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PANZA  
1 Woburn Road  
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Wellington 6012

# Poetry Notes

## Newsletter of PANZA

### Welcome

Hello and welcome to issue 36 (following issue 35, Winter 2019) of *Poetry Notes*, the newsletter of PANZA, the newly formed Poetry Archive of New Zealand Aotearoa.

*Poetry Notes* will be now be published from time to time and will include information about goings on at the Archive, articles on historical New Zealand poets of interest, occasional poems by invited poets and a record of recently received donations to the Archive.

Articles and poems are copyright in the names of the individual authors. The newsletter will be available for free download from the Poetry Archive's website:

<http://poetryarchivenz.wordpress.com>

### Significance of R A K Mason's Unpublished Poetry

*PANZA co-founder Dr Niel Wright writes on the recent publication of renowned New Zealand poet R A K Mason's uncollected and unpublished poetry.*

When I was a junior lecturer doing a PhD at Victoria University of Wellington in 1971 R A K Mason died and I stuck notices round the campus saying R A K Mason is dead, copying

Tennyson who had written on a sea beach Byron is dead. There is some sort of match between Byron and Mason, certainly in personality and poetic status given the difference in scale between the British empire in 1825 and New Zealand in 1971.

But at Mason's death his status was not assured. His authoritative *Collected Poems* had appeared in 1962, with a definitive edition in 1971 (copies of both in PANZA). The difficulty for Mason's status was that the only work of his to look like poetry after 1938 were political poems in free verse, and whether you liked Mason's politics or not the free verse to be chanted lacked obvious literary merit. That's how it looked to my eyes.

So when it was announced in 2019 that there would be a publication of Mason's *Uncollected Poems* there was trepidation, not helped by the fact that some unpublished poems were reported to carry caveats "Not to be published" "of pathological interest only," and Mason's demand that the Twayne World Authors monograph should not include his unpublished poetry. The handsome (1970) copy held by PANZA bears out Charles Doyle's assurance to Mason in 1963.

The merit of the *Collected Poems* (1962, 1971) is that the poems are of a very high standard of technical finish for rhymed poetry in English (what might be called Parnassian in the French sense of that word).

In the *Uncollected Poems* all those given for the 1920s and 1930s rhyme, but they all fall short of Parnassian technical standards. However they still

show Mason’s outlook in those decades as a dispirited man.

In the case of Mason’s unpublished poetry from 1938 to 1960 there are still five examples of rhyming poems, but their technical polish is deficient to the point that Mason at best looks like a casual versifier doing a quick job of work.

But when you come to Mason’s years in Dunedin in the early 1960s as Burns Fellow the ‘Song for Dunedin’ is the casual versifier still at work, but all the other unpublished poems given show him writing in rhyme as an experimental poet who commands my respect, if only because that was the approach I took in the same era from 1960 on.



R. A. K. Mason : *Uncollected Poems*

I don’t know whether Mason was exposed to my books of poetry published from 1960 on. It is possible. I note Doug McPhail’s comment in the book (page 3) *Words from a Journey* (copy in PANZA): “I remember with awe and pleasure the 1960s Dunedin friendship of Hilaire Kirkland and our mutual friend Ron Mason. Together we planned castles of poetry in the air which have been a core part of my life ever since.”

Somewhere Mason himself says he had no true friends but many acquaintances, and that is true. His contacts were wide ranging, and likely to see influence both ways. So it was valuable to have the evidence what Mason was doing in the

1960s and come under that influence belatedly 50 years later.

I welcome such evidence furnished by the Cold Hub Press book *R.A.K.Mason: Uncollected Poems*, edited by Cold Hub Press publisher/poet Roger Hickin and introduced by poet Robert McLean (whose books have been donated to PANZA).

## Classic New Zealand poetry

This issue’s classic New Zealand poetry is by Stella D Capes.

Stella Dorothy Capes (née Bryant) was born on 1 August 1913 and died 20 November 2003 at 90 years old. She was said to be active in Pukekohe as a poet in 1949.

A letter in the *Auckland Star*, 8 August 1931, states she was a member of the Peter Pan Club in Auckland and showed wide reading and literary knowledge as a girl. In fact some 33 results are returned in Papers Past for Stella Bryant of Huapai and Manukau Road, concerning competitions and prizes and letters to the *Auckland Star* and short stories or poems published as a girl. She married the market gardener Vincent John Capes in Auckland on 11 March 1939.

