



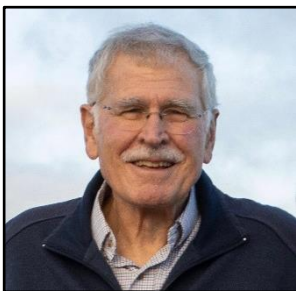
Interest Groups NEWSLETTER

April 2023

Greetings from the Board

With numerous interest groups now acting under the auspices of U3A Dunedin, the board has decided to accept responsibility for these groups, and to add more structure to the concept. The board is accountable to its members, but also accepts responsibility for appropriate governance of the activities of the organization.

A small task force was convened to investigate this. The decision, accepted by the board, was that a member of the board would accept responsibility for facilitating the welfare and actions of the Interest Groups. This person (the IG coordinator) would act as a conduit between the board and IGs. The leaders of the IGs would in future be called convenors. The roles of these individuals are fully set out in relevant documents, available for all members to read on the U3A website. This also outlines how to start a new interest group, with the help of the IG coordinator. The board feels that a 'bottom up' approach is the best way forward. All this may sound complicated, but in fact it is exactly the opposite. IGs will still be fully autonomous and be able to act in the interest of their individual members. All convenors have been supplied with log-on details and passwords to give them access to web pages to help them fulfil their responsibilities.



I have accepted the nomination of the board to be the first formal IG coordinator. As an introduction, all the convenors have been supplied with details regarding the new dispensation, including access to the relevant web pages. During the next year, I would like to attend meetings of all the different groups, to gain 'hands -on' experience of how they function. A few invitations have already been extended, and I look forward to meeting many members on 'home soil', so to speak.

Some news is that the Film Group, facilitated by Bill Stanton, has ceased to exist. Also, negotiations are under way to establish a new discussion group, not based in Dunedin. More on this in the next newsletter.

Andre Smith

Coordinator

Art Collections Group

Convenor: Anne-Marie Hutton
Monthly: First Tuesday 10:30
E: annemariehutton@gmail.com



Book Share Group

Convenor: Trish Irvine
First Friday, 1:30
E: trishjockloch@gmail.com



Dining Group

Convenor: Karen Wards
Third Friday, 7 pm
E: karendwards@gmail.com



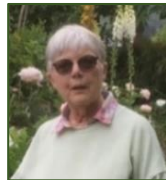
Expanding Musical Horizons **full**

Convenor: Paul Wheeler
Second Monday, 10 am
E: wheeler@outlook.co.nz



Gallery Group **full**

Convenor: Tash Hurst
Second Wednesday, 10:30
E: tash.hurst@xtra.co.nz



Gardens & Botanical Group **full**

Convenor: Robyne Selbie
Second Wednesday, 1:30
E: robyneselbie1945@gmail.com



Home Gardens Group

Convenor: Carole Bezett
Third Thursday, 1:30
E: carolebezett@gmail.com



Lunch Group

Convenor: Anne Stratford
Second Friday 12:30
E: annepstratford@gmail.com



Mahjong Group

Convenor: Jean Tilleyshort
2nd & 4th Thursdays, 10 am
E: s-jtilleyshort@xtra.co.nz



Monday Current Affairs Group **full**

Convenor: Joy Hayward
Third Monday, 1.30
E: joyhayward@hotmail.co.nz



Photography Group **full**

Convenor: Ann Wood
First Thursday, 1:30;
Third Thursday, TBA
E: ann.wood14blaw@gmail.com



Poetry Group **full**

Convenor: Carole Bezett
Fourth Wednesday, 11 am
E: carolebezett@gmail.com



Singing Group

Convenor: Claire Stevens
Weekly: Monday, 1 pm
E: cstevensnz@gmail.com



Tuesday Current Issues Group **full**

Convenor: Gretchen Kivell
Third Tuesday, 10 am
E: gretchen.kivell@xtra.co.nz



Walking Group **full**

Every Thursday, 10:30
Joint Convenors:



Averil McLean
E: averilmclean2@gmail.com

Janet Hewson
E: je.hewson@xtra.co.nz



Wanderers Group

in recess
Convenor: Ailsa Williams
Weekly: Every Friday 10 am
E: ailsasx@gmail.com



If you belong to a group that is not for profit, looking to attract new participants, and has the benefit of improving either the physical and/or mental wellbeing of older people, I'm happy to pop in an advert for your group on this page.

Email: ann.wood14blaw@gmail.com

Ann (editor)

Age Concern has line dancing classes for those aged 55+. It's a good brain workout as well as

physical exercise. Classes are held in the Octagon Club and are very affordable at \$3 per session.



