



# Bulletin of the International Association *of Lyceum Clubs*

[www.lyceumclubs.org](http://www.lyceumclubs.org)

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## EDITORIAL

Dear friends,

Four months have passed since the appointment of the new International Office, at the Stockholm International Council, which I chair. I am very happy to be aided in this mission by two VPs, Monique Gächter, of the St. Gallen Club, and Marilyn Mackinder, from Te Kuiti Club in New Zealand, for the Southern Hemisphere.

The team is completed by secretary Annie Formont, from the Troyes club, and treasurer Marie France Thouard, from the Paris club.

This appointment is for me essentially synonymous with homework: homework for each of you, through your presidents of clubs and federations, duties also to the memory of our founder and her message of friendship, peace and mutual enrichment.

I hope that this new office works under the mantle of collegiality and sharing. Together, we are more efficient, so more useful to the development of the International Lyceum Club.

The objectives are twofold:

1- Create new clubs in new countries

2- To develop the feeling of belonging, of cohesion within each federation which, by being a member of Lyceum, you deserve. Each of us must contribute her stone to the building, and in no case should personal interest or the struggle for power penalise the group.

My wish is for everyone to flourish in her club!

With all my friendship

*Muriel Hannart*  
*International President*  
[president@lyceumclubs.org](mailto:president@lyceumclubs.org)



## Website



The website [www.lyceumclubs.org](http://www.lyceumclubs.org) is being continually updated so you are encouraged to view it regularly. Consult it for: information about the Lyceum founder Constance Smedley; Contact Details; Cultural Visits and Congresses; the List of every Lyceum Club and their websites (if available); History of Lyceum; all about Lyceum – Mission, Philosophy, Statutes, Governance, Guidelines; International Central Bureau (BCI); Photos; Bulletins.

You will find the link to register for the Lisbon Cultural Visit on the home page.

Several web pages are for members only and require a password. This changes each year on 1 July and is available from national and Club Presidents.

*Marion Jones*  
IALC Web Manager

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## NEWS FROM THE CLUBS

### Australia

Today is a lovely spring day! The sun is shining and there is a slight breeze. I love to look out from our balcony at all the activity on the Sydney Harbour! Today I am thinking of the last three years as Australian Federation President, of the lovely people I have met and how we work for the ideals of our Founder. International friendship and understanding are vital in our world. In Australia it is the time of Annual General Meetings. The Australian Association AGM held at the beginning of September in Sydney was attended by all the Presidents except Karrakatta who gave their apologies and gave their proxy to the Brisbane President. It is always good for the presidents to have a chance to meet and discuss face to face. The meeting and lunch afterwards were very successful. All agreed that Australia needs better representation on the Statutes Committee and the Presidents have agreed to nominate candidates for the committee.

The Secretariat moves to Adelaide in January. The Adelaide Lyceum Club has appointed Angela Gordon, President, Dianne Campbell, Secretary and Julie Brownell, Treasurer. The present Secretariat wishes them a very successful three years.

The Adelaide Lyceum Club is enjoying its new home in the Naval, Military and Air Force Club. Lyceum members can stay in the Club and they can attend any of the functions at the NMAF Club as well as their own. They hold their AGM at the end of September.

The Brisbane Lyceum Club is celebrating its Centenary this year. A Special Lunch was held in August at the Old Customs House with 120 attending including the SHVP Marilyn Mackinder and I was there as Australian Association President. There were representatives from Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide as well as relatives of some of Brisbane's founding members. The after-lunch Speaker Professor Kaye Saunders AM told us about Queensland Suffragettes and how they have blazed the trail for women today. In October they are having the Twentieth Annual Lecture at a Centenary Dinner in evening dress as in the days when the Club was founded. The lecturer will be Chemistry Professor Mary Garson AM on Women and Leadership.

Brisbane Lyceum Club and the Sydney Lyceum Club both held their AGMs in September. Sydney has few changes of office holders and all positions are full while Brisbane still needs a new Vice President. Melbourne's meeting is in October while the Perth Club (Karrakatta) has its meeting at the end of November.

