



Interest Groups NEWSLETTER

August 2023

Andre Smith writes:

At the recent board meeting, I gave an overview of my involvement thus far. The new IG referred to in the previous newsletter is the Genealogy Group, with Jean Tilleyshort as convenor. It had not been formally established at the time of publication. All details are already on the U3A website. The enthusiasm for this group shown so far bodes well for the future. We wish them well.

On reviewing the information brochures related to individual groups, I noted that six were outdated. The relevant convenors were contacted, and all but one has been updated. The last one will be sorted out when the convenor returns from warmer climes overseas. Thanks to all for the prompt response to my request. Other administrative matters include referring potential new members to the relevant convenors and helping to resolve some issues.

One of the responsibilities of a convenor is to keep an up-to-date contact list of all members of their groups. Should a convenor then need to delegate the responsibility for organising a meeting in their absence, this can be passed on to the relevant person.

Thus far I have been able to attend meetings of four of the interest groups and used some of this time to communicate with individual members. I am pleasantly surprised by the enthusiasm noticed at these meetings. My intention is to attend at least one meeting of each group during my first year in the role. An observation is that some members tend to belong to more than one group. It would be interesting to have more exact data on this.

Until next time - keep warm and enjoy the first blooms of Spring.

The Photography Group wishes to sincerely thank the members of U3A who joined us on the Monarch sailing on 17 August. We were offered a marvellous deal because of Hildegard Lubcke's long-standing working relationship with the Monarch, but it was the support of the wider group that made this trip financially possible.

Fitting then, to feature one of Hildegard's glorious photos from that day. Ann (Editor)



Art Collections Group

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



Mahjong Group

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



Book Share Group

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



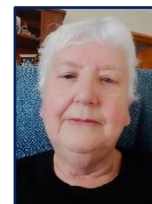
Dining Group

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



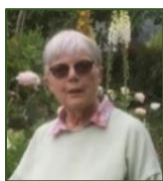
Poetry Group **full**

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



Gallery Group **full**

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



Singing Group

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



Gardens & Botanical Group

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



Tuesday Current Issues **Group full**

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



Genealogy Group **full**

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



Waikouaiti Global Conversations

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



Home Gardens Group

In recess until Sept
Convenor: Carole Bezett
Third Thursday, 1:30
carolebezett@gmail.com



Lunch Group

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



Walking Group **full**

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



Gardens and Botanical Group August

Our group enjoyed a day of two halves. The weather was in charge rather than the convenor. Snow showers were forecast along with heavy rain and a cold wind, so the outlook was not promising for our planned trip to Glenfalloch Gardens on the Otago Peninsula.

But gardeners are an intrepid lot so, rather than cancel the outing, we met at Nichols Garden Centre for lunch and an exploration, should the weather not improve. A tasty lunch there allowed a catch-up under cover for some of our group who were all busy with spring gardening chores and talk of early blooms allowed for lots of sharing of gardening wisdom.

Anne-Marie had entertaining stories of her recent trip to Japan and the perils of travelling solo in unfamiliar territory. Visiting Japan during the blossom season was on her bucket list and it did not disappoint. Then some good bargains were found for our car boots. The rain sent some of our group home to the fireside.



A small number of us decided to take a chance the weather and head to Glenfalloch to meet up with the new members. It turned out to be a good decision because the weather obliged: there was no rain or wind sufficient to deter us from exploring the woodland garden. The hellebores

were a draw card, along with the magnolias and camellias. Late winter gardens have their own charm.

Tree trunks and bare branches allowed us views into denser parts of the garden.



We had a dog accompanying us and he enjoyed the pathways leading to the more elevated parts of the garden. We are very fortunate to have this garden on our doorstep. It is an excellent example of a woodland garden incorporating native plantings and exotic trees, bulbs, herbs, roses, and perennials. There is also a very good café on-site.

Robyne

Monday Current Affairs Group

Co- governance, our topic for this month, was sparked in part by the well-produced, glossy brochures which had arrived in some of our letterboxes. They were entitled Stop Co-Governance and sponsored by Julian Batchelor. They contained a lot of disinformation about New Zealand's history. We found Michael King to be a more reliable source.

Most of us were more interested in an opinion printed in the ODT (June 19), by Anaru Eketone, reminding us that co-governance is not new, and that pakeha have nothing to fear. There have been multiple types of these arrangements since the 19th century.

We firstly needed to define what is meant by co- governance. As it happened, Andre Smith, co-ordinator of the Interest groups, was our visitor for the day. He had consulted ChatGPT, which produced a summary we humans could not improve on. ChatGPT highlighted the importance of democracy, collaboration, transparency, consensus building, and stakeholders working together to implement policies and sustainable outcomes.

Several of us felt that this had been our experience within our professional bodies, which had moved from almost exclusively pakeha to, over time, much more inclusive and collaborative with Māori finding ways to put their own stamp on the way the organisation functioned.



The vital question when embarking on co-governance developments, is to be asking the question, will this improve things for Māori? We are aware of stats recently provided by Rebecca Macfie in four Listener articles about cycles of deprivation, and the way in which her interviewees were striving to have more power over their lives and well-being. She quotes 43% of Māori as living

in their own homes compared to 70% of pakeha. Individual Māori net worth equating to \$42,000 compared to pakeha \$151,000. It is unsurprising Māori want to have more of a say in how things are run.

We discussed our two-tier health system. Those who can afford to pay, or have medical insurance, are well served whilst those who can't, don't even make it onto waiting lists.

Whilst we all wished for more equitable health care for Māori, several people expressed concern about the Māori Health Authority believing the country is too small for two organisations. We are also aware there is no one Māori view.

Having emigrated from an apartheid country, it was particularly interesting to hear Andre's experiences and observations. He arrived in New Zealand with the notion that everyone is equal, only to discover some of the same struggles happening here.



