

FRIENDS' FRIDAY FLASH JUNE 2024



Thanks so much for many prompt responses to our subscription invoices, and thanks again to those who have made generous donations, every dollar helps as we fund raise for the Randell Cottage maintenance fund. We have reached over \$21,000 in the past month, our efforts spearheaded by Sir Peter Jackson and Dame Fran Walsh, and by Beverley and Susan Price.

We are very excited to be bringing you one of our big fund-raising events of the year's Raise the Roof for Randell Cottage: A Live Letters Concert. It is at 7.30 on 15 July at the National Library auditorium.

More details can be found below, plus how to buy tickets. As members you receive a special discount. I look forward to seeing you there.

We are encouraging everybody, especially new members, to sign up to the newsletters from the official Randell Cottage Website. This will give you up to date information on what's happening not just with the Friends but the wider Randell Cottage community.

Go to www.randellcottage.co.nz and scroll to the bottom of the page and enter your email address to receive notifications of new posts delivered straight to your email.

Fiona (Dame Fiona Kidman)
Acting Chair, Friends of the Randell Cottage

WELCOME TO YOUR NEW COMMITTEE

Following the AGM on 29 April 2024 your new Committee has already met and is getting planning for this year's events underway.

Please congratulate:

Acting President: Dame Fiona Kidman
Treasurer: Tracey Schuyt
Secretary: Robyn Skrzyńska

Executive Committee: Tim Gruar (Media Liaison Officer), Jie Fang, Susan Stevens, Lorna Bingham and Christine Hurley (Trust) ex officio.

UPCOMING EVENT

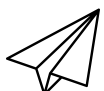
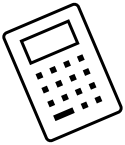
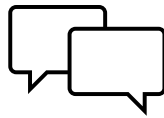
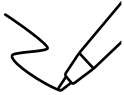
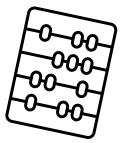


Raise the Roof Live Letters

This event brings together an eclectic group of literary luminaries to read aloud poignant, powerful, and amusing letters from the past.

Based on a similar concept popular in the UK, Wellington's first Letters Live is a benefit concert in aid of beloved historic Thorndon writer's residence Randell Cottage, which is in need of a new roof.

The letter-reading line-up of 12 will include writers who have held residencies at the cottage alongside current bestselling novelists Emily Perkins and Ngahua Te Awakotuku, historian Vincent O'Malley, foreign





correspondent Anna Fifield, and Dan Henry, ‘the voice of Country Calendar’.

Berlin-based poet and current Randell Cottage resident Hinemoana Baker will also join the line-up, chaired by Supreme Court Judge Justice Sir Stephen Kos.

The letters themselves will be kept a surprise until the evening, but the selection is guaranteed to prove moving and interesting, says Friends of the Randell Cottage Association Dame Fiona Kidman.

“We’re thrilled to bring this new event to Wellington and support the maintenance of Randell Cottage at the same time,” she says. “The house is an important part of the literary landscape and the residency has made a meaningful difference in the lives and careers of many of our writers.

“We want to raise the roof for Randell Cottage while at the same time provide a memorable evening of letters read aloud, bringing to life forgotten stories in our recent and distant past. We look forward to seeing you there.”

Raise the Roof for Randell Cottage: Live Letters

Monday, July 15 (Doors open at 7pm, 7.30pm start)

National Library Auditorium (Aitken St entrance) 70 Molesworth St, Wgtn.

Tickets on sale now: \$45 for the public, and \$40 for the Friends of the Randell Cottage Association.

To book, please email randellcottage.events@gmail.com

HINEMOANA BAKER (2024 RANDELL COTTAGE WRITER IN RESIDENCE) MOVES IN

We welcome Poet and performer Hinemoana Baker (Ngāti Raukawa-ki-te-Tonga, Ngāti Tukorehe, Ngāti Toa Rangatira, Te Āti Awa, Kāi Tahu, England, Germany) has been selected as the 2024 Creative New Zealand Randell Cottage Writing Fellow, and will be residing and writing in the Cottage from July to December 2024. Hinemoana will be using her six months in residence at Randell Cottage to work on a new collection of poetry, Exhaust World.

Hinemoana is a writer, performer, and educator currently based in Berlin. She has published four previous collections of poetry with Te Herenga Waka University Press: mātuhi | needle (2004), kōiwi kōiwi (2010), waha | mouth (2014) and Funkhaus (2021).

You can read more about Hinemoana on the [Randell Cottage website](https://www.randellcottage.org.nz/).

THE PASSING OF SIR VINCENT O’SULLIVAN

Last month we mourned the passing of our much-loved friend and patron Sir Vincent O’Sullivan. Vincent played a special role during our Twentieth Anniversary Celebrations in 2022, when he unveiled a Heritage Blue Plaque in the Cottage grounds. His speech, with reminiscences of the history of the preservation of the Cottage, which he was deeply involved with, and the creation of a residence for New Zealand and French writers. (you can [read that account here](#)).

His contribution to Aotearoa’s literary landscape is immeasurable. Longtime friend and co-founder, Dame Fiona Kidman has written a [wonderful tribute](#) that sums this up better than we ever could. In addition Spinoff writers [Emma Neale](#) and [Claire Mabey](#) have also added their own thoughts on him.



FAREWELL TO JULIEN BLANC-GRAS (FRENCH RESIDENT) FOR 2024

It has been wonderful having Julien, his partner, Aurore and son, Tim here over the Summer.

“From the 23rd of January to the 7th of May 2024,” writes Julien, in his report, “I was delighted to have the good luck and privilege of being the writer in residence in the Randell Cottage... in the heart of infinite interstellar space, which is one of the themes featured in the novel that I worked on in the Randell Cottage, the wheel turns full circle and life is good.”

“I am going home completely fulfilled by this experience”, he continues, “I should like to be able to express some reservation, some criticism, out of respect for the stereotype of the whingeing Frenchman, but I rack my brain in vain, no, there's nothing. Or maybe this: I'll have to find a way to come back.”

You can read his full report both in English and French, [here](#).



2024 – 25 SUBS & DONATIONS

A quick reminder - If you have not yet paid your subscription, please pay as soon as you can.

Our ANZ account number is **06 0545 0329586 00**

Please include your name and the words 'new sub' as references.

Annual Subscription: Business \$100 / Joint / Family \$50 / Individual \$35 / Senior \$20 / Student \$0 (up to 3 years, then \$20/yr)
Or Donation (\$ State amount)

Please also email randellcottage@gmail.com with your contact details, category of membership, and details of payment via internet banking.

You can sign up as a friend on our website – see [Become a Friend](#)

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