The Tuesday beginner's class starts at 12.30 for an hour, then all levels for another hour. Turn up or contact Chris on 027 600 3073. Thursdays from midday to 1.30 for all levels. Turn up or contact Judy on 021 214 1208. They are fun classes with a friendly group of people and not all the music is country and western!

Here's why you'll love Nymbi



Fully covered by ACC. There's no cost to you.



Safely done in the comfort of your own home.



Increases independence and confidence.



Improves balance, reduces risk of falls.



Only takes 10 minutes a day.

In case you are wondering how to fill your time ...productively...here's something that's takes ten minutes per day and makes you smile.

(Thanks Clare and Joy)

Check out NYMBL. It's an app (Google play or Apple app store) and costs nothing. NYMBL training takes you through a series of exercises ... knee lifts, semi squats ... that sort of thing. The difference? You do mental exercises at the same time! NYMBL sets the exercise, and you decide whether you want a word game, a numbers puzzle, or an odd man out type of challenge.

It's easy and you can crank up the difficulty level when you feel like it. GO NYMBL!

Monday Current Affairs Group April

Despite our designated topic, it has become a notable trend that our group tends to start with 'old person' topics. We were introduced to the NYMBL app, ACC exercises for promote body and brain nimbleness. Some of us had different solutions, but nonetheless, we're all aware of the importance of nimbleness. (See Community Page above)

Our actual topic was AUKUS. There has been a lot of publicity regarding the nuclear ships coalition between Australia, the USA and the UK, and one of our members had supplied us with articles prior to the meeting.

AUKUS is supposedly to ensure security for the nations involved but increasing tensions between nations largely add to feelings of insecurity. We particularly empathised with today's youth who are facing multiple threats to the planet's survival. Some members who have first-hand experience of working with the Chinese pointed out that the Chinese 'way' is different. The UK and the USA's history of invading countries certainly adds to the 'faceoff' between threats and demonstrations of power.

Whilst we did eventually attempt to adhere to the topic, we found the topic overflowed into multiple other issues; antagonism between countries and resources being poured into mega submarines being the opposite of the cooperation that is needed to save our planet, polarisation within



countries often instigated by other countries as a form of weakening the country and making it more vulnerable, e.g. Russia's involvement in both Brexit and the USA elections, people feeling disenfranchised and not seeing the point in voting, the role of A.I. and its use as a weapon and possibly to surpass humans. There was nothing uplifting in the topic, but fortunately the lively discussion and entertaining diversions left us sobered, but still in good spirits.

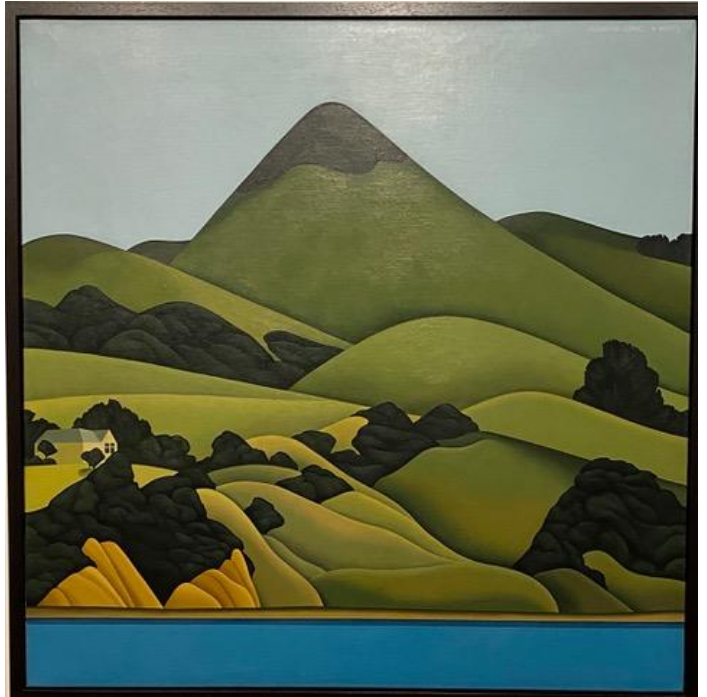
Joy



Gallery Group April

Our April visit was to the Dunedin Public Art Gallery to see the exhibition of Robin Whites' lifetime of art, 'Something is Happening Here'. Curator Lauren Gutsell met us in the Foyer and guided us to the start of the exhibition. Unfortunately, another group, tours for tots, was scheduled at the same time and it was difficult to hear and to concentrate. Eventually we moved to a different part of the exhibition where it was quieter, and we were able to appreciate the work around us. Robin's paintings of the peninsula were from her earlier phase. Robin developed a close affinity with the landscape around her, in particular, Harbour Cone. These are the paintings we most associate with Robin White, and it was wonderful to see the originals.

Harbour Cone, Otago Peninsula.



