



# Interest Groups NEWSLETTER

July 2023

## Greetings from the Coordinator

I'm still in recovery mode after our 5500km trip through the Australian outback. We made it to Birdsville, drove the iconic track, and then camped at Arkaroola, in the Northern Flinders Range.

*R: View from the top of the "Big Red" dune near Birdsville*



We spent two days in Broken Hill, and meandered westwards via Bourke, where Fred Hollows is buried.

*L: Sunset at the Sculpture Park near Broken Hill*

*Below: Freezing, early morning walk at Stanthorpe, Granite Belt, Southern Queensland.*

After visiting the Granite Belt in Southern Queensland, we pitched our tent at Cania Gorge before returning to our starting point. The journal, once completed, of our travels will be called "Birdsville or Bust!"



On the IG front, we have a new group in the pipeline - hopefully more about this in the next newsletter.

Andre Smith

### Art Collections Group

Convenor: Anne-Marie Hutton  
Monthly: First Tuesday 10 am  
E: [annemariehutton@gmail.com](mailto:annemariehutton@gmail.com)



### Mahjong Group

Convenor: Jean Tilleyshort  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays, 10 am  
E: [s-jtilleyshort@xtra.co.nz](mailto:s-jtilleyshort@xtra.co.nz)



### Book Share Group

Convenor: Trish Irvine  
First Friday, 1:30  
E: [trishjockloch@gmail.com](mailto:trishjockloch@gmail.com)



### Monday Current Affairs Group **full**

Convenor: Joy Hayward  
Third Monday, 1.30  
E: [joyhayward@hotmail.co.nz](mailto:joyhayward@hotmail.co.nz)



### Dining Group

Convenor: Karen Wards  
Third Friday, 7 pm  
E: [karendwards@gmail.com](mailto:karendwards@gmail.com)



### Photography Group **full**

Convenor: Ann Wood  
First Thursday, 1:30;  
Third Thursday, TBA  
E: [ann.wood14blaw@gmail.com](mailto:ann.wood14blaw@gmail.com)



### Expanding Musical Horizons **full**

Convenor: Paul Wheeler  
Second Monday, 10 am  
E: [wheeler@outlook.co.nz](mailto:wheeler@outlook.co.nz)



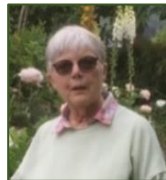
### Poetry Group **full**

Convenor: Carole Bezett  
Fourth Wednesday, 11 am  
E: [carolebezett@gmail.com](mailto:carolebezett@gmail.com)



### Gallery Group **full**

Convenor: Tash Hurst  
Second Wednesday, 10:30  
E: [tash.hurst@xtra.co.nz](mailto:tash.hurst@xtra.co.nz)



### Singing Group

Convenor: Claire Stevens  
Weekly: Monday, 1 pm  
E: [cstevensnz@gmail.com](mailto:cstevensnz@gmail.com)



### Gardens & Botanical Group **full**

Convenor: Robyne Selbie  
Second Wednesday, 1:30  
E: [robyneselbie1945@gmail.com](mailto:robyneselbie1945@gmail.com)



### Tuesday Current Issues Group **full**

Convenor: Gretchen Kivell  
Third Tuesday, 10 am  
E: [gretchen.kivell@xtra.co.nz](mailto:gretchen.kivell@xtra.co.nz)



### Genealogy Group **full**

Convenor: Jean Tilleyshort  
1st and 3rd Fridays, 10-12  
E: [s-jtilleyshort@xtra.co.nz](mailto:s-jtilleyshort@xtra.co.nz)



### Waikouaiti Global Conversations

Convenor: Kath Ryan  
2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday 2-4pm  
E: [kathryan09@gmail.com](mailto:kathryan09@gmail.com)



### Home Gardens Group

#### **In recess until Sept**

Convenor: Carole Bezett  
Third Thursday, 1:30  
E: [carolebezett@gmail.com](mailto:carolebezett@gmail.com)



### Walking Group **full**

Every Thursday, 10:30  
Joint Convenors:



### Lunch Group

Convenor: Anne Stratford  
Second Friday 12:30  
E: [annepstratford@gmail.com](mailto:annepstratford@gmail.com)



Averil McLean  
E: [averilmclean2@gmail.com](mailto:averilmclean2@gmail.com)

Janet Hewson  
E: [je.hewson@xtra.co.nz](mailto:je.hewson@xtra.co.nz)



## MahJong Group July

We continue to meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month, with about 10 – 12 people generally. There's always room for more, whether you are experienced or a novice.



Some of our group went to a tournament in Timaru and had success in both the games and the raffles! They have been inspired to organise a tournament in Dunedin, with the many groups around town and others in Alexandra and Timaru.

These competitions are fun and challenging so we are looking forward to the Dunedin tournament.

Jean

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## Genealogy group July

We haven't had our first meeting yet, but the group is full! We have closed it at 12 people and are starting a waitlist.

Our first meeting on 21 July will focus on developing our meeting processes and priorities.

We are lucky to have great resources for family history research in Dunedin, especially for those wanting to learn how and when their ancestors came to Dunedin. We will be making great use of these, as well as the vast online international resource databases. It's amazing what you can learn even if the family doesn't know much about its history.

Here is a snippet I found about my father's grandfather from the Otago Witness 1 August 1885

Three young children, two sons and a daughter of Mr Peter Mackay, manager of the Duck Point tunnel, were severely burned by gunpowder, George, about 10 years of age, specially so. Dr Fletcher was at once sent for, and had fears for his losing the sight of an eye; but, fortunately, his sight has since been completely restored, and the three youngsters now bear but little trace of their late adventure, which should act as a warning to parents and others not to leave gunpowder within reach of children

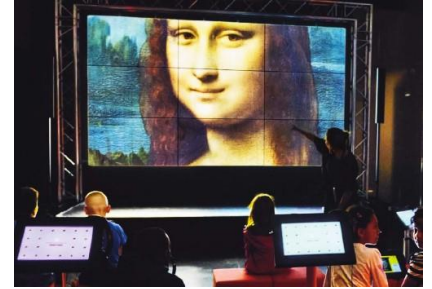
Apparently, the family didn't learn their lesson as one of the other sons later lost his hand fishing with dynamite, and eventually became a manufacturer of artificial limbs used in the first world war.

For me, these stories bring my family's history alive and help me understand how we came to be who we are.

Jean

## Art Collections Group July

The group has been quite active since the last newsletter. On Saturday the 24th of June some of our members went to the Metro Theatre to view the film 'Anything but a Still Life'. This was a celebration of the life and works of Frances Hodgkins. I highly recommend seeing this movie if you get the chance.



