



Interest Groups NEWSLETTER

April 2024

Greetings from the Board

I thoroughly enjoyed meeting with members of the Art Collections group recently at my place. I do hope to visit with other groups over the course of the year, but I have a project taking up my time at the moment: writing for a book on the Eden Hore Collection.



Right now, I am in Central Otago for two weeks working on a photoshoot for the book. My role is to look after the gorgeous gowns, making sure nothing untoward happens to them while we are out on locations such as Naseby, Bendigo, Ophir, Clyde, and Cromwell. It is a major

logistical exercise with two models, photographer and his assistant, videographer, stylist, and Central Otago District Council staff. The autumn colours are spectacular and we're hoping the weather holds!



There has been steady interest from members wanting to join Interest groups, which as you will see on the Interest Groups page on the U3A Dunedin website, are mostly full. If anyone is keen to start a new group, or a spinoff from an existing one, please let us know.

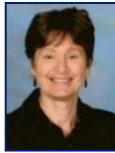
Jane Malthus

Jane sent me these couple of photos, plus their details, that she has taken on the job: Models are Ngahuia Williams and Alannah Kwant, Derek Henderson is the photographer in the second image. It's fun, but early starts and late days - it's all about the light!!

Ani (Editor)

Art Collections Group

Convenor: Anne-Marie Hutton
First Tuesday 10 am
annemariehutton@gmail.com



Lunch Group

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



Biking Group

full

Convenor: Gillian Alexander
2nd & 4th Thursday 9:30
saltarelo@xtra.co.nz



Mahjong Group

Convenor: Jean Tilleyshort
Every Thursday, 10 am
s-jilleyshort@xtra.co.nz



Book Share Group

full

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



Monday Current Affairs Group

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



Dining Group

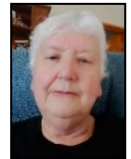
Convenor: Karen Wards
Third Friday, 7 pm
karendwards@gmail.com



Photography Group

full

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



Expanding Musical Horizons

full

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



Poetry Group

full

Convenor: Carole Bezett
1st or 2nd Wednesday, 11 am
carolebezett@gmail.com



Film Group One

full

Second Wednesday 2 pm
Joint Convenors:
Bill Stanford
billstanford9@gmail.com
Graham Corbett
gcorbettmd@gmail.com



Singing Group

full

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



Film Group Two

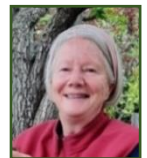
full

Convenor: Bill Stanford
Last Thursday 1:30 pm
billstanford9@gmail.com



Tuesday Current Issues Group

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



Waikouaiti Global Conversations

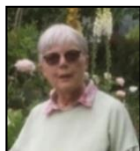
Convenor: Kath Ryan
Second Wednesday 2-4pm
kathryan09@gmail.com



Gallery Group

full

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



Walking Group

full

Every Thursday, 10:30
Joint Convenors:
Averil McLean
averilmclean2@gmail.com
Janet Hewson
je.hewson@xtra.co.nz



Gardens Lovers Group

full

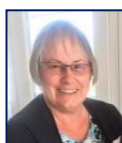
Convenor: Robyne Selbie
Second Wednesday, 1:30
robyneselbie1945@gmail.com



Genealogy Group

full

Convenor: Jean Tilleyshort
1st and 3rd Fridays, 10 -12
s-jilleyshort@xtra.co.nz



Poetry Group April

A great meeting today with seven of us sharing our poems, no two the same, and a delicious lunch. Henry, along with his carer welcomed us



to their home. The topic set for this month was Light and the light-filled house was the epitome of just that.

The poem below presented a big challenge. The group member had no note of the author's name, or title of the poem, and, while it seemed familiar to some of us, we couldn't recall who wrote this. Are you able to assist? If so: email ann.wood14blaw@gmail.com Ani

As light creeps across the
countertops,
Casting shadows like memories
on the walls,
Each one a testament to the
passage of time.

Outside, the world awakens to
your embrace,
As tendrils of dawn caress the
sleeping earth.

Birdsong echoes through the
dew-kissed air,
A symphony of life in the early
light.

Oh, light, you are the poet's muse,
The painter's brushstroke, the
lover's sigh.
In your gentle glow, we find
solace,
And in your absence, we yearn for
your return.

A Light Left On by May Sarton

In the evening we came back
Into our yellow room,
For a moment taken aback
To find the light left on,
Falling on silent flowers,
Table, book, empty chair
While we had gone elsewhere,
Had been away for hours.

When we came home together
We found the inside weather.
All of our love unended
The quiet light demanded,
And we gave, in a look
At yellow walls and open book.
The deepest world we share
And do not talk about
But have to have, was there,
And by that light found out.

I Am Very Bothered by Simon Armitage

I am very bothered when I think
of the bad things I have done in my life.
Not least that time in the chemistry lab
when I held a pair of scissors by the blades
and played the handles
in the naked lilac flame of the Bunsen burner;
then called your name, and handed them over.

O the unrivalled stench of branded skin
as you slipped your thumb and middle finger in,
then couldn't shake off the two burning rings.
Marked,
the doctor said, for eternity.

Don't believe me, please, if I say
that was just my butterfingering way, at
thirteen,
of asking you if you would marry me.

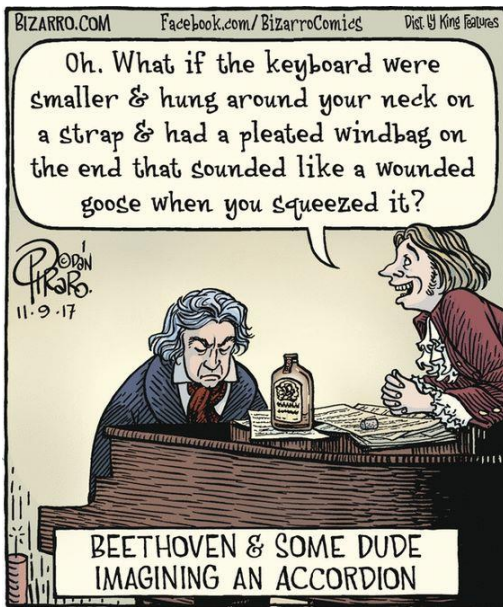
(from **The Book of Matches**)

Expanding Musical Horizons April

This month we continued a series started last year, under the intriguing title of *Musical Stories You Were Never Told at School*. The reputations and good names of at least a couple of dozen composers, all famous from the annals of musical history, were systematically destroyed. We looked at not only a few weaknesses that any member of the human race might have, but these composers went the extra mile with excessive behaviour that was scandalous, criminal, self-destructive, uncontrollably ill-

disciplined, potty-mouthed, sexually uninhibited, or constantly intoxicated.

Apart from weaknesses of personality, there were other interesting stories about composers who had suffered from unfortunate events that were largely beyond their control. Bizet, for example, endured a series of events in his life that seemed to be just plain bad luck. Or Joseph Haydn, who lost his head. Literally. Fortunately, he was dead at the time.



Of course, our session would not be complete without listening to some outstanding music they composed, much of it selected from the lesser-known compositions from their output. Paul

Second Poetry Group? We are looking for expressions of interest.

Because the Poetry Group is full and its members have decided that they need to keep attendee numbers to a maximum of eight (meeting in each other's homes means that space is an important consideration), it seems sensible to investigate the possibility of setting up another similar group.

