



Bulletin of the International Association *of Lyceum Clubs*

www.lyceumclubs.org

BULLETIN N° 63 – October 2023

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EDITORIAL

Dear friends,

Winter is on the horizon in the northern hemisphere... and Spring is back in the south ...

Since our last bulletin, we have had the great pleasure of meeting up in Athens. Our first joy was getting to know this club. They had never had the opportunity to meet us before, and circumstances did not always allow it. But I know that International Lyceum has now taken on new colours for them, and that we'll be seeing them again soon.

Our friends had prepared a fascinating cultural programme for us, and we had a wonderful time discovering the riches of this thousand-year-old country, which has contributed so much to the culture of the vast majority of our countries. They then suffered huge fires, and all our sympathy went to them, and I know they were very touched by our various expressions of support.

Talking of the fires in Greece, I can't fail to mention the huge earthquake that devastated the Marrakech region. Many of you came forward, and many federations have provided and will continue to provide material aid. We felt that IALC could not remain indifferent, and we are planning to help a little later in the reconstruction process...

Why not help to build a school for girls? This gesture would fit in well with the spirit of the Lyceum. Nothing has been decided yet, but we are in contact with the Rabat club and this decision will be the subject of a forthcoming ICB.

As usual, the International Central Bureau was held in conjunction with the Athens Cultural Meetings. I would like to inform you of a decision that was taken on this occasion, and which may concern most of you. From now on, the members of a Lyceum club who wish to benefit occasionally from the activities of another foreign club can become associate members of that club. The presidents of the two clubs concerned will draw up this status together.

You can read the statutes and regulations on our new website.

The new website (www.lyceumclubs.org) was launched this summer by a small team, whom I'd like to thank very much... It's simple and dynamic, and you'll find everything you need to know about Lyceum and our future events, as well as being able to contact other clubs easily. Finally, the "members' area" gives you access to all the texts that govern us, and very soon we will be opening a photo gallery. Log in using the following details:

Username: Lyceum

Password: Constance

Finally, how can we forget the magnificent celebration that took place at the end of September? We inaugurated the new London club to mark the 120th anniversary of the Lyceum club. It was a historic event, held in the buildings of the Royal Air Force Club, which was the first home of the Lyceum Club of London...., where speakers of the highest calibre gave fascinating talks on both the historical and artistic aspects of the Lyceum, demonstrating the great vitality of this young club. Special thanks go to Lauriane Bradford, the club's president, who, together with the members of the committee, rose to the challenge with flying colours. A more detailed account will appear in the next Bulletin.

Let's talk about the future: at the end of August, I had to take the heart-rending decision to cancel the Cultural Encounters in Georgia.... We quickly had to find a welcoming club. After a few phone calls, the Bordeaux club in France accepted the responsibility. I'd like to thank them all very warmly, because I can tell that organising such an event in such a short space of time is a challenge.....but at the Lyceum, we love a challenge! So, thank you to Sabine Coiffe, Sophie Johnston, Past -President of the Bordeaux club, and the members of the team they've put together! The programme is scheduled for mid-October... and registrations will be made on the dedicated website:

www.lyceumclub-cultural.org.

I intend to visit the young club in Georgia in Spring, and I'll see if it's possible to plan a trip for its inauguration ...

I'm delighted with all the links between clubs that are announced in your articles. They take many different forms and are truly the essence of the Lyceum club. There are also many individual exchanges, and I've had the opportunity to welcome several members of foreign clubs who came just for a visit... - a real pleasure!

To all of you, I renew my friendship and my availability.

Muriel Hannart
International President.



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NEWS FROM THE CLUBS

Australia



News from Australia's Lyceum Clubs

Australia's five Lyceum Clubs have been highly active this year delivering diverse programs of events, activities for special interest groups, visits to sites of interest and notable projects.

Since the rotational transfer of the national Secretariat to the Karrakatta Club in Perth, as President of the Australian Association of Lyceum Clubs I have visited each of the member clubs in Australia's eastern states. These are Lyceum Club Adelaide; The Lyceum, Melbourne; The Sydney Lyceum Club; and The Lyceum Club Brisbane.