After her marriage, Stella appears on the Franklin Roll 1946-1963 and the Albany Roll 1978-1981.

The deaths of Stella and her husband both occurred in 2003 in Tauranga, so it is presumed they retired there to live. It is not known what happened to her poetry or how long she continued to write it after her early promise as a girl. A search of the National Library online catalogues shows her correspondence with Pat Lawlor is listed in Tiaki, yet there appear to be no printed book publications of her poetry in New Zealand Library or the British Library catalogues.

Her name was not known to PANZA. PANZA researcher/archivist Mark Pirie noted Capes in one of journalist and writer Pat Lawlor’s memoirs *More Wellington Days* (1962), with her poem

tribute to Katherine Mansfield, dated 1949, in her late thirties:

You sought the clear beauty  
Of the white moon;  
The vision of the bright star  
In its timeless vigil;  
Strove for the clarity  
Of spring waters,  
Leaping from the bush-clad hills.

Of, as the blue petals,  
Of the tall delphinium,  
Delicate your artistry,  
Tender as the uncurled fern;  
Then—like the rapier—  
Deep, thrust your words  
Probing the truth you knew!

Here are some more of her early teen poems we have found:

### Poems by Stella D Capes

#### THE FAIRIES BALL

(By Stella Bryant. Manukau Road, Avondale; age 15.)

The fairies are having a ball to-night,  
Yes, they will dance in the silver light  
Of the big round moon, in a darkening  
sky.  
They’ll list to the wind as it goes by.

They’ll feast and they’ll play, and form  
a ring  
Magic and powerful, then some will  
sing;  
The gay little toadstools will form a seat  
For each little fairy dainty and sweet.

The Queen of the fairies charming and  
fair,  
With a crown of gold upon her hair,  
Will sing to the children from Mortal-  
land  
(Those who belong to the “Sleepy  
band”).

The revels will cease as the pale grey  
dawn  
Creeps o’er the hills to welcome the  
man.  
Unfolding their wings the fairies will fly  
Away back to Fairyland, across the sky.

(*Auckland Star*, Volume LX, Issue 16,  
19 January 1929)

**IN A NEW ZEALAND BUSH**

(By Stella Bryant)

A kauri here has fallen,  
 King of New Zealand trees!  
 Never more its leaves will shake  
 Or tremble in the breeze.

The stillness now is broken  
 By the bellbird's voice in song.  
 Oh! the beauty of that music,  
 So bell-like, clear and long.

A fantail here is flitting  
 About from tree to tree,  
 A bird who knows no fear,  
 So happy and so free.

The floor of Nature's mansion  
 Is carpeted with fern,  
 While on the walls hang garlands  
 That climb and twist and turn.

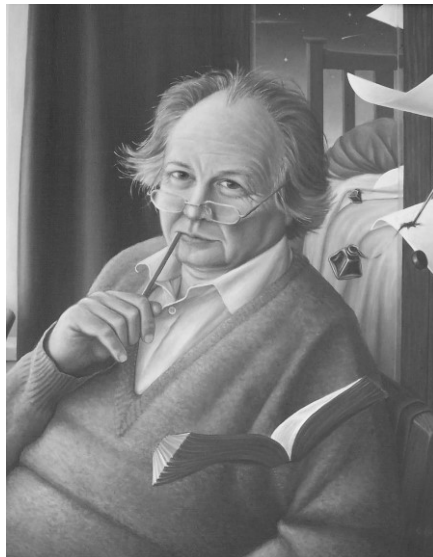
The air is sweet and earthy,  
 In this world of green,  
 In this Land of Splendour, then,  
 Nature reigns as queen!

(*Auckland Star*, Volume LXII, Issue  
 186, 8 August 1931)

## B E Turner (1936-2019)

In October 2019, PANZA farewelled Dr Michael O'Leary's publishing companion and fellow writer/playwright Brian Edward (B E) Turner, who had become Michael's technical editor with ESAW in the early/mid-2000s. Together the two worked together and produced many Earl of Seacliff Art Workshop titles, including the signature mini book series which ran to nearly 40 titles. Brian until recently had also maintained the ESAW website until its closure. Brian E Turner added much needed impetus to the support of local Kāpiti and Horowhenua writing under the ESAW imprint. Brian also worked on other projects such as typesetting/design work for local authors like Marion Rego and the Horowhenua Writer's Group anthology.

