



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

20th Annual General Meeting

Notice is given that the twentieth Annual General Meeting of LILAC will be held in the LILAC Lounge on the second floor of 187 Willis Street at 7pm on Wednesday, 21 October 2015.

Note: there is a lift as well as stairs.

Agenda:

- Apologies**
- Minutes of 2014 AGM**
- Annual report**
- Financial report**
- Amendments to the Constitution**
- 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, or post them to LILAC, PO Box 427, Wellington, to arrive before Wednesday, 14 October 2015. 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 membership, plus any other relevant matters. 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 or who generally have 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 2014/2015

The year at a glance

It has been a vibrant and exciting year for LILAC. The Collective, along with other volunteers and supporters, have worked to ensure our library continues to provide excellent reading and viewing material for our members. As with many community-based libraries we are also increasing the kinds of activities we host. In the past year this has included performances, a dance, music, craft and colouring-in! Our new activities have enabled us to increase our fundraising and sustain a rent increase along with making a greater contribution to the local lesbian community. We have started calling our space the LILAC Lounge. It is far more than just a location to house our collections as more women visit to share and celebrate lesbian culture.

We are also proud to have worked more closely with the Wellington LGBTIFFTQ community and strengthened our links with the Charlotte Museum in Auckland during 2014/2015.

Finance

The financial report will be available at the AGM.

Proposed amendments to the Constitution

1. Section 7.2 of the LILAC Constitution describes the business of the AGM.

Section 7.2(b) currently states:

The appointment of a Collective and an auditor.

It is proposed that Section 7.2(b) be amended to read:

The appointment of a Collective and an auditor or reviewer.

2. Section 11 of the LILAC Constitution describes the role of the Collective.

Section 11.5 currently states:

The Collective may invite additional members of the Society to join the Collective between Annual General Meetings provided that the Collective does not then exceed ten members.

It is proposed that Section 11.5 be amended to read:

The Collective may invite additional members of the Society to join the Collective between Annual General Meetings.

The LILAC Constitution can be viewed at lilac.lesbian.net.nz/constitution.htm

LILAC 20 years 1994-2014

LILAC marked the 20th anniversary of our opening on 17 September 1994 with a dance at S&M's Bar on 13 September – a fun celebration with great music and a slide show of the pictures from our facebook group. There was quieter celebration with cake and tea at the LILAC Lounge on 16 September. Five premises (plus a period when we were homeless) and we are still going strong!

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 or leaving it money in our wills. [Armstrong & Arthur Trust website](#)

Changes to the Collective

Sue Alexander resigned from the Collective because of other commitments. Her cheerful presence and commonsense will be missed, but fortunately she will continue to maintain the clippings files.

A new Collective member, Natalie Dromgool, was welcomed at the September collective meeting.

Membership

LILAC had 87 members at the end of our financial year 30 June 2015, about the same number as last year. We have new faces joining but there are always some women who 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 your subs are up to date or would like to make an online payment, email lilac-subscribers@lesbian.net.nz

LILAC on Social Media

Our vibrant colourful facebook group is a fun, valuable tool, keeping women up-to-date with our activities at the library and in our community. We post local and international articles relevant to queer women. Our Sunday pictures have become an institution, and our facebook group membership has grown from 450 to 600 over the past year.

Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/lilaclibrary/>

Our other social media presence - @LILAC_library on Twitter - has 545 followers, including Wellington women, lesbian authors and LGBT news and magazine sites. This is an increase of 66 followers over last year. Tweets include news updates, and links to reviews and other items of interest in the lesbian literary world. Highlights of LILAC's year on twitter include brief conversations with authors such as Nicola Griffith and Stella Duffy.

Twitter stream: http://twitter.com/lilac_library

The LILAC Collections

We have continued to buy new books locally at Unity Books, and we thank Tilly Lloyd for her support. We have also purchased several DVDs. LILAC currently has 2553 books and 113 DVD titles. We gratefully acknowledge the ongoing donation of DVDs and books to our collections and invite suggestions for purchases.

We continue to subscribe to three print magazines: *Curve* (US), *Diva* (UK) and *LOTL* (AUST). The Auckland-based *Tamaki Makaurau lesbian newsletter* ceased print publication at the end of 2014 and is now an e-publication *Lesbian News Aotearoa*, available at lesbianaotearoa.wordpress.com. A monthly print-out of updates is available for reading at LILAC.

Notable additions

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

- *Against doctor's orders*, by Radclyffe – her mystery and romance novels continue to be perennial favourites
- *As good as god, as clever as the devil: the impossible life of Mary Benson*, by Rodney Bolt – about the wife of a Victorian-era Archbishop of Canterbury
- *Charity and Sylvia: a same-sex marriage in early America*, by Rachel Hope Cleves – about two women who lived together in rural Vermont from 1807 to 1851
- *Eating fire: my life as a Lesbian Avenger*, by Kelly Cogswell
- *How to be both*, by Ali Smith – two stories in one, top shelf fiction
- *Hysterical: Anna Freud's story*, by Rebecca Coffey – a fictional account of the life of Sigmund's lesbian daughter
- *The Last nude*, by Ellis Avery – a stunning novel set in Paris in 1927, inspired by true events
- *The World's wife*, by Carol Ann Duffy - superb poetry

This is just a selection of the new titles added to the collections over the last year. Visit lilac.lesbian.net.nz/catalog/new.htm and lilac.lesbian.net.nz/catalog/new2014.htm to see the full lists - with links to reviews.

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 should read the introduction at 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.

LILAC statistics

We have had a busy year compared to the previous year with more groups meeting and events held at the LILAC Lounge.