I have enjoyed and appreciated the opportunity to spend time with the clubs and committees and I am impressed with the range and quality of programs and the high level of engagement achieved. This includes, of course, the Karrakatta Club, which has an excellent program and is working closely with the Secretariat in a supportive and valued way.



Members of The Lyceum, Melbourne at the President's Dinner, left to right: Veronica Roux, Faye Berryman-O'Carroll, Norah Breekveldt (President) and Fabienne Ceulemans (visiting from the Lyon Lyceum Club in France)



Anita Clayton (Literary Lyceum Convenor), Georgia Karasiotou, Consul of Greece in Perth, Western Australia and Professor Karen Anderson, Karrakatta Club President

Themed lunches and dinners (Bastille Day celebrations, for example) have been very successful and guest speaker programs are full of interest on history, literature, music, science, environmental issues, culinary influences and many other topics.

Presentations and panel discussions on societal challenges (e.g., cyber security and advocacy awareness) are providing Australia's Lyceum Club members with excellent opportunities to stay on top of important topics.

With such imaginative and inspiring programs, there is much to share and facilitating communication between clubs is one of our aims. A very positive step taken recently by Lyceum Club Adelaide was to establish a Sister Club relationship with the Lyceum Club Georgia in Tbilisi to foster friendship and cultural exchange.



Murder Mystery party, Lyceum Club Adelaide

Looking ahead, another focus is the AALC's national conference in Perth from 16-17 September 2024 with a welcome reception September 15 and a Wildflower Tour on September 18, plus options for pre and post conference tours and links to cultural activities.

The conference is timed to coincide with Western Australia's superb wildflower season and Lyceum Club members from around the world will be warmly welcomed.



Lyceum Singers entertain members and guests at Lyceum Club Brisbane

Dr Agatha van der Schaaf
President Australian Association of Lyceum Clubs

Email: President.AALC@karrakattaclub.com.au

Website: <https://www.lyceumclubs.org.au>

Belgium



Dear Lyceum Friends,

The International Lyceum Club of Belgium continues to cruise along with a monthly activity organised by the club. In April, we had the pleasure of visiting the home of one of our members, Frédérique Pauporté, to listen to a beautiful recital by Polish pianist Elzbieta DedekL.

We also visited two beautiful and very different gardens:

First, the gardens and studios of Belgian artist Sophie Cauvin, in the leafy suburb of Rhode Saint Genèse.

The majesty of a 300-year-old purple beech in perfect health was the source of inspiration for this talented young woman, who teamed up with architect Marc Corbiau and landscape gardener Piet Blanckaert to create a superb work of art.

A veritable sanctuary of greenery, refined and carefully considered in every choice of planting and in the different atmospheres created to decorate it. Every detail has been carefully considered!

The imposing and mysterious Vals stone building, set in these magnificent surroundings, is home to the artist Sophie Cauvin and an inspiring place to work. This visit will undoubtedly leave a lasting impression, and perhaps even provide some creative inspiration for one or other of our members present, who may be sleeping artists or budding gardeners who don't even know they're there!



Then, at the beginning of June, we had the immense pleasure of being welcomed by Viscountess Sybille de Spoelberch to her estate at Wespelaar. Sybille guided us through the twists and turns of her fabulous gardens, among the hundred-year-old trees and flowering bushes of rare species in chosen colours. The walk takes you through the



flower garden, the water feature garden with its pink water lilies, and the vegetable garden; these three gardens follow one another. Two long hedges form a trompe-l'œil, with a free-standing pond floating with multicoloured roses in the distance.

The walk continues and you discover a rococo cabinet adorned with shells of all kinds. Then came the triumph of roses of various varieties and shades, in fragrant bunches.

In the Orangery, a table decorated with the family coat of arms awaited the 14 guests. Our stroll ended in this elegant 18th-century setting.

Lyceum Belgium started its activities on 20 September. We gathered around H.E. Mr Charles Ghislain, Honorary Ambassador, who gave us a lecture on Central Asia, in particular Uzbekistan, Georgia and Armenia. The generous distribution of well-documented maps and our speaker's narratives illustrating the pictorial and no less real family and cultural situations of these enslaved peoples, gave us a better understanding of the origins of these different and no less worrying conflicts - arising from the ethnic, religious and territorial differences resulting from the different colonisations of the 19th century.