Brian's support of local and national writers will be sorely missed. We have reproduced an article Brian E Turner wrote for the *25 Years of the Earl of Seacliff* book published in 2009 and edited by Mark Pirie, a long term editor and associate of ESAW.



B E Turner, 1936-2019

### MY STORY WITH THE EARL by Brian E Turner

At the age of 58, I fell from a roof. Although the head damage limited my ability to concentrate for extended periods, it qualified me for a writer's grant from the Accident Compensation Commission. Having time on my hands, I decided to write a novel that had been rattling around in my head for a number of years. This novel had a history. It was accepted by two overseas agents and two overseas internet publishers. They all went out of business. My friend, Frances Cherry, liked the book and decided to invite myself and a publisher-friend to a dinner party. This was where I met Michael O'Leary for the first time. After an excellent meal, some bottles of wine and literary conversation Michael took Frances' word that it was a good book and agreed to publish. Eventually, he did actually read it, though his stated policy was – 'we write books, we publish books, we shouldn't have to read them.' The published book did reasonably well,

partly because of a remarkable review by someone who thought I was someone else. (It appears I am a pretty good writer if I am someone with a reputation but not so good if I'm not.) A couple of years later Michael asked me if I wanted to become publicist for ESAW. The distribution agency that Michael had been using had been sold and the new owner decided to abandon him. This seemed to be quite an interesting retirement occupation so I found a free newsletter email program and collected email addresses of bookshops and libraries from the internet. I also thought that a website might be a help. Initially I considered utilising free space provided by my ISP, however, it turned out that commercial space is pretty cheap so we bought some and registered our domain name – 'earlofseacliff'. Being a self-taught web designer, I developed a rough and ready site that seems to do the trick. There are over 350 files on the site. It gets hits from all over the world and has actually brought business from American universities. Nevertheless the email newsletter and website do not enable us to penetrate as far into the market as we would like.

The next step was to distribute the books. Over time the most efficient methods of using the postal system were developed. Also, having spent my life programming computers, I was able to develop a system for invoicing and recording of data in the Microsoft Access programming language. It's a rare system but it does the trick, although I'm probably the only person able to use it.

About this time it came to my attention that ESAW's publishing process using offset printing was surely uneconomical for short run books of poetry. This led me into an enquiry into the methods of digital printing. The local print shop was very helpful in this and we started publishing chapbooks as well as the Christmas Surprise mini book and our mini series. I utilised Microsoft Publisher as the typesetting tool, and eventually graduated to Adobe Pagemaker (which Mark Pirie, of HeadworX, had also been using to help typeset and design a number of works for us).

We are still not selling books in large quantities; however, the press is financial. What we really need is an agent that will approach libraries and bookshops direct but as yet we have not been able to find one.

So I am now publicist, distributor, webmaster, accountant and publisher. No it's not a take-over, it's just a retirement hobby.

Article copyright B E Turner, 2009 (from *The Earl is in... 25 Years of the Earl of Seacliff*, edited by Mark Pirie, ESAW, Paekakariki, 2009).

## Comment on Aenfer Na Fili and Tommy Kapai

### AN ACCOUNT OF THE POET AENFER NA FILI

Among recent donations to PANZA were five books published by Rainbow Works. PANZA already has at least one other publication of theirs. The National Library of New Zealand holds five publications by Rainbow Works, four of which PANZA now holds.

The National Library has three books of poetry with the author's name as Aenfer na Fili, two of which PANZA also holds. I have no personal information regarding a poet called Aenfer na Fili. As a poet he/she is modernist in using no punctuation but ampersand, but he/she does use rhyme incidentally as recommended by Robert Bridges the Georgian poet laureate.

The books we have of Aenfer na Fili are *Skinch twixt Albion & Aotearoa* (1983) and *A Far Cry in Deep Weather* (3 editions 2004, 2004, 2005, ours the latest of them). *Skinch twixt Albion & Aotearoa* is a typescript with hand done cover, title page and illustrations (all sheets photocopied or otherwise reproduced). The poems are identified by titles, numbers, dividers or layout on the page. I bought a Wellington ex-library copy for \$1 and was intrigued by the author's unusual name.

