



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

21st Annual General Meeting

Notice is given that the twentyfirst Annual General Meeting of LILAC will be held in the LILAC Lounge on the second floor of 187 Willis Street at 6pm on Thursday, 17 November 2016.

Note: there is a lift as well as stairs.

Draft Agenda:

- Apologies**
- Minutes of 2015 AGM**
- Annual report**
- Financial report**
- Amendments to the Constitution**
- Armstrong & Arthur Charitable Trust for Lesbians**
- Appointment of Collective**
- Appointment of auditor**
- General Business**

The final Agenda will be posted to the LILAC website shortly.

Nominations for positions on the Collective should be emailed to lilac@lesbian.net.nz, or posted to LILAC, PO Box 427, Wellington, to arrive before Thursday, 10 November. 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 a range of skills including financial management, writing grant applications, library collection management, or women who generally have good ideas and some time to help LILAC continue its service to its community.

Light refreshments will be supplied.

Annual Report 2015/2016

The year at a glance

The 2015-2016 year was challenging for LILAC but we have worked hard to maintain our services as usual while focusing on fundraising and addressing concerns around social media and membership eligibility. The number of books and DVDs borrowed has increased as have our membership numbers, and we continue to provide a range of resources and entertainment to benefit the local lesbian community.

LILAC did not receive any grant income during the last financial year but we have increased our fundraising efforts. The most significant events were the dance we held at Thistle Hall in May 2016, a garage sale in November 2015 and the stall at Out in the Park in March. Fundraising will be a major concern for the Collective in the new year.

The Collective endeavoured to remain neutral on the diverse views that were expressed by our members and the wider community about social media and LILAC membership criteria. Our approach was to seek input from members through targeted feedback requests. An enormous "thank you" to everyone who contributed to our surveys and attended our Special General Meeting. This was an effective way of gauging the will of members in the management of LILAC. In order to support this process throughout the year, the Collective engaged the services of two experienced and independent facilitators – Chriss Bull and Bronwen Pelvin – who ensured our successful outcomes. Our grateful thanks to them both.

The input from members has enabled us to propose changes to the Constitution that we believe will accommodate the range of views and help LILAC move positively into the future. We hope you will be able to join us at the AGM on 17 November to vote on these changes.

Finance

The financial report will be available at the AGM.

Proposed amendments to the Constitution

A major update to the LILAC Constitution has been drafted by the Collective for consideration by members at the Annual General Meeting. The proposed update to the Constitution/Rules is available at lilac.lesbian.net.nz/proposed-rules.pdf.

This document includes the entire rules, with amendments in italics. Some of these amendments have come about as a direct result of the processes mentioned above (The Year at a Glance), but others are intended simply to bring LILAC into line with "best practice" for Incorporated Societies.

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

Armstrong & Arthur Charitable Trust for Lesbians

LILAC has received over \$40 000 in funding from the Armstrong and Arthur Trust during the ten years to March 2015. We are very grateful for the commitment to LILAC as these funds have enabled us to rent our premises for the duration of that period. As the income of the Trust is dependent on interest received from investments the Trust did not have funds available for distribution in LILAC's last financial year.

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

Changes to the Collective since the 2015 AGM

Fiona McGregor resigned from the Collective at the beginning of this year. Erin Kennedy joined the Collective for the two months to May 2016. Mari North and Natalie Dromgool resigned from the Collective in October 2016. We thank Fiona, Erin, Natalie and Mari for their work on the LILAC Collective and the time and energy they have contributed.

Sue Alexander, a former Collective member, rejoined in August 2016. The other members of the current Collective are Helen Barlow, Katherine Boyd, Sonia Coles, Sally Elborn, Ellen Faed and Carole Hicks

Membership

LILAC had 99 members at the end of our financial year 30 June 2016. This is an increase of 12 over last year and the highest number of members in the last decade. We have a small but steady stream of new members joining but there are always some women who do not renew their membership.

Members are sent a reminder email, usually in the month their subs are due. 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

LILAC on Social Media

In May the LILAC Collective made the difficult decision to discontinue our Facebook group. For further information see the [Facebook FAQ](#) section of our website. While the group had around 600 members, less than 10% of these were LILAC members and only about half of LILAC's members were part of the group. As a result of member feedback a return to Facebook using a page focused on LILAC news and lesbian literature is under consideration.