We had over 600 visitors including visitors who came to our events.

We have not been collecting separately the event visitor numbers consistently but we intend to in the future. The statistics from the previous year are in parenthesis.

Visitors	440 (540 – library & events)
Event visitors	200+
Books borrowed	503 (630)
DVDs	161 (140)
Magazines	27 (36)

Clippings files

Sue A. has continued to provide a monthly news clipping service for the general information/entertainment of members. Each month the coffee table based folder is updated with new clippings of articles of lesbian interest from mainstream magazines. Other members are welcome to contribute clippings.

Book Club

Our Book Club continues to meet on the last Wednesday of the month. We discuss the book or author of the month, as well as share friendship, laughter and cake. We have an average attendance of six women at our discussions. We publicise our featured books on the LILAC website and on the LILAC Library facebook group.

You are very welcome to come and join us.

The Coasters

Collective members take a selection of books, DVDs and magazines to the 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.

Art at LILAC

The walls of LILAC Lounge are continually adorned with vibrant, interesting works of art and craft, which are sometimes for sale. Most recently we featured *Compulsory Involvement* - an exhibition of beautifully knitted and crocheted poppies, vulva-poppies, and vulva. These vulvic yarn gems commemorating the contribution of women during wartime were loaned to LILAC from the Charlotte Museum in Auckland after their ANZAC exhibition.

If you would like to exhibit your art at LILAC, we will be keen to work with you to make this happen.

Writing Group

The Writing Group meets when we have an agreed focus or competition that we deem worthy of our creative efforts. Sometimes we put our short stories in a folder on the coffee table for your entertainment. We have an average attendance of six writers. Keep an eye on the LILAC Library facebook group and the website where we publicise our activities and plans, and come and join us.

Community Activities and Events

Charlotte Museum visit to LILAC Lounge

A Charlotte Museum travelling roadshow toured New Zealand during March and April with a selection of banners and posters from their museum in Auckland. They came and entertained us at LILAC with the displays, video interviews with lesbians talking about coming out in the 60s, 70s and 80s, a photomontage of early days in Auckland, and a dramatic item *Identities*.

Drag Kings at LILAC Lounge

Three Drag Kings gave a performance at LILAC in November and talked about their craft.

LAGANZ Queer History in the Making

LILAC had a stall at this event held on 12 September by LAGANZ (Lesbian & Gay Archives of New Zealand). Some books from the collections were displayed, as well as two bulging folders of Sue A's clippings of articles of lesbian interest from mainstream magazines. Ellen gave a brief talk on the history of LILAC.

Les Ukes

Conversation within the LILAC facebook group led to a group of lesbian ukulele enthusiasts meeting regularly for lessons from a local ukulele teacher. These sessions are sometimes held at the LILAC lounge and the musicians have received great feedback from others visiting while they play.

LILAC on Lesbian Radio

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

Midwinter Dance

LILAC and Stitch & Butch members organised a midwinter dance at the Thistle Hall on 25 July. The event was very popular!

Out in the Park

This annual gay and lesbian fair was affected by adverse weather this year so there was a small pop-up fair in February and the *Out in the (car)Park* fair in March. LILAC had stalls at both events and raised over \$1000. We had members taking turns to walk through the carpark selling raffle tickets and raising the profile of LILAC.

We created a banner declaring "LILAC loves lesbrarians" for the *Out In The Park* celebrations, and members carried it up Cuba Street in the Love Parade on March 29.

Rainbow Pride Community Honours

LILAC Library nominated Pat Rosier and Porleen Simmonds for posthumous awards for their tireless work for LILAC Library and for the wider lesbian community. The honours were presented to Pat and Porleen's partners at the inaugural Rainbow Pride Community Honours held in February 2015.

Rainbow Team Wellington

LILAC had a display at the launch of Rainbow Team Wellington – a new umbrella group for the capital's queer sporting and recreational groups.

Rainbow Wellington Unity book review event

LILAC was well-represented at the biennial book review event at Unity Books in August, with Collective member Mari taking one of the prizes for reviewers.

Speed Dating

Porleen Simmonds started this venture in 2013 and we have continued to use her ideas and have run two more of these successful community events since the last AGM. These fun events focus on making new friends, and sometimes relationships are started, but we couldn't possibly say more...

Stitch and Butch at LILAC

This craft group began in January this year and has met at LILAC Lounge every Monday night since. We bring whatever craft we want to do that night, or we colour-in. We share ideas and patterns, along with camaraderie and friendship. The highlight this year was yarnbombing the council park bench outside the library. This proved to be very popular and we were greatly encouraged by the positive comments of the passers-by as well as local and international press.

Welcome to Olivia Cruise Ship

Collective members were on the waterfront on 20 February to welcome passengers on the first lesbian cruise ship to dock in New Zealand. Lesbians from around the world were given a lesbian guide to the city's highlights and invited to visit LILAC – which several did.

Volunteers

LILAC is run entirely by volunteers – the Collective and other generous supporters. Many thanks to our regular volunteers Ann, Chris and Shirley who take a turn on the LILAC desk each month.

If you have a few hours to spare each month, then think about volunteering to do a tour of duty at LILAC. If you can help out, please contact Helen at helenbarlow_2@xtra.co.nz

We also appreciate the support of many local lesbians who help out on occasion with events and activities. Let us know if you might be able to contribute from time to time.

Contact details

Postal address: PO Box 427, Wellington 6140

Email address: lilac@lesbian.net.nz

LILAC website: lilac.lesbian.net.nz

Opening hours

Wednesdays 5.30 pm – 7.30 pm

Thursdays and Saturdays 11.00 am – 2.00 pm