The Melbourne Club is very pleased with their renovations. The rooms on the main Club floor can be all joined together for a large function or divided into three. This makes it very versatile. They have welcomed an excellent new manager to the club and their membership numbers are now over 1400 members.

All of our Clubs have interesting programmes, and our members love to travel. This year 47 Members and partners attended the International Congress in Stockholm and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. In 2020 and 2021 many of us will travel to Portugal and Morocco and then in 2022 to Brussels. Australia does value international friendships.

*Best wishes to you all*  
*Hilary M. Cairns*

### Brussels

A club in mourning:

2019 opened a new era at the Lyceum Club of Belgium but it was saddened by the passing of our President Marie-Claude Stefanovic. Marie-Claude directed our club with an expert hand, with the exception of the last two years, when she cared for her very ill husband, who she adored. She, herself was tired from her own illness which she ignored. Marie-Claude died June 15, 2019. It was a shock for all of us.

We therefore now have a club needing a great deal of work

- we were obliged to engage an accountant to establish order in our finances
- engage new members
- organise activities that have been missed for 2 years

Entry of new members

We asked each member to invite a friend or two to our club: women who would correspond to the spirit of the Lyceum: a culture of friendship. It was a great success. We were about 30 members and now more than 60. All the women have had brilliant careers and we are honoured to welcome them to the Lyceum.

Activities

We have chosen a few of these activities as an example:

- NATIVITAS ASSOCIATION: we heard three magnificent works in the Church of the Chapelle, where the body of Bruegel rests, The Mass in D Major by Dvorak, the Te Deum for the Empress Maria Therese by Joseph Hayden and the Adagio from the Concerto by Aranjuez de Joachin Rodrigo.....Sublime.
- ANVERS: the Plantin Moretus Museum and lunch with Viviane, our dear friend, a very exceptional day.
- APERITIVE with the artist and decorator Thierry Bosquet, stage and costume designer, in the past at the Opera National La Monnaie in Brussels. The walls of his home reflect all his talents. Unforgettable visit of his treasures and his secret garden.  
Barbara furnished all the glasses, well chilled champagne and delicious degustation of crab and salmon sandwiches. It was perfect
- EMBASSY OF POLAND: at the embassy for the Chopin Foundation (the President Chantal Lobert, is now a Lyceum member). One could not miss hearing Jean Claude Vanden Eyden, a Laureat of the Queen Elizabeth Contest. He thrilled us playing four Waltzes by Chopin, which he interpreted as solos. These same four waltzes were replayed on the violin by Joanna Staruch Smolec in the variations by Eugene Ysaye accompanied by Mr. Vanden Eyden on the piano.  
After this musical event, we were delighted with a Polish buffet supper and wines, all in great quantity.
- FLAMBOYANT: an extraordinary exhibit at the Villa Empain on the art of living in the 1930s. "Flamboyant" totally immerses the visitor in the home of a fictitious collector of the 1920 - 1930s. On entering the Villa Empain one rediscovers the unique architectural gem built in 1934, entirely furnished in the Art Deco style, decorated by paintings of major artists, a selection of over 200 articles of furniture, precious objects, archives, books and posters. Lunch followed for the members, a truly marvelous day
- AUTOMATIC MUSIC: we found ourselves at Dion Valmont at the residence of Mr and Mrs Jean Pierre Dutry in their ancient Abbey Farm built by Cistercian Monks of Villers la Ville and we discover the wonderful collection of automatic musical instruments.  
This collection, all in working order, has visited over twenty-seven countries around the world. We were able to discover the pianola of the Barbary Organ passing by the Limonaire, unique objects of surprising ingeniousness. Their rareness still shines throughout the centuries. They made for an exceptional visit under the direction of Mary Hoek, all was perfect.
- CONFERENCE LUNCH AT THE RAVENSTEIN: under the theme, Leopold II, absolute king, not so absolute as that.....organized by Frieda with the presenter, Mr Schorochoff, a very beautiful atmosphere.
- FONDATION LUSSATO: conference by Mr Onkelinx, eminent musicologist who revealed all the secrets of Beethoven's will. Françoise Lemaigre reserved for members the best of seats.