Next month we will discuss the election.

Joy Hayward

Genealogy Group August

The genealogy group has been busy exploring Dunedin historical resources. We have visited the NZ Society of Genealogists resources in the McNab area of the library, the McNab Collection, and Toitu Otago Settlers Museum. There is an amazing array of information available, and we very much appreciate the help of the archivists who shared their knowledge. Now all we need to do is hunt down the information for our families!

At Toitu, the portrait gallery is a highlight. Photos and portraits of settlers arriving between 1820 and 1864 are displayed, and information is available about many of them. There is also a great, searchable collection of early Dunedin photographs.



During the visit, Howard found an unknown photo of an ancestor, and others found details of their family members on the Otago and Southland Early Settlers database that Toitu hosts. We have all found new ways to research and develop our family history and are keen to keep building our family stories.

Jean

EXTRA: Photography Group July



So sorry that these lovely pics taken by Wyn missed the cutoff last month. I bet John

thought his days of animal magnetism were behind him!



Poetry Group August

With Carole still offshore, and one other unwell, five of us met up today to read our chosen poems. Some managed to comply with the topic: **A Country, City, Town, or place**, chosen because the hostess found a poem she liked entitled *'Homage to Texas'* by Robert Graves.

A couple of us took the long way around, and our poems were a very generous interpretation indeed of a place.

Our leisurely shared lunch could have been mistaken for a Current Issues Group meeting. Our almost unanimous decision as to why this world is in the state that it is, wasn't sexism, racism or even climate change, but a total imbalance of money and power.

We have an excellent cook among our number, and she always brings something truly delicious for lunch. Today it was:

Pea Dip

1 cup frozen peas (thaw)
1 clove garlic, crushed
Spring onion (or a little red onion chopped)
1 Tbsp lemon juice
¼ cup olive oil (approx)
¼ cup grated parmesan
Dash of chilli sauce or Tabasco
Salt & pepper
Process, adding olive oil slowly.
Adjust flavour and texture to your taste.



The line given to write to this month was *'When I was One-and Twenty'* by A.E. Housman. Three of us had a crack at this and, while one poem was intensely personal and not for publication, two of

the group were relaxed enough to share.

Ani

Lovers

When I was one and twenty
My lovers were a'plenty,
but now I'm eighty-four,
I yearn for love no more.
I'm happy with my books,
not worried 'bout my looks.
My health is pretty crappy,
But all in all, I'm happy.

DUNEDIN

When I was one-and-twenty
Life had already dealt me plenty.
A man and two young daughters
A home alongside Waitaki's waters

Life in the country is great for some,
With the locals, up they will chum,
But I missed the libraries, and shops,
Movies: I was a bit down in the chops.

For three years, I did the ultimate penance,
But it didn't turn out to be a full life sentence.
Because one day came the thrilling news
"It may not be where you would choose",

Dunedin, I have lived here since I was one-and-twenty,

A brilliant city in every respect: much loved by the cognoscenti.



Going, Going by Philip Larkin

I thought it would last my time—
The sense that, beyond the town,
There would always be fields and farms,
Where the village louts could climb
Such trees as were not cut down;
I knew there'd be false alarms

In the papers about old streets
And split level shopping, but some
Have always been left so far;
And when the old part retreats
As the bleak high-risers come
We can always escape in the car.

Things are tougher than we are, just
As earth will always respond
However we mess it about;
Chuck filth in the sea, if you must:
The tides will be clean beyond.
—But what do I feel now? Doubt?

Or age, simply? The crowd
Is young in the M1 cafe;
Their kids are screaming for more—
More houses, more parking allowed,
More caravan sites, more pay.
On the Business Page, a score

Of spectacled grins approve
Some takeover bid that entails
Five per cent profit (and ten
Per cent more in the estuaries): move
Your works to the unspoilt dales
(Grey area grants)! And when

You try to get near the sea
In summer . . .

It seems, just now,
To be happening so very fast;
Despite all the land left free
For the first time I feel somehow
That it isn't going to last,

That before I snuff it, the whole
Boiling will be bricked in
Except for the tourist parts—
First slum of Europe: a role
It won't be hard to win,
With a cast of crooks and tarts.

And that will be England gone,
The shadows, the meadows, the lanes,
The guildhalls, the carved choirs.
There'll be books; it will linger on
In galleries; but all that remains
For us will be concrete and tyres.

Most things are never meant.
This won't be, most likely; but greeds
And garbage are too thick-strewn
To be swept up now, or invent
Excuses that make them all needs.

I just think it will happen, soon.

Philip Arthur Larkin CH CBE FRSL was an English poet, novelist, and librarian. His first book of poetry, *The North Ship*, was published in 1945, followed by two novels, *Jill* and *A Girl in Winter*, and he came to prominence in 1955 with the publication of his second collection of poems, *The Less Deceived*, followed by *The Whitsun Weddings* and *High Windows*. [Wikipedia](#)

Born: August 9, 1922, [Coventry, England](#)

Died: December 2, 1985, [Kingston upon Hull, England](#)

Education: [St John's College, Oxford](#)

Going, Going (From *High Windows*)

'Going, Going', being a government-commissioned poem originally titled 'Prologue', is seldom considered by literary experts to rank amongst Larkin's finest work. This may be, but the poem puts over a hard-hitting environmental message and lines from it are frequently in the media, often in the context of some campaign currently raging.

Larkin wrote the poem in 1972 at the same time as he was composing the even bleaker 'The Building', and the two could be read together to get some idea of the sense of finality he wished to convey to his readers.