Suggested days to get a group up and running are a Thursday, or possibly a Tuesday. Once a core group is established, the members can work out which time, day and also which week in the month, best suits the majority. If you might be interested in joining such a group, please contact Joanne Currie at jelcie6@gmail.com

How to Eat a Poem Eve Merriam

Don't be polite.

Bite in.

Pick it up with your fingers and lick the juice

that may run down your chin

It is ready and ripe now, whenever you are.

You do not need a knife or spoon or fork or plate or napkin or tablecloth.

For there is no core

or stem

or rind

or pit

or seed

or skin

to throw away.

Garden Lovers Group April

Once again, we enjoyed a lovely autumnal day for our visit to Waitati. The weather was not very promising to begin with, but we left town well prepared with raincoats and brollies as we tracked the clouds over the city, but all that changed after lunch and we enjoyed a calm, sunny afternoon to explore a hidden treasure on the slopes of Mount Cargill.

We started our outing with lunch at the Café in Waitati, and then travelled up Mt Cargill Road to visit the Fletcher garden. Carol had specifically invited us to come in April as she specializes in growing heritage fruits, and she said this was the most bountiful month for apples, and to appreciate the autumn colours of the many fruit trees.

Carol and Murray bought the five-acre block eleven years ago and, within the year, built their dream home to capture the views and the rural landscapes of the Blueskin Bay



area. Hard to believe that such a short time ago this was a flat paddock. A big undertaking as topsoil had to be removed to build a platform for the house and that meant

problems later with building up the garden beds to become productive, but they had a vision for their site and today the house sits surrounded by gums for shelter and native toi tois, flaxes and hedgerows to provide shelter and attract the birds to their bit of paradise.



Wind was an initial problem as they established the garden. Carol said it blew from every direction so shelter belts were early, and vital, plantings. The house has an enclosed wall behind the house to



provide shelter for Carol's raised garden beds featuring a variety of perennials, ornamental grasses and weeds! Weeds, you say. Yes, Carol has carefully identified the weeds found in her garden and they have their own labels and a place to rest.

The raised beds were a lovely combination of mauve Michaelmas daisies,

cornflowers, salvias, woodland anemones, and spraxia bulbs all set amongst the seedheads of teasels and grasses. The photographs tell the story.





After exploring the garden around the house, including a very productive vegetable garden which featured corn and pumpkins aplenty, plus kale and a rich variety of vegetables, we moved on down to the orchards where trees of many different heritage apples were

laden with fruit. There were pear trees and black boy peaches ready for harvest.



It was a fascinating place with willow coppices for shelter and hedgerows for protection and a



home for birds and insects. The hedgerows had traditional plants like heritage roses, honeysuckle and buddleias to name but a few. Carol had experimented with the willows to build a traditional willow wood shelter and it was already taking root and sprouting shelter for a resting place away from the sun.

So many features in this garden. A bonfire garden with seating around the edges, a pond for goldfish to breed and best of all a recently installed outdoor bathtub with piped hot water to relax in at the end of a gardening day.

Our afternoon ended sitting in their lovely living room overlooking the bay and tasting a variety of apples Carol had picked for us to sample as we enjoyed her hospitality. A cup of tea and nibbles were very welcome after our walk around the property and, guess what, we were sent home with an assortment of apples to enjoy. A lovely day out was had by all.

Robyne

Film Group Two is underway this month.

Facilitator: Bill Stanford

Meeting on the last Thursday of the month, at 1.30 pm.

Bill will be hosting, at Unit One, 67 Tahuna Road.

Contact mail: billstanford9@gmail.com

Phone: 027 461 5343

This group is for people who enjoy watching classic and contemporary cinema.

The emphasis is on 'auteur' cinema, that is, movies created by a director who is able to maintain some level of control over the many aspects of film production. We generally programme nine films a year, drawing on a mix from around the world.

The group emphasizes input from all members of the group — we encourage informal discussion of films following their screening. The group is limited to four members only (space dictates, and the group is full).

Film Group Two Programme 2024

Title	Director	Details	Date
<i>Our Little Sister</i>	Hiro Kore'eda	2015; 127m; PG	25 April
<i>Les Enfants du Paradis</i>	Marcel Carné	1945; 182m; PG	30 May
<i>Early Summer</i>	Yasujiro Ozu	1951; 125m; G	27 June
<i>La Belle et la Bête</i>	Jean Cocteau	1946; 93m; PG	25 July
<i>Grüsse aus Fukushima</i>	Doris Dörrie	2016; 104m; M	29 August
<i>Celine & Julie go boating</i>	Jacques Rivette	1974; 192m; R16	26 September
<i>Mon Oncle</i>	Jacques Tati	1958; 120m; G	31 October
<i>Whisper of the Heart</i>	Yoshifumi Kondo	1995; 111m; PG	28 November

Film Group One has had its initial screening — Antonioni's *Blow-Up*!

In 1966, Michelangelo Antonioni transplanted his existentialist ennui to the streets of swinging London for this international sensation, the Italian filmmaker's first English-language feature.



A countercultural masterpiece about the act of seeing and the art of image making, Blow-Up takes the form of a psychological mystery, starring David Hemmings as a fashion photographer who unknowingly captures a death on film after following two lovers in a park. Antonioni's meticulous aesthetic control and intoxicating color palette breathe life into every frame, and the jazzy sounds of



Herbie Hancock, a beautifully evasive performance by Vanessa Redgrave, and a cameo by the Yardbirds make the film a transporting time capsule from a bygone era. Blow-Up is a seductive immersion into creative passion, and a brilliant film by one of cinema's greatest artists.

(CRITERION).