- CHATEAU DE CHIMAY Residence of the Prince and Princess of Chimay  
In the lovely theatre dating from the 18th century (recently restored) we were able to attend the presentation by Hippolyte Wouters of the play "Do you sleep well Mr. Voltaire?" What a great evening. We were able to invite our spouses.
- CONSERVATORY OF BRUSSELS: the recital of the celebrated Irish pianist Miceal O'Rourke playing works by Beethoven, Field, Chopin and Missorgsky, showing the influence of these composers on each other. Drink reception chez Barbara Beech who lives next door to the Conservatory.

## France

### Brittany

Women Pioneers, by their actions, the examples they set and their experience helped women find their way towards emancipation and integration in society. How did we come to think of creating a new circle dedicated to women pioneers in our club? We thought it might be interesting to follow the example set by our founder, Constance Smedley, who was a pioneer herself, and to get to know other pioneers who have open the way for others. This project came to life in 2016 and has been very successful.

#### 2016-2017

Georges SAND was our first woman pioneer. A novelist, a journalist, a politician, a suffragette, a great lover, a very possessive mother, an extremely tumultuous housewife: there were so many aspects of her life to study.

1<sup>st</sup> meeting: Presentation of the woman and distribution of the work among the participants.

2<sup>nd</sup> meeting: Every participant presents one aspect of her personality or presents one of her novels (Indiana, Lucrezia Floriani, Winter in Majorca, La Mare Au Diable, La Petite Fadette, etc...)

3<sup>rd</sup> meeting: Chopin Recital in VAUMADEUC Manor House, (the pieces played were written by Chopin while he was in Majorca, works created during the trip to Mallorca) interspersed with readings from George SAND's novel A Winter in Mallorca.

4<sup>th</sup> Meeting: Marie France invited members to lunch "*as in Nohant*". The menu was cooked after Geroges Sand's recipe book. Every guest prepared one dish.

#### 2017-2018

The second out-standing lady we studied was Coco CHANEL. A genius and complex character who freed the woman's body and gave her suppleness and freedom of moving. There were so many colourful anecdotes to tell about her clothes and her colours. A genuine pioneer.

The structure was similar:

1- Introduction of the character :

- her childhood
- her youth
- her success story
- the war period
- her return to Rue Cambon

2-The members give us a presentation of their work

The various themes were :

- perfumes
- International influence , the muses
- Coco Chanel and romance
- Dallas museum
- Coco Chanel during the war
- Chanel jewels
- her legacy, myth, the legend

3- Film *Coco before Chanel* with Audrey TAUTOU

4- Hat lunch at the manor house La NOË VERTE; twenty-five members attended this meeting, elegance was the key word of the day, everyone wearing a hat and pearls.

### 2018-2019

#### **WASPs, Women Airforce Service Pilots**



WASPs were women pilots in the American army who joined the army during the second world war. These women supplied the men who were fighting on the European front. They flew airplanes from the factories to the front operating bases. They went through a very difficult military and aerospace training, the same as men's. When they were finished with the training in Avenger Field Camp in Texas they were assigned various posts.

When the men pilot came back from Europe the women were sent back home without any kind of gratitude or veteran status. It was not until Barack Obama was elected when their role during the war was fully recognised and they were given the gold medal of American Congress on July 1<sup>st</sup> 2009.

1- Introduction of the WASPs with slides and films

2- Personal Presentation by the members of the circle:

Themes:

- First flight with a woman as passenger 10/7/1908 - Mrs Berg
- First Woman flying licence
- Women in the American Army
- Pioneers in Aviation
- in 1999 **Caroline AIGUE** was the first woman fighter pilot in a fighting squad - in the French Air Force.
- Heroic women in the Red Army, **Marina Mikhaïlovna Raskova** was an out-standing character of the Soviet Air Force during WWII and founded three air regiments entirely composed of women to fight Germany.

-**Marie MARVINGT**: was the first woman who flew on her own, and was the first woman who flew across the English Channel from the continent to England. The following year she set the first record of the Femina Cup. As the ambassador of Medical air transportation, she draws the prototype of an ambulance plane that she will only have built before WWI. After WWI she created the first training place for air ambulances nurses.

