

## Newsletter for November 2017

This will be the last newsletter of this year. Of course there will still be the Forum from the main body of the organisation. It has been a very busy and interesting year but I hope you have all enjoyed the part that the discussion groups has played in yours.

The Creative Writing Group has a possibility of a new facilitator so I am looking for expressions of interest from members who wish to try their hand at this form of writing. Please phone or email me about joining this group.

I am still also looking for some kind person to facilitate a philosophy group. If you know something about this topic and would like to undertake this role please contact Ngaire on email; [ngairemichael@gmail.com](mailto:ngairemichael@gmail.com) or phone 454 2170.

Likewise the TED talks group. More members in this group would make our discussions of the subjects looked at far more interesting. Please phone or email Ngaire if you are interested.

Some of our existing groups will start up towards the end of January.

Others may have another meeting in early December and start again in February. However your group is working it I do wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Very Happy New Year.

I will see you all back here in 2018 fully rested, sated and raring to go.

### Art History Group

The Art History group met on Wednesday 8th November. It was great to see all members turning out so enthusiastically. The topic concerned one of the art galleries of Munich, the Neue Pinakothek which is part of a system of Pinakotheken which deal with Roman, Greek, German, French and English art from ancient to modern. These grand buildings are full of treasures and it would take several days to explore them fully. At the next meeting on Wednesday 13th December, Moya will explore recent exhibitions at the National Gallery, Kensington Palace, the Victoria and Albert and the Wallace Collection London

### Book Group

Our meeting this month was held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November at 18 Atkinson Street. As there are still only three members, we welcome any newcomers to the next meeting on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December, 1.30p.m. at the same address.

The overall topic for this month's meeting was 'an autobiography', and there was an eclectic mix: three continents covered, and widely varying stories about how the subject had either chosen to live their life, or for some, what circumstances had chosen for them.

Books discussed:

**The Long Road to Freedom** - Nelson Mandela (South Africa, removal of apartheid)

**The Year of Magical Thinking** – Joan Didion (USA, dealing with grief)

**The Wolf of Wall Street** - Jordan Belfort (USA impact of sudden wealth)

**After Perfect** – Christine McDowell (The impact of the 'crash' on those who attained, then lost great wealth)

**Strawberries with the Fuhrer** – Helga Tiscenco (Germany, NZ) From life in pre-war Germany to settlement in NZ in the early 1950's.

The topic for next month is: A book by a New Zealand author. Jean Roulston

### **Creative Writing Group**

This group is looking for expressions of interest from new and old members.

### **Current Affairs Group-Monday**

The current affairs group met for the final time in 2017 to discuss the outcome of the NZ election. There was a good turn out but we are keen to welcome new members. We will resume on February 19 Th. Our topic will be. : plastic. Good or bad.

Joy Hayward

### **Current Affairs Group-Tuesday**

No report supplied as yet.

### **Expanding Musical Horizons Group**

At our November meeting, we will listen to music that we didn't have time to finish in earlier sessions this year. From the rise of Nationalism in music, we will be listening to English, Spanish, Brazilian and Czechoslovakian composers. And from the session of "Musical Stories You Were Never Told at School", we will listen to music with saucy, scurrilous or scandalous stories that relate to the composers or their music.

There is room for one or two extra members in this group.

Please phone Paul if you wish to join the group.

### **Gallery Group**

A big thanks to Morag for organising a great visit to Tony Williams jewellery making workshop this morning. Nine of us enjoyed hearing about all facets of jewellery design and craftsmanship that Tony employed in his beautiful works. Tony outlined the changes that have taken place in craft industries in NZ from the 1960s to the present day and some of the difficulties that these changes have caused in the creative industries such as jewellery making. We saw the books where Tony designs his pieces and some exquisite examples of his work. A very worthwhile visit where we learned a tremendous amount.

The topic for next meeting on December 13th .is to the Moray Gallery. Thanks Tash

### **Local History Group**

Thursday, 16 November saw five members of the newly revived Local History Group gathered at Stuart Strachan's house in Waitati, where he gave a visual presentation of Waitati as it was in 1867. Originally prepared to mark the 150th anniversary of Waitati's first library, through maps photographs tables and text it portrayed the Blueskin area (Waitati, Evansdale and Warrington) in the short period between the completion of the metalled dray road from Dunedin in 1863 and the coming of the railway in 1874. In 1867 there were two hotels, two blacksmiths, two stores, one church (Presbyterian), one school, and a mounted constable at a station halfway between Waitati and Warrington. The daily coach service from Dunedin to Waikouaiti took about 2 hours to cover the 15 miles to Waitati, the fare being a surprisingly expensive 7/6. Activities included an annual ploughing match and a mutual improvement society, which formed the first library. The main activity was farming, 53 properties, the main crops being oats, potatoes and turnips. Dairy cows (Ayshires) were the main farm

animal with very few sheep. The school had 52 pupils (30 boys, 22 girls) and Latin, French, geometry and algebra were among the subjects taught.

