

Editorial of the International President

Dear Friends,

A new era started *where history meets modern day to create wonderful things....*

The 1st of July the new board members of the IALC, elected at the 2025 Tauranga Congress, took office while the International Treasurer, the International Bulletin Editor and the International Archivist will continue for the time being. The International webmaster Véronique Courtemanche has decided not to go on because she can't combine her work with the IALC work. Thank you very much Veronique for all the work you have done.

Also, a thank you, to the former IALC board members, Marilyn and Monique under the unwavering commitment of the former International President Muriel Hannart for their immense work in the interest of the IALC. They organised, in cooperation with the New Zealand team Marilyn Mackinder (Vice President of the Southern Hemisphere of the IALC) and Philippa Hales (Federation President) an overwhelming and very interesting International Congress in Tauranga, NZ, including marvellous Pre- and Post Tours showing all the benefits of the Kiwi country!

Since we all returned home from Tauranga early May, the new Team has started working together via Teams/Zoom to get to know each other better and to find out what needs to be done to make the IALC even better and more accessible to all the members in the world. Our goals set more than 120 years ago, are not all set yet! It even looks like that acquired rights have to be defended more and more! So, let's find out where and what has to be done in the first place for which we need your full support. So please let us know when you have a brilliant idea to make Lyceum more and more aware to all women. Thanks to the enormous technical progression we can reach more and more women. Distances are vanishing.

CONTENTS

Page 1: Editorial

Page 3: Australia

Page 5: Belgium

Page 6: Cyprus

Page 7: Finland

Page 9: France

Page 10: Georgia

Page 12: Germany

Page 14: Italy

Page 15: Morocco

Page 17: New Zealand

Page 20: Portugal

Page 21: Sweden

Page 22: Switzerland

Page 23: The Netherlands

Page 24: The U.-Kingdom

Page 26: Tunisia

Trust - Connect - Progress

Working in a Team has been the first change since I took office. Three women who do not know each other, all three have a different education, have different work backgrounds and live in different countries, will work together for three years. The only connection they have is to be a member of the IALC.

How do we achieve this collaboration? We must be able to trust each other in order to connect and thus make progress. We have achieved this by meeting every Monday morning from 08.00 to 09.00 -for Jane it is 16.00 -17.00- since the 5th of May. We regularly ask guests to think along with us. For example, Therese and Florence from ILC Brussels, the Treasurer, Editor, Archivist and Webmaster. Then we can also test whether we are on the right track.

What also works in our favour is that all three of us have a different background, so we get various different perspectives when we look for solutions and the dot on the horizon, everyone's opinion is respected.

A second change is that the non-elected Dutch secretary- a lawyer- has an advisory role within our team. She is also present at our meetings every Monday morning.

Furthermore, communication is a spearhead. This is why there are two Zoom meetings on the agenda for the BCI members this calendar year. The first meeting is in September, the second meeting in November. Meetings via Zoom, fortunately, this technology makes this possible for us.

But every now and then it is needed -and very joyful- to have the possibility to speak to each other face to face without using techniques! As you know next year there will be our chance, meeting all in Brussels where the Cultural Days take place in May.

Last but not least, I want to ask your attention for the reports the current Lyceum countries sent in. Really interesting to read how the different clubs reach their Lyceum goals!

Our new Team is very inspired and has lots of energy to serve the IALC!

In Lyceum Friendship,

Dans l'Amitié du Lyceum

Im Lyzeum Freundschaft,

Madeleine van der Vlist, International President.

ialc.president@lyceumclubs.org



AUSTRALIA



(A Member of the International Association of Lyceum Clubs)

Australia's Lyceum Clubs: A Year of Connection, Culture, and Continuity

Australia's five Lyceum Clubs continue to provide welcoming and intellectually stimulating environments, responding to the diverse interests of their members, and creating opportunities for shared learning and community outreach. This includes thoughtful engagement with contemporary issues through discussion and exploration.

The arts remain a cornerstone of club life, with musical performances, literary talks, exhibition visits, and opportunities for members to express their creativity.

A highlight in Western Australia this year was the dedication of a commemorative sculpture honouring Edith Dircksey Cowan (1861-1932), a founding member of the **Karrakatta Club**. Located outside the club's premises in Perth, the sculpture by renowned Western Australian artists Joan Walsh-Smith OAM and Charles Smith OAM and daughter Joanna Smith of Smith Sculptors, pays tribute to Edith's legacy as Australia's first female parliamentarian, elected at a time when women had limited rights and little involvement in major decision-making. The Karrakatta Club played a significant role in planning, supporting and bringing this important project, commissioned by Perth's Anghie family, to fruition.



Commissioners and principal funders Michael and Sandy Anghie (left and right) are pictured here with other significant contributors, Perth architect kyrn MacCormac and Karratta Club member Suzanne John

Members of the **Lyceum Melbourne** enjoy a program of over 80 events and activities each month as the club continues its focus on membership, membership experience and financial strength.

Although smaller, the happy and friendly **Sydney Lyceum Club** has four special interest circles, well attended monthly lunches and morning teas with guest speakers.