Robin's paintings show the close association between people and places, and where she was living at the time. Her early life was closely associated with the poet Sam Hunt and one of her works close to the hearts of Dunedin people, is her painting of him outside the Portobello pub, which is in the DPAG collection. Another one is of Sam standing beside the Harbour.



*Sam Hunt by
Otago Harbour.*

Later Robin married Michael Fudakowski and during this period the family lived at Portobello. Robin's mother came to live with them to help look after the children.

Robin's mother painted while she was living with them on the peninsula.





In the 1980s the family were asked to go and live in Kiribati and help support the people there who were of the Baha'i faith. They accepted this challenge as they shared the faith, and the whole family moved to the islands. Robin found she was unable to continue painting in the same way and her whole method and materials changed to adapt to the different traditions and climate of this area of the Pacific.

Curator Lauren Gutsell explaining the techniques used in Robin White's new co-operative style of art.

The later works from the 2010s using large tapa cloth and dye, showing the interiors of traditional houses illustrating the idea of simplicity and non-materialism of the Baha'i faith



It is very special that our own local gallery can host such an important exhibition and that Robin herself was able to give talks about her work at the opening. The exhibition is on show for another couple of months and it is, indeed, well worth a visit.

Thank you, Maryalyce, so much for making all the arrangements. Such a shame you weren't well enough to go on the day.

Tash

Home Gardens Group April



We were delighted to have a still, sunny day for our visit to the gardens at Olveston. Free entry was a bonus as we explored the one acre of beautifully developed grounds.



A feature was the huge old trees dating back to when the house was built. One magnolia was four stories high, reaching from the below ground basement area up, up, up to the top story of the fine old home. The colour in the garden was amazing, not only from the many flowering plants, but also from the autumn leaves on the old



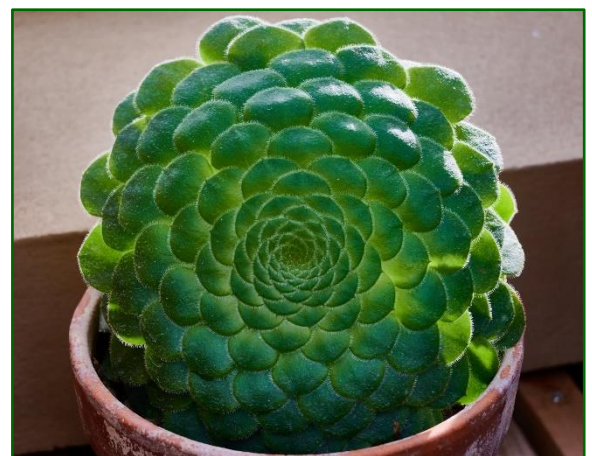
trees.

The plant R. is a perfect example of the Fibonacci Spiral

A major task for the gardener would be the clearing of



the leaves from the lovely lawn areas. The conservatory,



(not just a glass house, we decided) was stunning, a superb feature in keeping with the handsome home.

Carole

Wanderers Group April

A curtailed number of wanders, thanks mainly to Easter.



The Woodhaugh Gardens beckoned on a beautiful autumn day, after a pleasant start for two fortunate members enjoying delicious post-lecture sandwiches provided by a gourmet sandwich maker of our group, while sitting at the duck pond.

We wandered over the bridge and along the path of the Leith, enjoying the peace, serenity and beauty in our back yard, noting the remarkable variety of architecture visible through the native bush. Tempting though it was to carry on towards the Millennium Track, our destination that day was walking the trails along the Gardens side of the Leith, as well as their tracks, followed by pleasant refreshments at Adjø.

Our next wander was again graced with brilliant blue skies and high surf as we walked along John Wilson Drive to Lawyers Head. You can't go wrong with such magnificent surroundings,



culminating in more pleasant refreshments at the Esplanade at St. Clair. Ailsa

Poetry Group April

Our group finally met on 29 March after a six-week gap. The topic this month was Joy and Pleasure. A wide range of poems were chosen by six attendees. The hostess of the day chose this poem, and it was the first up, very enjoyable reading. It met with general acclaim for fitting, so well, the chosen topic.

A Blessing James Wright

Just off the highway to Rochester, Minnesota,

Twilight bounds softly forth on the grass.

And the eyes of those two Indian ponies

Darken with kindness.

They have come gladly out of the willows

To welcome my friend and me.

We step over the barbed wire into the pasture

Where they have been grazing all day, alone.

They ripple tensely, they can hardly contain their happiness

That we have come.

They bow shyly as wet swans. They love each other.

There is no loneliness like theirs.

At home once more, they begin munching the young tufts of spring in the darkness.

I would like to hold the slenderer one in my arms,

For she has walked over to me

And nuzzled my left hand.