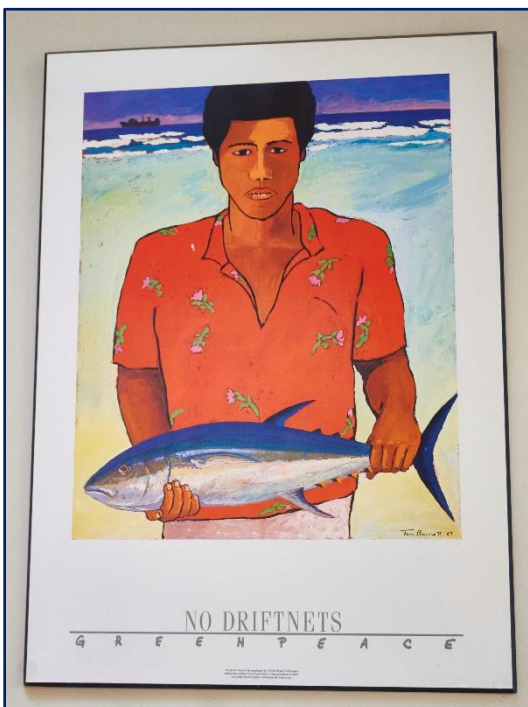
The next weekend many of the group planned to meet up at Tuhura Otago Museum to see Micro-Folie Digital Museum. This is a collection of thousands of artworks from famous museums around Europe and the world. Fewer of us managed to get

there because of the appalling weather, but I understand it was well worth viewing.



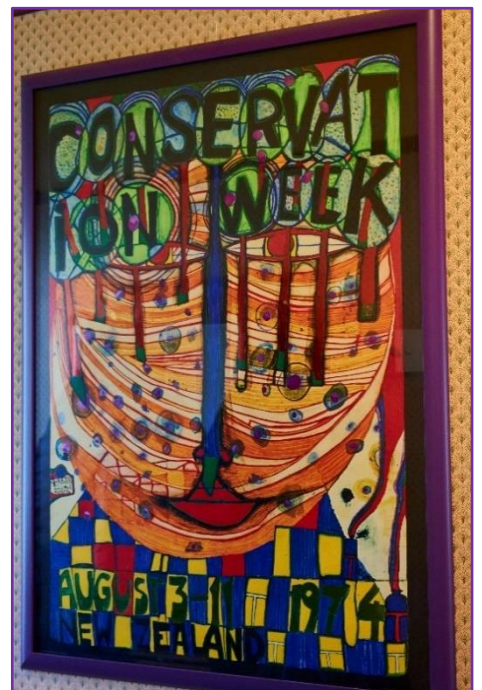
Our main visit for the month was to the home of Howard and Annette. Their light filled house is full of glorious artworks: photographs, prints, ceramics, paintings and other objets d'art.

Our hosts were able to tell the stories behind much of the work which particularly reflect their connections with Northland and Otago.



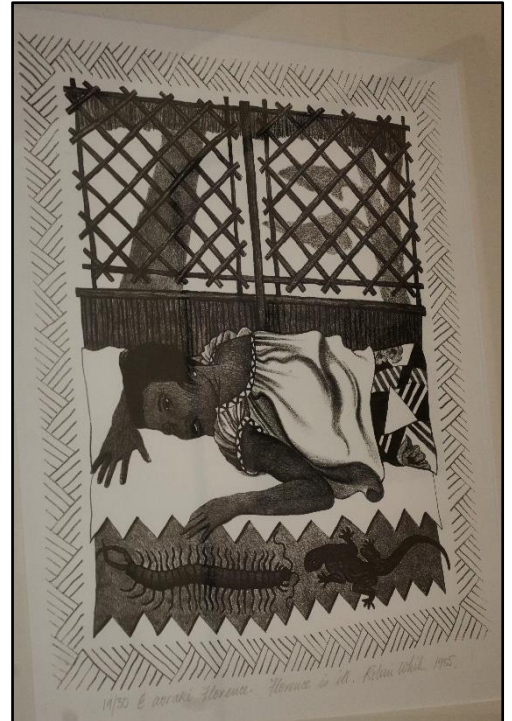
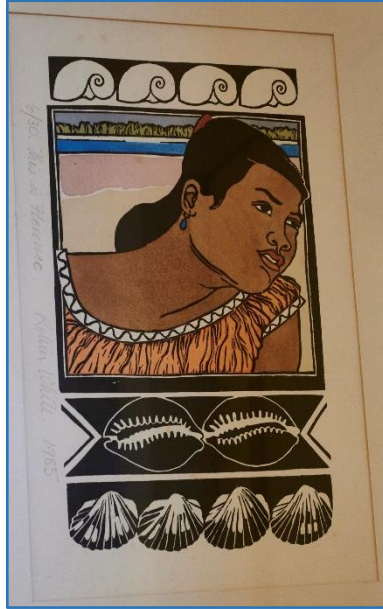
Finds from E-bay featured, as did Trade Me, Haywards, and a wonderful treasure from Wanaka Wastebusters.

We viewed some works by artists we knew and loved: Marilyn Webb, Ans Westra, Robin White, but also some pieces by artists who were new to us.





Robin White featured on many walls:



Several works on display were by Tom Burnett, a Northland artist and printmaker. Vibrant colouring.



Howard also has a large number of black and white photographs, many by Robin Morrison and George Chance and a couple by Gary Blackman.



Thanks so much Annette and Howard for

your hospitality. Anne-Marie



## Expanding Musical Horizons July

In June, we explored fretted instruments from other times and other countries. This month, two group members, both competent guitarists in their own right, spoke about the guitar from very different



backgrounds and experience. Sandra Dingwall has long been an established teacher of guitar and piano in Dunedin, but has also performed overseas with an Australasian group, the majority of whom are mandolin players. Sandra chose to talk about the post-lute history of the guitar and demonstrated many playing styles and techniques, including picking, hammering, percussive effects and flamenco. She followed this up by

playing a YouTube clip by Pablo Sainz-Villegas (a very popular Spanish classical guitarist) performing an encore that included all the techniques that she had demonstrated.

Ian Winter is a seasoned performer around Dunedin with a very different musical background. He demonstrated a range of techniques that he uses to pull a range of different tones out of each of his three guitars to match the mood of whatever song he is performing. From there, he talked about and demonstrated a few of the effects pedals available to process the sounds of electric guitars. There is a huge range of these pedals and processors, including many for vocalists. His amplifier, designed for solo singer/guitarists can, for example, add harmonies to his vocals based on the chords of the songs he plays.

