

Discussion Groups Newsletter for October 2017

Well finally we have a new government in power. It certainly took quite some time to sort it all out. But the time has finally arrived. It will be interesting to sit back and see what the negotiations have produced compared to all the promises.

As usual for spring in Dunedin the weather is living up to expectations and being very unpredictable in what it produces for us.

However my vege garden is dug and my plants are ready for planting and my strawberries are all nicely in flower. I do hope that you are experiencing the same in your own plots.

I do hope you enjoy this month's newsletter and are all spreading the word about how great the discussion groups are.

Please see the details about the new Local History Group in the group paragraphs below.

Until next month.

Ngaire Bates

Art History Group

The topic will be current important exhibitions making news in the UK. Moya will show photos and talk about exhibitions she has seen in London, Brighton, Winchester, and other places. She will have lots of photos that she can put onto a power-point. A big talking point in Britain is the Pre-Raphaelite and Jan van Eyck exhibition on at the National Gallery and the Princess Diana dresses at Kensington Palace.

Book Group

This month the book theme was Dunedin History, as we are all immigrants to the city. Two books were discussed: `St Kilda, the first hundred years by H.J.A. Aitken and St Clair, by Barbara Newton, along with an excerpt from the ODT about Mrs Dreaver an early milliner in George Street.

Next month there will be a presentation of autobiographical books.

Creative Writing Group

This group is now in recession until we get more members of U3A interested and someone to run it.

Current Affairs Group-Monday

The current affairs group is rather diminished in number. We discussed inviting new members or possibly amalgamating with the other current affairs group if that is possible. We'll meet only one more time this year so will re-evaluate the situation in the New Year.

Our topic was trade unions. Do they have a place in today's market and should we have a minimum wage. We were able to agree on their relevance but there was disagreement on whether they should be compulsory.

Next meeting will be on 20th November. We plan to look at how many if the pre-election promises have fallen over in the post-election negotiations, and how the policies stack up now compared with what was promised.

Joy Hayward

Current Affairs Group-Tuesday

No report received.

Expanding Musical Horizons Group

Our October meeting, to be held on the fifth Monday, will complete the topic “Starkle Starkle Little Twink”. Despite its odd title, we will finish our look at the different forms of music including toccatas, fantasias and variations.

Paul Wheeler

Gallery Group

We had a successful visit to see the exhibition of landscape paintings at the DPAG on Wednesday morning. Linda Cullen, the visitor programmes coordinator, spoke to us about the paintings which brought them to life and set them in a time frame, with explanations of the symbolism prevalent at those earlier times.

Eight of us attended which was a good number to see the art work and hear the commentary. Our next meeting is being organised by Morag to visit a jeweller on the peninsular.

Tash Hurst

Local History Group

November sees the start-up of a group on Local History. This is to be run on a trial basis for six months by Stuart Strachan who used to run the Hocken Library. Stuart is hosting the first meeting at his home in Waitati. At this meeting Stuart will give a talk on Waitati in 1867, the result of his own research, and then we will be talking about the future of the group.

He is also asking that members of the group do their homework on different topics decided by the group before each meeting day. This promises to be a very interesting and informative experience. Anyone interested in joining the group please contact Ngaire Bates on 454 2170 or email ngairemichael@gmail.com in the first instance and she will pass on the address and contact details for Stuart.

Museum Group This group is in recession.

Poetry Group

No report received

TED Talk Group

A few words on the 3 TED Talks that we watched

1 - 'The Bottom Billion' - by Paul Collier. A billion people today are trapped in poverty. This economist gives a bold and compassionate plan for closing the gap between the rich and poor.

2 'New Insights into Poverty' - by Hans Rosling. Using a fascinating and innovative range of graphical tools, Hans shows how nations' fortunes rise and fall over time in relation to one another. And how they pull themselves out of poverty.

3 'How the News Distorts our World. - by Alisa Miller Using eye-opening graphics, Alisa shows how the American view of the world is severely distorted due to the limited range of works news available on their TV networks.

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**

<p><u>Art History</u></p> <p>Facilitator – Moya Smith Phone- 4761415 or 0274761415 Email – moya.smith@xtra.co.nz Next Meeting – Wednesday 8th November at 2pm <i>(second Wednesday)</i></p>	<p>Venue: Home of Moya Smith 43 Wharfdale Street Phone; 476 1415 or 027 476 415</p> <p>Topic – Topics of interest Moya investigated on her travels</p> <p>New members welcome.</p>
<p><u>Current Affairs - Monday Group</u></p> <p>Facilitator:- Joy Hayward Phone:-454 4996 or 021 150 8387 Email:- joyhayward@hotmail.co.nz Next meeting- Monday 20th November 1.30pm <i>(third Monday)</i></p>	<p>Venue: - Home of Joy Hayward. 195 Portobello Road.</p> <p>Topic – Pre Election promises</p> <p>Please note:- We meet in the Vauxhall carpark at 1.25pm and share a ride up the hill.</p>
<p><u>Current Affairs - Tuesday Group</u></p> <p>Facilitator:- Gretchen Kivell Phone;:- 473 0031 Next Meeting:- Tuesday 21st November 10am <i>(third Tuesday)</i></p>	<p>Venue;- Home of Gretchen Kivell 1 Windsor St Opoho</p> <p>Topic – To be advised. New members welcome</p>
<p><u>Expanding Musical Horizons</u></p> <p>Facilitator:- Paul Wheeler Phone:- 476 0462 Email:- wheeler@ihug.co.nz Next meeting:- Monday 27th November 10am Please note change of date <i>(fourth Monday)</i></p>	<p>Venue:- Home of Paul Wheeler 5 Roger Street MacAndrew Bay</p> <p>Topic-Starkle, Starkle little Twink. part 2 Group Full</p>
<p><u>Gallery</u></p> <p>Facilitator:- Tash Hurst Phone:- 467 9747 Email:- tash.hurst@xtra.co.nz Next meeting:- Wednesday 8th November at 10.00am</p>	<p>Venue-</p> <p>Topic: A visit to a jeweller on the peninsular</p> <p>New members welcome</p>

<p>Please note change of time (Second Wednesday)</p> <p>Book Group</p> <p>Facilitator:- Jean Roulston Phone number: 455 0941. Next meeting:- Thursday 9th November at 1.30pm (Second Thursday)</p> <p>Poetry</p> <p>Facilitator:-_ Judith Cowley</p> <p>Meetings and contact details change from month to month.</p>	<p>Venue- 18 Atkinson Street, St Kilda</p> <p>Topic:- An autobiography</p> <p>New Members welcome</p> <p>Venue:- Changes from month to month</p> <p>Group Full</p>
<p>TED Talks</p> <p>Facilitator:- Ravi Vohora Phone:- 464 0182 Email:- vohora@xtra.co.nz Next meeting:- Friday 3rd November at 2.15pm (First Friday)</p> <p>Local History Group</p> <p>Facilitator;- Stuart Strachan Email;- sjstrachanz@gmail.com</p> <p>Next meeting; November 16th at 10.30am</p>	<p>Venue: Home of Brian Miller 31 Marine Parade Macandrew Bay ph 4761 453</p> <p>Topic:- Host to decide the topics to be viewed.</p> <p>New members welcome</p> <p>Venue;- Home of Stuart Strachan 10Short Street, Waitati.</p> <p>Topic; Stuart will do a presentation on Waitati in 1867, the result of his own research, and then we will talk about the groups future.</p>