She is black and white,

Her mane falls wild on her forehead,

And the light breeze moves me to caress her long ear

That is delicate as the skin over a girl's wrist.

Suddenly I realize

That if I stepped out of my body I would break

Into blossom.





Our April meeting came around earlier in the month. We seem to have decided to meet on any Wednesday in a month that avoids other commitments our busy group members have. One of the real pleasures of our day was wishing Judith Cowley a Happy 84th Birthday. I had no intention of mentioning a number, but Judith was good with that. We enjoyed a potluck lunch and cake.

The topic for April was wide ranging, Wisdom/Words/Pleasure of reading/The writing process, and we were invited by the hostess of the day to interpret the topic as we chose. We all had a good laugh at the wit and fun in the poem below.

Ani

Book Lovers by Jenny Lewis

Let's meet tonight between the covers
to thumb each other's spines
like true book lovers.
Steamy passion or sweet romance,
with titles picked at random,
our mood will depend on chance.
I'll stroke your hard back and thighs,
trail my fingers over your fly-
leaf – admire your point size.
You'll enjoy ogling my index,
fondling my frontispiece, thinking
I'm just the type you like for sex.
I'll let you flip my pages, skim
my contents, skip my appendix
or linger over my fine lines at whim.
And if I get pregnant (which I won't)
let's meet again – in nine months' time.
You choose the font.



Jenny Lewis is an Anglo-Welsh poet, playwright, songwriter, children's author, and translator who teaches poetry at Oxford University. She trained as a painter at the Ruskin School of Art before reading English at St Edmund Hall, Oxford. She has worked as an advertising copywriter and a government press officer for, among others, the Equality and Human Rights Commission. She has also written children's books and plays and co-written, with its creator, Kate Canning, a twenty-six-part children's TV animation series, *James the Cat*.

Mahjong Group April

Have you ever wondered what Mahjong is all about? It's a Chinese game played with tiles rather than cards. It is similar to Rummy or Canasta in that the objective is to make your hand up of sets of tiles. The tiles are in three suits, with additional sets of honour tiles which represent the four winds and three dragons.

1) Bamboos



2) Characters



3) Dots



Honours



Each player has 13 tiles and takes turns to pick up one tile and discard one they don't want into the centre, as below.



The winner is the first person to have their hand completed, with 14 tiles in sets. Our group plays Western/European Mahjong, where there are specific hands that we try to collect. This makes the game more dependent on strategy, especially if we are trying to collect the same tiles as other players.

If you are interested in trying Mahjong, come and join us on Thursday mornings. It's easy to learn, and an absorbing, sociable way to spend a few hours. Please contact me if you would like to learn more. Jean

Gardens and Botanical Group April

Wednesday did not dawn a promising day for our April visit. The skies were grey and the deck wet when I pulled the curtains and contemplated the day ahead. Not promising for a garden tour, even less so when I heard the weather forecast, heavy rain showers for the afternoon! Should I cancel? It was tempting to stay home and light the fire, but after thought, I made the decision to go ahead with our plans.

Blueskin Nursery Cafe would be welcoming and if it got too wet, we could stay there and look around the nursery. It is always a treat to go there and enjoy the displays and seek out new and interesting plants.



Our intrepid team decided we would defy the weather gods and head up to Taste Nature Organic Garden. Rodney met us and took us for a tour of his extensive garden.

What a marvellous visit we had. Drizzle, yes, but the

rain did not eventuate, and we were able to traverse the section without getting too wet. Gumboots and umbrellas kept us dry as we followed our guide around the house garden, beautifully planted with a mix of natives and ornamentals.



A feature at the house was the water rill surrounded by a hedge of horopito and sturdy raised vegetable gardens, a domed glasshouse and all enclosed by native trees with splashes of autumn colour.

Rodney led us through a gate at the end of this garden which led us on a bush walk down to a stream at



the bottom of the section. A lot of manual labour was evident as we descended the carefully laid pathway, and it was all constructed by hard work. Interesting

plantings and bush views made this a lovely part of the garden. We re-emerged into the paddock with misty views across the Waitati Valley, and an uphill climb to view the main vegetable garden with its compost bins, worm farms and built-up beds of brassica and pumpkins, fennel, and courgettes. A glasshouse with a tamarillo tree that is yielding fruit, plus other tasty treats focused our attention on the potential for improving our own vegetable gardens. The cost of vegetables makes growing your own an attractive idea. Rodney did warn us that it is all in the soil and he had to work hard to improve the soil to achieve the results he has managed.

