



LESBIAN INFORMATION LIBRARY AND ARCHIVE CENTRE

187 Willis Street, Wellington
PO Box 427, Wellington 6140

NOTICE OF THE LILAC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023

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, 21 November 2023**.

There is one amendment 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 **1 November 2023**. All such proposed amendments will be circulated to all current financial members not later than **9 November 2023**.

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 **1 November 2023** 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 2022 AGM
3. Annual report July 2022– June 2023
4. Armstrong & Arthur Charitable Trust for Lesbians
5. Financial report and audited accounts
6. Amendments to the Constitution
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.

Motion to amend the constitution moved by the Collective

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

1. That section 17.6. Functions of the Financial Controller part C be amended to read:

c. All transactions on the Society's bank accounts be approved by two persons designated by resolution of the Collective

This is to remove reference to signing cheques and withdrawal slips.

ANNUAL REPORT: JULY 2022 – JUNE 2023

The year at a glance

The LILAC Collective offered a varied programme of events throughout the year, many of which were held in the Library space. Others comprised group bookings for local drama performances or movie screenings at Wellington venues. By organising a range of events, the Collective aimed to cater for existing members and to attract potential new members. Some occasions were successful fundraisers while a few others simply had outreach value. See the Addendum on page 4 for details about these amazing events.

Armstrong & Arthur Charitable Trust for Lesbians

LILAC is extremely grateful to the A&A Trust for its most generous grant this year. We are very thankful for the Armstrong & Arthur Trust's commitment to LILAC as these funds have enabled us to continue renting our 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, Amanda Beddis, Robynne Beech, Sal Elborn, Valda Edyvane, Ellen Faed, Liz Kerr, Debbie Stephens and Jenny Whyte.

LILAC Membership

LILAC welcomed 19 brand new members from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023. The total membership was 79 at the end of the 2022-2023 financial year, including 42 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-subscribers@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, as well as receiving many donations. 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 2834 books and 160 DVD titles. We gratefully acknowledge the ongoing donation of books to our collections and invite suggestions for purchases. Diva (UK) is now the sole print magazine available.

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

	July 2022 – June 2023	July 2021 – June 2022
Visitors	355*	399*
Books borrowed	325	342
DVDs borrowed	12	3
Magazines borrowed	1	4

*Includes Tuesdays at LILAC and events.

Book Group

Since the book group was relaunched in October 2021, the group has continued to meet monthly (up until May 2023) with between 5 and 8 women attending.

During that time the group has discussed a range of authors, themes and genres. There was a look at the works of authors Jane Rule, Val McDermid and Sarah Walters. Alongside this the group discussed books from other cultures, teen fiction and NZ fiction but perhaps one of the highlights was the selection of books about lesbians in sport. Books included “One Life” by Megan Rapinoe, “All In” by Billie-Jean King and “Straight Up” by Ruby Tui. This theme was chosen to fit in with and to anticipate the upcoming Women’s World Cup played here and in Australia.

At the time of writing, book group is due to start again on 10th October where, as part of our Lesbian History Month, we will be looking at lesbians in fiction from 1850s - 1950s.

With plenty of discussion, different insights, lots of fun, tea and biscuits, book group has been a real success at LILAC and will, hopefully, continue to be so.

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.

The Coasters dinners have been in recess since February.

LILAC on Facebook - @LILAClibraryWellington

LILAC posts notices about LILAC events as well as bookish information such as links to book reviews and to interviews with authors. 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, 21 November 2023 at 6.00pm. Refreshments will be available from 5.30pm.

The LILAC Collective

ADDENDUM:

LILAC events July 2022-June 2023

Wednesday to come: Fundraiser at Circa, Sunday 31 July

Renee's celebrated play *Wednesday to Come*, focussing on the 1930s Depression in New Zealand, began LILAC's fundraising events for the 2022/2023 reporting year. A number of members and supporters attended the late afternoon performance. Special thanks to Sal for coordinating the group booking with Circa Theatre and to Ellen for additional publicity and for dispensing tickets beforehand.

Quiz night Friday 26th August

Held on a Friday evening from 7pm to 9pm, the LILAC quiz night proved very popular and successful. We welcomed several women who had not visited LILAC previously. Six teams of four members competed keenly through ten rounds of questions mainly on lesbian and gay topics including music, movies, literature, sport and lesbian herstory. Very capable quiz mistress Robynne kept the proceedings moving, managing to introduce special questions between some categories. Her generous chocolate rewards for successful answers were much appreciated. Meanwhile, Debbie who collated the scores, revealed the very close final result of half a point. Finally, the drawing of a raffle ended this fun night out.

Art at LILAC

LILAC's Art Subcommittee is responsible for the ongoing exhibition of a range of art at LILAC.

Members of the group are Sue, Helen, Lizzie and Amanda, who joined early in 2023. Following the Winter Art Exhibition, an exhibition of Helen Barlow's black and white photographs was displayed. All but one of her works sold. An interim exhibition followed comprising the covers of Alison Bechdel calendars, along with a small selection of reproduced cards painted by Wilhemina Irving.

Coming out meet-ups September, December, June

LILAC hosted these events for women who have recently or are thinking about coming out as lesbian to meet in a relaxed and supportive social environment. The first Coming Out afternoon was held on 10 September 2022 with a follow up in December. The next meet-up on 10 June 2023 proved so successful that more regular events are to be held in future. Particular thanks to Jean, Amanda and Robynne.

Lesbian Herstory Month, October 2022

Lesbians Together: Social Activities and Political Activism was the theme of this Lesbian Herstory Month. The programme began on 14 October with *Lesbian Socialising*. Valda and Hilary introduced the subject followed by an open discussion about places and events enjoyed by lesbians living in the greater Wellington and Manawatu areas. The foreign input from some of our visitors proved interesting. Barbara, from Berlin, echoed the decline in lesbian only events and spaces. Miriam recalled the earlier Sydney social scene and venues. The evening was well attended and received positive feedback. Given the overlap in content with the previous week, *Lesbian Political Activism* on 19 October proved lower key. Ellen played an interview of Tighe Instone talking about the lesbian and gay campaign for Homosexual Law Reform in the 1980s. A small photograph and poster display of various lesbian actions, chiefly from the 1970s to the 1990s remained at LILAC for several weeks.

Finally, activities for the month concluded on Wednesday 26 October with Dr Sonja Ellis from the University of Waikato leading a discussion on her proposed research project about lesbians and ageing.

Tár Movie at Light House Cuba, 29 January 2023

This fictional thriller about renown music conductor Lydia Tár, played by Cate Blanchett, proved a successful fundraiser for LILAC at the beginning of the year. A number of local lesbians attended this late afternoon Sunday screening.

Open Day at LILAC , 11 March

The occasion organised as a Pride Festival event was a success with a steady stream of visitors, and some signing up as members.

LILAC Fair 1 April

This proved to be a major undertaking, requiring months of planning and organising. Particular thanks here to Robynne and Ellen. The Collective hired upstairs at Thistle Hall in Wellington for interested paying stall holders to join LILAC in selling various goods including books, plants, artwork, cards, biscuits, cakes and preserves. The venue was light, spacious with good amenities. Overall, the Fair was successful, receiving positive feedback. It could have been the pilot for an annual event, provided we can encourage additional stallholders to participate.

Winter Solstice Social, 23 June

The Solstice social was a highly enjoyable and well attended Friday evening with mulled wine, other drinks and snacks. It was pleasing to see some new faces attending. The suggestion arose that the mid-winter gathering at LILAC might be repeated next year.

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 1 November 2023. 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