Gallery Group August

The Gallery Group met at the house and studio of Sarah Freiburger on a cold and wintry day in August. This was a huge contrast to the warm and friendly atmosphere inside Sarah's house. We were all comfortably seated and able to thoroughly enjoy talking with Sarah about her methods and style of painting, and we began to understand the demanding preparation and exquisite detail and planning that went into each work of art.



Sarah has had huge success selling her artwork to clients and at exhibitions, particularly at the current exhibition on at the Otago Art Society, The Edinburgh Premier Art Awards. Some of her paintings would have sold twice over if there had been more. Edinburgh Realty purchased one of Sarah's paintings as their number one choice in the whole exhibition. Her ability to light up the forests with sunlight is captivating as is her ability to create misty and mysterious landscapes.



L: A close-up of a corner of a forest landscape showing the detailed work involved and the misty background.

It is wonderful to see the work of an artist who has outstanding ability rather than quirkiness which seems to be in vogue now. As we are a group of the 'older' generation we all very much appreciated seeing genuine talent with a love of forests, water and nature.

Sarah is a part time primary teacher and paints from early morning on all the days she doesn't teach. Preparation of the boards takes several days of work to ensure a smooth surface for painting. Tape is used to block out areas and ensure straight lines for the tree trunks. Sarah has perfected her colour choices and paint type to achieve the effects that she wants and make her paintings so desirable.

R: *A well-balanced landscape once Chris had suggested one of the trees was moved. Sarah enjoys receiving constructive ideas.*

Everyone seemed happy and contented being surrounded by such beautiful work and seeing where, and how, such work was being produced. A big thank you to Sarah for hosting us and being so generous with her time. Also thank you to Chris for organising this trip. Chris purchased one of Sarah's forest landscapes at the last exhibition of the Otago Art Society.

Chris thanked Sarah on our behalf.



Below is the beautiful 'Motatapu River, Wanaka' which won Sarah the Edinburgh Award at this year's Premier Art Awards. On show at the Otago Art Society at the Railway Station until 2 September.

Our next visit is a day trip to Owaka to hear from artist Marie Reid Beadle. She will talk to us in the Owaka Museum, followed by lunch and a visit to a local art gallery.

Tash



Walking Group August

Lloyd Smith led us around The Greek Quarter and Zeus's Belt on the 20th July. It wasn't Alpha to Omega, but Beta to Epsilon with the belt being the Town Belt, through Robin Hood Park and past the Beverly Begg observatory, finishing up with refreshments at Rhubarb.



Our next walk was to be a loop starting and ending in Mornington, but the weather was horrid, so we were all pleased it was cancelled and we stayed warm and dry, with those keen to get together, meeting at Alto.



Gary's walk on the 3rd of August was blessed with a short weather window and we completed a 2.5km flat walk starting and ending at the St Clair Esplanade. Along the way we admired the grand old homes in St Clair finishing off with coffee at Fugue Cafe.



Barrie Peake had planned to lead us through various parts of Mornington along the route listed by Paul Hayward in his 1998 book 'More Intriguing Dunedin Street Walks' with the heading 'Cable Cars, Churches, Big Drops and Long Drops'. Taking in the late Alfred Reed's historic houses at 153 and 155 Glenpark Ave. with a return to the Alto Café. However, it snowed and there were some steep gradients and shady patches with ice and snow, not willing to risk uncontrolled skates or broken limbs we called the whole thing off before 8am.

So far, we have only scored two walks in four weeks. We have high hopes for a walk tomorrow on the 17th. Philip has plotted a walk around the Musselburgh area taking around seventy minutes. So, fingers crossed, my walking shoes are ready by the front door, no shorts yet, but it will



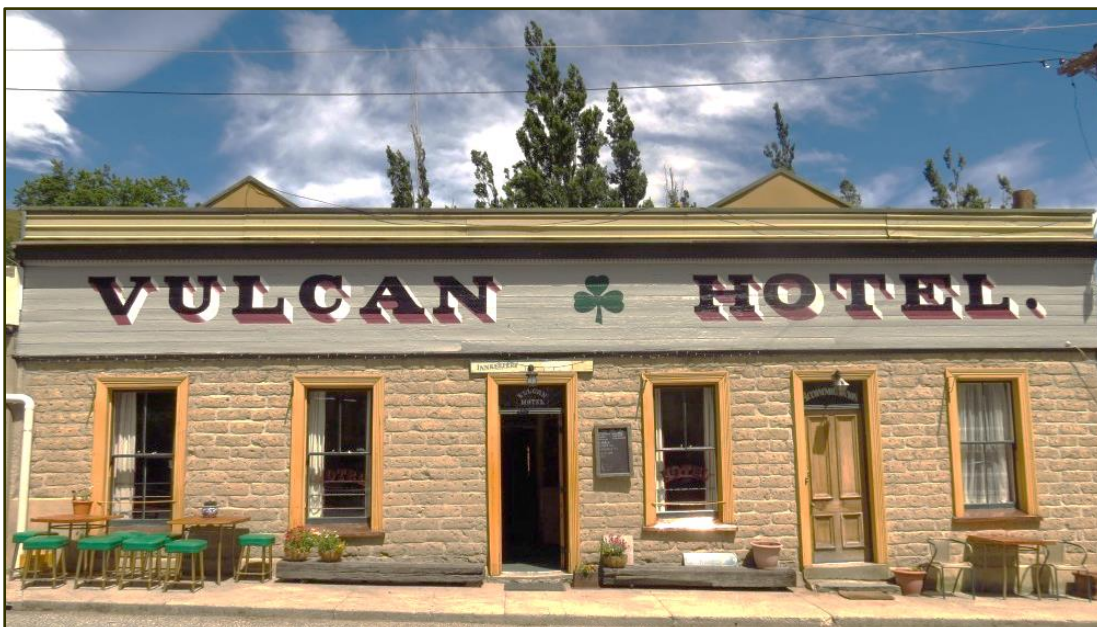
be great to get together again and explore this interesting suburb.