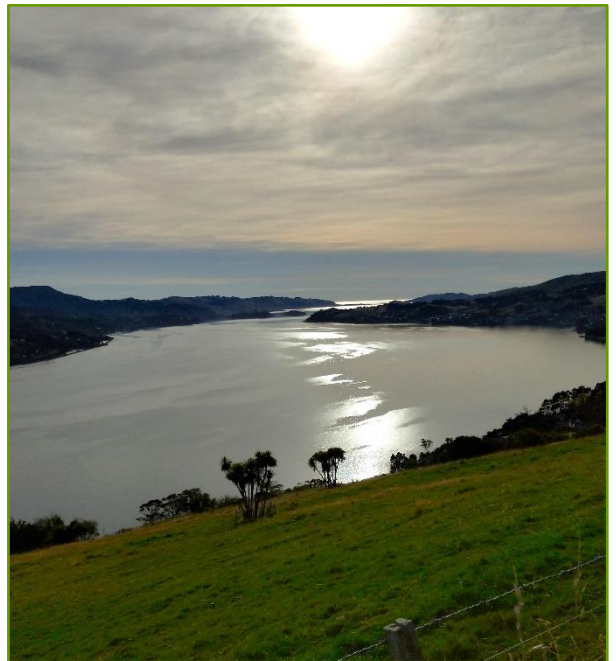
Graham Corbett Bill Stanford

Biking Group April

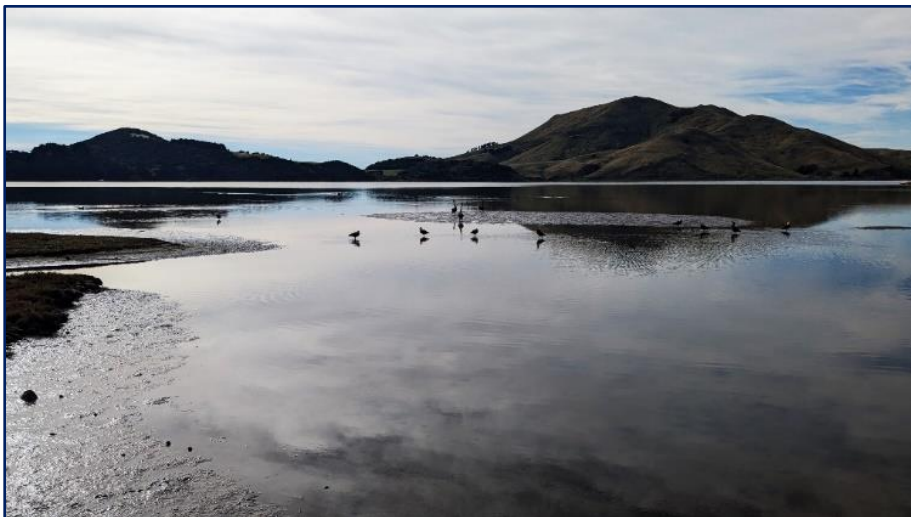
An inaugural meeting of the Biking Interest Group was held at The Esplanade a week ago to plan activities and ask for ideas to help this group work well. One very good safety idea that



came up was to always have a 'tail end Charlie' who checks that nobody is left behind, particularly if there is an accident. That person will have a cell phone to contact the lead rider if there are any problems.



We had a successful ride to Portobello on Thursday morning. Seven intrepid members turned up to tackle the Highcliff hill, made a little easier by a quick look at the renovations to the old Karitane Hospital, and a stop to admire the view of the Otago harbour. But then



it was all worthwhile as we coasted downhill, detouring onto gravel road to Hoopers Inlet for more great views, and then over a steep little hill to Portobello.

The Cove café lived up to its promise, and delivered hot drinks, fantastic date scones and really good cheese rolls –

we stayed far too long, but the world's problems needed solving and, fully oxygenated and caffeinated, we were up to the task. Then home at our own speeds along the Portobello Road bike path, it seemed that everyone had a very enjoyable morning.

The presence of the Sandymount distillery was noted and may be part of a future ride.

Gillian Alexander

Art Collections Group April

Jane Malthus's art collection was our group's destination for this month's meeting. A few of our group were fortunate to get a look at Jane's house, garden and artwork in the Rotary Taieri House and Garden Tour earlier in the year and we were keen to have a longer and much more in depth peruse.

Jane very graciously agreed and welcomed us to her home. We spent some time in the garden looking at structures and pieces, one of which was a very happy flying pig by Sarah Clarke.



This work was a very happy flying pig by Sarah Clarke.

Inside, where to start? This piece, **L: Paso Doble** by Simon Ogden, I initially mistook for a collage made from pieces of fabric and tapestry, but closer inspection showed the picture was ingeniously assembled from antique pieces of linoleum, invoking a flash back to grandma's old washroom and kitchen floors.

This work **R:** by Phillipa Blair, *Untitled #14*, with her free use of movement and colour,

posed a puzzle which my pattern-driven mind immediately

tried to interpret.

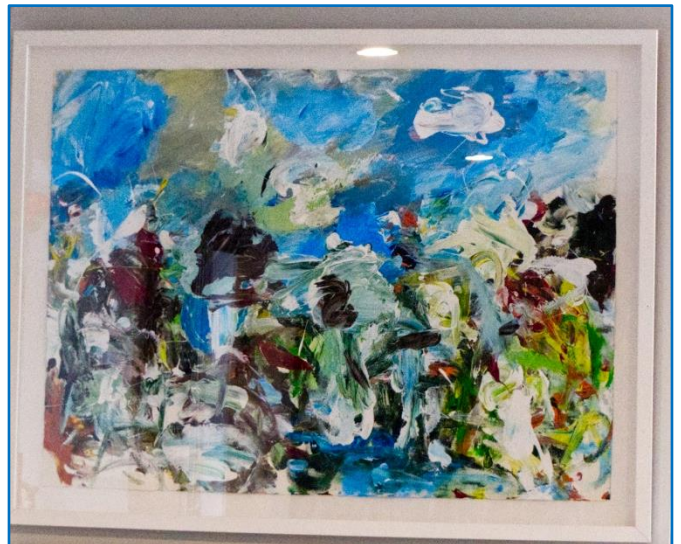
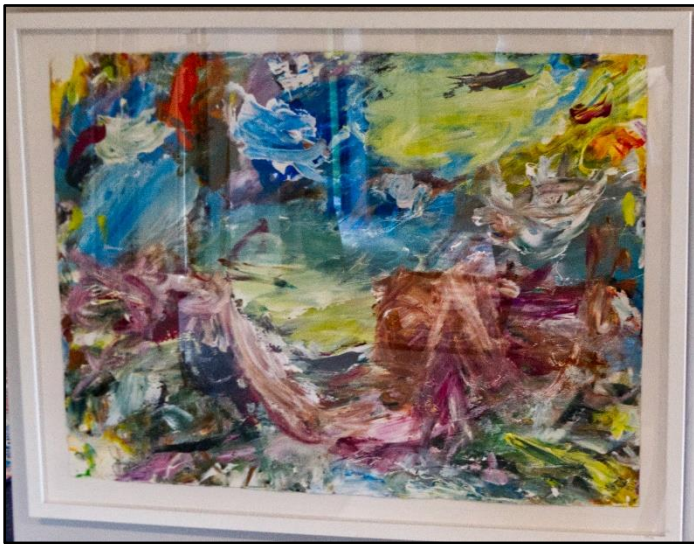


L: Shrine: waiting for the ancestors breath by Megan Huffadine from a distance looked like a flat painting, but on approach revealed itself to be series of intricate, carved wooden objects arranged in nooks. With slanting sunshine highlighting and casting shadows really throwing this into higher relief. I loved this piece and had to restrain myself from reaching out, picking out the objects and cradling them in my hands.



Derek Ball's *Wither Hills* **R:** a work in acrylic of a cloud wafting high in the sky over the yellowed, dried hills of Marlborough immediately provoked the same urge to inspect much more closely to figure out how he achieved this effect.





In complete contrast Kirsten Ferguson's two textured paintings **Above:** gave license to read into them what you would.



Jane's own work of ceramic pants sat up high on a shelf with other earthenware pieces. You could see her affinity to bold patterns and colour in fabric, and in the flopped belt tail end, her eye for detail.