*A Far Cry in Deep Weather* is a much more sumptuous production, using different type faces and sizes etc and at times hand written asterisks and arrows to signal poems.

As a modernist/Georgian Aenfer na Fili over the two books of his/her PANZA has develops to impress highly as a poet. I have not so far found any poems by him/her in South Hokianga anthologies (of which there were three among the recent donations from Wong Liu Shoeng, a resident north of Auckland).

### ON TOMMY KAPAI

One of the functions of PANZA has been to compile and keep up to date a list of all poets who reflect New Zealand with books to their credit containing their poems. One such person is Tommy Kapai Wilson born 1955, who has a website Te Tuinga giving biographical detail. There are books about Tommy Kapai. There are also 43 books about Tommy Kapai attributed to Uncle Anzac, in which Jon Gadsby (died 2015) is also involved. Not all the Kapai books contain poems (eg stories in rhyme) but those that do are the ones we record at PANZA.

Niel Wright

## Poetry by Alex Jeune

This issue we feature some poems by Alex Jeune.

Alex Jeune was born in Wellington in 1986. He grew up in Otaki and Levin, and attended Levin's Waiopahu College. He moved to Lower Hutt in 2008 to study at Victoria University of Wellington. He graduated with a BA in Chinese and Sociology. He has had his poetry published in *Valley Micropress*, in the Horowhenua Writer's Group anthology, *Iridescent Blue*, and in *broadsheet* in May 2019. He has read his poetry at the "Poets to the People" Cafe in Kāpiti and at the Fringe Bar Open Mic in Wellington City. He is a lay preacher in the Hutt City Uniting Congregational Parish.

Alex will feature in a multi-poet anthology, *Three Poets*, with Marion Rego and Margaret Jeune, to be published by HeadworX in 2020.

### Poems by Alex Jeune

#### THE COLD NIGHT

This evening calm  
No false alarms to frighten  
This darkened sky  
Emboldens one to wonder  
About this time  
Of quiet and introspection  
To think anew  
Of life and all that may come  
For time to grow  
And see new horizons  
Ahead of us all  
As the chill of winter comes upon us  
Once again.

#### PETONE

Pohutukawa blossoms red  
And evenings stretch across the blue  
suburban skies  
Light pouring throughout this valley of  
green  
As the year turns once more  
Toward the limitless future beyond this  
day  
Sea wrapping around the shoreline  
Sure of nothing but this moment  
Gazing at the horizon far away  
Longing for certainty and new hopes to  
come  
Somewhere to rest and wait for a  
change of scene  
As days stretch on until the dawn  
The circuit of the ages, above and  
beyond us here and now.

#### INSOMNIA

Falling in my dreams  
On sleepless nights  
Yearning to fall below myself  
Into unconscious states of mind  
To pacify these hours of solitude  
Without disturbing the people around,  
this time  
In daylight's hours of routine and  
rhythm  
I fear this darkness most of all.

**REMEMBRANCE**

I look at the photo frame  
 And remember how  
 I did share in her life  
 Her art and her skills  
 And I silenced myself like you  
 I read your rhymes  
 And I recall your voice  
 Like a small shiny shell on the shoreline

And I walk on the beach  
 Like you  
 And I remember your stories  
 While I sit in the cafe

Where you were treated  
 To a cup of tea  
 And a ham sandwich  
 On an outing with your husband  
 My Grandad  
 And I remember the times  
 We had together

On that afternoon  
 Alone I sat and I try  
 To find a way  
 Remembering.

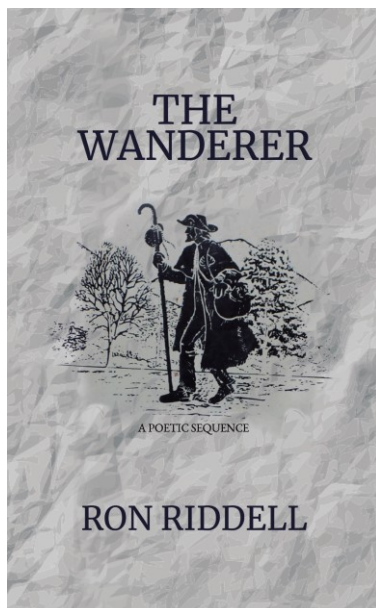
**COMPULSION**

No more of this  
 What is this I fear?  
 What do we do in the dark?  
 We wait in silence.

