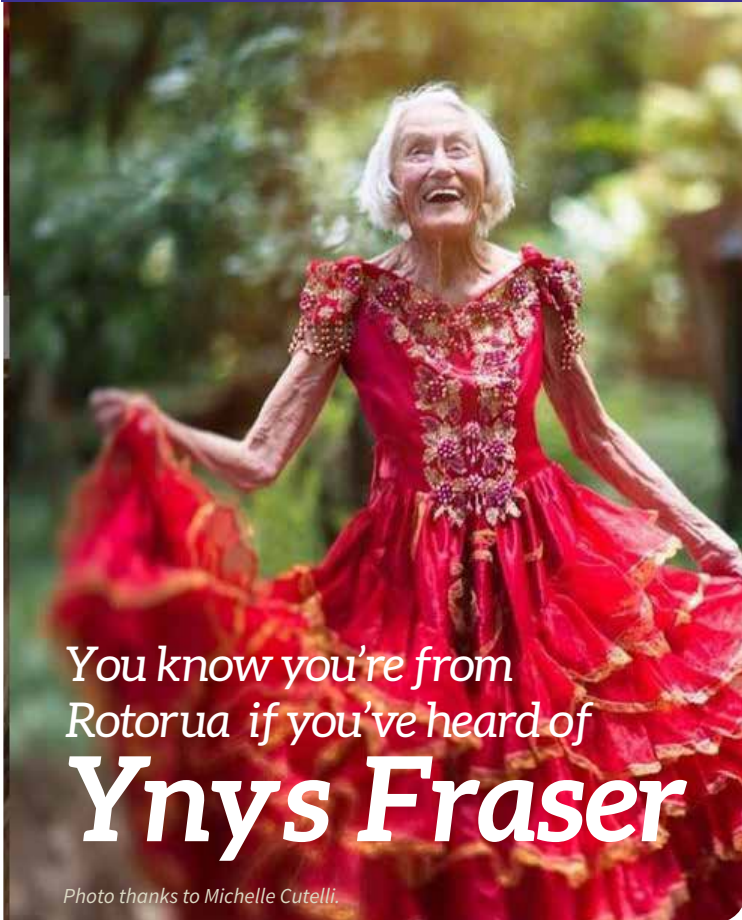


Geyser Community Foundation News

AWESOME AUTUMN 2024 NEWSLETTER



You know you're from
Rotorua if you've heard of
Ynys Fraser

Photo thanks to Michelle Cutelli.

Ynys Joy Fraser (nee Wallis) was born in London in 1917 to New Zealand parents, Stanley and Elsie Wallis. After the war, she sailed to New Zealand on a hospital ship with returning soldiers. Shortly after arriving, her father took the position of medical superintendent at King George V Hospital (now Rotorua Hospital). She and younger brother, Roger went to Rotorua Primary.

Her secondary school education was at Woodford House in Havelock North, starting just after the Napier earthquake. On leaving school she decided to pursue a career as an actor. Accepted to audition at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, Ynys went across to London with her mother. She was offered a place. But shortly after, her father, still back in NZ, fell seriously ill. They returned home. While her father recovered, the war prevented her returning to London.

In 1941, Ynys married an Englishman, Kenneth Fraser, just before he embarked for war. When the war ended Kenneth developed Hamurana as a tourist resort and fishing lodge. Ynys remained at Hamurana for the rest of her life and for a

period ran the Springs singlehanded. She also trained as a librarian, setting up the medical library at Rotorua Hospital.

Ynys Fraser was a well known and loved supporter of the arts community in Rotorua. She was involved in ballet all her life, as well as music, painting and theatre. She was a passionate and long-time supporter of the Rotorua Museum Te Whare Taonga o Te Arawa. But it was poetry that stayed with her and she was still writing poems in her 103rd year. As she wrote: *Words sing for me
Dance for me
They have a life of their own.*

The Fraser family / whānau believes that of all the arts, perhaps poets have the most expenses producing their work in a way others may view and engage. Few are lucky or well-known enough to be picked up by publishers or bookshops. Hence the purpose of this fund is to help local poets publish and find their voice, and meet their audience.

People are welcome to make a donation to the Ynys Fraser Poetry Fund here: <https://geysercf.org.nz/donate/>



Celebrate the life of someone you love

A Memorial Fund is a valuable and positive way to celebrate the life of someone you love, whilst helping Geyser make a positive difference in your local community now, and for generations to come.

We make giving quick and easy. Funds are pooled and invested in perpetuity; the interest from the funds supports our local communities every year, forever. All donations received in your loved one's memory are added to the Rotorua Community Fund or the Taupo Community Fund.

It's your choice. Gifts of \$5,000 or more let your loved one's name live on forever as a Founding Donor. Some people who have lost a relative or friend have set up their own Named Funds with us. They use their fundraising activities to remember their loved one in a positive way. You are welcome to make regular donations or a one-off gift; you can give online by direct banking or credit/debit card. Whichever works best for you. You will receive an official donations receipt, and may qualify for a tax credit from IRD (conditions apply).

What a wonderful way to celebrate forever, the life of someone you have loved.

To find out more about how our Memorial Funds work or to set up a Named Fund in memory of your loved one, please email annette@geysercf.org.nz or phone us on 07 349 7496

WELCOME New Trustee



Taupō is Michelle Barnett's hometown

After spending five years away attending university in Hamilton and attempting city living in Auckland, she returned home and started work at Strettons, one of the largest Chartered Accountants and Business Advisors on the Central Plateau. A chartered accountant, she has been with Strettons over 20 years and is now a Director with a portfolio of clients that cover a variety of industries within the Taupō region.

Chairperson of the Taupo Nui-a-Tia College Board of Trustees, Michelle is also Treasurer of the Taupo Business Chamber.

Michelle loves Taupō, and believes it is the perfect place for husband, Andrew and her to raise their two teenage daughters. In the weekends when she's not supporting the girls with their dance, she enjoys getting outdoors and enjoying the local area. To relax she likes to read and won't say no to a good glass of wine.

New Team Member:
Leanne Rankin has joined Geyser in the Team Support role.



Originally from Opotiki, she has lived in Rotorua with her husband and their two children for more than 20 years.

Leanne currently volunteers for Swim Rotorua and was the Māori representative on the Board of Trustees for Te Kura o Tihīōtonga / Otonga Primary School from 2019 to 2022.

She enjoys being poolside / side-line supporting her tamariki and whanau in their chosen activities; she also enjoys taking time out for herself playing netball / sports, cooking, and spending quality time with friends and whanau.

Leanne is in the office Monday to Friday from 9 am – 1 pm.



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You will find us at Nairn Fisher Chartered Accountants

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