After the presentation there was discussion of possible future meetings and it was agreed that there should be a visit to the Hocken Library in December.

### **Museum Group**

This group is in recession.

### **Poetry Group**

The topic set for the November meeting of the small poetry group was **Poetry by Australian Poets**.

Australian literature is commonly overlooked by New Zealand readers, but group members presented works by both well-known and lesser poets — Judith Wright, Mary Gilmore, Les Murray, 'Banjo' Paterson, Henry Lawson, Bruce Dawe, a telling 'pantoum' by Alan Smith about the 2002 Bali bombings, and another by poet and spymaster Michael Thwaites on *Flying to New Zealand*. The selection was enjoyable and instructive

### **TED Talk Group**

This group is in recession but is looking for more interested members to join in our discussions.

Please phone Ngaire if you are interested.

## **Group Schedule September 2017**

**Please phone the hostess if you are unable to attend.  
Please contact the facilitator if you wish to join a group**

### **Art History**

Facilitator – Moya Smith  
Phone- 4761415 or 0274761415  
Email – [moya.smith@xtra.co.nz](mailto:moya.smith@xtra.co.nz)  
Next Meeting – **Wednesday 13th December at 2pm**  
(second Wednesday)

**Venue:** Home of Moya Smith  
43 Wharfdale Street  
Phone; 476 1415 or 027 476 415

**Topic – Moya will explore recent exhibitions seen while in England**

**New members welcome.**

### **Current Affairs - Monday Group**

Facilitator:- Joy Hayward  
Phone:-454 4996 or 021 150 8387  
Email:- [joyhayward@hotmail.co.nz](mailto:joyhayward@hotmail.co.nz)

**Venue:** - Home of Joy Hayward.  
195 Portobello Road.

**Topic –Plastic-Good or Bad**

Next meeting- **Monday 19th February 2018**

(third Monday)

**Current Affairs - Tuesday Group**

Facilitator;- Gretchen Kivell

Phone;- 473 0031

Next Meeting:- **To be advised**

(third Tuesday)

**Expanding Musical Horizons**

Facilitator;- Paul Wheeler

Phone;- 476 0462

Email:- wheeler@ihug.co.nz

Next meeting:- **To resume Monday 12th February 2018**

(fourth Monday)

**Gallery**

Facilitator;- Tash Hurst

Phone:- 467 9747

Email:- tash.hurst@xtra.co.nz

Next meeting:- **Wednesday 13th December at 10.00am**

(Second Wednesday)

**Book Group**

Facilitator;- Jean Roulston

Phone number: 455 0941.

Next meeting:- **Thursday 14th December at 1.30pm**

(Second Thursday)

**Poetry**

Facilitator:- Judith Cowley

Meetings and contact details change from month to month.

**TED Talks**

Facilitator:-

Email:-

Next meeting:- **To be advised**

(First Friday)

**Please note:- We meet in the Vauxhall carpark at 1.25pm and share a ride up the hill.**

**Venue;-** Home of Gretchen Kivell  
1 Windsor St  
Opoho

**Topic – To be advised.**

**New members welcome**

**Venue:-** Home of Paul Wheeler  
5 Roger Street  
MacAndrew Bay

**Topic;-To be advised**

**Venue-** Moray Gallery

**Topic: Moray Gallery**

**New members welcome**

**Venue-** 18 Atkinson Street, St Kilda

**Topic:- A book by a New Zealand author**

**New Members welcome**

**Venue:-** Changes from month to month

**Group Full**

**Venue:**

**Topic:-** Host to decide the topics to be viewed.

**New members welcome**

**Local History Group**

Facilitator;- Stuart Strachan

Email;- [sjstrachanz@gmail.com](mailto:sjstrachanz@gmail.com)

Next meeting; **20th December 10.30am**

**Venue;- Hocken library**

**Topic: A visit to the Hocken Library**