Brisbane Lyceum Club hosted a Bastille Day Lunch on 14 July, followed by an Anniversary Lunch on 4 August celebrating 106 years since its founding.

The Adelaide Lyceum Club's Art Appreciation Circle and Art Gallery Tours group enjoyed visits to critically acclaimed exhibitions, enriching members' cultural engagement.

Australian Lyceum Clubs were well represented at the IALC Congress in Tauranga, New Zealand. Promotion continues for the upcoming 2026 Cultural Days in Brussels.



The Australian contingent at the IALC Congress in Tauranga

The AALC Secretariat, which has focused this year on administrative matters, including policy development, records retention, archiving and a new website, will rotate from the Karrakatta Club to Lyceum Club Melbourne in February.

Dr Agatha van der Schaaf

President Australian Association of Lyceum Clubs

Email: President.AALC@karrakattaclub.com.au

BELGIUM

Dear Lyceum Club Members,

Since March 2025, the International Lyceum Club of Belgium has organised four activities.



In March, we visited the Corinthia Hotel, formerly the Astoria Hotel, which has been completely renovated. The guide told us about the construction of this hotel in the Art nouveau style so prevalent in Brussels. We could also admire the beautiful rooms! After lunch, we had



the opportunity to discover in private one of Horta's masterpieces: the Max Hallet Hotel, a jewel of Art nouveau architecture.

The April activity was cancelled due to international meetings in New Zealand.

In May, the Lyceum members had the opportunity to visit a local vineyard and its museum in the Château de Bioul, which has been owned by the Vaxelaire family for generations. We also tasted three of the estate's wines. It was an extraordinary experience.

The June excursion was a walk through the centre of Antwerp and a visit to the Fashion Museum. This city is rich in history, which contrasts with its modernity. A very interesting outing!

We started the 2025-2026 season with a trip to Dinant. This small town on the banks of the Meuse is well worth a visit, especially for the Citadel and its museum. It was on the bridge at Dinant that the young Lieutenant Charles de Gaulle was wounded during the First World War. After a delicious lunch, we embarked on a cruise on the Meuse to the French border, stopping to visit the beautiful Renaissance castle of Freÿr and its 18th-century gardens; this outstanding estate is still inhabited by its owner.



The organising committee of the Lyceum Clubs' 2026 International Cultural Days is continuing its preparations and looks forward to seeing many of you there! Sign up now!

Thérèse de Jamblinne, President of the International Lyceum Club of Belgium

<http://www.lyceumbelgique.be>

CYPRUS

Famagusta Lyceum Cyprus

Dear Lyceum friends,

Once again, we have the pleasure via our treasured IALC Bulletin to get in touch and to get to know the activities and achievements but also the problems of IALC members.

Constance Smedley the founder of the Lyceum would have been very proud of the IALC Presidents' efforts to expand to so many countries.

This conduct and approach of Lyceum ladies give so many benefits to Lyceum members of all ages!

The Lyceum President Maria Niki Thomaides for the first time this year organized a great gathering at the Children Summer Resort in Ayia Napa (where in the summer months we host children from various Institutions). At this gathering were invited to be honoured Government Officials, friends of the Lyceum, among whom the Mayor of Ayia Napa, a great friend and supporter of the Cyprus Lyceum. The Minister of Transport & Communications as well as Business people supporters of the Children Summer Resort were also present.

The Mayor of Ayia Napa has undertaken all the garden works of the Children Summer Resort and to whom we are most grateful. As for the building premises extensive maintenance works have been carried out but still more works are necessary, as the building is old and near the sea and needs maintenance every year.

On 5th September 2025 we welcomed ladies from the Crete Lyceum dance group who were invited and participated in an event organized by the Cultural Group "Yiasoumia" at Dasaki Achnas Famagusta. The Lyceum entertained them at the Children Summer Resort at Ayia Napa.

We look forward to meeting up in Belgium in 2026.

Warmest regards,

Valentine Thomaides

International Affairs Officer

FINLAND

Spring Excursion to Helsinki

The most significant event of the Spring was the Club's excursion to Helsinki in April. The main events were a visit to the Helsinki Lyceum Club and a theater evening at the Finnish National Theater.

The connections between the Helsinki and Oulu Lyceum Clubs were established when our Club was founded. Carin Kahlson from the Helsinki Lyceum Club, who was President of the IALC (1986-1992) at the time, quickly took up the matter after hearing of Oulu's interest in founding a Lyceum Club in early 1988. The founding meeting of the Oulu Lyceum Club was held in March 1988, and by the end of May our Club had been accepted as a member of the IALC at the International Congress in Cremona, Italy. In September, Carin Kahlson visited our Club meeting, where she shed light on the activities of both the Helsinki Lyceum Club and the International Association of Lyceum Clubs and gave us guidance on developing our local activities. We have visited the Helsinki Lyceum Club a couple of times before, but now our new members in particular wanted to get to know our sister club in Helsinki.