The afternoon flew by because of all the interesting plant combinations. As we arrived back at the house, it was

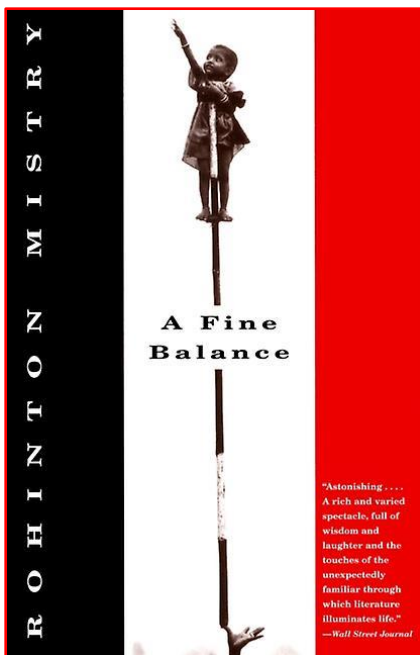


evident everyone had gained ideas and new insights to take home with them.

Thank you, Rodney, a great tour and hopefully, we may return next year for another visit, without the rain.

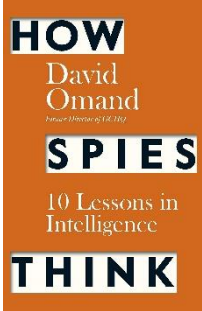
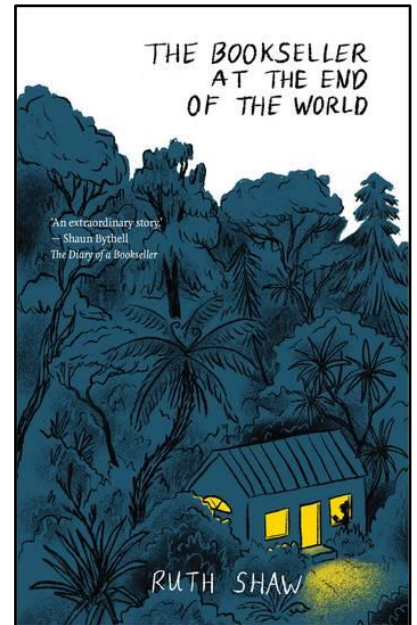
Robyne

Book Share Group April



Elaine has been reading ***A Fine Balance*** by **Rohinton Mistry** which she says is an excellent read. Set in mid-1970s India, a chain of circumstances tosses four varied individuals together in one small flat. Stubbornly independent Dina, widowed early, takes in Maneck, the college age son of a more prosperous childhood friend and more reluctantly, Ishavar and Om, uncle and nephew tailors fleeing low-caste origins and astonishing hardships. The reader first learns of the characters' separate and compelling histories and watches as the barriers of class, suspicion

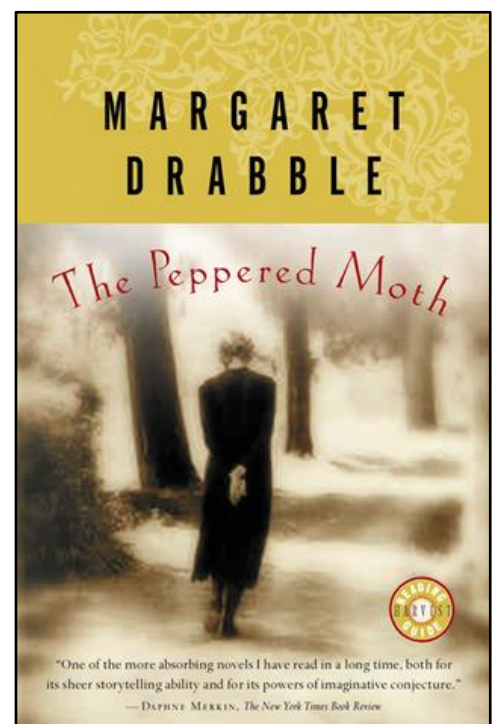
and politeness are gradually dissolved. The novel's coda is cruel and heart-wrenching but deeply honest. Elaine has also been reading ***Bookseller at the End of the World*** by **Ruth Shaw**, a delightful biography of her life and times at Manapouri.