3- Contacts with Women in the army today:

At Marie-France's we met Captain Isabelle with Katia, who has just left the famous French Polytechnique School who is training in St Briec. She joined the army police force in 1983 when women were first accepted. She told us about the police force which is part of the army, its role and the place of women in the French army.

4- On May 29<sup>th</sup> 2019 Colonel Christophe met us at the army headquarters in St Briec where we met several women working in the army alongside their male counterparts.

### 2019-2020

We will study **Joséphine Baker**:

- She was the grand-daughter of a slave
- Lead dancer in Paris
- She fought for the Civil rights in The United States
- She was a resistance fighter during WWII in France
- She was humanist
- She brought up her rainbow tribe!
- An interesting Character!

Marie France SALLIOU

## Germany

### Cologne

At the end of June the Cologne ILC club invited members and friends of the club as well as members of affiliated clubs to its summer celebration. We were pleased to welcome as guests ILC club members from Groningen (Holland), from the clubs in St. Gallen and Basel (Switzerland), and from the German clubs in Stuttgart, Karlsruhe, Berlin and Frankfurt. Friday evening 18 women had already arrived for an evening meal in Cologne.

After a short visit to the various art galleries in Cologne on the occasion of the *Long Museum Night*, the evening ended with pleasant and lively conversation in the Cologne club headquarters. The next morning, we travelled by bus to the nearby city of Brühl, where we spent the rest of the day together in the historical railway station Kaiserbahnhof after having visited the Augustusburg Castle, respectively the Max-Ernst-Museum.

Aside from the opportunity of communication in a more private atmosphere and the solidifying of friendships, which had begun to materialise during various national and international meetings, it was our wish to introduce our guests to our work: we cooperate with other women's clubs in Cologne. In this spirit, Brigitte Alsbach of the Cologne Women's Music Club enhanced our champagne reception with musical accompaniment.



An exhibition of the works of three artists: Annette Hoss (3D photography), Barara Elsig (painting and sculpture), and Christiane Möschle (photography), served to demonstrate yet another aspect of our work: the promotion and support of female artists. Our club member Sabine Ponwenger presented a very entertaining lecture on Jacques Offenbach. The occasion was the 200<sup>th</sup> birthday of this classical composer, born in Cologne.

Our scholarship holder Celina Hentschke and her colleague Maria Milutsina accompanied the lecture musically. Another scholarship holder, Alexandra Wende, spoke of her study visit in London, which she was able to finance with the support of the ILC Cologne. Thus, came this lovely summer day – with

a bond of friendship and rewarding encounters – to an end.

Before our guests departed on Sunday, we visited an exhibition of the works of the Dutch photographer Fiona Tann who in addition had compiled the photographic work of the Agfa Corporation in the 1960s.

We warmly thank the high school girls, LCI Cologne and our guests from other clubs for their contribution to the success of this celebration, which has allowed us to live together in a wonderful moment of exchange and friendship.

We can not wait to see you again.

## Italy

### Florence

18 April 2019: a new cycle of meeting started at the Florence International Lyceum Club. The strong collaboration between the Section of Social Activities and the Section Literature helped trigger a cycle of conferences on the most recent examples of contemporary literature. The entertainer of this ambitious project is Margherita Ghilardi, archivist and researcher by the Archives of the Gabinetto Scientifico Letterario G.P. Vieusseux.

Founded in 1819, the "Scientific and Literary Cabinet" became soon a reference point in the panorama of Italian nineteenth-century culture and it retains its original spirit and scope. The participation of Margherita Ghilardi was therefore a great benefit for the initiative, which is going to continue also during the coming year: Margherita Ghilardi is an expert in literature, and literary critic.

She has written and edited many books, and regularly collaborates with *Alias*, the supplement of the high-circulation newspaper *Il Manifesto*, writing reviews of Italian and foreigner narrators. The meetings include a possible conversation between Margherita Ghilardi and the Author. The Authors are among the most credited women writers of our age.