A practical session like this brings the instruments more to life that just discussing a picture of them in a slide show, so the session was very much appreciated by the group members.

Paul



## Gardens and Botanical Group July

Our group met this month at the Otago Golf Club.

Jean Tilleyshort prepared an interesting talk about her trip to China as part of a delegation from the Otago Polytechnic Horticulture Department.

During their stay they visited many gardens and sites of horticultural interest.



They were invited to China for an educational tour, so they were wined and dined by the Chinese University professors at very upmarket hotels. Some of the treats offered were challenging, snake oil to drink, shark lip soup and very hot chilli dishes amongst others.



They visited the tea plantations which were beautifully groomed and arranged in layers of green foliage down the hillsides. They had a trip down through a mountainous gorge on rafts powered by



two punts men that took them through a landscape of cliffs and towering trees. The water here was clean, but other slides showed the high level of pollution that exists in the cities.



The cities they visited all had lots of green spaces for the people to relax in as their houses were very small. Jean showed us slides of people dancing, singing and playing games outdoors in public gardens. She said all the gardening was done with hand tools; she did not see any motorized equipment.

The public gardens had manicured gardens with bonsai trees, flowers and cloud pruning to add interest and impact. The tree trunks were wrapped in cloth and painted white to avoid pollution and mite damage. They also used tripod frames to support the young trees to get established.



They visited many cities during their time in China, but we

sampled only a few of them as it was so action packed. They climbed the Great Wall on China and visited The Forbidden City under the watchful eyes of their guides, plus universities where status



seemed to be improved by sizable lakes. Jean did not see anyone swimming in these lakes, and she thought they were for show.

We had a very interesting afternoon offshore thanks to Jean.

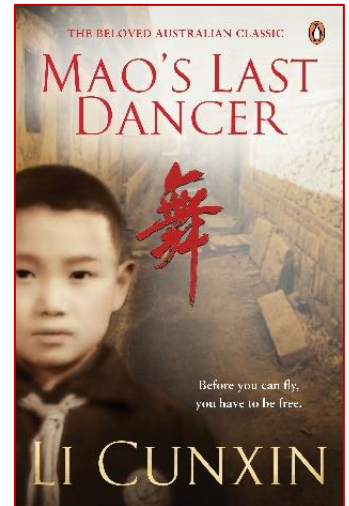
Robyne



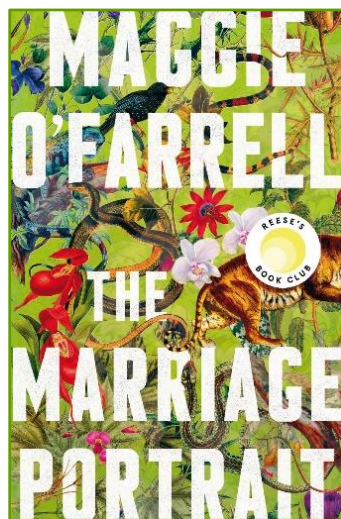
## Book Share Group July

We welcomed Meg to our group this month, enjoyed some lovely treats at afternoon tea, and heard a wide range of stories from the books we had been reading. Once again good food and good company made a winter afternoon much brighter.

Elaine had been reading ***Mao's Last Dancer* by Li Cunxin**. This is the true story of how one moment in time, by the thinnest thread of chance, changed the course of a small boy's life. In a small desperately poor village in the north-east China, a young peasant boy sits at his rickety old school desk more interested in the birds outside than Chairman Mao's Red Book but that day strange men come to school – Madame Mao's delegates. They are looking for young peasants to mould into faithful guards of Chairman Mao's great vision for

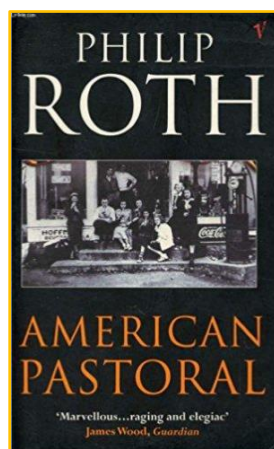


China. Several of our group had read this book — also a film and enjoyed the story of an inspirational life told with honesty, dignity, and pride.



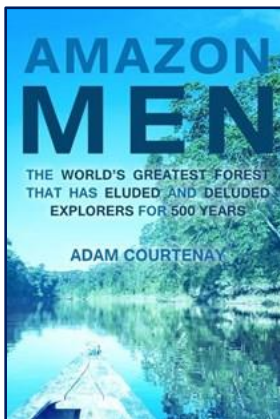
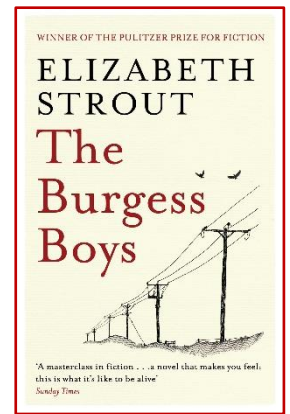
Meg had been reading an historical novel ***The Marriage Portrait* by Maggie O'Farrell**. In the winter of 1561 sixteen-year-old Lucrezia, Duchess of Ferrara, is taken on an unexpected visit to a country villa by her husband Alfonso. As they sit down to a dinner it occurs to Lucrezia that Alfonso has a sinister purpose in bringing her here. He intends to kill her. This is an unforgettable reimagining of the life of a young woman whose proximity

to power puts her in mortal danger. If you like Russian history, Meg's second book should interest you — ***The Last Season of Love and Snow* by Jennifer Laam**. It is a nuanced portrayal of Natalya, wife of famed Russian poet Alexander Pushkin, whose reputation through history hasn't been kind. His marriage was marked by a duel which ended in his death for which she was blamed.

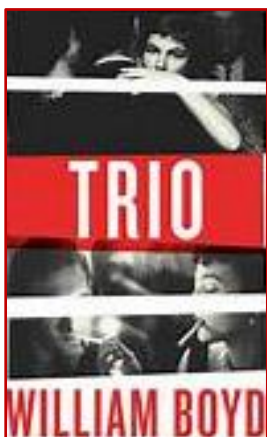


Ros had been reading ***American Pastoral* by Philip Roth** whose books she described as 'long and weighty'. Published in 1997 this novel alludes extensively to the social upheavals of the late 1960s and early 1970s. Its main character Seymour 'Swede' Levov is a successful Jewish American businessman and former high school athlete whose happy and conventional life is ruined by the domestic, social and political turmoil of the 1960s America. It was scrupulously researched by Roth and made into a film in 2016.