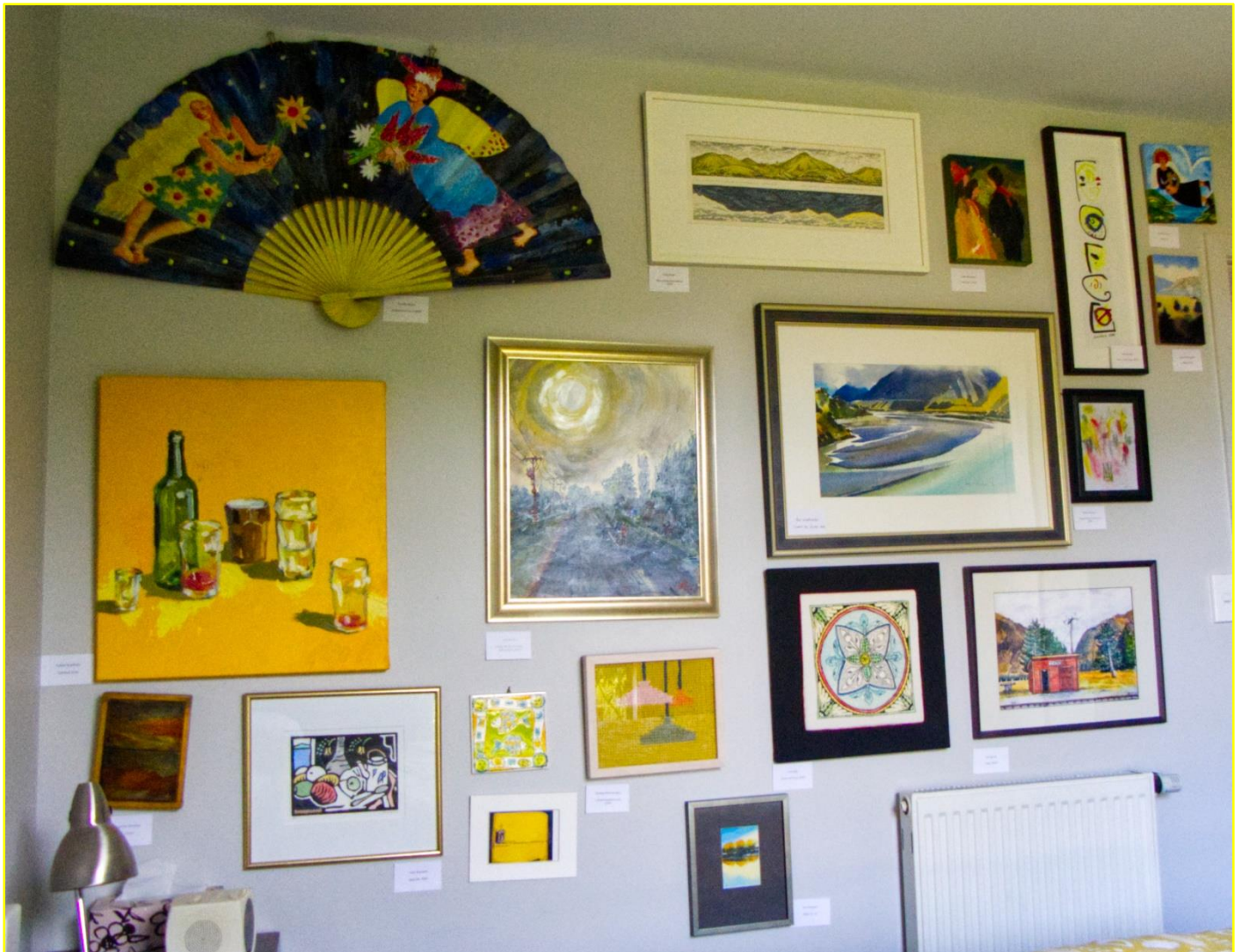
Purple Flowers **L:** by Sue Syme caught our eyes with its colour and graceful waving leaves and stems with the plumpness of the buds. You could envisage this on tiles, as a bold wallpaper, or duvet cover.



Jane's black and white photograph **R:** of a suit coat sleeve with buttons drew attention to the cloth's texture and three regimented buttons perfectly aligned and slotted in place.



Hannah Joynt's 'Grey Pines' **L:** arching above their reflection in water had a hazy dreamlike quality that drew you into its depths.



Jane talked about clustering groups of works and one bedroom's yellow wall really showed this to perfection. So much more interesting and pleasing than one lone work isolated by itself. I would hate to imagine how huge the house would be to have enough wall space for a one work per wall regime. It's with our greatest thanks to Jane for sharing with us her collection and talking about the artists, the works, and her connections to each piece. She has done an admirable job of covering the 'too grey walls' of her home.

Averil

I'm taking up the tale of this day as another who was lucky enough to have this experience. Tea, coffee, and hot cross buns were generously on offer, but it was Jane's beautiful



old china that then took my eye, having earlier taken her's when she needle-felted this cushion, based on a favourite plate. Our group simply loved the morning, thank you very much.

Ani



Waikouaiti Global Conversations April

Two recent mini-series on television captured our conversation this month. You'll know which ones

because everyone is talking about them: *Escaping Utopia: Inside the enigmatic Gloriavale cult* (TVNZ+) about a religious cult on the West Coast of New Zealand (and, it turns out, in India) and the drama



Mr Bates vs the Post Office (ITV/TVNZ+).



The first engendered discussion about what makes a

cult and how it is different from other organisations in human society. When, how, and why does a group of people become a cult? What are the features of a cult? Who determines that people are living in a

cult? How common are they? How do we deal with them? Why do/don't we tolerate them? When is difference acceptable and when is it not? Who has the right to decide? What is to say that we are not all living in a cult in one form or another? What is the difference between a cult and a commune? What was the motivation behind the production of this docuseries? The answer to the last question,

according to the producer and co-director Natalie Malcon, is the hope that young women currently living in Gloriavale will see the series and realise that there is help available should they decide to leave (Documentary series *Escaping Utopia* to reveal how former residents fled Gloriavale. *Stuff*, March 14, 2024)

So many questions! Perhaps this could become the subject of a U3A Course with insights from sociology, psychology, social work, religious studies, and the law on how people organise themselves in society. It would be interesting to hear from the producer of *Escaping Utopia*.



We tried to answer some of our own questions with discussion about the law and who makes decisions within a (democratic or autocratic) society but, admittedly, we were floundering a bit. It turns out that the television series mirrored the title of a 2017 publication *Escaping Utopia: Growing Up in a Cult, Getting Out and Starting Over* by Janja Lalic and Karla McLaren (Routledge), both former cult members, based on in-depth research with 65 people (born in 39 different cults from over 12 countries) who left their cult of their own free will and without

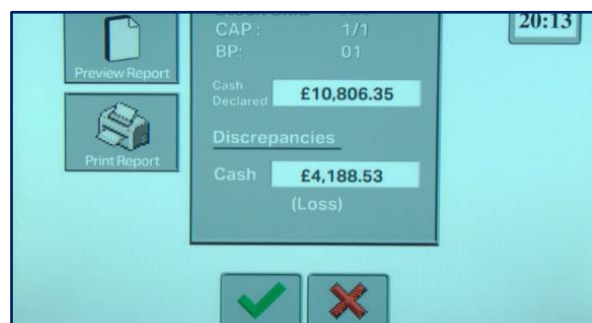
support of any kind. The authors concluded that cults are actually quite common, and their features (behaviours, social pressures and authoritarian structures) are evident to varying extents in all human relationships and groups!

Our discussion group members mentioned several books they had read related to this topic, namely.