I can now report this was a beautiful day, with a chill wind to keep us moving, and a welcome sight of Spring in an early flowering blossom tree.

With Spring here, we are hoping to be walking every week. This coming Thursday, John has hatched a keenly anticipated, and ambitious full day plan. Head to Ranfurly via Pig Root - coffee there by 11:30. We aim to be at St Bathans about lunch time for a walk and pub lunch. Then it is on to Cambrians and then home via Omakau and the Ida Valley, or via Alexandra.

I wonder if Alexandra's famous blossoms will be on show yet. We will report back in next month's newsletter.

Averil



Enjoy your lunch!

What is so good about this newsletter is seeing how groups inspire other groups. The Photography Group is heading to St Bathans on a weekend trip in November. Sunday lunch will be booked at this old hotel.

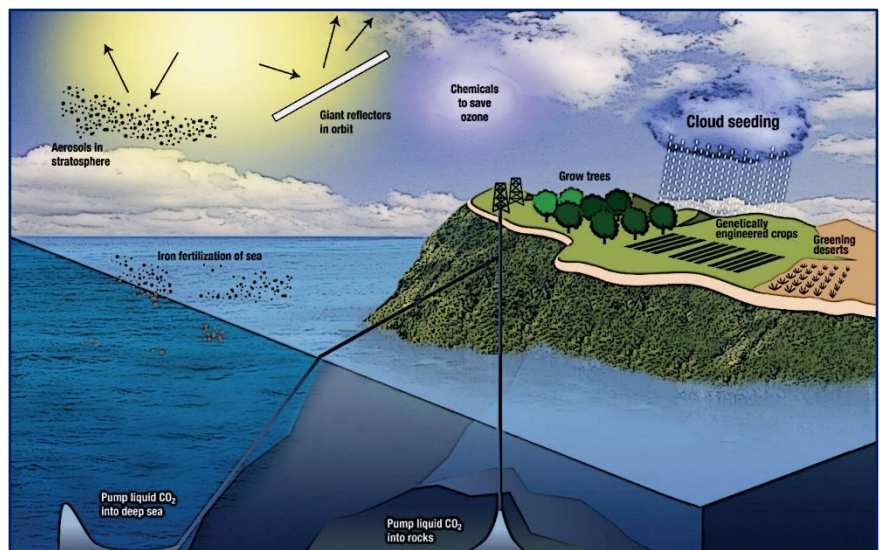
Ann (Editor)

There was no shortage of issues to discuss this month, a state that is likely to continue with the forthcoming election!

The Government has just released the first documents in a roadmap for future defence and national security in response to challenges such as terrorist attacks, disinformation, and cyber-attacks on critical infrastructure.

We discussed this strategy in terms of defence, rather than aggression, the need to maintain our independence while strengthening ties with partners and allies, and our response to the changing international rules-based order. We expect to hear more about these topics in the coming months and will follow them with interest.

The defence strategy led us into talking about climate change and geo-engineering. We soon realised that our collective knowledge in this area is superficial, so we will probably also come back to it in another meeting. Similarly, disinformation is likely to be a continuing theme.



One of us had just received Julian Batchelor's booklet on co-governance in the mailbox. We unanimously agreed that it is a diatribe of misinformation designed to stoke racism and division, which we hope will be discredited. Another strand of mis/disinformation came into our conversation around a question about Bobby (RFK Jr) Kennedy, who is one of the twelve most prolific producers of misinformation on social media, and his bid for the US presidency.

We talked a bit about how and why people might go down 'rabbit holes' of misinformation and how ill-equipped we are to deal with these people, especially when they are friends and family members.

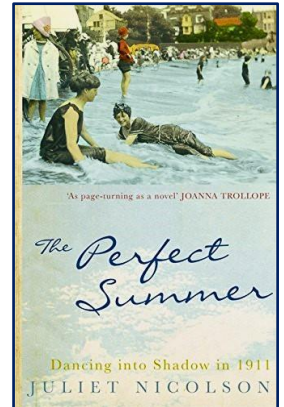
Without covering the horrific details, we discussed the media's reporting of the Dickason trial and the lack of privacy afforded to all involved which we thought has breached journalism standards of respect and decency with shock value and drama to maximise clicks.

Finally, on a much more comfortable level, we continued with another long introduction from one of our members. This is proving to be an enjoyable part of our group's growing cohesion.

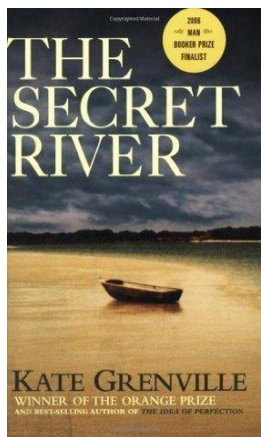
Book Share Group August

We received an apology from Meg and enjoyed sharing books of many genres in August. We also discussed the wide range of films showing at the current International Film Festival, so good to see it back after a three-year absence.

Ros had been reading *The Perfect Summer* by Juliet Nicolson. This book is an analysis of the year 1911 as experienced by the Queen, Mary of Teck wife of George V, preparing for the coronation (her letters to her aunt with permission from Queen Elizabeth), and in the eyes of a series of exceptional individuals, a debutante, trade unionists male and female, politicians, and a butler. A year the sun shone and those that could afford to revelled in that sunshine - but the shadows that were hinted at in 1911, in just a few years, fell on everyone.