More on our activities in the next Bulletin!

Thérèse de Jamblinne,

President of the International Lyceum Club of Belgium

<http://www.lyceumbelgique.be>



Lykion Ellinidon Ammochostou (LEA)

Dear Friends,

During the past three years 2019 – 2021 our Lyceum (Lykion Ellinidon Ammochostou (LEA) experienced many problems: further to Covid, the loss of our dear Lyceum President Claire Angelides and the loss of dear friends of the Lyceum.

The efforts made to apply new methods of governance to the Club, different from those in the articles of the Lyceum have caused difficulties in the general operation of our Club.

As a result, it was necessary to hold an Extraordinary General Meeting which took place on 1st April 2023.

The newly elected President is Maria-Niki Thomaidēs.

Her first responsibility was the reoperation of the Children Summer Resort – the lifetime project of the Lyceum since 1931.

The Children Summer Resort for the past three years, since the Covid pandemic remained closed and not in operation due to many damages as the premises are situated near the sea and the cost of repairs is very high.

The first activity of the Lyceum in 2023 was the Charity Dinner at the new President 's house in aid of the Children Summer Resort.

The participation and response of the Lyceum friends and Organizations was great and highly appreciated.

We are happy to say that the repairs of the premises are fast approaching completion and we are optimistic for the re-operation of the Children Summer Resort in October 2023.

New activities are on the way and we have new plans and ideas for Christmas.

We wish you all good health

Warmest regards,

Valentine Thomaidēs

International Affairs



Greetings to Lyceum Club members – far and wide!

The year 2023 has been a very eventful one for the Oulu Lyceum Club.

For the first event of the year, Professor Jari Sivonen from the Finnish unit at the University of Oulu (www.oulunyliopisto.fi) enlightened us with a talk about the strong impact English is having on the Finnish language as well as the challenges that Finnish faces in the present moment. Digital communication norms, the diminishing role of Finnish instruction in schools, and the waning of reading culture more generally are notably weakening Finnish students' skills in their mother tongue.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine in late February 2022 provoked deep concerns and sadness in our country: we share a 1300-kilometers-long border with Russia. In March, local historian and educator Matti Rossi presented a lecture on how our border with Russia has evolved over history, from the thirteenth century to the present. The subject was very timely: in May 2022 our country applied for membership in the North Atlantic defense alliance NATO and was accepted as the alliance's thirty-first member state in early April 2023.

In February, our club attended a performance of W.A. Mozart's opera "The Magic Flute." The production was the fruit of a wide-scale collaboration between the Oulu City Theatre, Oulu Symphony Orchestra, numerous choirs and guest opera singers. In May, we visited our local history museum to admire its De Urbe Uloa exhibition, which featured artworks on Oulu and the city's history in the early twentieth century. Our trip was a farewell visit. The museum, which is situated on a wooded island in the Oulujoki River which flows through the city, will close its doors permanently at the end of the year. The museum will re-open in new premises at a new locale in two years' time – just in time for Oulu's inauguration as a European Capital of Culture in 2026.



The photo from our excursion in May

Greetings from Oulu

Paula Rossi

President

Oulu Lyceum Club (<http://www.oulunlyceumklubi.fi>)



As part of **the Cultural Days in Athens**, the French Federation wanted to offer its members a 3-day getaway to get to know each other better and develop friendships while discovering the Peloponnese, the cradle of ancient Greece. We were forty participants from six clubs.

Having arrived the day before, we followed Angelica, our charming and competent Greek guide, who had been recommended by the daughter-in-law of a Breton member. Thanks to her, the riches of the Archaeological Museum held no secrets for us; then lunch in a taverna known only to Greeks gave us the opportunity to discover the diversity of Greek cuisine.

Three days later, it was time for adventure. After a quick stop above the Corinth Canal, an emblematic place if ever there was one, with its impressive narrowness and dizzying depth, we surveyed Mycenae before heading for Epidaurus, whose fabulous theatre let us imagine the oral jousts that must have taken place there.