Members from Helsinki and Oulu in a group photo at the Helsinki Lyceum Club premises on April 12, 2025.

A return visit to Oulu has been tentatively agreed upon. Hopefully it will take place next year, when Oulu, together with the Slovakian city of Trenčín, will have the honor of serving as the European Capital of Culture for 2026.



Here we dine together before the theater evening.

The Finnish National Theater's drama-komedy of "The Collected Sorrows of Kaarlo Bergbom" interested us because of the historical background of the play. The siblings Kaarlo and Emilie Bergbom were pioneers of the first Finnish-language theater, founded in 1872: they were directors and producers. Struggle and determination were needed as Finnish-language theater sought to gain a foothold alongside Swedish-language theater in our country.

We prepared for the National Theater's Bergbom drama-comedy in advance at our February Club meeting, when our member Tiina Kinnunen, professor of Finnish and Northern European history at the University of Oulu, gave a presentation on the topic of how Finnish-language theater raised Finnish-language culture and Finnish self-esteem, and contributed to the appreciation and rise of the Finnish language as the national language of our country.

With best wishes from

Paula Rossi

President

Oulu Lyceum Club

<http://www.oulunlyceumklubi.fi>

FRANCE

International: the first word of our association (IALC)

-IALC Congress April 2025

Twenty-three French women and five accompanying persons took part in the Triennial Congress in Tauranga, New Zealand. This impressive representation had been prepared since 2023/2024 under the theme 'Let's get closer to our distant New Zealand friends', which I had proposed to all the clubs. The presidents played along, generating great interest among the general public.

The 2025 twinning arrangements:

Twinning arrangements at the Lyceum Club date back to the Auckland Congress in 1983. The concept was to bring together its many clubs of different cultures and languages, often geographically distant from one another. (AILC archives)

-the 40th anniversary celebration of the twinning between Fontainebleau and Lausanne.

The Swiss ladies were welcomed for three days by the members of Fontainebleau Lyceum and enjoyed a high-quality programme: in Paris; they visited Notre-Dame Cathedral, restored to its former glory;

Near Fontainebleau, the artistic world of the mid-19th to 20th centuries: Rosa Bonheur's house and studio, the Saint-Blaise chapel decorated by Jean Cocteau, and finally the surprising work of the duo Niki de Saint-Phalle and the Swiss artist Jean Tinguely. The dinner brought together the visitors and their hosts in a friendly atmosphere, before setting off for a final day in Paris.



The group visiting Evora

-Troyes-Lisbon Twinning, Meeting:

It was the turn of the members of the Club Troyes-Champagne to visit their twin Club. The warm welcome from the Lisbon ladies allowed us to get to know each other better, discover our common roots and our differences in a very friendly atmosphere.

-Creation of the London-Paris twinning

London and Paris will officially twin in December; an event which I will have the pleasure of attending. This project was led by teams from both clubs in a spirit of international friendship.

One initiative: a 'book-club' or how to share the literature of both countries.

This year, the word "INTERNATIONAL" has been both a project and a reality for the FFILC through its various meetings, aimed at maintaining good relations between members of the IALC clubs. Our participating members have been enriched by new experiences.

Sabine COIFFE President of the French Federation of the International Lyceum Clubs

www.lyceumfrance.org

GEORGIA

Georgia

This summer, the Tbilisi National Gallery hosted two landmark exhibitions that captured widespread attention within Georgia's cultural sphere. Their significance was further enhanced by the active involvement of the Lyceum Club Georgia.

Visitors were introduced to **VELUM**, a transcultural and interreligious project by Nina Gamsachurdia, founder of the Lyceum Club Georgia, alongside the first solo exhibition of Georgian artist Paata Merabishvili, presented in collaboration with Gallery Vanda, whose founder is also a member of the Georgian Lyceum Club.

Anagoge - "Leading to the Light"

The work of Nina Gamsachurdia builds upon the legacy of past artistic epochs, uniting historical craft techniques with a pursuit of timeless meaning. Unlike much contemporary art, her practice is neither commercial nor political, but instead directed toward the spiritual and the eternal.



Rooted in Byzantine aesthetics and Georgian traditions, her works employ natural pigments, gold, lapis lazuli, and other precious minerals, resulting in pieces that convey durability and transcendence. Created through meticulous, labor-intensive processes, they emanate light and spiritual presence, offering audiences

a profoundly meditative experience. Her art bridges the material and the spiritual, the visible and the unseen — a vision encapsulated in the concept of **anagoge**, or "leading to the light."



VELUM

Velum, a veil of fabric, symbolizes concealment, mystery, and protection. At once a curtain and a covering, it embodies both unity and separation, reminding us that not everything is meant to be revealed.

Across cultures and faiths, the act of covering has carried profound significance: from Bedouin veils and Zoroastrian rituals to pandemic masks and sacred Christian symbolism. In Christian tradition, Velum is associated with Mary's mantle of protection, the Eucharistic veil, and the curtain before the Ark of the Covenant. In Byzantine iconography, the red Velum serves as a conduit between past and present, human and divine, earthly and eternal.

