

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021**  
of the  
**Society of the Friends of the Dorothy Neal White Collection Inc.**

**6:00pm, Thursday 3 June 2021**

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

The Annual General Meeting 2020 was held on 16 June 2020 via Zoom and was attended by 10 members.

### **COMMITTEE**

All committee members were re-elected unopposed. Corrina Gordon has retained the role of President. Jeff Hunt (Treasurer) and Joan McCracken (Newsletter editor) continue in these positions, with Chantalle Smith taking over the role of Newsletter editor during the year. Other members who continued their roles on the committee were Barbara Robertson, Kathryn Walls, Lynne Jackett and Margaret Hurst. Mary Skarott, in her role as the Research Librarian Children's Literature, is also part of the committee.

At this AGM we have a resignation from Margaret Hurst. She has been a dedicated member of the committee for many years and we will be very sorry to lose her. We therefore have vacancies in our committee and would like nominations from anyone willing. Committee members help with planning the year's events, hosting them and implementing any agreed actions from the AGM.

The Committee of the Friends of the Dorothy Neal White Collection has met regularly throughout the year and arranged four general meetings for members.

### **MEETINGS**

Meetings during the year were all held at the National Library. Our thanks go to the National Library for allowing us to hold our events here free of charge, and particularly to Public Engagement staff for setting up the rooms for us and to Security for the part they play.

- 11 June AGM 2020 (held on zoom)
- 11 August 2020 Nicola Daly - Reflections on being a Fulbright New Zealand Scholar 2019-2020
- 3 December 2020 – FDNW Committee read extracts from favourite books
- 10 March 2021 – Author Hannah Parry on her book "The Unlikely Escape of Uriah Heep"; Research Scholar Talia Crockett on her research to date.

All our speakers gave wonderful presentations and drew good audiences. We thank them for giving their time to share their passion for children's literature with the Friends. We are blessed to have such wonderful living resources.

### **PATRON**

Our patron, Fleur Beale continues to attend many of our events. We hope to have her speak again this year.

### **RESEARCH SCHOLAR**

We are pleased to have Talia Crockett, PhD candidate at Victoria University as our Research scholar for 2020/2021. Talia is continuing work on her PhD research "Ethical representations of trauma in YA literature". In 2022 we will be advertising for applications for the next grant.

### **PUBLICATIONS**

With the energy and enthusiasm of author Mary Skarott *Notes-Books-Authors Special prize for gardening: school and Sunday school prizes during WWI: some examples from the Dorothy Neal White Collection* was published and distributed in 2020. Thanks also to committee member Chantalle Smith for editing the publication.

This makes the 13th title published in the N-B-A series since May 1985 and all, except for number 7, have been digitised and are available on Friends website. Copies of some issues are also still available for purchase from the Society. Do get in touch if you are interested in filling gaps in your collection. We do have some potential new titles for the series so if there are any willing volunteers who would like to take up a project to produce another *Notes-Books-Authors* please do get in touch with the committee. To get an idea of what the content of these is please see our website for archived editions.

### **FACEBOOK AND WEBSITE**

Thank you to both Jeff Hunt and Chantalle Smith for contributing to the Website and Facebook account. They will provide separate reports.

### **CONSTITUTION**

As agreed at the 2020 AGM the committee has revised the Constitution. We invite member to provide feedback on the changes before the revisions are lodged with Charities Services. The proposed changes make the constitution more relevant for our current way of working and provides guidance for meetings which need to be held in a virtual space, which had not been considered before.

### **NEWSLETTER**

The newsletter is published to keep members up to date with activities and events associated with members and with the National Library's collections, and includes other news connected with children's literature. As always this was a very collaborative effort.

Over the next year we are intending to share the editing of the newsletter among

committee members. We welcome input from members for the next one if you have any interesting topics, reviews or obituaries you would like to provide. Please let anyone in the committee know if you would like to contribute.

### **REDESIGN OF LOGO & MERCHANDISING**

The President has had an initial meeting with designer Hamish Thompson. Further discussions will follow in the next month or so.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

The treasurer continues to encourage members to renew their subscriptions - or to let us know if they no longer want to belong to the Society. We ended the 2020-2021 financial year with 34 financial members of the Friends, and one pre-paid for the coming year. We encourage current members to bring a friend or friends to events, as some people may not be aware of the society and our activities. While we still circulate the newsletter and notices to some libraries and other organisations that support children's literature, we continue to refine our membership and mailing lists.

### **CONCLUSION**

Thank you to all members of the Society for your continuing interest in the children's literature collections of the National Library. We really enjoy catching up with those of you who are able to attend the meetings that are organised throughout the year. Once again, grateful thanks are also due to all the Committee members for their continuing energy and commitment, their catering skills, and their ongoing support for the Research Librarian and the Collection.

As always, we welcome suggestions of topics for events, displays, publications, or research using the DNW Collection and the Library's other children's literature collections.

**Corrina Gordon**  
**President**

3 June 2021