Participants at the theatre of Epidaurus



The monastery of Mistra

The next day was a little sportier: at dawn, we wandered around the Fort of Nafplio, offering us a sublime view of the sea and the city. The afternoon was devoted to discovering the Byzantine monastery of Mistra, where, like gazelles, we casually climbed to the top of the cloister.

On the third day, the discovery of the Magne peninsula, a wild and agricultural land, offered us breathtaking panoramas.

In the evening, at a typical dinner, our guide and driver gave us a wild demonstration of sirtaki.

These were three days of discovery and friendship, too short for our liking, where the Lyceum's own values were present: friendship, heritage discovery and inter-club exchanges.

Thanks to our guides, we were also able to discover the life of the Greeks, with their daily difficulties but also their pride in this world-famous heritage.

Martine DUMORTIER
Vice-President of the FFILC

President of the International Lyceum Club of Orléans

www.lyceumfrance.org



In the heart of Georgia, there exists a truly extraordinary community, the Lyceum Club, where an array of talented women from various fields converges. Their commitment to fostering an environment of knowledge-sharing and support is truly inspiring.



The Lyceum Club of Georgia is not just a club; it's a thriving ecosystem where women from diverse backgrounds come together to celebrate their achievements, exchange experiences, and nurture each other's growth. This unique club embodies the essence of solidarity, providing a platform for its members to showcase their talents and share their wisdom.

One of the most enchanting aspects of the Lyceum Club is its commitment to diversity. Representatives from various spheres such as arts, sciences, business, education, and more gather regularly for meetings that are as diverse as the members themselves.

These gatherings are not typical networking events; they are heartfelt conversations where these accomplished women share their experiences, challenges, and dreams. These evenings are a testament to the club's commitment to promoting the arts and celebrating talent in all its forms.

During one of these exceptional evenings, we had the opportunity to admire the handcrafted miniatures created by our talented member Sophiko Keburia. Her



dedication is reflected in the intricate details and meticulously crafted pieces she brings to life. Each tiny element is a testament to her commitment and passion for the art of miniaturization. Her creative endeavours showcase the magic that can be achieved through her skilled hands.



However, what makes the Lyceum Club truly exceptional is not just its ability to create memorable moments but its unwavering dedication to support its members. When one member faces a challenge, the entire club rallies to offer guidance and support.

The Lyceum Club of Georgia is not just an organization; it's a family of talented and accomplished women. As we look to the future, the Lyceum Club of Georgia serves as a shining example of what can be achieved when talented and passionate people come together.

Tsira BEWICK President of the Lyceum Club of Georgia

Website <https://ilc-georgia.org/en/>



The summer months were marked by the celebrations of the 120th anniversary of the founding of the Lyceum Clubs in London in 1903. The German clubs had spoken out in a questionnaire against a joint celebration, for events in each club.

It started in **Cologne**, on June 22nd, the founding day of the Lyceum Clubs in London, which was also the birthday of our founder Constance Smedley. There was a concert in the remarkable Santa Clara Keller in the presence of the International Vice President of the Northern Hemisphere, Monique Gächter, the President of the German Federation Dorette Schuppert, the President of the Swiss Federation Astrid Müller-Beer and many members of the partner club St. Gallen. The concert was performed by already established musicians and scholarship holders of the Lyceum Club Cologne.

On August 8, the Lyceum Club **Hamburg** celebrated its international founding anniversary with a festive lunch at the Baseler Hof, with contributions from club members about the history of the Hamburg club.

On August 9, the Lyceum Club **Frankfurt-Main** celebrated the anniversary in the beautiful Schloss hotel in Kronberg with a festive 3-course menu, a keynote lecture by Mrs. Ingrid Hassel, the Equal Opportunities Commissioner for Women's Integration and Family (Rhein-Main) on the role of women and a lot of music by young musicians, often former scholarship holders. Also present were the International Vice-President Monique Gächter, the President of the German Federation Dorette Schuppert, the President of the Swiss Federation Astrid Müller-Beer, the President of the Zurich Lyceum Club Marlise Wüstendorfer and the former President of the Swiss Federation Janet Blümli. For the guests from other federations or clubs, there was a cheerful end on the terrace of the neighbouring golf club and in the bar of the hotel.