Ros was also reading ***The Burgess Boys* by Elizabeth Strout**. This is a story of Jim and Bob Burgess who are haunted by a freak accident that killed their father when they were children, and they escape their hometown of Shirley Falls for New York as soon as they possibly could. Jim, a sleek, successful corporate lawyer, has belittled his big-hearted brother all his life, and Bob, a Legal Aid attorney who idolises Jim, has always taken it in his stride. The brothers return to the landscape of their childhood to help their sister when she urgently calls them home. This book is described as a rare combination of brilliant storytelling, exquisite prose, and remarkable insight into character.

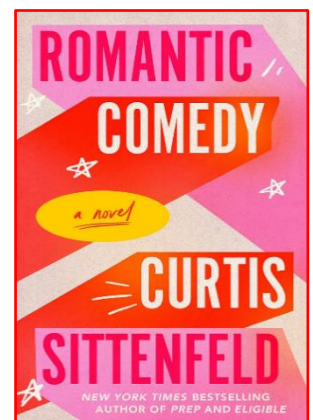


Nola had been reading ***Amazon Men* by Adam Courtenay**. This book is about two kinds of men — those who have tried to conquer and exploit the Amazon, and those who have tried to understand it and savour it. Environmentalists will tell us the depredations visited by man on the Amazon are recent; this is erroneous. They believe they are the first to respect and save it; this is also untrue. Killing and embracing the Amazon has been a pastime for nearly 500 years, ever since European man set eyes on the impenetrable ocean of green. The stories of ***Amazon Men*** are punctuated by deeds of bravery and acts of brilliance, but also forgotten holocausts where guns, germs, and steel have played their role.



Carolyn had been reading ***Trio* by William Boyd**, a 2020 novel set primarily in Brighton UK in 1968. The trio of Boyd's title follows the lives of Elfrida Wing, an alcoholic writer interested in the suicide of Virginia Woolf, in Rodmell; Talbot Kydd, a closeted film producer; and Amy Viklund, an American actress who is having a secret affair with her co-star. The Guardian wrote, 'This is a book about the business of film making, the desperate business of writing a novel and the ludicrous business of acting - and it is superbly funny, wry, wise and truthful on all three subjects'.

Trish had been reading a very newly published romantic fiction, 2023, ***Romantic Comedy* by Curtis Sittenfeld**. Sally Milz is a sketch writer for 'The Night Owls' a late-night comedy TV show that airs each Saturday. With a couple of heartbreaks under her belt she has long abandoned the search for love, settling for the occasional hook-up. She observes how ordinary looking dorky men date glamorous women, but the reverse never happens for a woman. Enter a pop music sensation and he and Sally hit it off immediately. A contemporary romantic novel – occurring during the pandemic where emails and texting replace the old-fashioned love letters.



Our meeting for August is on Friday 11th at 1.30pm.

Trish Irvine

While friends in Dunedin were dealing with snow, we met in the warm home of a member for more spontaneous, stimulating conversation on a variety of topics. I was recently explaining our discussion group to a potential new member whose response was “So it’s like a book group without a book.” Perhaps this is so since we have not yet found the need to decide upon a specific subject for each meeting.

First up was the University again because the ODT had just published the new logo and rebranding. Our reactions to it were positive considering the need to update as we come to terms with our nation’s history and unique culture. This led into further discussion about the benefits of tertiary education, including vocational training.

We are still finding new angles on AI, this time image production, and the potential impact of AI on the forthcoming NZ election. What we need is decent satire!



The question “What is the difference between events in Ukraine/Russia and Palestine/Israel?” stimulated another thread in our conversation. One member recommended the “Origin Story” podcast by Ian Dunt and Dorian Lynskey on the history of ideas, especially the episodes on Zionism. Another recommended the interview that Kim Hill recently conducted with Antony

Loewenstein about his book entitled “*Palestine: A testing ground for war tech*”.

A lighter moment ensued as we reminisced about the comedy of our youth, particularly The Goons and Monty Python, prompted by Miriam Margolyes’s recent autobiography, ‘*This Much is True*’.

Kath Ryan



## Walking Group July

We are thinking about adding *Intrepid* to our group's name as we head out into Dunedin's bracing winter weather, which never fails to remind you just how alive you are.

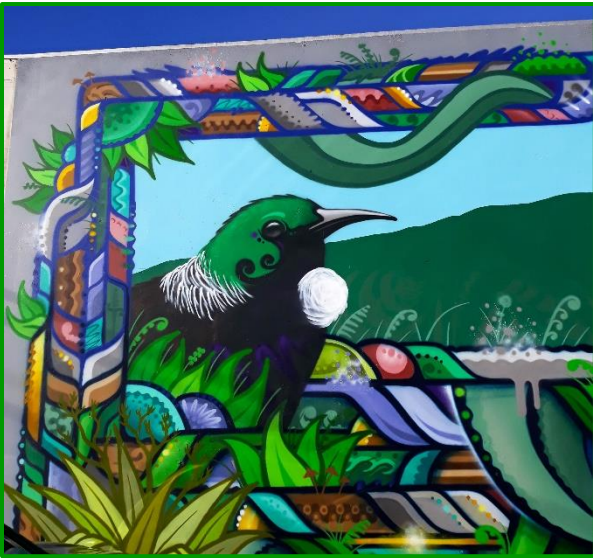


Walking up Signal Hill Reserve behind Logan Park High School through previously untrampled territory proved interesting. We passed a 19<sup>th</sup> century rifle range stone wall then walked up through the 24-hectare area of the December 2016 scrub fire, with its burnt gum, pine trees and regenerating eucalypts and gorse. At the top there are good views of Dunedin from a little-viewed angle, but the mud finally defeated us and back

down we clomped. The Croque-O-Dile café in the Botanic Gardens provided tasty rewards.

Our last excursion in June. Walking into a very brisk cold southerly from Glenfalloch on the shared cycle pedestrian track was almost equalled by our very brisk, but warming, return walk. Walker identification was hampered at times by low brimmed hats, scarves, or hoodies but it was great to be outside after the wet weather and walk by the water and admire the workmanship of the old and recent walkways and the boardwalks. A great turnout considering the midwinter air temperature.





These instructions for the first walk in July set the group off on a very bright day out .



South Dunedin Street Art trail.

Meet at the overbridge opposite the Kensington Tavern in King Edward Street - they made it past the Gluepot to look at the murals scattered around South D.

The second outing in July was truly a walk on the 'Wild Side' aka: Life on the other side of the Tracks.