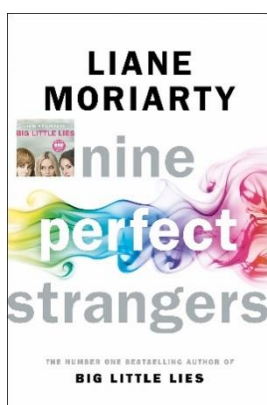
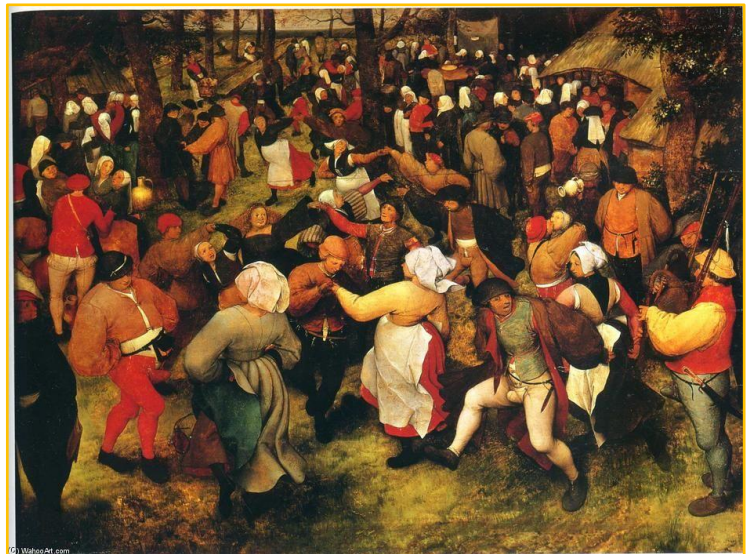
Well worth reading.



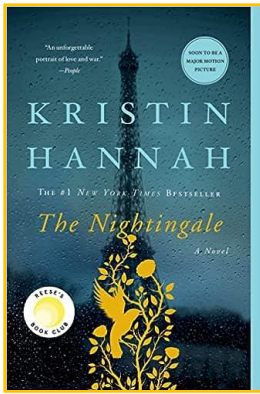
Ros also shared *The Secret River* by Kate Grenville, which is an Australian historic novel.

In 1806 William Thornhill, an illiterate English bargeman and man of quick temper, but deep compassion, steals a load of wood. As part of a lenient sentence, he is deported along with his wife Sal, to the New South Wales colony that would become Australia. This book is the tale of William and Sal's deep love for their small exotic corner of the new world and William's gradual realisation that if he wants to be a successful farmer, he must forcibly take the land from the people who were there before him. Again, a book well worth reading.

Nola shared a beautifully illustrated copy of *Pieter Bruegel the Elder* by Anders C Shafer. This is the story of the innovative Flemish Renaissance painter and printmaker, known for his sweeping landscapes and peasant scenes. He was apprenticed early in his life to painter Pieter Croecke van Aelst and in 1551, around the age of 26, he was accepted into the painter's guild in Antwerp as a master painter. His nickname was Peasant Brueghel as he would often don peasant clothing and attend social gatherings and weddings to mingle and interact with locals and gain insights and inspiration for his paintings. As a pioneer in Netherlands genre painting, he portrayed social aspects of 16th century life.

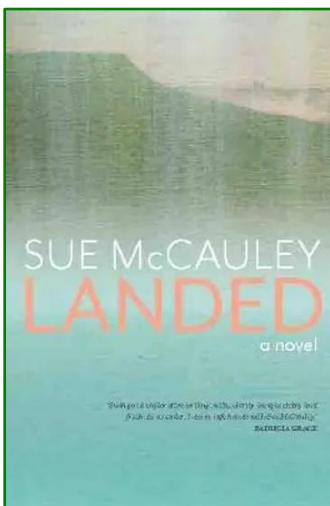


Elaine had been reading *Nine Perfect Strangers* by Liane Moriarty. Nine people gather at a remote heath resort. Some are here to lose weight, some are here to get a reboot on life, some are here for reasons they can't even admit to themselves. Frances Welty, the formerly best-selling romantic novelist, arrives at Tranquillum House nursing a bad back, a broken heart, and an exquisitely painful paper cut. She is immediately intrigued by the guests but the person that intrigues her most is the charismatic owner/director of Tranquillum House — could this person really have the answers? A real page turner.



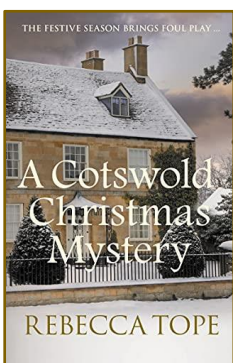
Elaine also had been reading *The Nightingale: A Novel* by Kristin Hannah. Set in WW2 France this is the story of two sisters, one who works alongside the Germans and one who works with the Resistance and illuminates a part of history seldom seen — the woman's war. This is a novel that celebrates resilience of the human spirit and the durability of women. A compelling read.

Trish had been reading two recently published New Zealand novels. *Pet* by Catherine Chidgey, set in New Zealand 1980s, is a gripping story of deception and guilt set in a Catholic school. Like every other girl in her class, twelve-year-old Justine is drawn to her glamorous charismatic new teacher and longs to be her pet. However, when a thief begins to target the school Justine realises something is not right. With each twist of the plot this story of deception and the corrosive power of guilt takes a darker turn. This story will be a classic along with the likes of *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*, *Heavenly Creatures* and *Au Revoir Les Enfants*.