On 14 September, the **Berlin** Lyceum Club hosted a festive event at the Kunsthaus Dahlem. The large exhibition hall was made available to the club free of charge for two days by the director Dr. Dorothea Schöne, as a kind of donation. The club would like to thank her from the bottom of its heart!

After an extensive reception on the terrace, the welcome by the President of the Club Sonja Baum and the President of the Federation Dorette Schuppert, there were greetings by the International President Muriel Hannart and the Embassy Counsellor Natali Toms from the British Embassy, and finally a round table discussion with the topic: 120 years of the International Lyceum Club – we help shape the future. Four ladies from different non-profit associations took part, and Helga Truckenbrodt, a member of the Lyceum Club Berlin, moderated the event. This round of talks was a success in so far as the first reactions took place on the same evening and the motto "we help shape the future" was immediately implemented. For example, three projects of the association Be an Angel e.V. found a sponsor or substantial financial help. The evening ended with delicious finger food and many interesting conversations. Special thanks go to the many hard-working helpers who lovingly decorated the café and to the artists of the Lyceum Club, who gave the evening a special setting with their works.

The last anniversary will take place on 5 – 7 December 2023 in Stuttgart. We will report on it in the next Bulletin.

Dorette Schuppert, President of the Association of International Lyceum Clubs in Germany

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Cultural Days in Athens

In the end, what is left is our strengthened ties, moments engraved in our memories, and the friendships forged during ICB's cultural event in Athens, on May 11th to the 15th, 2023 which by all accounts, has been very successful.

For our Lykeion ton Ellinidon (Lyceum Club of Greek Women) organizing this event was a very demanding challenge. We would therefore like to extend our warmest thanks to the International President Ms Muriel Hannart as well as Ms Monique Gächter, Vice-President, Ms Annie Formont, Secretary, Ms Maranne Amodio- Merttaux, Treasurer and finally Ms Erika Partsch. Their past experience, their support and friendly and constant presence determined our close collaboration during these past two years that we spent in preparing this meeting.

It was neither simple nor easy to welcome here in "our home" such a large number of participants who came from so many parts of the world. However, proper planning, good will and, above all, the joy of getting together and getting to know each other set the perfect tone of this meeting. We had our fruitful discussions and we also had our moments of relaxation which included a tour of the capital and its monuments, excursions, a short cruise and the closure with a grand Gala during which our Group of young dancers presented traditional Greek dances, a show which Monique described as the "final bouquet".



For our part, this was a tremendous and beautiful experience and like yourselves, we too are looking forward to our next gathering in the same happy and friendly spirit.

Julia Anetaiou

Secretary General

Lykeion ton Ellinidon

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LYCEUM OF CREMONA AND THE WOMEN'S VOICES PROJECT The biographies of three women, two English and one from Cremona, united by common artistic, intellectual and social interests



On 20 June, 120 years ago in London, Anne Constance Smedley, who was an artist, playwright and writer, founded the first Club of the International Association of Lyceum Clubs; therefore, the proposal made by the International President Muriel Hannart to all the clubs to think and create a special event for this anniversary was born precisely from this significant anniversary. The International Lyceum Club of Cremona, headed by

Laura Ruffini, in collaboration with the Zonta Club, led by Angela Bellardi, and the Cremonese Historical Society, has thus organized the "Women's Voices" project for the month of May, concretely developed in three meetings dedicated to the biographies of three notable female personalities Maria Cosway, Vittoria Contini Bonacossi and Constance Smedley, all women active between the 18th and 20th centuries in the fields of art, music, theatre, writing and pedagogy, and united by a common ideal aimed at developing a society based on equal and collaborative structures.

The first appointment on 11 May saw the presentations by Luisa Dodi, from the University of Milan and by Mario Marubbi, curator of the Ala Ponzone Museum in Cremona **on Maria Cosway (Florence, 1760 – Lodi, 1838) artist, musician and educator** who, after the death of her 6-year-old daughter, opened, first in Lyon in 1803 and then in Lodi in 1812, with the help of Melzi d'Eril, secondary schools created to train excellent mothers and whose methods were all avant-garde, a century before Montessori.