**STRENGTH**

Summoning some force  
 Within this time I have  
 Available light that shines  
 Throughout this room  
 I choose to sit  
 And wonder  
 What to do  
 During these daytime hours  
 That lasts as long as life  
 Withheld to stop  
 A force within

## New publications by PANZA members



Title: *The Wanderer*  
 Author: **Ron Riddell**  
 ISBN 978-0-473-49110-9  
 Extent: 80 pages  
 Price: \$10.00  
 Format: 140mmx211mm  
 Publication: February 2020  
 Publisher: HeadworX

**About the Book**

Ron Riddell is undertaking the poetic journey of his life. Along the way he meets fellow travellers; first and foremost the wanderer, who has also embarked on a similar mission of exploration, reflection and philosophic contemplation. This is a shared journey, which traverses many landscapes, seascapes, continents. The sojourners share many experiences, dialogues, ideas; helping one another on their life journeys, helping to realise each other, fulfill each other. The Wanderer is a journeying Everyman, asking searching questions of life and life's journey. Thankfully he comes up with some answers and is keen to keep pointing us in the direction of *the light at the end of the tunnel*. This is Book One of his on-going odyssey.

**About the Author**

Ron Riddell has worked as a teacher, editor and bookseller and has performed his work in many festivals and cultural venues around the world, including The Edinburgh Festival Fringe, Harbourfront (Canada), *El Festival Internacional de Poesía de Medellín* (Colombia), *El Festival Internacional de Poesía de Cartagena* (Colombia), The Austin International Poetry Festival (U.S.A.), *El Encuentro Internacional de Poetas* (El Salvador), International Poetry Festival in Costa Rica, Festival de Poesía de Bogota and Chilepoesia in Santiago, Chile. In Auckland in the 1970s Riddell founded The Titirangi Poets and later in the 1990s established a haven for poets with the Live Poets' Café which adjoined the Dead Poets Bookshop in Karangahape Road. In Wellington he founded The Wellington International Poetry Festival. A painter, musician and the author of a number of plays and novels, he has published twenty-one collections of verse.

**Comment:**

"What a poem... Reading it I had the sense of being increasingly spellbound, of being transported to a place I'd previously not known about. Its repetitions had a hypnotic effect on me – it was like a music that returns to a coda at intervals along the way... a kind of extended Gregorian chant or a jazz musician's riff open to endless interpretation." Bob Orr

\*\*\*\*\*

Title: *broadsheet 24*  
 Editor: **Mark Pirie**  
 ISSN: 1178-7808  
 Price: \$10.00  
 Extent: 40 pages  
 Format: 149x210mm  
 Publication: November 2019  
 Publisher: The Night Press (a division of HeadworX)

**About the Book**

*broadsheet 24* features the Wellington poet Nick Ascroft, and includes a

number of his friends as well as a several poets outside the main feature. Poets included are: Corin Black, Kay McKenzie Cooke, Michael Duffett USA), David Eggleton, David Karena-Holmes, Margaret Jeune, Mark Pirie, Jenny Powell, Blair Reeve, Richard Reeve, Laura Solomon, Eileen Van Trigt and CAJ Williams. Cover photo of Nick Ascroft by Kate Wanwimolruk.

**broadsheet** /24  
new new zealand poetry RRP\$10.00



FEATURING THE POETRY OF NICK ASCROFT:  
NICK ASCROFT CORIN BLACK KAY MCKENZIE COOKE  
MICHAEL DUFFETT (USA) DAVID EGGLETON  
DAVID KARENA-HOLMES MARGARET JEUNE MARK PIRIE  
JENNY POWELL BLAIR REEVE RICHARD REEVE  
LAURA SOLOMON EILEEN VAN TRIGT CAJ WILLIAMS



November 2019

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Title: **Star Words: Science Fiction and Speculative Poetry from New Zealand**

Editors: **Mark Pirie and Tim Jones**

ISBN: 978-1-86942-189-2

Price: \$10.00

Extent: 24 pages

Format: A6

Publication: December 2019

Publisher: Earl of Seacliff Art Workshop

**About the Book**

This anthology is compiled from poems read on 30 October 2019 at the 10th anniversary reading for *Voyagers*, winner of the Vogel Award for Best Collected Work 2009. Contributors:

Janis Freegard, Tim Jones, Harvey Molloy, Mark Pirie, Vivienne Plumb, Nick Ascroft, Margaret Jeune, Tabatha Wood, Tony Hopkins and Michael O’Leary. To the memory of B. E. Turner, technical editor of the ESAW Mini Series, d. October 2019.