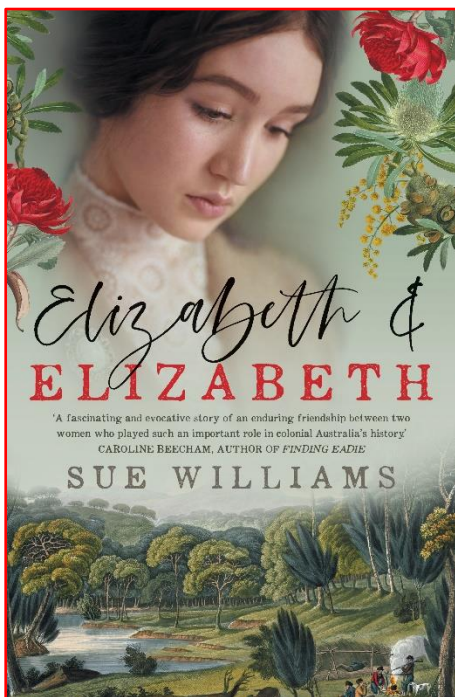
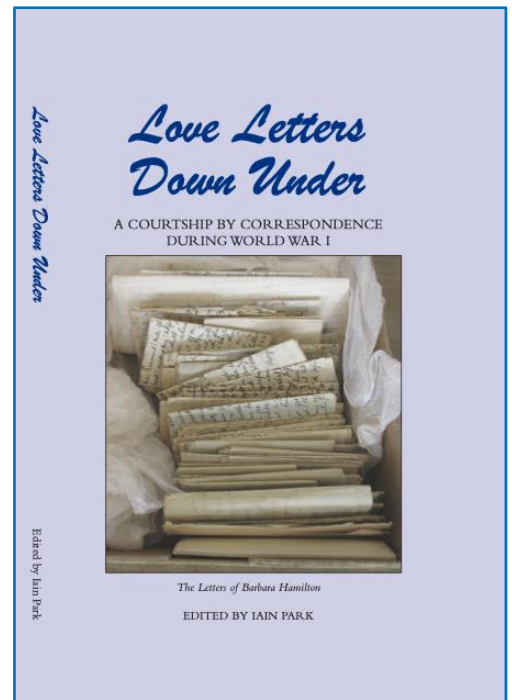
Nola introduced us to ***How Spies Think: 10 Lessons in Intelligence*** by **David Omand**. Reviewers call this one of the best books ever written about intelligence analysis. The premise behind the book is that if you use the same frameworks applied by intelligence officers to the biggest decisions in your life it will be easier to make them with confidence and decisiveness.

Suggested as an invaluable guide in avoiding self-deception and fake news.

Ros has been reading ***The Peppered Moth*** by **Margaret Drabble**. The fictional Bessie Bawtry is born in a Yorkshire coal-mining town during the early 20th century. From childhood she is precociously intelligent and fastidious, and carping and contemptuous. A manipulative martyr, Bessie is determined to escape her dowdy family and although she wins a scholarship to Cambridge, her ignominious return to her hometown after graduation can be lived down only by marriage to affable Joe Baron. This book is unrecognisable as Drabble's customary writing and is a thinly veiled fictional account of her mother's life. According to the author's afterword, it was painful to write and moreover painful to read. Ros however tells us it is skilfully written, but the long narrative format did prove a challenge at times.



Carolyn shared a very special book – ***Love Letters Down Under*** by **Iain Park**. This was developed from Carolyn’s “Courtship by Correspondence,” a transcription of her grandmother’s letters from Strathaven in Scotland to her future husband in Southland. They cover the period from when he left Scotland in 1909 to when she joined him and they married in 1919. Iain’s book shows their developing relationship within the background of WW1 and its impact on the old country and the new country. These letters are a very special family treasure.



She had been reading ***Elizabeth and Elizabeth*** by **Sue Williams** which is the story of two women

who should have been bitter foes but combined their courage and wisdom to wield enormous power and influence behind the scenes in early Australia. One was Elizabeth Macquarie, wife of the new Governor Lachlan Macquarie, nudging him towards social reform and magnificent builds and town planning. The other was Elizabeth Macarthur, credited with creating Australia’s wool industry and married to John Macarthur, a dangerous enemy of the establishment. Carolyn says this is a well-written book set in colonial Australia.

Trish has been reading ***Ghost Children*** by **Sue Townsend**. Seventeen years ago Angela Carr aborted an unwanted child. The child’s father Christopher Moore was devastated by the loss



and retreated from the world. Unable to accept what happened between them, Angela and Christopher went their separate ways. However, when Christopher makes a horrifying discovery on the Heath whilst out walking his dog, he is compelled to confront Angela about the past. They start seeing each other again but can their future together be eclipsed by the mistakes of the past. This is a gritty and disturbing book written by Britain’s well-loved comic novelist, but this book could not be more unlike *Adrian Mole’s Diaries* which made us weep with laughter — this is so sad you just weep!

Our next meeting is Friday 5th May at 1.30pm.

Trish

Walking Group April

We had a really interesting walk around the hidden nooks and crannies on the hill slopes behind Andersons Bay Inlet. Gerard had become intrigued while walking in his suburb by the often-wooded drainage right of ways and reserves linking streets around this basin. An exploration of an entirely new area for most of us, much remarked upon while caffeinating at Nichol's afterwards.



Our next jaunt commenced in Cannington Road and then down to the Ross Creek waterfall, around the reservoir then back to Copper for refreshments.

