

**LESBIAN INFORMATION LIBRARY  
AND ARCHIVE CENTRE**

2<sup>nd</sup> floor, 187 Willis Street  
PO Box 427, Wellington

19th Annual General Meeting

Notice is given that the nineteenth 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, 15 October 2014.

**Note** there is a lift as well as the stairs.

Agenda

**In Memoriam**

**Apologies**

**Minutes of 2013 AGM**

**Annual report**

**Financial report**

**Armstrong & Arthur Charitable Trust for Lesbians**

**Appointment of Collective**

**Appointment of auditor**

**General Business**

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, 10 October 2014.

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.

**Light refreshments will be supplied - bring a friend to join LILAC !**

## **Annual Report 2013/2014**

### **In Memoriam**

It was with enormous regret we learned of the sudden death of Pat Rosier. Pat was a long term member of LILAC, a former member of the Collective and the inspiration of the LILAC writers' group. LILAC's condolences were sent to Pat's partner, Pru Hyman.

As this report was to be circulated we learned of the sudden and unexpected death of Porleen Simmonds, a foundation member of LILAC who served on the Collective since 1994. LILAC expresses its sympathies to Michelle and to Porleen's other friends and family.

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

The year has been one of great activity.

Most of the activities have been of a fund raising nature as well as efforts to involve LILAC in the communities of lesbian in the greater Wellington region.

We have to raise some \$10,500 each year to just cover the rent and power. We managed some \$7,000 this year but without the Armstrong & Arthur Charitable Trust for Lesbians we would be in difficult financial straits. We have worked hard over the last five years to build our reserves so that should the worst happen we could at least pay the rent for one year.

More financial details are in the financial report which will be issued at the AGM.

### **Out in the Square**

We raised close to \$1200 at the annual lesbian and gay promotion. We had several Collective members taking turns to walk through the Square selling raffle tickets and raising the profile of LILAC.

### **Book Group**

Book group continues to run smoothly every month. In February we changed our meeting night to the last Wednesday of the month, at 6.30pm. Every month we share friendship, review books, laugh and eat cake.

LILAC hosted the launch of Pat Rosier's popular book '**Where the heArt is**'.

### **Writing Group**

In July 2013 we started a Writing Group to encourage each other to write regularly to have pieces ready to enter the Outstanding LGBTQI Short Story Competition. Together we entered seven pieces, and honed our craft. We repeated this format in April and May 2014, and entered more

pieces into a local flash fiction Competition, where one member's work has been accepted for publication.

### **Author Talks**

Alison Bechdel came to Wellington in March 2014 as a guest of the New Zealand Festival of The Arts. She was one of the contributors to the "Writers Week". Alison and her partner, Holly Rae Taylor, visited LILAC and discussed matters of interest with members of the Collective. LILAC is grateful for the co-operation of the Festival organisers.

### **Visible 60**

Jenny O'Connor, author and photographer of the book Visible 60, held an introduction to the book and the rationale behind it for LILAC members in May. Some of the 60-year-old women featured in the book came to contribute to the discussions. We thank Jenny who donated a small amount of the proceeds of book sales on site to LILAC.

### **Speed Dating**

This year we added Speed Dating into the variety of events held at LILAC.

Our first event was well attended and a rather loud evening as 23 women met 23 other women. We stumbled trying to get women to stop talking. We promised to send out the results in 24 hours but it took nearly a month but loads of dates were organised.

For our second event we limited the numbers and sorted out the noise problem with a whistle that worked well. 18 women met 18 other women. We responded to feedback and introduced the idea of choosing a date or a person you would like to be friends with. Better organisation sorted out most of the time delays in sending out the dates and friend matches.

Another event is planned, to be better than ever.

### **Detective Mysteries**

We welcomed a real detective to LILAC. She spoke of her early training and career, as well as her current role with the Police.

### **The Military came to LILAC.**

Women from the Army, the Air Force and Overwatch came to Lilac, talking of positive changes in the military culture, as well as details of their experiences in their respective careers.

### **Queer Activists.**

Two local women, political activists not aligned to party politics, talked about their passion for people.

### **Art at LILAC**

We have several pieces of diverse interesting lesbian art brightening up our walls and shelves. We are always on the lookout for more, as we have good strong walls for display. We take a small commission when art is sold from LILAC.

### **Aro Fair March 2014**

The unsold books from our stall at Out In The Square in January were promoted at the Aro Fair but it seems our demographics did not match so the Collective decided to not participate next year.

### **The Coasters**

Each month 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.

### **Clippings**

Since January Sue A. has been providing a monthly news clipping service for the general information/entertainment of members. Each month the coffee table based folder is updated with new material. Other members are now contributing to the folder.

### **2013 Survey**

The results of the survey carried out mid-2013 continue to guide our activities, along with new feedback gained from members attending the library or our events. We will consider running another survey in the coming year.

### **LILAC on Social Media**

The LILAC Facebook group now has 405 members, some of whom are current or past LILAC members. Mari has done an excellent job of co-ordinating & entertaining this group, and her success along with that of other contributors has seen an increase in membership by 184 over the last year. Posts include lesbian-related news and photos, conversations about the LILAC Book & Cake group & other events, the Coasters Service, plus new collection additions to the library over the last year. Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/lilaclibrary/>

Our other social media presence - @lilac\_library on Twitter - has 479 followers, including Wellington women, lesbian authors and LGBT news and magazine sites. This is an increase of 58 followers over last year. It includes news updates, and links to reviews and other items of interest in the lesbian literary world. Twitter stream: [http://twitter.com/lilac\\_library](http://twitter.com/lilac_library)

### **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.

Renewal of magazine subs is ongoing with *Tamaki Makaurau lesbian newsletter*, *Curve* (US), *Diva* (UK) and *LOTL* the main titles taken. LILAC currently has 2553 books and 113 DVD titles.

#### **New Additions**

Highlights of new books added to the collection this year included-

- La Batarde : an autobiography, by Violette Leduc - a classic
- Harley loco : hard living, hair and post-punk, from the Middle East to the Lower East Side, by Rayya Elias
- Blue is the warmest color, graphic novel by Julie Maroh-Bruceville, by ex-pat Robyn Vinten
- Therese and Isabelle, by Violette Leduc - the classic schoolgirl passion

Visit [lilac.lesbian.net.nz/catalog/new.htm](http://lilac.lesbian.net.nz/catalog/new.htm) for more information about these titles and others added to the collection over the past year.

### **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) to get a clue or three on how to use it. This version of the catalogue is best viewed on PCs or larger tablets. There are also the plain author-title lists - dull but perfectly functional on phones and other small screen devices.

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

### **Finance**

The financial report will be available at the AGM.

## **Membership**

LILAC had 83 members at the end of our financial year 30 June 2014, about the same number as last year. We have new faces joining but the more established members often do not renew their membership.

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-subs@lesbian.net.nz](mailto:lilac-subs@lesbian.net.nz)

## **LILAC statistics for the year:**

We have had a busy year compared to the previous year.

We had 540 visitors though this includes some of the visitors who came to our events.

We have not been collecting separately the event visitor numbers consistently which I hope we will do in the future. The statistics from the previous year are in parenthesis

540 visitors (390)

Books borrowed - 630. (647)

DVDs - 140. (247)

Mags - 36, (46)

Wednesday, Thursday and Friday were almost equally visited with fewer than 20 visitors difference between the busiest and least busy of days. Wednesday was busiest.

Currently, members may borrow at any one time:

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

## **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 11.00 am – 2.00 pm

Saturdays 11.00 am – 2.00 pm