year on the regular Sunday morning radio programme. They talk mostly about new titles in the library and related topics.

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

Once again we take this opportunity to thank the Armstrong & Arthur Charitable Trust for Lesbians. Without its generous support of and commitment to LILAC we would not be able to provide the service we do. Good lesbian books and other resources make for a strong and vibrant core to our community. We can all help keep this Trust viable and able to support lesbians in the region by making our own donations, leaving it money in our wills, etc.

### **The LILAC Collection**

We have continued to buy new books locally at Unity Books, and we thank Tilly Lloyd for her support. We have also purchased some DVDs from Aro Video.

Renewal of magazine subs is ongoing with *Tamaki Makaurau lesbian newsletter*, *Curve* (US), *Diva* (UK) and *LOTL* the main titles taken.

#### **New Additions**

Highlights of new books added to the collection this year included

- Aorewa McLeod's 'Who Was That Woman Anyway?', which the book club read and really enjoyed.

- an autographed copy of Jackie Kay's poetry collection 'Darling' that she signed for LILAC at the Auckland Readers and Writers Festival in May, and

- Rose Collis' 'Colonel Barker's monstrous regiment' & 'A Trouser Wearing Character' were must-reads for anyone who saw her show or met her at the LILAC pre-show drinks

Well-liked OutTakes movies 'Mosquita y Mari' and 'The Baby Formula' were also popular additions to the DVD collection.

### **LILAC catalogue on LibraryThing**

The LILAC books catalogue is searchable at LibraryThing. There you can search the catalogue, browse sections of it, and follow links to book reviews and discussions.

Members new to LibraryThing can read the introduction at:

[lilac.lesbian.net.nz/lilacthing.htm](http://lilac.lesbian.net.nz/lilacthing.htm)

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

### **Finance**

A fully audited financial report will be available at the AGM.

### **Statistics**

#### **Membership**

LILAC had 89 members at the end of our financial year 30 June 2013, ten more than the same time last year. We welcomed 21 brand new members between July 1 2012 and June 30 2013.

Members are sent a reminder email, usually in the month before their subs are payable. If you're not sure whether yours are up to date or would like to make an online payment email [lilac-subscribers@lesbian.net.nz](mailto:lilac-subscribers@lesbian.net.nz)

#### **LILAC statistics for the year 1 July 2012- 30 June 2013:**

- visitors – 390
- Issues:
  - books – 647
  - magazines - 46
  - DVD/video – 247
  - Sound (music/spoken word) - 2

Compared with 2011-2012

- 369 visitors borrowed 560 books, 52 magazines, DVD/video – 225

In 2011-12 the busiest month was December with 93 visitors, 166 books issued, 64 DVDs and 13 magazines.

Currently, members may borrow at any one time:

- Books: 5, for 3 weeks
- Videos, DVDs, CDs, tapes: 2, for 1 week \*
- Magazine back-issues: 2, for 3 weeks

\* L Word and Lip Service one disk at a time

We have at present more than 2,500 books and 100 DVDs, both of which are added to on a regular basis. For a full list see the LILAC web site

### **Missing**

We still have a number of books, DVDs and videos which are overdue/missing, so please have a hunt in your bookcase (or under your bed!) and return them to us - no questions asked. We'd love to have them back.

### **Volunteers please**

If you have a few hours to spare, then think about volunteering to do a tour of duty at LILAC. If you have already volunteered but not heard anything in a long while then perhaps we do not have your current phone number! If you can help out, please contact Helen at: [helenbarlow\\_2@xtra.co.nz](mailto:helenbarlow_2@xtra.co.nz).

### **Contact details:**

Postal address: P O Box 427, Wellington  
Email address [lilac@lesbian.net.nz](mailto:lilac@lesbian.net.nz)  
LILAC website: [lilac.lesbian.net.nz](http://lilac.lesbian.net.nz)

### **Opening hours**

Wednesdays	5.30pm – 7.30pm
Thursdays	11 am - 2 pm
Saturdays	11.00 am – 2.00 pm