Our other social media presence - @LILAC_library on Twitter - has 614 followers, including Wellington women, lesbian authors and LGBT organisations from around the world. The number of followers increases by about 60 each year. LILAC's tweets include news updates, and links to reviews and other items of interest in the lesbian literary world.

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 2663 books and 152 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). A monthly print-out of the online publication *Lesbian News Aotearoa* is available for reading at LILAC for anyone unable to access it online. lesbianaotearoa.wordpress.com

Notable additions

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

- *Black ice matter*, by Gina Cole – an outstanding debut collection of short stories set in Fiji, New Zealand and beyond from a Fijian-born author
- *Under the udala trees*, by Chinelo Okparanta – an award-winning story of coming of age as a lesbian in Nigeria
- *The Cosmopolitans*, by Sarah Schulman – a stunning novel set in New York in 1958
- *Reckoning : a memoir*, by Magda Szubanski - heartbreaking, joyous, traumatic, intimate and revelatory memoir from the Australian actress and comedian
- *Bold : stories from older lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender & intersex people*, edited by David Hardy [et al.] - an anthology of personal stories from over 50 older LGBTI people, mainly from Australia
- *This one summer*, by Tamaki and Gillian Mariko – an award-winning teen graphic novel about a summer of secrets, heartaches and growing up

- *Honor girl*, by Maggie Thrash – a graphic memoir set in a girls' summer camp with first kiss, first heartbreak
- In response to requests from members we have purchased several Radclyffe titles so that we now have complete collections of the *Honor*, *Justice* and *Provincetown series*

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/new2015.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.

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

LILAC statistics

The statistics from the previous year are in parenthesis.

Visitors	467
Books borrowed	574 (503)
DVDs	207 (161)
Magazines	22 (27)

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 pink 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, author or theme 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 on lilac.lesbian.net.nz/bookgroup.htm.

A highlight of the year was the June get-together. The room was abuzz with varied discussions amongst the eight women who came along to celebrate the "Women of Paris" as our foremothers.

All members are very welcome to come and join us on a one-off or regular basis.

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.

Writing Group

The Writing group has been in recess recently but there are plans afoot to relaunch it early in the new year.

Community Activities and Events

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.

Out in the Park

This year 'Out in the Park' was held in March at Waitangi Park - a brilliantly sunny, upbeat day where LILAC had a sizeable presence both on the Parade with the banner and placards held high [with Pride] and at the park itself where there was a book and bric a brac stall run by LILAC members. There was a great atmosphere and many people came to the stall which was open all day - a wonderful opportunity for people not only to browse and buy books but also to talk with LILAC members who handed out flyers and generally promoted the library. A raffle was also held and tickets sold quickly. All in all \$607 was made for the LILAC coffers! So a great day all round.

Human Rights Conference, 9th-11th March

A major human rights conference held in Wellington over three days provided LILAC with yet another opportunity to be visible in the public domain. The LILAC Collective set up a stall on the two full days of the conference and this provided opportunities to once again promote the library, engage with delegates and sell some merchandise.

There was positive feedback from the conference which was well attended and it was good to have LILAC in the main foyer for all to see as they entered the conference venue!

Garage sale

LILAC held a successful front yard sale in November 2015, selling books and bric a brac. We raised close to \$700 towards our rent and other expenses. Our thanks to Jude for providing the fantastic location and everyone who provided goods for us to sell or came along and purchased items from us.

Midwinter Dance

LILAC held a midwinter Red Dance for women at the Thistle Hall on 21 May. The event was very popular! It was a great success and it was wonderful to see so many women dancing and embracing the Red theme. We are particularly thankful to Mari North for the work she put into organising this dance.

Stitch and Butch at LILAC

LILAC is no longer hosting the Stitch and Butch group after they chose to find a new location in May. We enjoyed having the group meet in our premises and their crochet can still be seen in the yarn-bombed tree on Willis Street, just along from our entrance.

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 regular tour of duty at LILAC. If you can help out, please contact Helen via lilac@lesbian.net.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