- *Commune: Chasing a utopian dream in Aotearoa* by Olive Jones (Potton and Burton, 2023). Kim Hill interviewed Olive Jones (23 September 2023).
- *The Dispossessed* by Ursula K Le Guin (Harper & Row, 1974)
- *See You in September* by Charity Norman (Allen & Unwin, 2017)



The second mini-series, *Mr Bates vs the Post Office*, is about a long running UK scandal



involving sub postmasters, the UK Post Office and Fujitsu over the introduction of a faulty IT system that led to gross miscarriages of justice and the destruction of hundreds of lives. This story is currently the subject of an independent public statutory inquiry in the UK and still has a long way to go. I'm sure there will be another

series in the future.



For light relief, we

then went on to briefly discuss the Dull Men's Club, a Facebook group that celebrates the ordinary in everyday life and the Dunedin Tesla Club that has only three members, ha ha!

Watch the You Tube video about the Dull Men's Club if you want to lift your day.

Kath

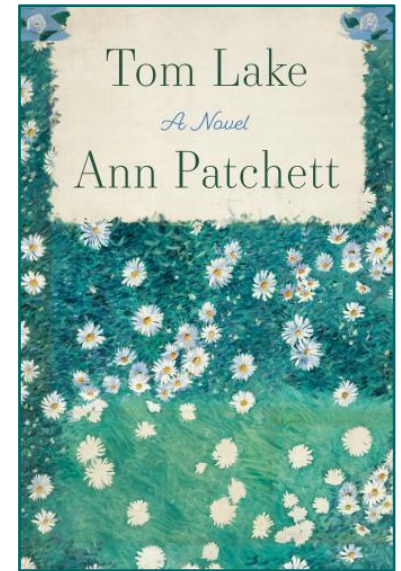
And I lifted the very dull pic L: directly from the Dull Men's club public Face Book page.

Ani (Editor)

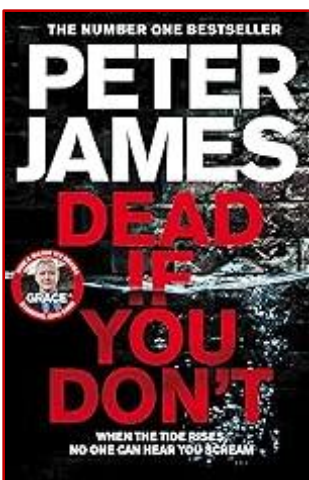
Book Share Group April

We enjoyed a wide range of books at our April meeting. Our group is now full, and we have a waiting list.

Carolyn had been reading a New York Times bestseller ***Tom Lake*** by Ann Patchett. In the spring of 2020, Lara's three daughters return to the family orchard in Northern Michigan. While picking cherries they beg their mother to tell them the story of Peter Duke, a famous actor with whom she shared a stage and a romance years before, at a theatre company called Tom Lake. As Lara recalls her past, her daughters examine their own lives and relationships with their mother and are forced to reconsider a world they thought they knew. A moving novel that Carolyn recommends. Ann Patchett is appearing at the Auckland Writers Festival in May:

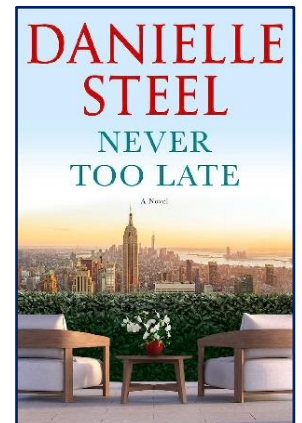


<https://www.aucklandlive.co.nz/show/awf24-ann-patchett-with-meg-mason>.

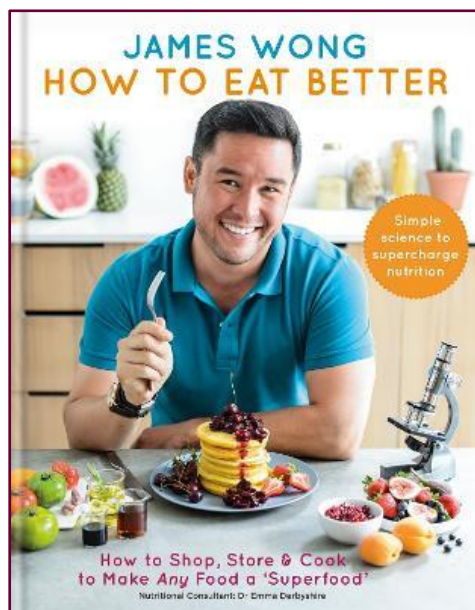


Victoria has been reading her way through the Dead series by Peter James. She has reached ***Dead If You Don't (Detective Superintendent Roy Grace, 14)***. Kipp Brown, successful businessman and compulsive gambler is having the worst run of luck and is beginning to lose big style. Taking his son Mungo to a football match should have given him a welcome respite, if only for a few hours. But it is at the stadium his nightmare begins. Within minutes of arriving at the game, the boy suddenly disappears and Kipp gets a terrifying message that someone has his boy. Victoria likes the real-life experiences in these stories.

Ruth has been reading ***Never Too Late*** by Danielle Steel, a stirring drama about the power of human connection and embracing brave change. Following the death of her beloved husband, Kezia Cooper Hobson decides to leave her home in San Francisco and move to a luxury penthouse in Manhattan, where she will be closer to her two adult daughters. As she watches the 4th of July fireworks display from her terrace, Kezia is shocked to see smoke and flames pouring from famous landmarks across New York. Her neighbour, the famous

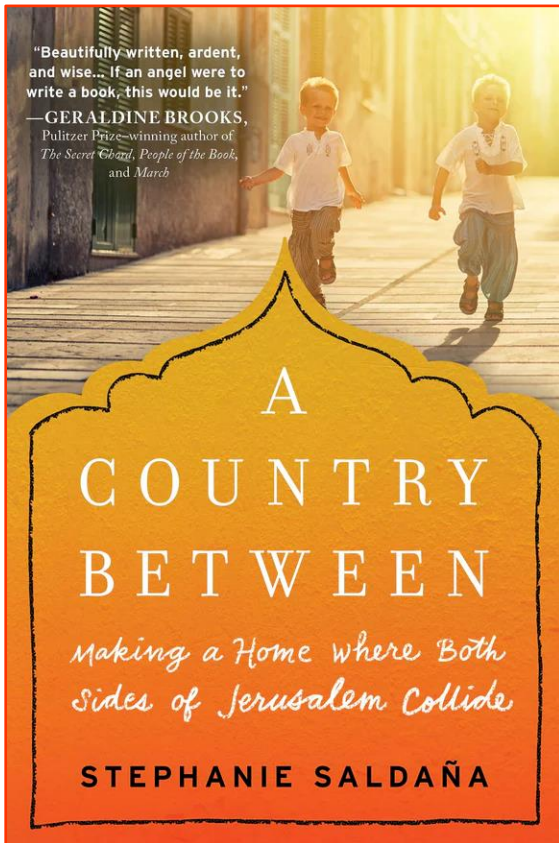
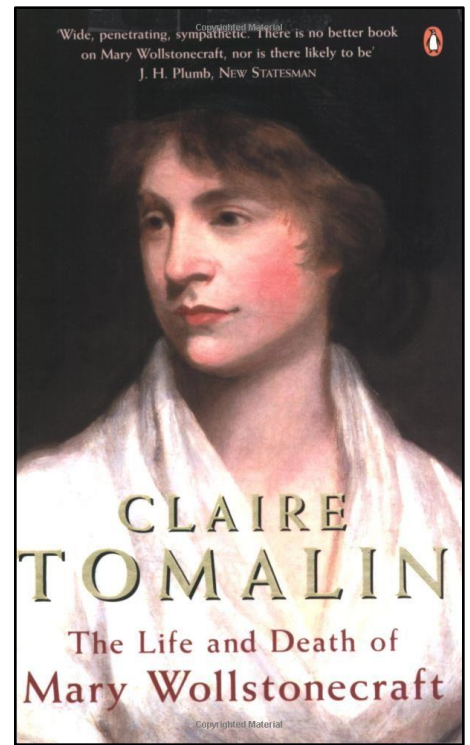


movie star Sam Stewart, is also watching and they both become involved in the rescue effort. This is a story of an act of terror and a summer of change.