Through its folds, Velum conveys not emptiness but fullness, inviting reflection on what lies beyond visibility — a realm of mystery, timelessness, and grace.

Paata Merabishvili

Paata Merabishvili — painter, sculptor, and designer — belongs to the generation of Georgian artists who came to prominence in the 1990s. A graduate of the Tbilisi State Academy of Arts, he has exhibited internationally, with his works now held in major collections worldwide.



His art synthesises national traditions with modernist expression, drawing on global influences while retaining a distinctive personal style. Merabishvili is renowned for bold forms, dynamic compositions, and the use of monochrome, saturated colours that heighten rhythm and energy.

Alongside sculpture, he works in painting, graphics, and collage, often linking these media back to three-dimensional forms. For him, sculpture embodies “an internal state of perceiving everything in space” — a translation of thought into form, colour, and volume, reflecting his unique worldview.



Together, these exhibitions eloquently demonstrated the power of art to connect traditions, communities, and audiences in ways that are both meaningful and enduring.

Tsira BEWICK

President of Lyceum Club Georgia

<http://ilc-georgia.org/en/>

GERMANY



KIA ORA

After twelve years, our Congress returned to the Southern Hemisphere from April 10 to 13, 2025. President Erika Partsch travelled to Tauranga, located on New Zealand's North Island, to represent the Federation of Germany and participate in the election of the International Presidents. The local club in Tauranga organized the Congress and cultural tours for participants from 18 nations, offering a deep dive into Māori traditions. It was a true celebration of connection and exchange.



Erika and the Maori Captain

In May, the **International Lyceum Club Berlin** welcomed a distinguished guest: Professor Dirk Kaesler, renowned sociologist and biographer of Max Weber. Speaking to a large audience of Lyceum members, he shared his deeply moving life story. Born in a Nazi "Lebensborn" home, Kaesler discovered late in life that his biological father was not the man officially listed as his mother's husband, but rather an SS officer with whom she had a relationship while working for the Lebensborn program. This revelation shaped his personal and academic journey. The afternoon was both stirring and enlightening.



The summer semester concluded with a joyful garden party at the Kunsthau Dahlem — a perfect ending to a season of reflection, learning, and community.

FRANCFORT

A highlight of the first half of our club program: A concert at the Casals Forum in Kronberg featuring cellist Bryan Cheng and four other young international artists. The young soloists of the Kronberg Academy are already performing on renowned stages around the world.





Each week, one of them presents a fully self-curated one-hour concert — and invites fellow young musicians to join as collaborators. A celebration of talent, creativity, and musical friendship.

Cologne

In March, ten Lyceum members from Cologne travelled to St. Gallen to celebrate a very special occasion with our Swiss sisters: the 100th anniversary of their club and 41 years of close partnership with us.

An unforgettable highlight was our gift to the celebration — our scholarship holder Sarah Bergé. With her trio Mesdames Musicales, she filled the hall with a vibrant blend of exuberant joy and touching nostalgia. The music struck a deep chord, lifted everyone from their seats, and ended in minutes-long standing ovations.



Filled with enthusiasm, 32 Swiss members immediately registered for our benefit concert in November — a reunion we can hardly wait for.

Stuttgart

Our June excursion to Ulm was a truly special event. Glorious weather, a witty city tour, a small yet exquisite organ concert in the Ulm Minster, and lively conversations during our social gathering all contributed to its success.

Also in June, our Swiss partner club in Bern organized a wonderful three-day trip to Lake Constance, attended by 16 ladies. The joyful time together and the exchange of ideas and visions further deepened our partnership — a joint meeting in 2026 between the Stuttgart and Bern Lyceum members was unanimously welcomed.

Who can truly grasp the thrill and fascination of climbing an eight-thousander? Our speaker from Stuttgart, who conquered Mount Everest at over 60 years of age after surviving cancer, captivated us with her vivid account. She allowed us — flatlanders — to share in her extraordinary achievement and emotional journey.

Erika Partsch

President of the Federation of Germany

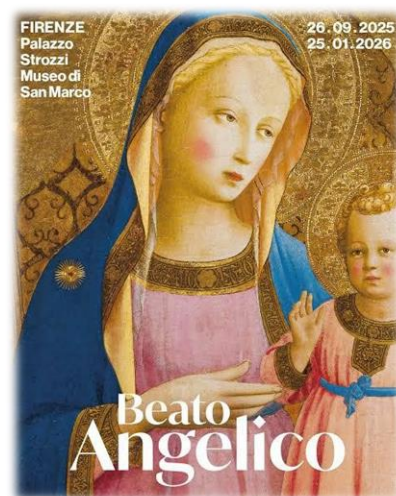
Praesidentin-de@lyceum-club.de

ITALY

The Lyceum club of Umbria, opened last year, continues its activities with enthusiasm and dynamism.

Our young club, despite its recent foundation, already stands out for the lively participation of numerous members, passionately and competently engaged in various fields of art-historical research and cultural life. This diversity of experiences and interests makes our community a fertile place for exchange, dialogue, and shared initiatives.