The threat of rain didn't deter them, the southerly may have slowed them down, but



over the bridge by the Railway Station they went. They were a colourful lot looking at the light industrial sector around Harbourside, taking in the changing face of the area. The start and finish at Toitu, and within sight of Josephine, was a lovely link. Averil

## Poetry Group July

Six of us met to enjoy a shared lunch and, as an aside, read our chosen poems on the theme of 'Poems with a Twist'. We had such an array of writers today: two by Dennis Glover and Shel Silverstein, Carol Ann Duffy (Pope Joan), Bub Bridger, Serie Barford (Dressed for Theatre), Lewis Carroll, Glen Colquhoun, Sir Walter Scott and Elizabeth Nannestad, who was unfamiliar to the majority of us, but probably shouldn't be.

Ani

### Twist Ye, Twine Ye by Sir Walter Scott

Twist ye, twine ye! even so,  
Mingle shades of joy and woe  
Hope, and fear, and peace, and strife,  
In the thread of human life.

While the mystic twist is spinning,  
And the infant's life beginning,  
Dimly seen through twilingt bending,  
Lo, what varied shapes attending!

Passions wild, and follies vain,  
Pleasures soon exchanged for pain;  
Dout, and jealousy, and fear,  
In the magic dance appear.

Now they wax, and now they dwindle,  
Whirling with the whirling spindle.

Twist ye, twine ye! even so,  
Mingle human bliss and woe.

### Messy Room by Shel Silverstein

Whoever room this is should be ashamed!  
His underwear is hanging on the lamp.  
His raincoat is there in the overstuffed chair,  
And the chair is becoming quite mucky and damp.  
His workbook is wedged in the window,  
His sweater's been thrown on the floor.  
His scarf and one ski are beneath the TV,  
And his pants have been carelessly hung on the door.

His books are all jammed in the closet,  
His vest has been left in the hall.  
A lizard named Ed is asleep in his bed,  
And his smelly old sock has been stuck to the wall.

Whoever room this is should be ashamed!  
Donald or Robert or Willie or--  
Huh? You say it's mine? Oh, dear,  
I knew it looked familiar!



### Shel Silverstein

American poet, cartoonist, songwriter, and children's writer [shelsilverstein.com](http://shelsilverstein.com)  
Iconic author of children's books and cockeyed songs, penned many hit novelty songs. [Wikipedia](#)

Born: September 25, 1930, [Chicago, Illinois, United States](#)

Died: May 10, 1999, [Key West, Florida](#)

Education: [Chicago College of Performing Arts](#), [Theodore Roosevelt High School](#), [University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign](#), [Roosevelt University](#), [School of the Art Institute of Chicago](#)

Important works: [Best of Shel Silverstein: His Words His Songs His Friends](#), [Almost Famous](#), [Thelma & Louise](#), [Postcards From the Edge](#), [Coal Miner's Daughter](#).

## Gallery Group July

The July visit was a trip “Behind the Scenes at The Dunedin Public Art Gallery”. This was interesting as it is



the part of the art gallery that the public rarely see. The first area we saw was the conservation area and it is here the DPAG works of art are restored.

*L: The DPAG curator, Lauren Gutsell, explaining the origins of this shipwreck painting.*

A very large work of a shipwreck off the Cornish coast in England is being worked on by the in-house conservator.



*R: Enlargement of the left side of the painting*



*L: The conservationist, Jenny Sherman, explaining the work that has already been carried out*

The 1880s painting was shipped to Dunedin from the UK for the South Seas exhibition, but afterwards, it obviously ran into hard times as the damage to the work was considerable when the DPAG purchased the painting for its collection.

Lauren, the curator, then took us to the area where the permanent collection is stored, referred to as the stacks. Here huge sliding racks are loaded with paintings either side and members had been able to request works by painters they particularly wanted to see.

*R: The rows of racks where many of the permanent collection are stored.*



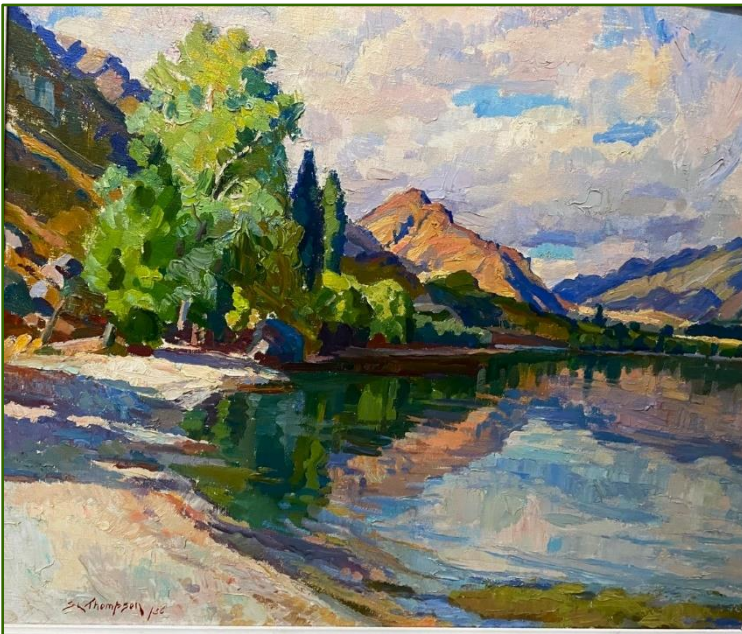


The appropriate rack was pulled out and Lauren was able to point out painting/s that were of interest.

*L: Examples of the works that are on the racks.*



*R: Gallery group members beside the stacks.*



*L: Lake Wanaka by Sydney Lough Thompson*

After the guided tour we briefly looked in the main galleries at DPAG before visiting Gallery de Novo in Lower Stuart Street.

And then over the road for a lovely lunch at The Corner Store Café which I would highly recommend. Thank you, Jill for the great organisation of an enjoyable day out.

Our August trip is being organised by Chris. We will be visiting the studio of Sarah Freiburger from whom Chris has just bought a painting, so it should be good. Tash





## Monday Current Affairs Group July

"People should have more children," according to Christopher Luxon. According to George Monbiot, (British journalist) "It's no coincidence that most of those



obsessed with population growth are post-productive wealthy white men: it's about the only environmental issue for which they can't be blamed. "



So, did the group side with Christopher or George?