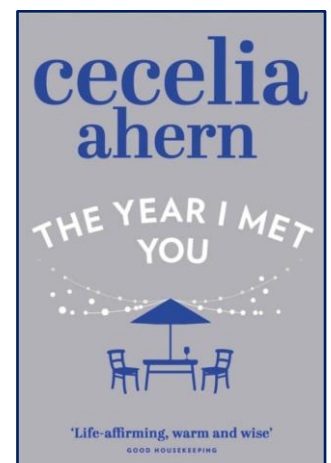
It is forty years since Sue McCauley's first novel *Other Halves* which won many prizes and this one is worth the wait. *Landed* is a sprawling novel about relationships, family, and change. The central character, like McCauley herself who is now in her eighties, is an older woman, an empty nester. Briar is suddenly cast adrift: the suicide of her husband, in over his head financially; the glib way her son steps up with advice; and then there is the young man that helps her understand computers, and the sister-in-law who puts aluminium windows in a heritage building, and her relationships with her own children which defy expectations of family harmony. This is a thought-provoking masterpiece, and I hope, a film too someday.

Caroline has been reading *A Cotswold Christmas Mystery* by Rebecca Tope. Christmas is coming to the picturesque



Cotswolds — days are merry and bright at Slocombe House and Thea's daughter has come to stay. But things take a turn for the worse when a local family, the Frowses, find themselves being harassed by an aggressive landlord and his overbearing new wife. Beverly Frowse goes missing suddenly without trace and Thea and her daughter feel they should help investigate what happened to her. This book is part of a series set in the Cotswolds. Carolyn also shared *The Year I met You* by Cecelia Ahern, a thoughtful and uplifting novel. Jasmine loves two things;

her sister and her work. When her work is taken away, she has no idea who she is. Matt loves two things; his family and the booze. Without them he hits rock bottom. One New Year's Eve two people's paths collide. Both have time on their hands; both are at a crossroads. An unlikely friendship develops as the year unfolds — sometimes you must stop still to move on. A heart-warming tale.



Our next meeting is on Friday 1st September at 1.30pm.

Trish Irvine

Expanding Musical Horizons

This month's topic: The Birds and the Bees. Although today's session was about birds and bees, there were plenty of other small animals present. Birds, in particular, have inspired composers over the centuries because of their musical sounds, but a surprising number of composers have been enthusiastic about other little creatures as well. Bartok, for instance, was a keen entomologist. As a child, he bred silkworms, but in time he developed a significantly large and well curated collection of insects. We listened to one of his piano pieces, *From the Diary of a Fly*. Hirini Melbourne (Tuhoe) used to head into the bush frequently where he was inspired to write dozens of songs from the sounds of birds and other things in that environment.



As our purpose is to expand musical experiences, we avoided the usual suspects in a programme on this topic (*Flight of the Bumblebee* or Mendelssohn's *Bees' Wedding*, for instance) and instead listened to music from Praetorius to Gareth Farr, and from Josquin des Prez to Lilburn, fifteen pieces inspired by birds or other small creatures. Many imitated the animal sounds very closely while others somewhat less so. Cats and dogs were represented by Scarlatti, Gershwin and Rossini, and we also listened to music about crickets, hens and butterflies. We could easily have spent two sessions covering the huge range of insects and animals that have inspired music, but next month we'll be devoting our time to members' own choices.

Paul

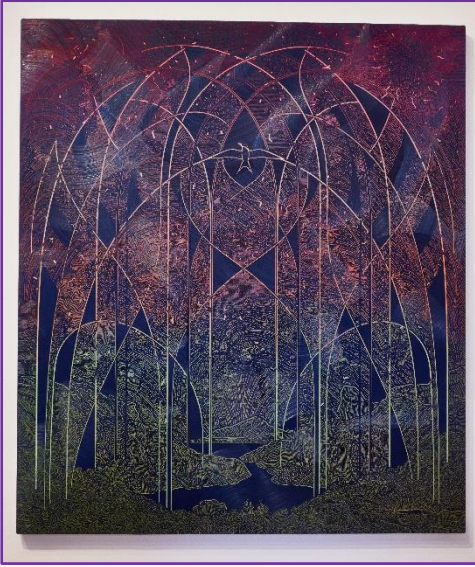


Dinner Group August

Eight of us met for dinner at Buddha Stix in George St on the third Friday of the month. Our choices were varied, and we all seemed happy with our selections from the wide menu on offer. We ended the evening as spectators while Wal dealt to his affogato. He is not a happy man when a restaurant does not feature this dessert on the menu. Karen

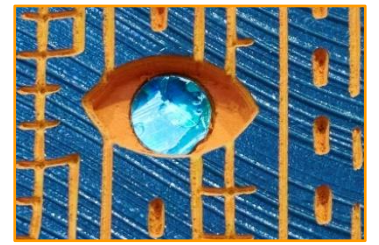
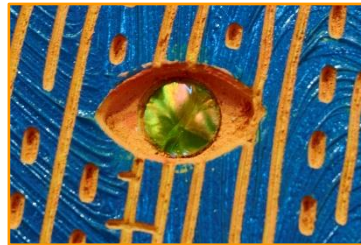


Art Collections Group August



To the R is a small sample of several canvases.

It was hard to believe that "Echoes" was his debut showing, and we all admired the craft of his work. He transfers his original image into a digital format and, once he has applied many, many, layers of paint to his canvas, he uses a machine to etch his drawing into the surface. Native birds were featured in all on show.



We stepped into another space to view works by the more experienced Andy Leleisi'uao. These were fascinating works with a lot of detail. Vanessa told us his art demonstrates that every person in life has a purpose.



There was a very large and striking piece of sculpture by Paul Dibble who is a leading artist, and one of the few who casts his own work in bronze. It took a

crane and then reassembly of the five parts to get this work into the gallery!





My favourite piece was work by Terry Stringer, who is widely recognised as one of New Zealand's leading sculptors.

Vanessa then offered us a tour behind the main part of the galleries. What a great experience. There were a surprising number of works, and rooms, out there: a right treasure trove. The gallery space one sees is only a small part of the entire workplace. Milford Galleries' exhibitions change regularly so there are always works waiting to be hung, and some unsold works waiting to be returned to the artists.