The second meeting, scheduled for May 23, was dedicated to **Vittoria Galli Contini Bonacossi, (1871-1949): A woman from Cremona between art and the market** and had as speaker Fulvia Zaninelli, postdoctoral researcher at the National Gallery of Arts in Washington and editor of the book *American Diary (1926-1929)* by Vittoria Contini Bonacossi (Florence - 2008). Vittoria, native of Robecco d'Oglio, after meeting Alessandro Contini Bonacossi in 1897, whom she married in 1899, lived with him for a long time in Spain, before returning to Italy around 1910, settling first in Rome and finally in 1930 in Florence. Gifted with great intuition and love for art, Vittoria closely followed the activity of her husband, an art collector and dealer, and

undertook numerous trips with him to the United States of America and Latin America, creating a splendid Italian and Spanish art collection which was partly donated to the Italian State and is now preserved in the Uffizi Gallery.

The third meeting on 31 May, held by Sonia Tassini as national vice-president of the Lyceum Clubs of Italy, was finally dedicated to **Women, cultures and society: the autobiography of Constance Smedley (1876-1941)** and recounted the extraordinary life of this woman also presented through the reading of passages taken from her autobiography "Crusaders", published in 1929, read by the actress Emi Mori. The large audience present was thus able to learn about the life of Constance who was born in Handsworth to a very wealthy family, which could explain why, despite having walked on crutches and used a wheelchair all her life long, she was able to attend Birmingham School of Art. Having already won various prizes with her illustrations as a student, she began to write comedies, obtaining excellent reviews in 1895. Having moved to London, she expanded her activity by dedicating herself to writing successful short stories and novels which allowed her to come into contact with the varied world of women writers, realizing all their difficulties and how a club for literary women was missing in the London cultural world. Thus, was born the idea of setting up a place where women could meet, maintain relationships and spend time with like-minded women in 1903; this place was the first "Lyceum" club. The success of the London club facilitated the creation of the clubs in Berlin in 1905, Paris in 1906 and Florence, the first in Italy, in 1908 and then other clubs in Europe and the rest of the world. In 1909, from her marriage to the artist and poet Maxwell Armfield, an important collaboration was born, implemented through a vast range of mostly experimental genres (theatre, dance, novels and short stories) which left an important mark not only in England, but also in America where the couple lived from 1915 to 1922.



The biographies of these three women, in addition to being all truly worthy of being known, are then linked together by a subtle fil rouge given that the current headquarters in Florence of the Lyceum Club, Palazzo Adami Lami on Lungarno Guicciardini, was the Florentine home of Maria Cosway's paternal family, while among the members of the same Florentine club, Vittoria Contini Bonacossi from Cremona was also included as President of the Art section.

Sonia Tassini

National Vice-president





Under the Embrace of the Moroccan Earthquake: The Momentum of Solidarity, a Symphony of Resilience

Under the velvety canvas of an ordinary night, the earth decided to whisper its story, gently shaking its foundations, altering destinies in a nocturnal breath.

The streets and squares, transformed into improvised sanctuaries, opened their arms to whole families, plunged into the starlit night by the surprise of the moment.

On a Friday 8 September 2023 that will remain etched in our memories, nature, in its implacable fury and with an unsuspected hand, took several innocent lives. Al-Haouz, this corner of paradise in the folds of the High Atlas, today mourns its lost children. The villages, once vibrant with life, laughter and song, now resound with the silent echoes of an infinite tragedy. As for Marrakech, Taroudant and Ouarzazate, the pearls of the South, they have felt the wrath of the earth in every corner.

Beyond the collapsed homes, the mute hamlets, the gaping lanes, lies a nation in mourning, a collective soul bleeding. However, a resilience is taking shape on the horizon, because in the face of the darkest trials, Morocco knows that it has always been able to rise again.

On one fateful Friday, nature revealed the true essence of Morocco, fashioning a fresco of brotherhood, self-sacrifice and unshakeable resilience. The devastated lands saw the emergence of shadows, volunteers from all horizons, ready to offer their blood, their possessions and their time in the service of others. Transcendental fraternity, expressed by faces imbued with honourable fatigue, crystallised the spirit of Moroccan solidarity and resilience.