Blackhead and a walk along the

beach was our next destination, however this was foiled when we stepped out of our cars and were nearly blown back to Dunedin. Thinking that a more sheltered beach from the howling southerly might be St. Clair, we turned around only to be buffeted by the gusts there, so a sedate amble around the streets of St Clair and Forbury was the order of the day before adjourning to Starfish for a warming beverage.



Our last walk was straight up Emerson Street to the relatively unknown Dunedin Cemetery on Blackhead Road. This opened in 2011 and has plenty of room to cater for future demand with a new housing development going in just across the road. Then along and down Mulford Street, which winds around the face of the hill and back to the Concord Inn for a bite and a drink. All the houses in this area of Concord are remarkably similar in style and construction, the suburb having been developed in the late fifties and early sixties. So, a month of exploring on foot many new areas of Dunedin, in the enjoyable company of members in our group.

A link to a 2017 ODT article on the Dunedin Cemetery with a rare photo <https://www.odt.co.nz/news/dunedin/no-rush-vertical-burials>

Averil

Tuesday Current Issues Group April

There was a change of venue because of our convenor's illness, and our numbers were smaller than usual, but topics were wide-ranging.

We began with a question about how we would react to hordes of refugees, similar to those escaping to Europe, and then moved on to the U3A course on Migration, which included a session on the world's refugees.

Other topics included:

- Ancestry.com
- The wonders of the McNab Room at the library, the archives of which comprises manuscripts, recordings, oral history tapes and realia relating to Otago persons, organisations and events, with some material of national interest.
- The shocking report on rivers and lakes ... 45% are un-swimmable, with a question about how much farming practices have improved in the last 2 years.
- Forestry
- Dairying
- Prisons.

Claire Brown



Singing Group April

Claire reports that the group is currently on a three-week break but will be underway again on the first Monday of May. The number of members is now hovering around thirty which is marvellous growth in a very short space of time. I'm hopeful, if I ask Claire nicely, she might allow me to visit a session, along with my well-travelled camera, before the publication of the next newsletter.

Ann (editor)

The Dining and Lunch Groups did not muster enough bottoms on seats to happen in April. Easter does tend to throw out the schedule of meetings for many of our groups and a good number of people head away for a break before winter sets in.

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Photography Group April

On the last Sunday in March several of the group enjoyed a very good day out. Wyn invited us to join her and Gill at their holiday home in Herbert Forest while we were enroute to Maheno. We bought our picnic lunches and enjoyed the hospitality on offer, many cups of tea and coffee and a delicious gluten free cake. Very thoughtful Wyn, as some of our crew need to avoid gluten at all costs. What were they thinking of, heading to a flour mill?

Our other hostess on the day was Jet. She, of the insatiable appetite, begged in the most appealing way to share sandwiches, cake, apple cores, and the absolute height of luxury, a chicken salad.



The above picture is a straight lift from the website. The frontage is currently pictorially despoiled with scaffolding and orange safety netting.

Clarks Mill near Maheno, while no longer in business, runs a machinery operating day one Sunday a month from 1-3 pm. The mill is the ultimate in Men's Sheds. There is a large group of volunteers, mostly men, who have restored the old plant to working order. The only thing missing was the wheat. We saw the old water race complete with eel traps to prevent their ingestion into the water wheel. The grain whizzed by various mechanisms from the basement to the top floor of the mill and back, up to four times during the process of turning the raw grain into the finished product.

The mill started up in 1860 and closed in 1976, but not before undergoing modernisation in 1896. It was taken over by the Clark family in the very early 1900's. The main mill building is made of Oamaru stone quarried from just above the site.



The clip below will give you an insight into the mill in action.