At this very moment, Florence is preparing to host an event of outstanding international importance: the great exhibition dedicated to the Dominican friar and painter Fra Angelico, which will be inaugurated between the prestigious venues of Palazzo Strozzi and the Museum of San Marco. This initiative is of exceptional scope, bringing together works from the world's most important museums, and highlighting the extraordinary modernity of an artist who was able to combine deep spirituality with a refined pictorial sensibility.



From a professional standpoint, I had the honor of being responsible for the complex organization of the loans and the installation of the works, a task that allowed me to engage with leading international museum institutions and distinguished experts in the field of heritage conservation and promotion.

At the same time, as President of Lyceum Umbria, together with our members we are preparing a series of initiatives aimed at deepening knowledge and enhancing appreciation of this extraordinary exhibition, so that our association may also contribute to spreading awareness and admiration for an event that involves both the scholarly community and the general public.

Our hope is that the members of Italian and foreign clubs, who share with us a love for art and culture, will actively participate in the scheduled activities, making this occasion not only a moment of individual growth but also an experience of friendship and international collaboration.

Marta Onali, President of the Lyceum Club of Umbria

Diletta Frescobaldi, President of the Italian Federation of the Lyceum Clubs

<https://www.lyceum-italy.org/>

MOROCCO

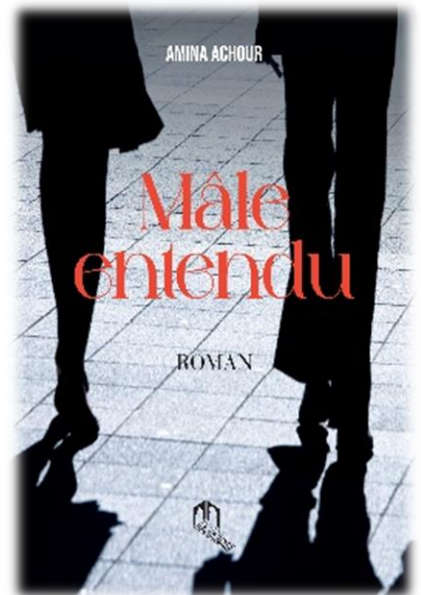
Cross-reading: two voices, two worlds, a shared quest for truth

Some readings stand alone, while others benefit from being paired together. The Lyceum Club of Rabat organised an exceptional literary event: a cross-reading in the presence of two Moroccan authors, Amina Achour and Myriam Jebbor. Thus, "Mâle entendu" and "La Trahison" engaged in a fruitful dialogue under the attentive and passionate gaze of our Lyceum members. Through this cross-reading, the Lyceum Club of Rabat sought to create a dialogue between two voices, two stories, two sensibilities. For them, it was a wonderful literary experience that transformed this meeting into a lively conversation in which themes intersect and where everyone finds food for thought and reflection, but also for sharing.



The meeting took place in the intimate setting of a house and was filled with a friendly and vibrant atmosphere, punctuated by excerpts, observations, and shared reflections. The comments, analyses, emotions, and sometimes even confidences of those who participated all made this meeting a lively event, transforming this cross-reading into a collective experience.

Literature professor and women's rights activist Amina Achour introduced us to the world of Malika, the heroine of the novel "Le Mâle entendu." Behind the facade of a perfect life, this woman gradually discovers the cracks in her marriage and the pain of infidelity. But from these ruins arises a quest for freedom and self-affirmation... With her subtle pen, Amina Achour explores the facets of infidelity, going far beyond the notion of betrayal. She lays bare the wounds, the silences, and the hidden strengths that it awakens. Through her heroine Malika, Amina Achour questions the fragility of bonds, the capacity for resilience, and the power of transformation that arises when everything seems to be falling apart.





Opposite her, Myriam Jebbor, journalist and novelist, unveiled the mysteries and twists and turns of "La Trahison" (Betrayal). Its protagonist, a Parisian journalist named Hannah, haunted by ghosts from her childhood and past silences, guides us on a painful but necessary journey: the path to forgiveness and reconciliation with oneself. Between two shores, France and Morocco, and between two eras, the author paints an intimate fresco where family wounds mingle with the search for truth. Her elegant and uninhibited prose soothes the parts of ourselves where our own fears and desires for peace and comfort lie hidden.

It is worth noting that the two stories unfold with a strange thematic symmetry: the awakening of a woman's spirit, the confrontation with secrets, and the demand for truth in order to be free. But their differences also brought new dimensions to the exchange: while "The Heard Male" angrily criticizes social constraints and idealistic fantasies of marriage, "The Betrayal" plunges us into the intimate depths of a scarred memory. The authors were very generous in responding warmly and sincerely to the questions asked by our Lyceum members, sharing details and valuable insights into their style and writing process. Between laughter, shared confidences and profound reflections, it was a moment filled with grace, where literature became a mirror before which everyone stood.

Thus, our dear avid reader members were left with memories of a prolific meeting of minds, where words not only told stories but also paved the way and opened paths of resilience and hope.