In the face of this tragedy, Morocco demonstrated an unparalleled fraternal embrace, guided by the benevolence of His Majesty King Mohammed VI. The country rose to its feet with determined haste, every action shimmering with an acute awareness of the pressing moment.

Beneath the brutality of the earth, echoes of solidarity painted a picture of hope and bravery. Yet despite these altruistic acts, rebuilding will take time and resources. The invisible wound persists, even in the face of the human light that braves the darkness.

Morocco, a blend of its age-old heritage, shines in a wave of solidarity, with every town and village forming a chorus of support for the stricken areas. The population, mobilized with exemplary awareness and solidarity, puts on a show of deep patriotism in the face of adversity.

Faced with this tragic earthquake, our Lyceum friends from the Club de Rabat joined in and responded vigorously to the call for solidarity. They deployed their energy, weaving invisible bonds of mutual aid and comfort. Their generous hearts also found the echo of friendship in the words exchanged, a precious comfort in every message shared.

We would also like to express our gratitude to our Lyceum friends from the other clubs for their messages of friendship and their testimonials, which have deeply touched our hearts at this difficult time.

Finally, our thoughts go out to the victims, their families and all the souls affected by this disaster. In these dark moments, the relevance of support for reconstruction and resilience is revealed, with the conviction that Morocco will emerge strengthened by the mobilization of each and every one of us.

Salwa Benomar, Secretary General of the Lyceum Club Rabat





The New Zealand Federation recently held its AGM at the clubrooms in Te Kuiti with seven clubs represented. After the formal business was concluded there was a general discussion about how clubs are doing at the moment and how they can raise extra funds to cover costs. As was evident at the ICB Meeting in Athens this year some clubs are losing membership and wondering about their future. We have two clubs with less than 20 members and this is a real concern to them.

One club President asked the question about what other clubs do to raise extra funds to help with growing costs for all our clubs. This resulted in a good discussion with successful ideas shared between members. Some of these ideas were holding a fashion parade in conjunction with local clothing and accessories shops that cater for the older women, Mahjong competitions with entry fees and invitations to other Mahjong players in the district to play, a High Tea event with entertainment and good food, a Melbourne Cup event where everyone dresses as if they are attending the Melbourne Cup day and drink bubbly while they watch the race on the screen and Quiz nights which are open to the public to put in a team. All these ideas were agreed to be good ones and clubs went away thinking of new events to hold.

The Whakatane club has been using social media to raise awareness of the club with a result that they had 16 guests at their last evening circle.

Philippa Hales

NZ Federation President

The attached photo is the state of part of our garden when we returned from our trip to Athens for the ICB and then to England. We had had about a month of continuous rain.





The club's Board of Directors would like to organize visits for its members, during the quarterly programs, to places of interest that they are not used to discovering on their own or without means of transport. It's a way of enriching their knowledge in a friendly atmosphere.

In the fourth quarter, we decided to take a three-day trip to the Algarve. Visits to churches, natural waterfalls and a boat trip are planned.

Meal menus have been carefully chosen to satisfy everyone.

In addition to the trip to the Algarve, we are planning teas with presentations and discussions on topics covering the fields of art, reading and literary debates, often in the presence of the author himself.

Last quarter, Lidia Jorge shared her life experience as a writer and a woman. It was an extremely moving moment and an exchange of experiences. In the fourth quarter, we have also invited a professor of art history, Dr Eduarda Pires, to talk to us about "Art as seen by women".

A "social" tea is also part of almost every programme, during which life experiences are shared to escape loneliness and strengthen friendships.

For the same purpose, there's always a country-themed lunch, so that we feel like we're travelling the world at a restaurant table.

We couldn't fail to mention and comment on the Pope's visit to Portugal, which filled our hearts with faith and hope.

Pope Francis was in Portugal for five days - from August 2 to 6 - to accompany the World Youth Day (WYD) Lisbon 2023.

We welcomed 150 nationalities and one and a half million pilgrims.

One of the points addressed by the Pope during his visit to Lisbon was, as he has always done, the call to care for our fellow man and the environment.