According to the spirit of the original Lyceum Club, we have thought to give voice to women, who have made writing one of their core issues. The first meeting was enhanced by Annalena Benini, who presented her latest book *I racconti delle donne (Women's tales)*.

Annalena Benini is an Italian journalist, columnist and author. She has been writing for the daily newspaper *Il Foglio* since 2001, focusing on books, culture, people and stories. She has founded, supervises and contributes to the weekly supplement *Il Foglio: stories of parents and children drawn up by narratives and confessions of writers, letters, essays and novels*. She also has a column on books for *Io Donna*, the weekly supplement of the newspaper *Corriere della Sera*, and one on current affairs on the weekly magazine *Grazia*.

She has published *La scrittura o la vita. Dieci incontri dentro la letteratura* (2018) and edited the short stories collection *I racconti delle donne* (2019).

It was a spirited, enthusiastic match: Annalena Benini, in her book, collected and edited some tales, which represent the different facets of women's worlds. Margherita Ghilardi went on asking questions, eliciting responses, suggesting interpretations. The audience was interested and took part enthusiastically in the discussion. With these meetings, the Lyceum Club of Florence decided to revive the custom, through a new "key of reading".

## Morocco

Rabat Lyceum Club 2019 Season started with the active participation of our members to several cultural activities. During the Rabat Biennale Art Fair we visited different exhibitions in different museums and art galleries, as we also attended movies projections and talks and lectures dedicated to Literature .

We are also proud to introduce 3 of our members of the Rabat Lyceum Club who turned out great writers and revealed themselves, each one of them, through 3 books they have just published.

### Dans les jardins d'antan

Fatma Chraïbi



Préface : (Journal Sébastien Bédouet)

"Dans les jardins d'Antan", (we could translate as 'A walk in the olden day gardens) by **Fatma Chraïbi**, ed. Marsam

Fatma Chraïbi has always been fascinated by the poetry, diversity and musical depth of literary texts and she started from a very young age to collect and write down Moroccan folk wisdom, proverbs, little songs, or old ways of greetings she used to hear during her childhood.

She started a huge work in collecting, archiving and translating some of our oral cultural gems.

She offers us here this beautiful book where carefully chosen words meet exquisite calligraphic illustrations. This is a voyage within a cultural heritage carefully transmitted through time from old generations to the new ones.

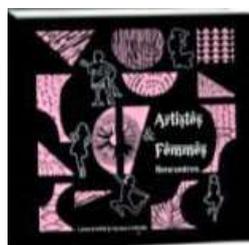
**Souad Jamaï** has always seen herself as a proud citizen of the world.

She left Morocco as a young child to live around the world, where she has developed openmindedness and a taste for culture and arts and above all a passion for Literature.

Her second book has just been published this year and was inspired by a true story. As a cardiologist she sometimes faces different situations and all kind of colourful and picturesque characters. As a writer she is empowered and inspired and she manages to sublimate these mundane experiences in her novel with her own beautiful style.

"Les Ailes de Papier" (the Paper Wings) is the story of Malak (*the Angel* in Arabic), a young student who dreams about changing her life.

Mistakenly or unconsciously she embarks on a curious path full of surprising encounters.



**Myriam Chraïbi** has co-written an art book called "Women in Art" (*Artistes et Femmes, rencontres*), which presents the outstanding work of sixteen different women.

It intends to capture the artistic turmoil of this year 2019 and it relates the stories of women from different generations living in different places and belonging to different environments. They come from different cultures. Some of them are altruistic, obedient and conformist or even iconoclast. Others are bold, wild and adventurous, serious or adventurous, bold, free, bridled or unbridled people.

## The Netherlands

### Federation of Dutch International Lyceum Clubs

The IALC Congress in Amsterdam in 2016 sparked a growing interest in the international aspect of Lyceum. The Netherlands has three Lyceum Clubs, located in Amsterdam, Groningen and Nijmegen. Members get together once a year on a contact day, which is organised by one of the clubs in rotation. The Federation Board meets twice annually with the boards of the clubs. Total membership of the three clubs has remained roughly the same.