To be continued...

Salwa Benomar

Secretary General, Lyceum Club Rabat

NEW ZEALAND

REPORT of CONGRESS 2025 held in TAURANGA in APRIL 2025

It is with great pleasure that I can pass on the good news of the success of our Tauranga Congress.

We had 47 participants from Europe (including 24 from France, 5 from the Netherlands, 2 from Finland, 2 from Belgium, 1 from Italy 3 from the UK & 10 from Switzerland) & 49 from Australia along with 40 from New Zealand, who were allowed to register by the day.

The Congress opened with a Powhiri followed by Cocktails & finger food, it was an occasion to meet new folk and renew old friendships.

The 5 speakers who spoke to us over the 3 days were excellent with a wide range of NZ related topics:

Annah Stretton with her social endeavors to educate women in prisons

Francine Thomas with her incredible flower arrangements under the theme "from the Mountains to the Sea"

Judge Frances Eivers & her life story "Putauaki and Pirongia- the Mountains that shaped me"

Digger Balme Life as a Sheep Shearer"

and finally, Dr Siouxsie Wiles "From the ivory tower to pink haired Science Lady"

The Tauranga Club had a wonderful "Meet & Greet" evening with finger food & drinks in their Clubrooms on the Friday evening; there was very generous Home Hosting by 8 teams of women (& some husbands) on the Saturday evening and the Gala Dinner on the Sunday evening where Michael Stokoe from Tourism New Zealand spoke and the Silver Belles Choir performed to much acclaim.

The BCI meetings went well.





The International Congress meeting was hugely successful and the election of the new Secretariat was my "Dream Team"

President is Madeleine van der Vlist from Groningen, the Netherlands

NHVP is Pascale Anderson-Mair from Paris, France

SHVP is Jane Peck from Melbourne, Australia

I had had a hand in each of these ladies standing for their respective roles so was justifiably thrilled at the outcome.

The Pre and Post Congress Tours all went very well and their content was very much appreciated by the participants. Similarly, the Tours to Whakatane & Ohope, Mt Maunganui, Te Puna Quarry Gardens and the Mystery Tours.

We have had thank you messages from London, France, the Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland and Australia.

Gratifyingly the Congress Committee are happy to report that we have made a profit from our Congress which will be split equally between IALC & the Tauranga Club.

Marilyn Mackinder

Former Vice-President of the Southern Hemisphere

President of the New Zealand Federation of Lyceum Clubs

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Post-Congress News

I am delighted to send you a short report and some photos of the recent visit Penny and I paid to Women's Refuge in Tauranga to deliver the very generous donation to their organisation from the International Federation during our April Congress.

Women's Refuge have this saying on their website "All women and children have the fundamental right to live free from fear and violence" and this is such an important organisation in New Zealand where harm to women and children is still so prominent in some areas of our society. Statistics show that many women and children live in fear of family violence and need a safe place to go to help them start their lives again.



A sign on the wall of Women's Refuge in Tauranga



The manager of the centre, Hazel Hape, was truly overwhelmed by the size of the donation. She heard Penny say five thousand and began to cry and couldn't speak. When she realized that was Swiss Francs and the total was over ten thousand New Zealand dollars she was totally overcome.

Handing over the letter to Hazel Hape

Penny and I had asked the Tauranga Lyceum Club President, Wendy Heyworth to come on this visit with us but she was unfortunately unable to join us that day as she and her husband were delivering food parcels to those in need around the area.

We received the following email from Women's Refuge after our visit.

Tēnā Koe,

On behalf of the Tauranga Women's Refuge, I would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the International Lyceum Clubs and the organisers of the Triennial Congress held in Tauranga earlier this year.

We are honoured to have been selected as the recipient of the generous donation of 5000 Swiss Francs (NZD \$10,078.61).



The Kowhai flower symbol of the Women's Refuge

This koha will go toward supporting our services for women and children impacted by domestic violence in the Tauranga area.

Your contribution will make a meaningful difference in the lives of many, and we are deeply grateful for your support of the work we do to ensure the safety and wellbeing of women in our community. Ngā mihi,

Penny and I were both made so welcome and asked to stay in touch with the organisation which we will do in our private capacity as our term as President and Secretary of the federation is coming to an end this month.

With warmest regards

Philippa Hales

Former President of the New Zealand Federation of Lyceum Clubs

Member of the Organising Committee for the April 2025 Congress in Tauranga

PORTUGAL

LCYEUM CLUBE INTERNACIONAL DE LISBOA

Our last programme before the holidays was very busy. There were meetings and interesting lectures given by speakers from prestigious institutions. For example, Ms Alçada, former Minister of Education and writer, discussed the difficulties young people face with reading. She has helped them greatly through her works.

A presentation on the centenary of Alexandre O'Neill's birth was well attended. He was a poet who loved surrealism, which he had discovered in Paris through André Breton's manifesto. His poetry and texts, somewhat absurd and sarcastic, expressed his genius. He was also an advertiser, like F. Pessoa.

