

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2025

of the Society of the Friends of the Dorothy Neal White Collection

5.30pm, Wednesday June 11, 2025

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Annual General Meeting 2024 was held on 20 June 2024 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) continues in this position, with the committee members sharing the role of Newsletter editor during the year. Other members who continued their roles on the committee were Joan McCracken, Barbara Robertson, Kathryn Walls, and Chantalle Smith. Mary Skarott, in her role as the Research Librarian Children's Literature, continues her role on the committee.

We still have vacancies in our committee and would appreciate interest in future 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.

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.

- 20 June AGM 2024
- 16 October 2024 - Charlotte Badger, George Bruce and the making of history
- 11 December 2024 – The Pleasure of Food

We had two lovely events in addition to the AGM. Dr Jennifer Ashton discussed two former convicts, Charlotte Badger and George Bruce, who arrived at the Bay of Islands in 1806 and lived under the protection of Rangatira Te Pahi. For the end of year event we had the committee read extracts of their favourite children's pieces about food, always a popular theme.

PATRON

Our patron, Fleur Beale continues to attend our events when able.

RESEARCH SCHOLAR

Mary Skarott will speak later about how we plan to offer the Research Grant.

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.

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 will continue 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.

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 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 love 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

11 June 2025