Nola has been reading and trying the recipes in ***How To Eat Better*** by James Wong. This book strips away the fad diets, super foods fixations, and Instagram hashtags to give you a straight-talking scientist's guide to making everyday food healthier and tastier simply by changing the way you select, store, and cook them. No diet, no obscure ingredients, no spiralizer, just real food made better based on the latest scientific evidence from around the world. Nola gave us all a lesson on polyphenols – the colours in vegetables and what are the best choices for our diets and wellbeing.

Ros has been reading ***The Life and Death of Mary Wollstonecraft*** by Claire Tomalin. This is a biography of one of the most controversial figures in her day. She published *A Vindication of the Rights of Women*, travelled to revolutionary France, and lived through the terror and destruction of the incipient French feminist movement, produced an illegitimate daughter, and married William Goldwin before dying in childbirth at the age of thirty-eight. Often embattled and bitterly disappointed, Mary Wollstonecraft never gave up her radical ideas or her belief that courage and honesty would triumph over convention. Ros highly recommends this book.

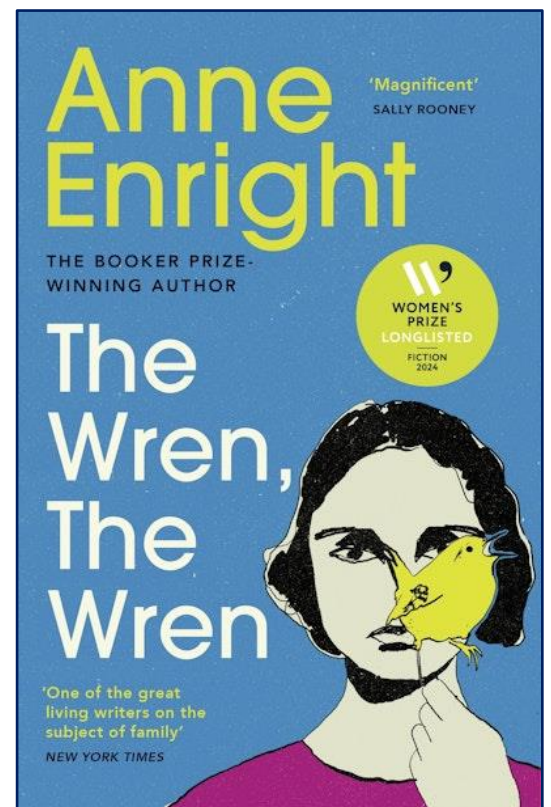


Elaine has been reading ***A Country Between: Making a Home Where Both Sides of Jerusalem Collide*** by Stephanie Saldaña. This is a true

love story which begins in a Syrian monastery, where Saldaña, a Texas-born journalist, falls for Frédéric, a French novice monk. The pair marry and months later they settle in Israel where thanks to Frédéric's church connections they find a home owned by French speaking nuns on the 2,000-year-old Nablus Road, on the Palestinian side of the city. The house is a microcosm unto itself, the first floor being occupied by an Arab grocery store and Mexican nuns with a hidden garden. Saldaña describes the neighbourhood and how the people embrace them, and how a year later fighting between Israel and Hamas endangers them.

Trish has been reading ***The Wren, The Wren*** by Anne Enright which brings to life three generations of McDaragh women who must contend with inheritances of the past. Nell McDaragh never knew her grandfather, the celebrated Irish poet Phil McDaragh, but his love poems seem to speak directly to her. Her mother Carmel knows the magic of Daddo's poetry too well – the kind of magic that makes women slip outside in their nighties; and kiss, then elope as her own mother Terry had done. In his poems Phil envisions the daughter as a bright-eyed wren ascending to escape from his hand. But it is Phil who departs, abandoning his wife and two daughters. This is an Irish family story with beautifully written prose and poems.

Trish Irvine



Walking Group March/April

Walk one:

Ian started us out in South Dunedin ... my local favourite. This week brings us to St Kilda and a ramble around this suburb steeped in Dunedin history as described in Paul Hayward's *More Intriguing Dunedin Street Walks*.



Meet on corner of Royal Crescent and Rugby Street (near Andersons Bay Road) at 10.00am. There should be plenty of parking on Royal Crescent. This is an easy walk completely on the flat and will take about 1 hour 20 mins.



Coffee after at Mitre 10.

However, before coffee we did stop for a bit of redemption as we looked across the street thinking we may want a real drink at the St Kilda Pub.

Walk two:



Averil started us out at the top of Wakari for a power walk up and down the streets and

WAKARI DOG PARK

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By entering the dog park you accept these terms and you acknowledge that entry is at your own risk.

Please ensure your dog is on a lead when exiting this park.

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lanes and a final tramp through the dog park. We all got wet, but no one cared as we had such a delicious choice of bakery offering and the best view at Coffee Culture (aka the Fire Station) in Roslyn.



Walk three:

Tree took us on a familiar trek up to the top of the Botanic Gardens with many stops to admire the changing colours of the season then a descent down to Logan Park, through the student streets and



back to Croque-o-dile. Lots of talk and laughs, as this was our first walk with many members returning after completing the popular

Thursday U3A series, *Science meets Society in History*.



Walk four:

Lloyd, being his usual thorough self, led this popular trek. From Highgate Bridge along and down Fifield St - Tweed St - Melrose St- into Wallace St. Follow down the track through the Town Belt to Queens Drive and visit the garden of Olveston House.

Continue along Queens Drive and up steps to



Newington Ave - more steps to Wallace St - Lynwood Ave - to the end and final climb to Maheno St - Claremont St and back along Highgate to the bridge.

Some of this follows part of Paul Hayward's Walk 1 in Book 5, *Still More Intriguing Dunedin Street Walks*. The distance is approximately 3.3 km, time 1 hour ~ 1.5 hour (I walked it today at easy pace in 55 minutes).



Then to everyone's favourite, Rhubarb, for coffee and treats.

Janet



Gallery Group April

Our group had a country visit to meet Nic Dempster in his studio on Jefferis road near Waikouaiti. The peace of being in the countryside led to a very relaxed time - after a delicious morning tea onsite - and finding out more about Nic's method of painting. We were in his studio, so a lot of questions were about his ideas. His



working space is on a sloped board, with a window at the top.



At one time Nic used oils, but found he was getting a reaction from them and the turpentine, so changed to acrylics. His work board had a partially completed set of lino cut prints, in the early stages of applying paint-in this case using gouache paint. The studio also had narrow shelving to display works in progress.