Our meetings for an exhibition, or even just for an afternoon tea, are always very much appreciated. But it is the day trips or three-day excursions that bring almost all the members together.



For example, Leiria, 120 km from Lisbon, was the chosen destination. It is a very old city, inhabited since the fifth century, which has seen many peoples known as the 'Barbaros'.



Leiria is located between the well-preserved castle and the river LYS. At the time of the Muslim conquest, it was already a wealthy city thanks to its grain production. In the fifteenth century, the first paper mill was founded in Leiria, enabling the city to prosper. We were very interested in the remarkable Museum of Image in Motion that we visited.



There were many Jews there and a synagogue, now replaced by a church, the Church of Misericórdia. The Centre for Intercultural Dialogue has been set up there. It aims to interpret the presence of the three religions of the Book - a tribute to the coexistence of Christianity, Judaism and Islam.

At the end of the holidays, we had a three-day visit from our friends from our twin club in Troyes-Champagne, and we were able to show them a little more of our country. We visited Evora. Here in Lisbon, they were able to admire the Jerónimos Monastery and the Queluz Palace, our little Versailles.

It was a real pleasure to welcome them to Lisbon.

Solange Estevens **President of the Lyceum Club of Lisbon**

SWEDEN

Lyceum Club excursion to Skokloster 2025



This spring's excursion took us to Skokloster Castle, one of the largest Baroque castles in Europe and the largest private palace ever built in Sweden. The castle is located in Uppland, just over an hour's drive from Stockholm, on Lake Mälaren.

The castle has been privately owned for 14 generations for over 350 years. Construction of the castle began in 1654 and was completed in 1676. The builders were Count Carl Gustaf Wrangel and his wife Anna Margareta von Haugwitz.

Count Wrangel died before the castle was completed, and after his death in 1676, their daughter Juliana inherited it.

Juliana married Count Nils Brahe, and on Juliana's initiative, Skokloster Castle became an entailed estate, meaning that it was inherited undivided by the eldest sibling in the family. This is the main reason for the castle's rich collections. No movable property has been allowed to leave the castle, while numerous objects have been brought there by the owner families over several centuries.

Skokloster was owned by the Brahe family until it died out in 1930, after which it passed to the von Essen family. In 1967, the castle and its collections were purchased by the Swedish state.

Skokloster has over 50,000 historical objects, among the most famous of which are the world-renowned works of art *Vertumnus* and *The Librarian* by the Italian artist Giuseppe Arcimboldo.

The castle has a nice café where we had a delicious lunch before being given a guided tour of the beautiful rooms in the castle.

Before departing back to Stockholm, we had time to see and enjoy the beautiful surroundings of Skokloster and its proximity to Lake Mälaren.



Charlotte Linder von Platen

Marie-Louise Lagergrén **President of the Lyceum Club of Stockholm**

www.lyceum.se

SWITZERLAND

ILC Switzerland General Meeting, 100 years of ILC St. Gallen and 40+1 years of partnership between ILC St. Gallen and ILC Cologne

We look back with great joy on a successful anniversary celebration. Around 200 Lyceum members attended the ILC Switzerland General Meeting at the Pfalz Keller St. Gallen on March 26, 2025. After welcoming remarks by Mayor Maria Pappa, ILC President Muriel Hannart, and Co-President Elisabetta Rickli-Pedrazzini, Astrid Müller-Beer, President of ILC Switzerland, led the meeting. The "Frauenstimmen St. Gallen" provided musical accompaniment.

In the evening, we celebrated 100 years of ILC St. Gallen with a festive gala dinner at the Congress Einstein. A "flower team" from our own ranks decorated the rooms, and Dorothee Harsch, a member of ILC St. Gallen, charmingly hosted the evening, accompanied musically by the duo Alptraum (Clarigna Küng with partner). After a welcome by the St. Gallen presidents, Elisabetta Rickli-Pedrazzini and Maria Pia Caveti, Monique Gächter, International Vice President and member of ILC St. Gallen, gave a humorous review of the club's history. The participants were delighted with the giveaways, tea from friends for friends, a useful blocking card, and the small brochure "Pearls from the Archive."

On March 27, four exciting guided tours took place: "Surround Organ and Tower Climb in St. Laurenzen Church," "Art by the Lake at Forum Würth, Rorschach," "Art at HSG and SQUARE," and "Stiftsbezirk". The closing dinner was in special St. Gallen restaurants. In the afternoon, the women from St. Gallen and Cologne enjoyed a cheerful "yodeling lesson with Talerschwingen/ coin tossing" a Swiss tradition.

The highlight of the evening was the celebration of 40+1 years of partnership between ILC St. Gallen and ILC Cologne at the Kleintheater with line dancing, an aperitif, and a fantastic concert by young artists from Cologne.

During their four-day stay, the Cologne guests were warmly shepherded with excursions to mountain Säntis and to Appenzell or among other places.

We would like to thank all those who helped, the organizing committee, the hosts, and our generous sponsors who contributed to the success.

The anniversary celebration was colourful, joyful and full of friendship and communion—and will remain unforgettable.