#### LC Amsterdam

Founded in 1923, the Nederlandse Vrouwenclub/Lyceum Club Amsterdam is the oldest club in the Netherlands. It



has been twinned with the LC Bretagne (France) for over 25 years. The club has various circles and a monthly lunch with a lecture. In September, the season is opened with a concert; other special occasions are a Christmas celebration, an end-of-year High Tea, a New Year's reception and a Spring Excursion. Members, who are from four provinces, also get together at informal coffee mornings, not just in Amsterdam but also in other towns in the area, such as Laren and Haarlem.

*Season's opening in Amsterdam*



#### LC Groningen

The club in Groningen was founded in 1929 and with 170 members it is now the largest club in the Netherlands. Last June it celebrated its 90th birthday with a performance of *The Amazing and Preposterous Constance Smedley*. The club also published a biography of Anne Constance Smedley. Many members attend the lectures held twice a month on Tuesday afternoons.

Mutual bonds are fostered in the sub-clubs, which focus on such subjects and activities as reading, visits to museums, debating, cooking, painting, walking, poetry and music and dining together. Christmas, New Year, Easter and the club's birthday are celebrated. The club has been twinned with the LC in Aachen, Germany since the 1980s.

*Board Lyceum Club Groningen*

#### LC Nijmegen

The city of Nijmegen is situated on the river Waal, one of the busiest rivers in Western Europe. Nijmegen's history dates back over 2000 years, making it the oldest town in the Netherlands. Our club was founded in 1925. We are on friendly terms with the LC Frankfurt.

*River "Waal"*



Once a month we have a coffee morning. Committees organise talks e.g. on fine arts, music and literature, and activities like painting and walking and visits to cinema and museum. A digital newsletter is sent out every two months.

The Dutch clubs and their Federation look forward to their first centenary with confidence.

### New Zealand

This is a résumé of the activities of the New Zealand Clubs in the past 6 months.

#### **Morrinsville**

Membership is 170. There are 10 active Circles, the most popular are tramping, hiking and 2 walking groups all of which quickly find coffee shops after the event! The Choir sings at various venues in town entertaining audiences; Arts Circle has colourful paintings on the Clubroom walls; Book Circle involves reading and discussing interesting authors. Mah Jong, Stretch and Evening Circle are also popular.

#### **Otorohanga**

Membership 90, Life Membership recently bestowed on Beryl Byles.

Mah Jong Annual Tournament in April had 90+ entrants and raised \$2000.00

Luncheons have had a variety of Speakers: Dr Janion Heywood Aging & Dementia; Kay Gregory Journalist & Celebrant; Tanya Winter CEO Otorohanga District Council; Dr Marilyn Mackinder IALC Congress. The Caroline Eve Fashion Show was another Fundraiser.

The newest Circle "Games" is gaining popularity.

#### **Tauranga**

Membership 120 & growing.

Interesting Speakers at Dinners & Lunches keep members involved. Nicky Webber Journalist turned Author; Lucilia Gatti Sports Physiotherapist & Pilates Instructor; Stacey Roche Life with Cerebral Palsy, training for 2020 Paralympics.

The value of a supportive Committee was seen when President Dianne Farmer was away for 6 weeks midyear.

#### **Te Awamutu**

Membership down to 25. The oldest is 102. The advent of a Retirement Village in the town with entertainment supplied has had an adverse effect on our Membership.

In August we celebrated our 64<sup>th</sup> birthday. Daffodil Day Games of Mah Jong & Bolivia raised \$70 for the Cancer Society. Circles include Writers, Book, Garden, Music, Bolivia & Mah Jong. Morning Teas with Speakers and 3 monthly Luncheons are well attended.

Guest Speakers have been from Community Safe, Citizens Advice Bureau, Waipa District Council, author Kate Merewether and our Mayoress.

#### **Te Puke**

Although Membership is only 17 we all enjoy twice monthly meetings. Garden Circle coffee morning involves members bringing flowers for the competition table.

Mah Jong is a flourishing group meeting twice a week. The Social afternoons have interesting Speakers about their trips or unusual experiences. Our Choir is popular & entertains in the town. Our rooms are hired regularly bringing in extra revenue.