Well, a bit of both. One member put forward a pro-natalist view noting that if current trends in human reproduction continue then the population will dwindle to extinction in the foreseeable future. The only way to generate more human beings is for women to bear babies.' On the current basis, some countries, e.g., South Korea will ultimately not survive



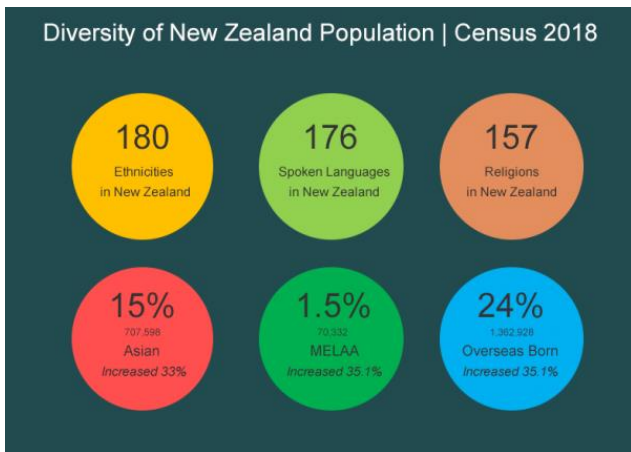
because their population continues to drop.



A number of us felt that global extinction was more threatened by climate change than by diminishing population. Whilst population rates are slowing almost everywhere, more people equal more consumption, which equals more warming. What is significant about this however is that the countries that produce more children tend to be the poorest countries. About 1/6th of the world's population is so poor it produces no significant



emissions at all. People breed less as they become richer, but they don't consume less, they consume more.



We noted that many countries, including our own, have become more racially diverse and deficits in population and skill shortages are being filled by immigrants and refugees. In New Zealand, our population has increased significantly in our lifetime whilst arable land has decreased, and available housing is limited.

Most of us felt it unsurprising women are having fewer children. Our mothers and grandmothers had fewer choices. Even in our generation some of us were forced to give up



work or discriminated against when we became pregnant, or even on the basis we might become pregnant. Time off work to produce and rear children still significantly affects women financially in multiple ways.

We noted the decision of some young couples to not procreate for the sake of the planet. At the same time, those of us who are grandparents or about to become great grandparents derive huge enjoyment from our grandchildren.

Our next topic is co-governance.

Joy Hayward

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## Lunch Group July

A very small number of our members lunched on Matariki at the Custom House and Grill by the harbourside. We all chose a fish dish, either fish and chips or smoked fish mash. Both were very



tasty, and the service was good.

Come and join us next time at The Esplanade on Friday August 11 at 12.30. I will be overseas

for a time, and Ngaire Bates, phone 454 2170, is kindly standing in as the group convener.

Ann



## Singing Group July



The camera and recording crew haven't, as yet, been banned by the group. We were lucky enough to catch the choir in great voice on a recent Monday, and they offer two songs for your enjoyment. Despite our best and extensive efforts, audio files proved unable to be played in a PDF, so Alan Jackson has come to the rescue and popped them on the U3A website. To enjoy: log in as usual, select Magazine from the menu, scroll down to Music, and there you will find the songs listed below. Ani

Claire writes: **Resta Qui** is one of many short part songs from the Taize Christian community in France. This one has been translated into several languages - our version is in Italian and English.

**Shenandoah** is a well-known traditional American folk song. Originally a river man's, then a sailor's song which dates from the early 19th century. Numerous versions of the lyrics have evolved since then.



## Photography Group July

We braved an outdoor meeting in midwinter during the semester break at the Otago University campus. After the snow that fell to low levels, followed by two days of immense winds, the day was calm, sunny in patches, and it was an absolute treat to be out in the open air. It was a 'wander wherever takes your fancy or you can find a car park' followed by tea, coffee and treats at the Uni Staff Club.

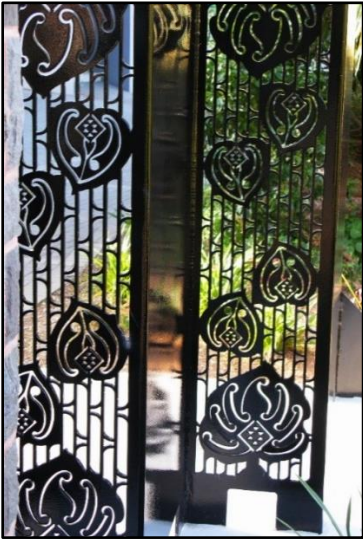


Karakia / Prayer on the Centre website

Kia tau te Rangimārie | May the peace  
O te Rangī e tu iho nei | Of the Sky above  
O Papatūānuku e takoto nei | Of Mother Earth below  
O te Taiao e awhi nei | And of the all-embracing Universe  
Ki runga i a tātou | Rest upon us all  
Tihei Mauri Ora! | Behold, It Is Life!

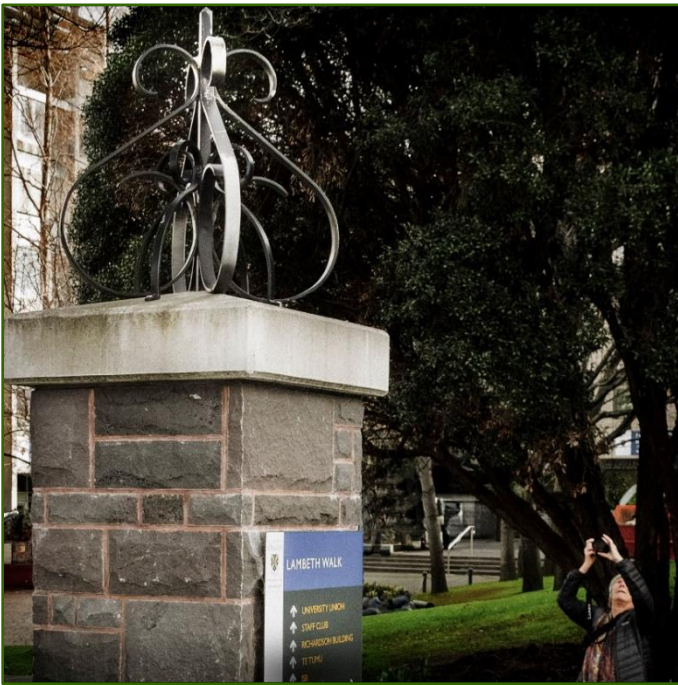
We welcomed two prospective members, and both have decided to join the group. It was a joy to hear birdsong in one of the open spaces very near to the National Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies.





R: A reflection in a window of the Centre for Innovation.

The sight below was spotted by one of our new recruits.