Esther Bannwart Notter, Vice President, International Lyceum Club St. Gallen

www.lyceumclubsg.ch

THE NETHERLANDS

Lyceum Club of Nijmegen 1925-2025

The Nijmegen Lyceum Club is 100 years old this year. It was founded by a group of Nijmegen ladies led by Miss André de la Porte on 24th February 1925.

The Centenary celebrations were held at Jachtslot (hunting lodge) Mookerheide.



One of the guests of honour was the mayor of Nijmegen, Mr. Bruls. He was presented with the anniversary Book, which tells the history of the club as well as various stories of members who have been particularly active for the club.

The morning closed with the singing of the Centenary song especially composed for the occasion.



Following lunch, a historic photo moment was captured on the staircase of the hunting lodge. No easy undertaking to photograph 80 ladies together...



In the afternoon, the art historian Nathalie Mantel delivered a lecture entitled "Botanical Enchantment" in which she presented the stories of ten women painters who had an eye for nature. The afternoon programme closed with a lively performance by the theatre group 'Plankgas'. Their song "Lyceum Club" can be found on the Federation website www.lyceumclub.nl.



The evening ended with a communal dinner. But the festival year, which has as its slogan "100 years of Women", continues. At our monthly coffee mornings, members will give lectures on topics like "100 years of Women and Law," "100 years of Women and Medicine," "100 years of Women and Fashion" and many other subjects.

The Nijmegen Lyceum Club is committed to another century of Lyceum club.

Ria Koeneman President of the Lyceum Club of Nijmegen

www.lyceumclubnijmegen.nl

THE UNITED-KINGDOM

News from London:

In our chaotic world, we are fortunate to have a unique space where care, kindness, friendship and culture flourish. A true escape from everyday stress, our Club is a precious gift to cherish and share with friends.

A rich and lively first half of the year:

During the first six months of the year, our members enjoyed a varied programme of activities, celebrated the arrival of our 50th member and welcomed members from other clubs visiting London.

Three of our committee members attended the IALC International Congress, in Tauranga. A first for our Club and an unforgettable experience, shared with members from other Clubs. A very big Congratulations and Thank You to Pippa, Marilyn and all the New Zealanders who worked hard to make this event a success!

2025, a pivotal year:

Two major events will shape our future:

- **Our twinning with the historic Lyceum Club of Paris:** In January, some committee members were warmly welcomed by the Paris's Twinning Committee and members during the pre-twinning days. A programme, carefully prepared by the Parisian club, strengthened our project and led to some wonderful encounters and bonding. The officialisation of the twinning between Paris and London in December will be an important step in the development and cohesion of our Club, as well as a means of spreading the Lyceum values. It will consolidate our presence within the IALC, increase our visibility and promote exclusive cultural and friendly exchanges between us.
- **The launch of "The Lyceum":** taking advantage of a quiet summer, we prepared the first issue of our new biannual magazine, inspired by the former publication of the same name. This newsletter enriches our communication tools and serves as a living memory of our Club. Illustrated with numerous photos, it bears witness to our cultural, social and friendly gatherings. You can find it on our website: lyceumclublondon.org.

And to conclude...

Let us continue to nurture this wonderful spirit of sharing, openness and friendship together.



Lauriane Bradford

President of the International Lyceum Club of London

President of the UK Federation

TUNISIA

Lyceum Club of Carthage

Salon Littéraire Recap from January to May 2025

Since the beginning of the year, our Salon Littéraire has provided members with inspiring moments of reflection, discussion, and cultural exchange. Each meeting nurtured curiosity and deepened our appreciation of literature and the female experience.



January 2025 - *The Last Wrinkled Woman*

We explored via zoom with the Club of Rabat Sophie Fontanel's *The Last Wrinkled Woman*, a novel highlighting society's obsession with eternal youth. Discussions focused on questioning social and media pressures while celebrating authentic beauty and the freedom to embrace the passage of time.

February 2025 - *Misunderstood*

Azza Filali's *Misunderstood* offered insight into the condition of women in Tunisia. The characters Emna, a modern and emancipated woman, and Hourya, a guardian of memory and wisdom, sparked passionate conversations about tradition versus modernity, highlighting the strength and resilience of Tunisian women.



April 2025 - *The Flowers of Grace and the Great Masters of Perfume*

This exceptional salon welcomed Juliette Du Bois, entrepreneur and professional "nose." Through literature, history, and perfumery, participants rediscovered Tunisian heritage, focusing on jasmine and rose, timeless symbols of refinement and cultural identity.

May 2025 - Female Creativity and Heritage

The discussion centered on preserving and transmitting culinary, artistic, and artisanal skills. Emphasis was placed on passing this cultural heritage to younger generations, reinforcing the connection between femininity and culture, a core value of the Lyceum Club.



These months were marked by engaging discussions, attentive listening, and shared inspiration, perfectly reflecting the spirit of our club: uniting culture, transmission, and femininity.

Samia Ben Romdane President of the Lyceum Club of Carthage



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