#### **Te Kuiti**



The Silver Belles Choir which now has 28 members, led by Martha Ash (L) has been performing in the District at Rest Homes and at other Lyceum Clubs.

This is a photo taken of part of the Choir performing at the recent 75<sup>th</sup> AGM of the Te Kuiti Club.

Increasing numbers in the Choir has had a spin off effect for the Club with currently 60 members.

Evening Circle, Monthly Club Luncheons with speaker are popular.

In November our speaker will be New Zealand Innovator of 2019 Mr Ian Taylor who started Animation Research Ltd, doing Americas Cup computer graphics.

## Waikato

Now has 16 Financial Members and 2 Life Members.

We find that recipients of our charitable donations are pleased to hear from us when we donate to them but shy about reciprocating to tell us about their Organisations! When they do, we are delighted to hear about their achievements in our Community.

Speakers recently included representatives of the Hamilton Civic Choir, the Bellyful Trust & the Graeme Dingle Foundation. The Waikato Monthly Luncheon is held at a motel restaurant where we have been welcomed since selling our Clubrooms (due to the need to reach new standards for earthquakes).

## Whakatane

Membership is 73 with 3 Life Members.

The evening & Luncheon Circles have interesting speakers: berry farm owners; a new recycling project setup; Eastern Bay Villages providing assistance & friendship for the lonely; CAB; valuations on property; quilts produced by Mary Transom; Co-Author of a book about the Edgecumbe floods & the devastation caused; Sport Bay of Plenty re balance as we age.

Art & Garden Circle visited an amazing garden of a talented artist; the gardens of two sisters who have bromeliads. Meetings at the Clubrooms included a demonstration on lace making & a visit to the new building housing the Museum Archives.

We received a grant from Eastern Bay Energy Trust to purchase an overhead projector & drop-down screen for Visual Presentations.

I am privileged to be the President of such a valuable organisation for Lifelong Learning.

*Marilyn Mackinder, President New Zealand Federation of Lyceum Clubs  
Southern Hemisphere Vice President Lyceum International*

## Portugal

Dear Friends,

The Lyceum Lisbon International Club has been active on a weekly basis, with guided tours, thematic tea gatherings, trips and exhibitions. The members' response has been great. We chose to publicise through the International Bulletin our guided tour to the Queluz National Palace in May 2019, as this building has been classified since 1910 as a Monument of National Interest. The Palace construction began in 1747, in the middle of the 18th century, in rococo and neoclassic styles. It became the home of the royal family until its escape to Brazil brought upon by the French Invasions. It is called, although it is not on the same scale, as the "Portuguese Versailles". The Palace's rooms are decorated with frescoes, mirrors, stucco reliefs, gold carvings and parquet of exotic woods.

Several statues and ponds decorate its gardens, which are traversed by the Jamor River through a beautiful channel coated in Portuguese tiles. Presently it hosts the Portuguese School of Equestrian Art. The Queluz National Palace is visited daily by countless tourists from around the world. It is an integral part of the Lisbon 2020 Cultural Days itinerary.



*President Maria Teresa Abreu Matos*

### Lyceum Club of Rzhev

Our club was formed in 2010 and then was registered in the city of Rzhev Tver region as Women's Lyceum Club. From the very beginning it worked following the spirit and Statutes of the International Association of Lyceum Clubs - IALC.

Currently, the members of the club are 32 women from Moscow and Rzhev educated in technology, economics and philology and interested in art, history and literature.

Main goal of our club is education and personal development of club members.

We are friends with many public and cultural organisations such as:

- House of Scientists
- House of Cinema
- Moscow State Conservatory
- Moscow State Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Ivan Rudn
- museums and libraries of Moscow, Rzhev and Tver.

Members of the club attend concerts and go on various excursions. For example, in places in Tver region associated with the name of Pushkin.

We participate in the life of Rzhev. Five years ago, for the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Rzhev which took place during the Second World War, we planted bushes of lilac along the Volga river, at the pedestals of the heroes of the Rzhev battle. Now it is the most popular walking place of Rzhev.