In little more than a day, His Eminence's arrival in Portugal transformed the country, touched hearts and rallied crowds.

To the world's political leaders, he issued a warning: "This million and a half young people are full of strength, without fear, to try to change their lives, their society and their country. Be careful, be vigilant".

Fátima Crespo

Ana Clara Mendonça

President of the Lyceum Club of Lisbon



100th Anniversary of the International Lyceum Club Zurich

On March 20, 2023, the International Lyceum Club Zurich was able to celebrate its 100th anniversary.



Address by the President of the Federation of Switzerland, Janet Blümli

We were overjoyed that many ladies from the Comité Central accepted our invitation and joined us in celebrating this biggest birthday in our Club's history. Our International President Muriel Hannart, our International Vice President Monique Gächter, our Swiss President Janet Blümli and members from 7 regional Swiss clubs honored us with their visit.



Janet Blümli with the presidents of Zurich and Berne

We celebrated with exactly 100 Lyceum members from Zurich and 23 guests from three countries. In one of the historic buildings of Zurich we were spoiled by meaningful speeches and greetings.



Guests of Honour from Switzerland and International



Our artists present the Jubilee Foulard

We were also privileged to announce our new partnership between Frankfurt and Zurich. This partnership goes back to meetings at the International Congress in Stockholm and to last year's German Federation meeting in Frankfurt.

The festivities were entirely devoted to the theme of women's power: the speaker dedicated her festive and cheerful speech to the topic of "Eve and her sisters".

We hope that this anniversary will be the spark for another 100 years of success for our Lyceum Club.



Dinner

Marlise Wüstendörfer, President of the International Lyceum Club Zurich, Switzerland

Website: <https://www.lyceumclubzh.ch>



Whether it was the beautiful weather or a sudden wish to meet each other one more time before the summer break, or maybe it was something else, but the celebration of the 94th birthday of the **Groningen** Lyceum Club on the 13th of June 2023 attracted around half of our membership (80 out of around 160 members).

It was wonderful that several members who are no longer able to participate in our activities on a regular basis took the trouble to attend. When I say trouble, this is meant literally, since it is mostly health problems that prevent them from participating more often.

We had a lovely get-together on the sunny terrace of a club called the “Buiten Sociëteit” overlooking a lake dotted with little sail boats.

Our club in Groningen is doing well:

- We have many activities and sub clubs that are well attended; maybe not as well as before the Covid period, but we are slowly getting there again.
- We welcome new, relatively young, members on a regular basis.
- These past few years a number of new members originating from other countries around the world have also joined the club, which gives us a more international character as a club and is in keeping with the Lyceum spirit.
- We have recently twinned with the Lyceum Club in Cologne, Germany.

We look forward in good spirits to our upcoming 95-year jubilee in 2024, when we hope also to welcome some friends from other Lyceum Clubs.

Lilian Jeanty

President Lyceum Club Groningen

<https://www.lyceumclubgroningen.nl/>

<https://www.lyceumclub.nl>



The ICB participants on the entrance staircase of the Athens Club



International Lyceum Club of Edinburgh



Edinburgh has had a long warm summer this year which has made summer outings more enjoyable. The club members went on an outing to Portobello Beach, which is in Edinburgh, and enjoyed a walk along the promenade there. They also took a journey along the shores of the Firth of Forth on a steam train as they ate afternoon tea and saw views of the majestic Ochil hills, woodlands, wild flowers and waterfalls.

The Edinburgh Lyceum Club year begins in October when they will meet for lunch and then an invited speaker will give a talk to the group

International Lyceum Club of London

The London Lyceum Club celebrated the 120th Anniversary of the Lyceum and the relaunch of the London Club. There was a tribute to Constance Smedley and the guest of honour was Diana Armfield, a niece of Constance Smedley and her husband Maxwell Armfield. The event was enjoyed by London Lyceum Club members and some invited guests.



The London Lyceum Club is continuing to grow the membership of the club and several Circles and social events have been set up.

Diane Burrow

President of the International Lyceum Club of Edinburgh



Muriel Hannart, International President



Elisabeth Dragon, Editor



Eva-Maria Sima-Meyer, co-Editor



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