This room had a very eclectic collection of paintings, bought when travelling overseas, a real treat to view. The gallery space displayed a variety of paintings, in his current style.

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Right from his time at primary school his creativity was encouraged by his teachers and over the years he has developed his style: lots of colour with black lines separating them. He loves colour.

Nic had a part time job at Gallery De Novo when he was



studying at university, this gave him the opportunity to see lots of different artworks and to learn how to frame works that customer brought in. Nic has been painting full time since 2007, a 'job' he loves. We took photos of his works on the walls, and he took a photo of us as being the biggest crowd of people in his studio/gallery.

We completed our day with lunch at the cafe at Blueskin Nursery.

Sue Smail

Monday Current Affairs Group April

The topic for this month's meeting revolved around journalism and questions

ODT
-CO.NZ

as to whether it will survive in its present form, i.e. newspapers and TV news. We started by asking each member of our group

where they got their news from. As we are a current affairs group it wasn't surprising that most, if not all, of us had at least one subscription to a conventional newspaper or TV

channel and/or donated to same online. What was more surprising (should it have been?) was that none of our children did, preferring to get their news free from the internet. Two members of the group described themselves as 'news addicts' and it was obvious that many of us spent a lot of time looking at 'news'.



The opinion piece 'The deplorables, reading click bait, and trustworthiness' written by Chris Trotter in the ODT (Friday April 12) was read aloud as only one person had read it.

Chris Trotter, writing in the third person, raised several points including whether the press is trustworthy and opined that 'the public broadcaster (Radio NZ) seems determined to make every New Zealander pick a side in the Culture Wars' and is losing listeners as a result.



One member said "It is all down to money, and it is money that will decide the future of news." It was a stimulating discussion, and we all look forward to next month's practical discussion on ChatGPT.

John Burton

Singing Group April

I popped up to the hall today to catch this group in action. They were in great voice! One of the tenors had the spotlight from a window high above shining upon him. He may have been the star of the show, but as I enjoyed all the songs, I mustn't write such. Thank you for letting me in. Ani



L: Listening to Claire's coaching.



Photography Group April

We had a great afternoon out at Waikouaiti in early April.



Most of us met up for lunch at the Outpost. Ross remarked that the



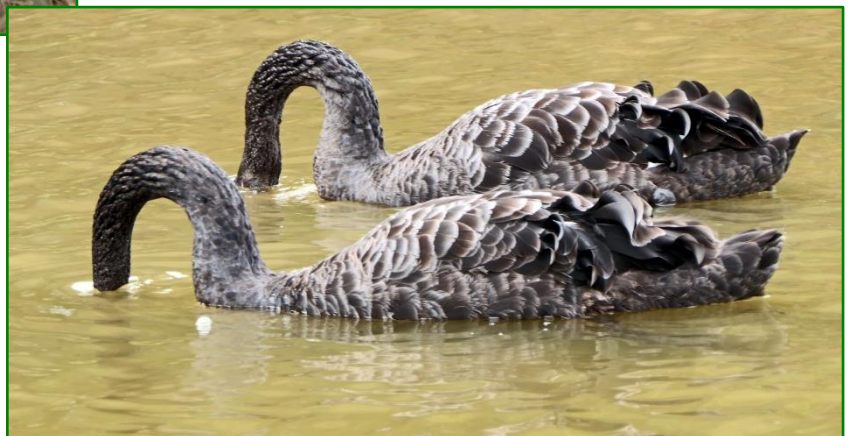
day was a wedding photographer's dream. Soft light without sun, that would have drowned out the bride in her white dress. There was a magnificent white heron bride, along with her spoonbill maids of honour, all in their dazzling plumage, on the Hawksbury Lagoon. She clearly had pretensions of being a ballet

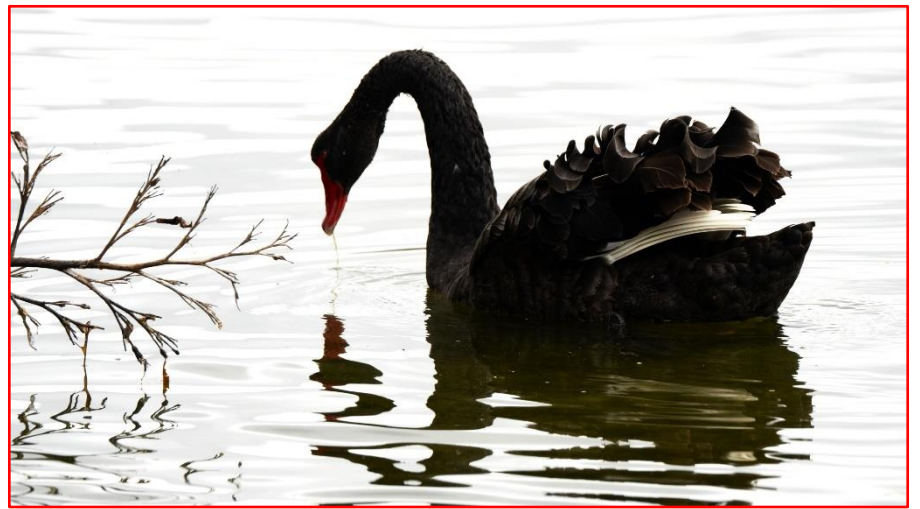
dancer. One of our group members repudiated the notion that



he had been such in his previous life.

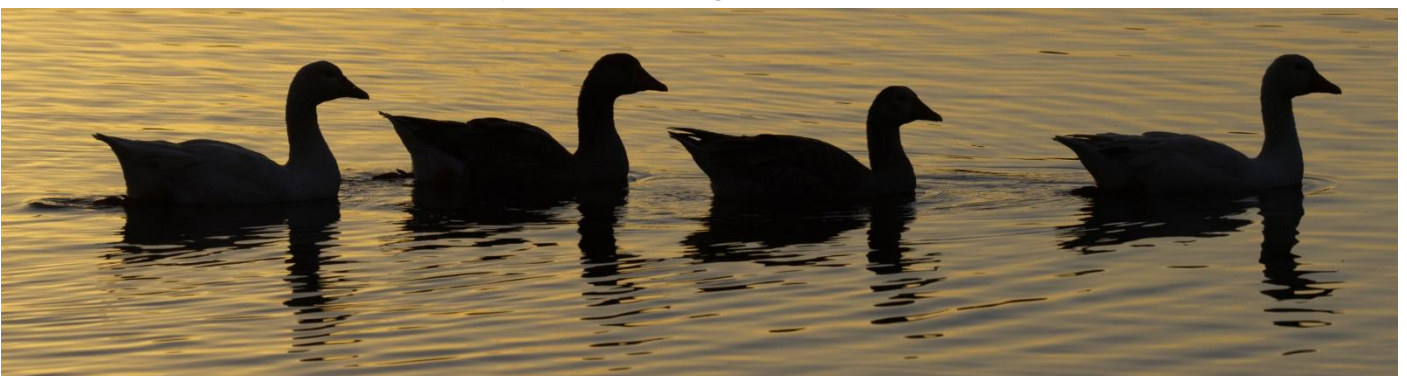
The shag R: is surely hankering to join a choir!