Once a month we meet for a cup of tea in one of the Moscow city libraries to chat and discuss our plans. Usually for such meetings members of the club or invited guests prepare different topics. Our guests are interesting people, they are writers, artists, people from other countries. Very often we organise events together with the library. The atmosphere in the club is friendly. Together we celebrate birthdays and important events in our members lives.

This year our club took part in the annual Congress of the IALC for the first time. There we have been accepted as a member of the IALC and now are allowed to be named International Lyceum Club of Rzhev.

Returning to Moscow from Stockholm, our delegates told the club members about the Congress, the topics they listened to, meetings with very interesting women from different countries. And also about the warm welcome that was given to our delegation by the leadership of the IALC.

This year in Russia has been declared the Year of Theatre. So, recently we held a meeting dedicated to theatre, its history and our impressions of the performances we saw.

Next time we are going to discuss our future plans and consider the need for any changes in the club Statutes to match our new international status. We will study and apply the experience of other Lyceum clubs and we will also be happy to host their members, show them Moscow and Rzhev and demonstrate our activities.



### Stockholm

For the last three years the International Lyceum club in Stockholm has worked assiduously on the organisation of the 34<sup>th</sup> International Congress. As we are the only club in Sweden, (the Lyceum club in Stockholm with approximately 210 members), a Congress committee was assigned for these special arrangements. The committee involved some associates from the board and other members from the club. The Lyceum club board was focused on our ordinary programs and activities.

The Congress in Stockholm from May 13<sup>th</sup> to May 23<sup>rd</sup> 2019 was a great enjoyment for our club. The theme was "The Swedish Footprints". Our goal was to have a wide spectra of different topics from our history, as once the great power of northern part of Europe, to the present issues of gender equality and the Swedish crime literature. Hopefully, it had something for everyone. We did not have special programs for the companions. As a companion you could attend the lectures with the Lyceum ladies.

The visit in Stockholm started with a reception at the House of Nobility hosted by our international president Mrs Ingrid von Rosen.

As a very much appreciated event during Congresses and BCI-meetings is the Home hospitality dinner, and this time it was held in sixteen different homes in Stockholm.



The Gala Dinner (the Farewell Dinner) was held at the Wasa Museum. The museum is the home of a very well-preserved ship from the seventeenth century. We started with drinks and a guided tour. Afterwards the dinner took place next to the ship. During the dinner a very young and talented soprano Annie Ternström entertained us. Annie is the 2019 Carlin Award winner.

The Pre-tour went to Dalecarlia, one of the Swedish most spectacular counties in the north- western part of Sweden. The Post-tour went to the island of Gotland in the Baltic Sea. Gotland has a very different kind of nature and culture compared with Dalecarlia. Both tours were very popular and were very quickly fully booked.

During the Congress we did not have any ordinary program for our members except for the outing in late May. We always start each term with a visit to a museum and the Autumn term ends with Christmas music entertainment. The end of the Spring term finishes with a day trip outside Stockholm. We have lectures once a month regarding different topics. They are all very well-attended.

We are all looking forward to the BCI meetings and the Cultural Visit in Lisbon 2020 and Rabat 2021 and the 35<sup>th</sup> Congress in Brussels 2022.



*Best wishes!*  
*Caroline von Sivers*

## Switzerland

### Zurich



#### Tribute to Clara Schumann

On the occasion of her 200th birthday (1819-1896), we, Lycées of Zurich, followed in the footsteps of Clara Schumann. This extraordinary woman had a successful international career, a dedication denied to many musicians of that time.

The auditorium of our Club was packed. Our Swiss President, Janet Blümli, accepted our invitation to this concert. We, the ladies of the Lyceum Club, knew Clara Schumann as a child prodigy, pianist, teacher, composer and publisher. During the evening, we got to know a very special facet of this fascinating personality.

The Artemis Trio and the singer Samuel Zünd began to paint a living portrait of this extraordinary woman. With recitations from letters and diaries, we followed in the footsteps of Clara and Robert Schumann, as well as Johannes Brahms, and learned that Clara had also strongly influenced their artistic work. Between the recitations, we enjoyed the wonderful music of these three composers. We were delighted and proud of a woman who was a pioneer in her time.



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