The group wit said he met this chap, possibly a med student, and enquired as to his vocation. The response? "QUACK"

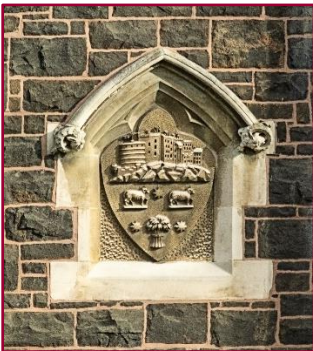
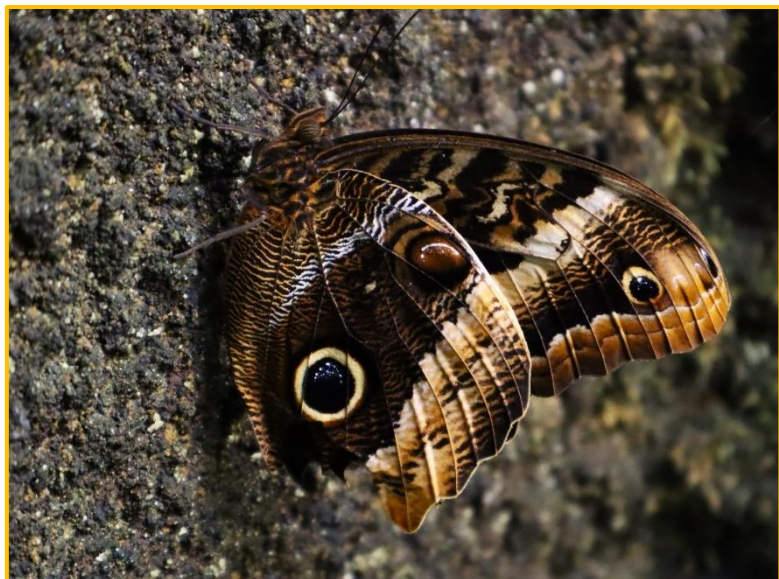


Photo credits this trip to: Chris, Hildegard, Ani, Anne H, Anne M, Keith, Eunan, Graham, and Laurie.

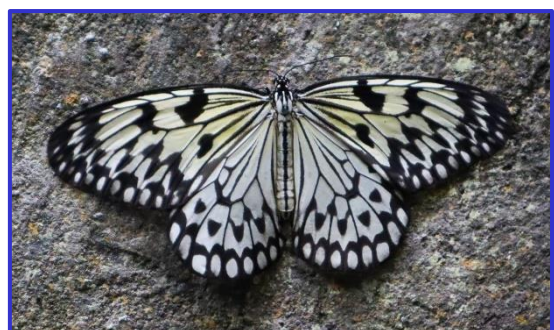
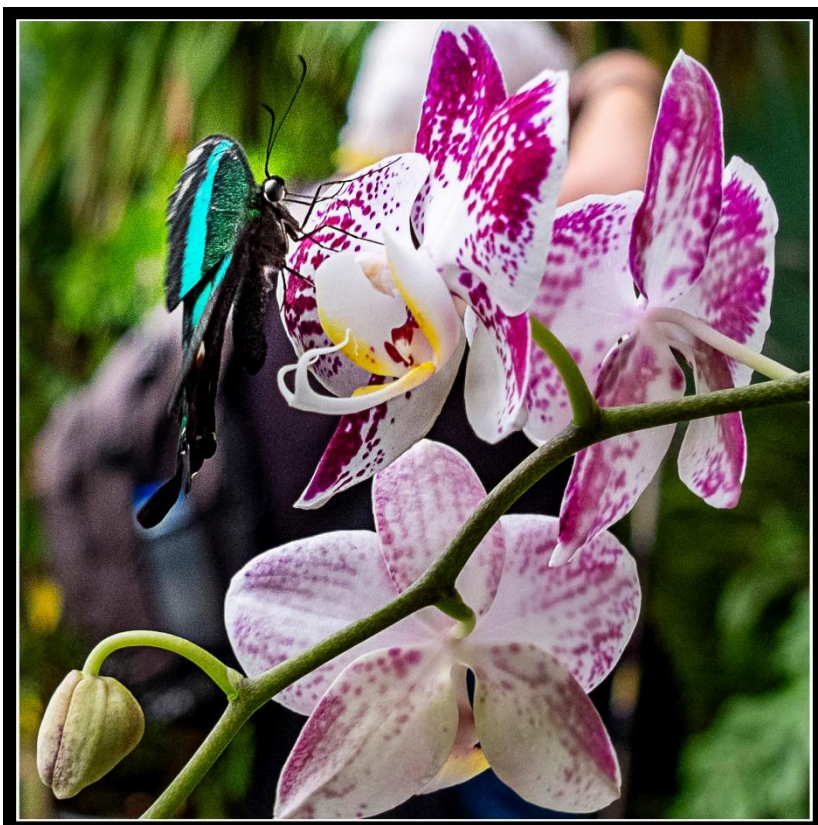
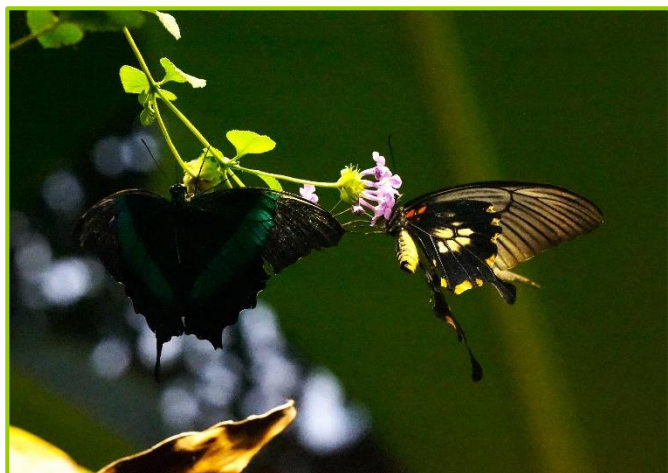
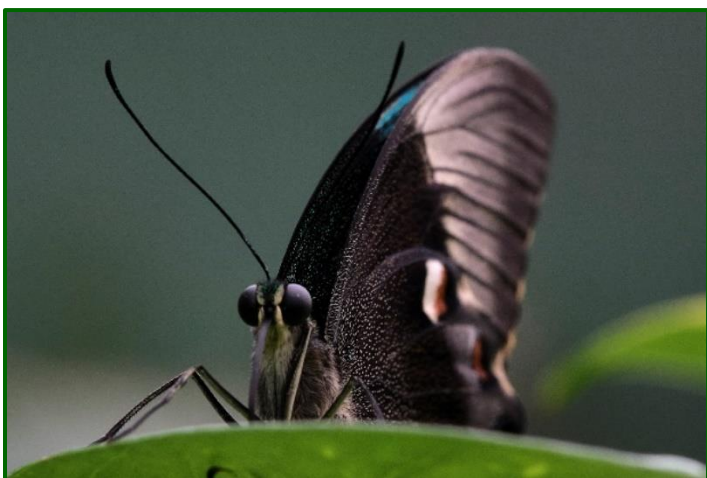


Eight of us enjoyed a steamy and tropical midwinter morning in the Butterfly House at the Museum. The rain fell outside, but we were in good time for the eleven am release of a new batch of these resplendent insects.