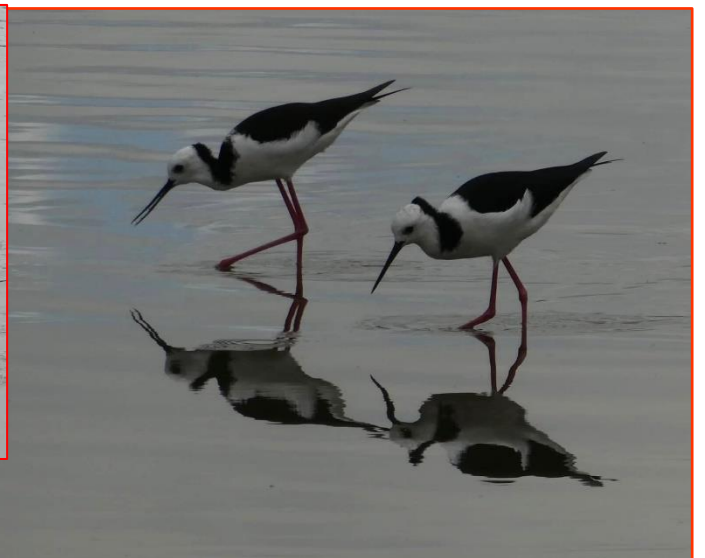
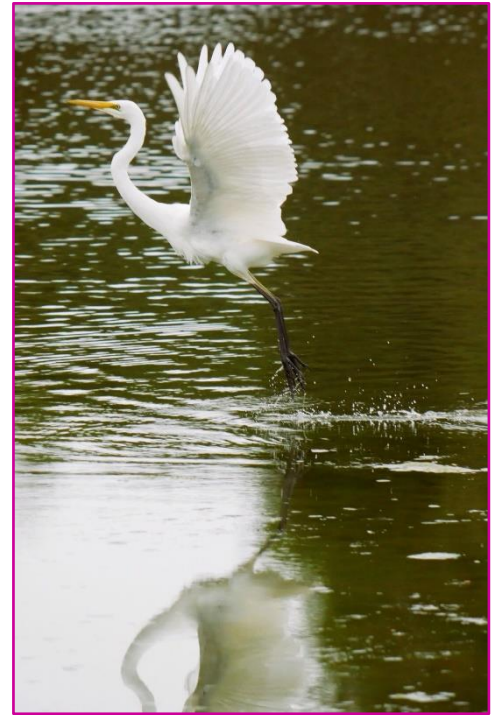




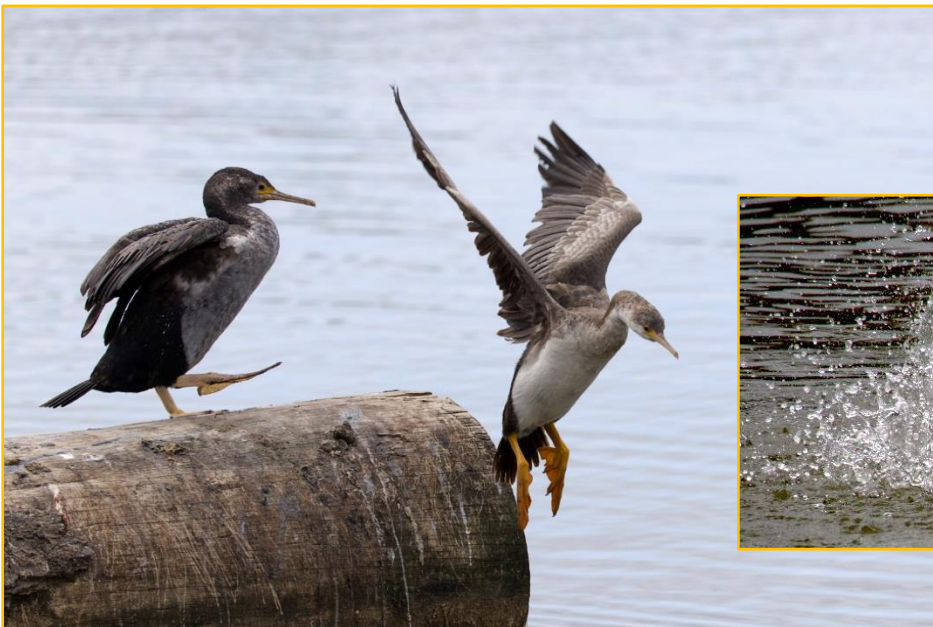
The day lent itself well to B & W photos.

One pair of swans had a batch of cygnets almost as large as themselves, but another batch seemed to be fairly recent hatchlings.





And the icing on the wedding cake was a very enjoyable cuppa at Chris and Heather's home. Thank you both, and thank you too, to the 'ladies who brought a plate'. The shags really got on with it when they decided to have a bath! Laughed at the pic below. "Jump now, or I'll HELP you off".



Pics this trip by: *Chris, Ross, Graham, Hildegard, Wyn, Ani, Anne H and Anne UK.*



Ani

A Saturday morning at the Otago Farmers Market is akin to a market in rural France. The only thing missing is the many-layered tier of poulet gently turning on a rotisserie while



their juices and fat drip into a wide tray below where



bébé pomme de terre are bubbling away and steadily gaining a golden coat.

OFM has breads to bok choy and beetroot, corn to cheeses, croissants and carrots, pumpkins to peppers, pears and pansies, radishes to rhubarb, moki to microgreens, absinthe to apples, leeks to limoncello, lettuces and lemon curd, plants to pinot noir grapes, pastries, and preserves.

Not to overlook the flowers:



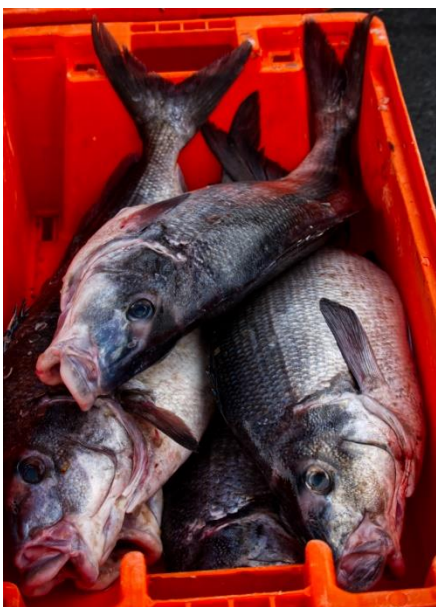
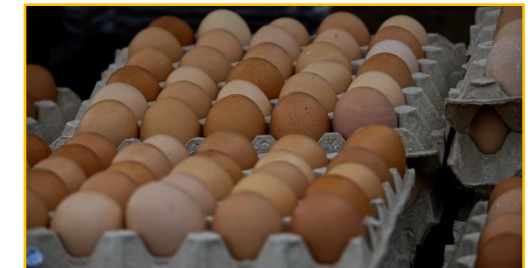
Merrell ties up our choices with care, and sustainable flax.





A smaller turnout than the norm because weekends are tricky for this group. My fault, because I didn't ask the market to set up on a Thursday, and, unlike France, where the markets are often daily, we must wait another week to relish it.

We met at 9 am at Ironic for tea, coffee and at least one spectacular hot chocolate, and then went off to take our photos, mostly at the market, but also at the Railway Station.





If you haven't been, you are missing a true gem.

Pics from this outing by Eunan, Anne H, Ani and Graham.

Ani