**About the Editors**

**Tim Jones** was awarded the NZSA Janet Frame Memorial Award for Literature in 2010. He has published five collections of poetry, one novel, a novella and two short story collections. He has co-edited two Australasian poetry anthologies specialising in speculative, fantasy, horror and Science Fiction poetry.

**Mark Pirie** is a Wellington poet, editor and publisher. Pirie has published four mini books previously with ESAW, a biography *Tom Lawn, Mystery Forward* and written or edited a number of poetry collections, including the Winter Readings series and a selection of early poems, *Giving Poetry a Bad Name*.

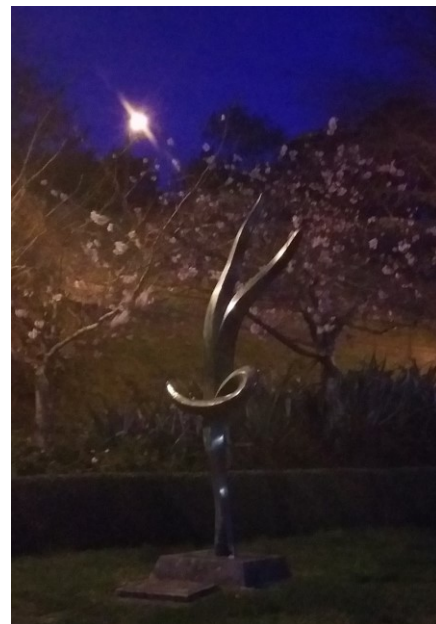


Photo by Margaret Jeune, 2019

# Donate to PANZA through PayPal

You can now become a friend of PANZA or donate cash to help us continue our work by going to <http://pukapukabooks.blogspot.com> and accessing the donate button – any donation will be acknowledged.

## Recently received donations

PANZA kindly thanks these donors to the archive.

Julie Chan – 3 titles by Jill Chan.

Mark Pirie – 15 titles.

Ken Scadden – 66 titles.

Wong Liu Shoeng – 25 titles.

Laurice Gilbert – NZPS Anthology 2019.

## About the Poetry Archive

**Poetry Archive of New Zealand Aotearoa (PANZA)**  
**PANZA contains**

A unique Archive of NZ published poetry, with around five thousand titles from the 19th century to the present day. The Archive also contains photos and paintings of NZ poets, publisher’s catalogues, poetry ephemera, posters, reproductions of book covers and other memorabilia related to NZ poetry and poetry performance.

**Wanted**

NZ poetry books (old & new)  
Other NZ poetry items i.e. critical books on NZ poetry, anthologies of NZ poetry, poetry periodicals and broadsheets,

poetry event programmes, posters and/or  
prints of NZ poets or their poetry books.  
DONT THROW OUT OLD NZ  
POETRY! SEND IT TO PANZA

**PANZA will offer:**

- Copies of NZ poetry books for private research and reading purposes.
  - Historical information for poets, writers, journalists, academics, researchers and independent scholars of NZ poetry.
  - Photocopying for private research purposes.
  - Books on NZ poetry and literary history, and CD-ROMs of NZ poetry and literature.
  - CDs of NZ poets reading their work.
- You can assist the preservation of NZ poetry by becoming one of the Friends of the Poetry Archive of New Zealand Aotearoa (PANZA ).  
If you'd like to become a friend or business sponsor of PANZA, please contact us.

**Contact Details**

Poetry Archive of NZ Aotearoa  
(PANZA)  
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(04) 905 7978  
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**Visits welcome by appointment**

**Current PANZA Members:**

Mark Pirie (HeadworX), Roger Steele (Steele Roberts Ltd), Michael O'Leary (Earl of Seacliff Art Workshop) and Niel Wright (Original Books).

**Current Friends of PANZA:**

Paul Thompson, Gerrard O'Leary, Vaughan Rapatahana, Cameron La Follette (USA), Riemke Ensing and the New Zealand Poetry Society.

PANZA is a registered charitable trust