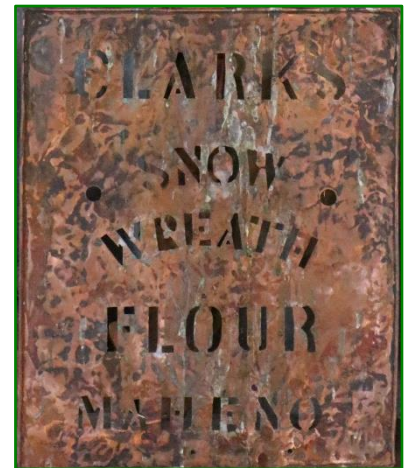
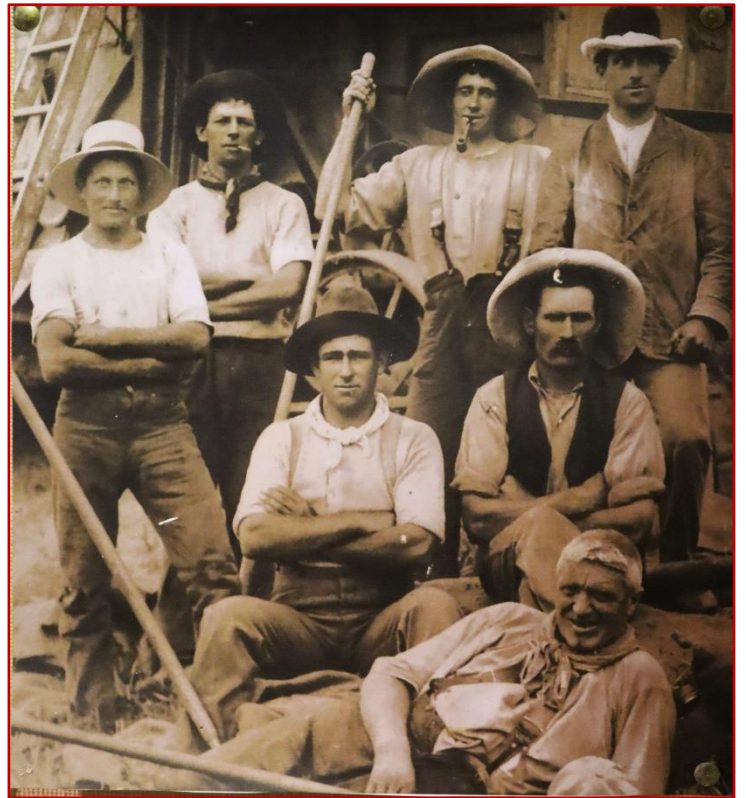
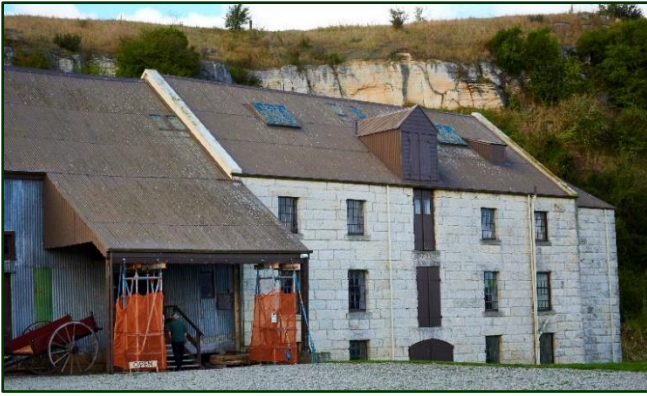
<https://youtu.be/CeeVMRrLS9o>

To watch: hold down CTRL and click on the link.

Thanks to the Cameraman/Editor/Director/Producer, plus the three lovely leading ladies.

This branding would cause the staff of a modern-day Marketing Department to shudder and immediately launch a major brainstorming session.





Our taste in what is a desirable flour for breadmaking has changed indeed since the 1970's. How many of you, today, still buy plain white loaves?

Credits: Clarks Mill trip

Video: Graham

Photos: Chris, John, Hildegard, Ani, Caz





We delayed our first trip in April because of Easter, and then chose the wettest day of a very wet Dunedin week to go out to the Orokonui Ecosanctuary for lunch and, what might have been an interesting afternoon.

But the good muster enjoyed the food and a warming fire and put not a foot out into the persistent rain. The brightest thing we saw at the sanctuary was, without a doubt, Tahu.



We had an excellent planning session with many ideas being jotted down, including the possibility of a two-day trip to Naseby, Ranfurly and St Bathans. We also chatted about an overnight trip to the Catlins as far down as Curio Bay.



We bade farewell to Anne and Kevin who are off to England for the better weather. Looking forward to seeing summer photos over our winter.

Chris caught this image at Doctors Point on his way home.



It was a case of never daunted, and a tight nucleus of the group headed back to the Orokonui Ecosanctuary on Thursday, a lovely sunny day.

We were lucky to see a good display of kaka, tuis, robins, takahe, skinks and a tuatara. The jeweled geckos were stubbornly not emerging from under their rocks, but there was one creature on show that none of us wanted to see. The staff are aware of vermin presence and a poisoning programme is planned for the winter months.



The South Island robins were totally unfazed by the many excited children on holiday and our group armed with cameras. They landed on the gravel pathways and generally flew off at the last possible safe moment. Four photographers captured the tiny birds.



The Otago skinks were luxuriating in the sun. Masses of tiny ones. So many nooks and crannies in the stones for them to dart away and hide.





The kaka were around their feeding station well in the bush and some of our photos were fairly dark, but a couple of good shots emerged. The tui photos were taken by two photographers.



The takahe, at first seemed elusive: only one to be seen by the pond, but one of our members spread the word that two of them were feeding in an open area. They didn't seem at all perturbed by people watching them enjoy a peck and dance.



The tuatara taken over the top.

Photos from the Orokonui trip taken by Chris, Graham, Anne M, Sue and Ani.