Our second visit was to The Artist's Room, just down the street. Here the main exhibition was a joint showing by Donna Demente and



Sue Syme which was not to the taste of many of us.

There were many other works on display and we each had our favourites, two of our group being particularly taken by the ceramic leaves of Kate Gold, the affordable price may have been part of the lure.

Purchases made, we repaired to The Black Dog for a chat and a late morning tea.

Anne-Marie

Tuesday Current Issues July

We began our July meeting pondering whether our issues are so current our meeting reports can appear quickly out of date. We agreed most issues are on-going, so slightly tardy reporting is not generally of concern.

The first hot-under-the-collar issue was to do with synthetic tiles instead of wool, for schools. Apparently, this is a done deal, so we decided we might, individually, choose to write complaining of the narrow focus of this decision and ask if public purchasing could insist that the wider interest of the country – from production to disposal - be taken into account in future.

We discussed the current Matariki activities, and asked how can some of us celebrate while being true to our own beliefs and traditions? Certainly, recalling people who have died is timely at the dark of the year, and can be very helpful. The thought was we would come to value Matariki as we do Christmas, as a celebration with family and friends. The King's Birthday honours could be moved to Matariki, and if the country is to continue with fireworks, then Matariki would be a much better time of year than 5 November.

We also had interesting discussions on the current actions of Mr Netanyahu and the 'settlers' invading the West Bank; that PTSD from war effort or other major event can have lifelong effects on subsequent generations; that walking to school provides for fitness, geographic nous and independence; and the current Listener articles by Rebecca Macfie regarding community-led responses to poverty. **Gretchen**

Lunch Group August

Only two of us ended up going to The Esplanade for lunch this month. I am filling in for Anne while she is travelling to Nepal and India, and I didn't have all the contact information I needed. If you are a member of this group, please accept my apologies if I missed you in August. Could you please email me on ngairemichael@gmail.com and I will rectify the list ready for next month's gathering. This will be at Emersons which is a good venue with plenty of parking, so I hope more can come. Our group does need

more members. We meet at 12.30 on the second Friday of each month in a café or restaurant that has been decided by those present at the previous month's lunch.

Ngaire Bates

And here is Anne, second from front, on safari in Chetwin, Nepal. Here is the crocodile on the bank who didn't eat HER for lunch.

Ann (Editor)



Photography Group August



Eight of us headed to the Central Fire Station on the 3rd of August.

We were welcomed by Campbell who gave us an induction chat, and then Mike, one of the fire crew showed us around both stories of the building and obliged with the fire pole slide. He talked about the fire trucks and took us out to the yard to see a display of fighting a car fire.



For me, it was a hark back to Playcentre days when we took our wide-eyed children to see the engines and hose displays. Like them, we did as we were bidden, nobody got wet, and everybody had a great afternoon out. Unlike

them, we ended up at Ironic for chat, coffee and treats. Ani



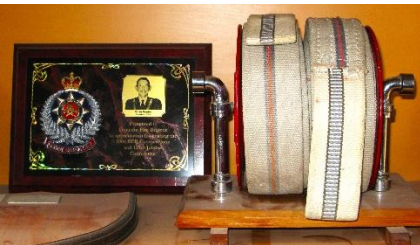
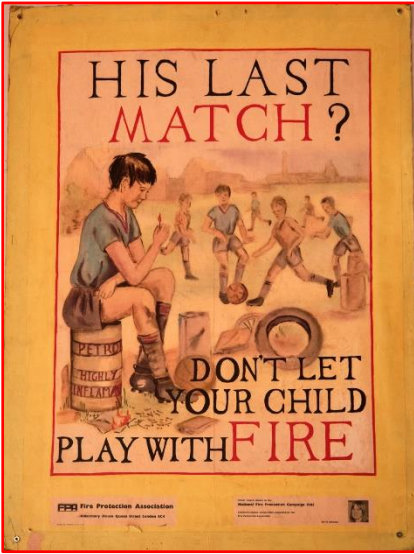
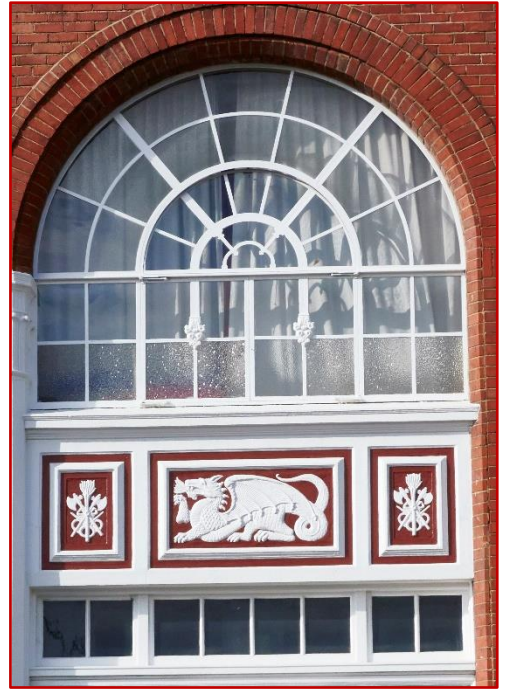
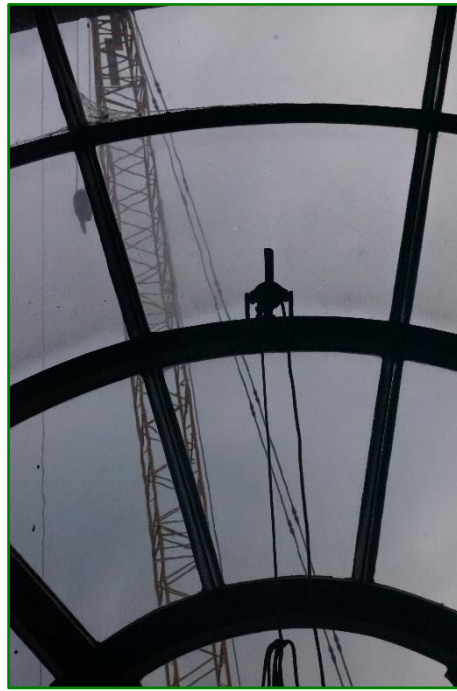


Had to admire the skill of the drivers. In at the back, out at the front. NARROW!