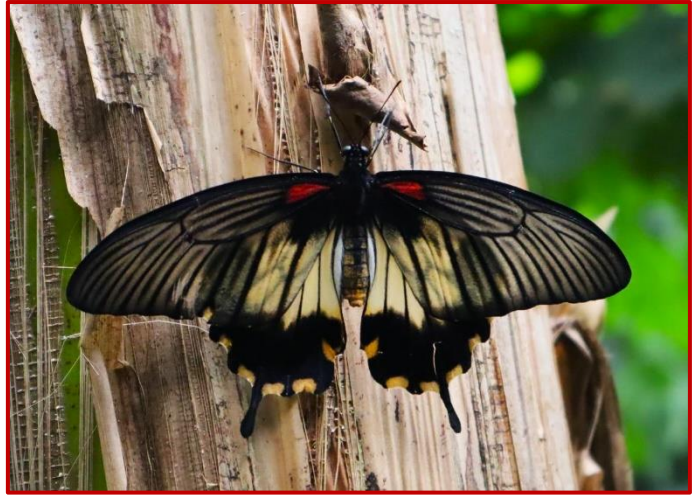
The only larvae that are bred inhouse is the one that becomes the owl butterfly, the underside of which is pictured here.

Hard to believe the reverse side looks like the photo. (L)





Anne S left her blue jacket on a seat and the butterflies seemed greatly attracted to the colour.



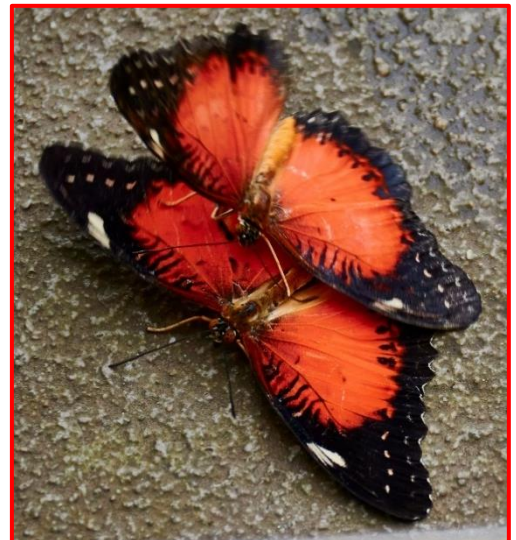
No wonder a thorough inspection is needed before people leave the sanctuary.



Very easy it would be to carry one out of the warmth to a bad end.



After a good wander from the excellent light at the top, to gloomy photographic conditions at ground level, many of us stayed on for a quick bite at the café. This leaf (L) was obviously on the 'Brunch for Butterflies' menu. Ani Enormous caterpillar below.





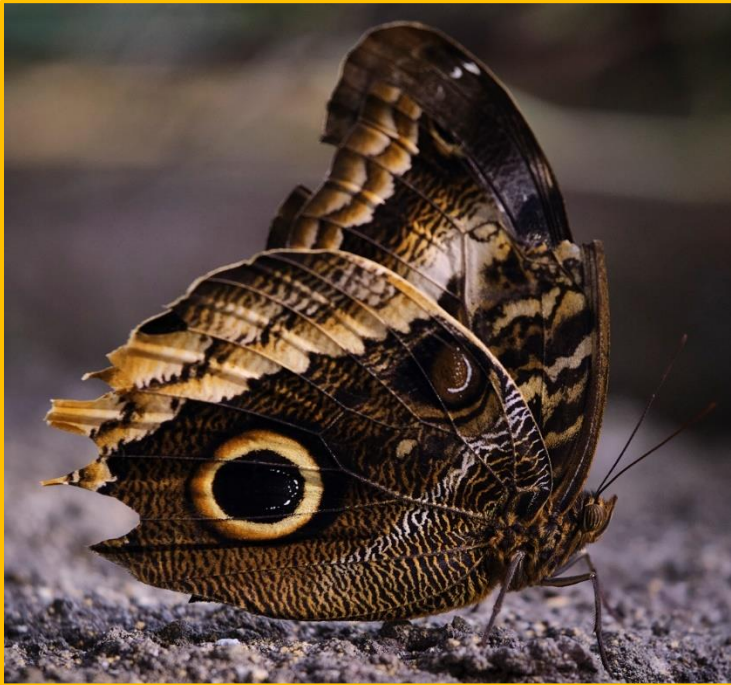
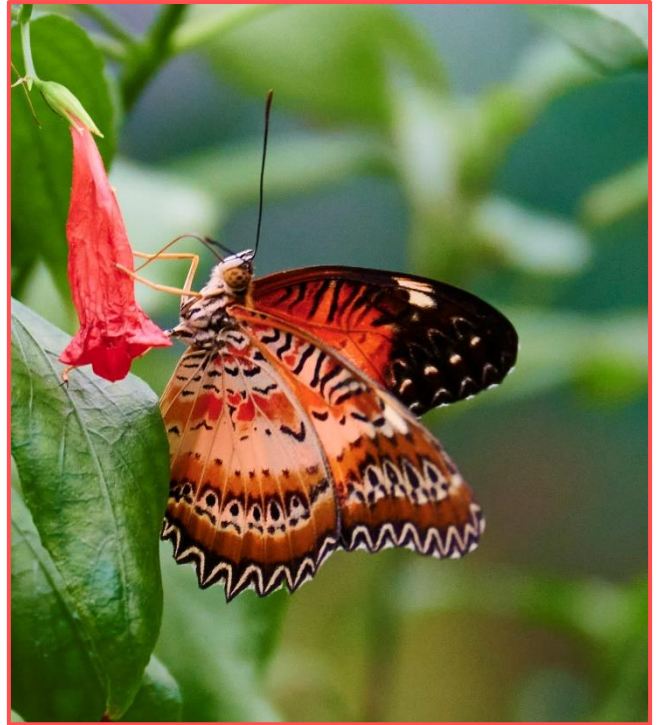


Photo credits this trip: Chris, John, Graham, Linda, Ani.