A couple of the engines are still equipped with old wooden rescue ladders.

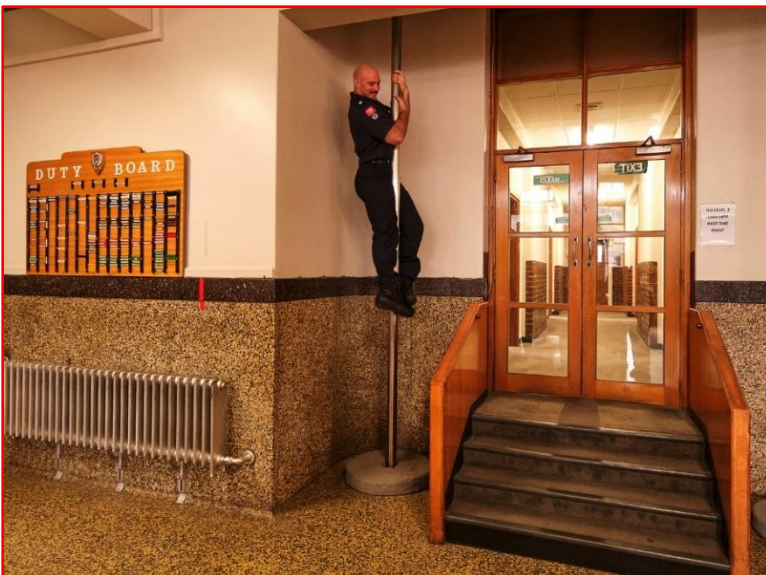




Hildegard found these pennants from Germany in the museum area. On enquiry, I've been told that a group from Germany bought these into the station, and one of the firefighters put together the display board for the in-house museum.



Pic credits this trip: Ross, Graham, Linda, Hildegard, Laurie, Anne M, Ani, and Marie.



😊 The weather gods positively beamed on our highly anticipated trip out in the Monarch on 17 August. 😊

Graham writes: I love boats, I once owned ten, all at the same time! So, when the chance to go out on the



Monarch came along, I was definitely up for it. She's a solidly built and unflappable little ship, and, with only thirty of us on board, we had lots of room to move around on a solid platform and choose our positions for photography. We were out for two and a half hours, but in that time, I saw more species than I have seen on weeks long sailing trips in the Bay of Islands or even the

Hebrides, Atlantic Canada, or the Caribbean. Dunedin is surely a



wildlife hotspot, but to be on a

boat off Taiaroa Head has got to be the best seat in the house. Just look at the pictures. Thank you to all those other U3A folk who, although not in the photo group, came along anyway for the experience and, thereby made it possible for us all to get the trip for such a reasonable price. Hildegard and Ani, when can we go again?



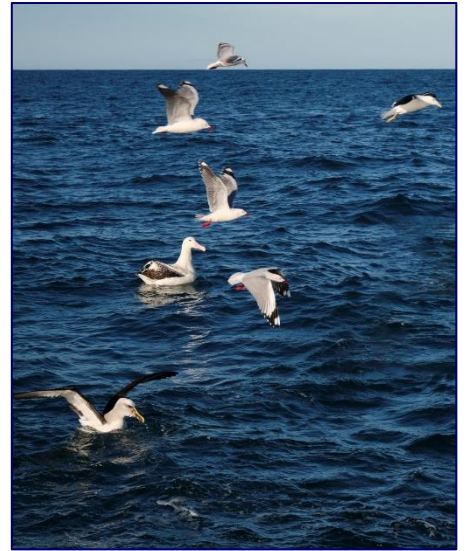
One of our highlights was seeing the chicks dotted all over the slopes at Taiaroa Head. One chap was flapping his growing wings, while still retaining, in places, some of his downy covering. Wanting to go, but not quite ready yet.





The shags have their own nesting spot further down the cliff face. Their nests, which are platforms of sticks and seaweed, cemented with guano, resemble inner city dense housing rather than the well-spaced-out albatross nests on the slopes above. *Slumbering sea lions below.*





One of our invited U3A members, Maree Johnstone, who is a longtime volunteer at the Orokonui Ecosanctuary, and a serious bird watcher, came armed with binoculars rather than a camera. She has sent me a list of the birds we saw on the trip. Thanks very much, Maree, this will be appreciated by all.

Northern Royal Albatross chicks on Taiaroa Head and at least one adult flying in.

- Southern Royal albatross (one sitting on water)
- Buller's albatross (mollymawk)
- Black-browed albatross (mollymawk)
- White capped albatross
- Australasian gannet
- Otago shag
- Spotted shag
- Little shag
- Variable oystercatcher
- Black backed and red billed gulls



We were hove to, and the chum (fish waste) taken with us



for this purpose was being fed to the seabirds in the area.



Suddenly the skipper, and a couple of keen eyes in the group, spotted a whale blowing at a distance. The boat sped off towards the sighting, but we didn't see it again. Quite exciting! But we did see a seal flailing back and forth the octopus he had caught. One terrific shot emerged. **Ani** Pic credits: Graham, Hildegard, Ani, Eunan, John B, and Myrtle.