



Interest Groups NEWSLETTER

May 2023

NEW BEGINNINGS

Congratulations and welcome to our newest Interest Group. 'Waikouaiti Global Conversations' had their inaugural meeting recently, reported on in more detail later in this newsletter.

It was my pleasure to be involved in preliminary discussions to 'get the show on the road'. With the enthusiasm shown at that stage, I am sure they will go from strength to strength. I especially enjoyed hearing about the innovative way in which they arrived at a name for their group.



On a balmy autumn day in the recent past, the Photography Group invited me along to an outing in Outram. The lovely light lunch at the Wobbly Goat set the scene for a relaxing afternoon, exploring the area. More about this in the following pages.

To end my short contribution to this newsletter, this quote from the report Kath Ryan sent along after the first meeting of the new group speaks for itself :

'We began this group because many of the U3A Interest Groups, especially the Discussion Groups, were full, and have been for some time. We were also aware of our carbon footprint in regularly travelling to Dunedin for U3A courses and group activities.'

Fortunately, the U3A Board was very amenable to having satellite groups from beyond the city and has been most helpful in getting us started. This group is a test case for U3A, and it is quite possible that it too will be full in the very near future. We hope it can be inspirational to other people who would like to begin new U3A Interest Groups.'

Andre Smith

IG Coordinator.

Art Collections Group

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



Book Share Group

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



Dining Group

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



Expanding Musical Horizons **full**

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



Gallery Group **full**

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



Gardens & Botanical Group **full**

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



Home Gardens Group

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



Lunch Group

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



Mahjong Group

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



Monday Current Affairs Group **full**

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



Photography Group **full**

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



Poetry Group **full**

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



Singing Group

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



Tuesday Current Issues **Group full**

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



Waikouaiti Global Conversations

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



Walking Group **full**

Every Thursday, 10:30
Joint Convenors:



Averil McLean
E: averilmclean2@gmail.com

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



Wanderers Group

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



Poetry Group May

We met up early in the month to share the memories we had of one of our group members who, sadly, died the previous weekend. Oh, yes, we did read our poems, but today, these were very much interspersed with the tales we had to tell of a good, no-nonsense woman who loved company, a laugh, and a chat, who lived for her family and adored her cats.

Quite fittingly, the topic today was animals. I'd encourage you to go to YouTube and listen to the wonderfully droll Stanley Holloway reading this poem in dialect. Or watch this link to Roy Hudd's version.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qUVzki2j87k>

The Lion and Albert by Marriott Edgar

There's a famous seaside place called
Blackpool,
That's noted for fresh air and fun,
And Mr and Mrs Ramsbottom
Went there with young Albert, their son.

A grand little lad was young Albert,
All dressed in his best; quite a swell
With a stick with an 'orse's 'ead 'andle,
The finest that Woolworth's could sell.

They didn't think much to the Ocean:
The waves, they was fiddlin' and small,
There was no wrecks and nobody drowned,
Fact, nothing to laugh at at all.

So, seeking for further amusement,
They paid and went into the Zoo,
Where they'd Lions and Tigers and Camels,
And old ale and sandwiches too.

There were one great big Lion called Wallace;
His nose were all covered with scars —
He lay in a somnolent posture,
With the side of his face on the bars.

Now Albert had heard about Lions,
How they was ferocious and wild —
To see Wallace lying so peaceful,
Well, it didn't seem right to the child.

So straightway the brave little feller,
Not showing a morsel of fear,
Took his stick with its 'orse's 'ead 'andle
And pushed it in Wallace's ear.

You could see that the Lion didn't like it,
For giving a kind of a roll,
He pulled Albert inside the cage with 'im,
And swallowed the little lad 'ole.

Then Pa, who had seen the occurrence,
And didn't know what to do next,
Said 'Mother! Yon Lion's 'et Albert',
And Mother said 'Well, I am vexed!'

Then Mr and Mrs Ramsbottom —
Quite rightly, when all's said and done —
Complained to the Animal Keeper,
That the Lion had eaten their son.

The keeper was quite nice about it;
He said 'What a nasty mishap.
Are you sure that it's *your* boy he's eaten?'
Pa said "Am I sure? There's his cap!"

The manager had to be sent for.
He came and he said 'What's to do?'
Pa said 'Yon Lion's 'et Albert,
'And 'im in his Sunday clothes, too.'

Then Mother said, 'Right's right, young feller;
I think it's a shame and a sin,
For a lion to go and eat Albert,
And after we've paid to come in.'

The manager wanted no trouble,
He took out his purse right away,
Saying 'How much to settle the matter?'
And Pa said "What do you usually pay?"

But Mother had turned a bit awkward
When she thought where her Albert had gone.
She said 'No! someone's got to be summonsed'
So that was decided upon.

Then off they went to the P'lice Station,
In front of the Magistrate chap;
They told 'im what happened to Albert,
And proved it by showing his cap.

The Magistrate gave his opinion
That no one was really to blame
And he said that he hoped the Ramsbottoms
Would have further sons to their name.

At that Mother got proper blazing,
'And thank you, sir, kindly,' said she.
'What waste all our lives raising children
To feed ruddy Lions? Not me!'

Ani

Waikouaiti Global Conversations May

We began this group because many of the U3A Interest Groups, especially the Discussion Groups, were full and have been for some time. We were also aware of our carbon footprint in regularly travelling to Dunedin for U3A courses and group activities.

Fortunately, the U3A Board was very amenable to having satellite groups from beyond the city and has been most helpful in getting us started. Our first meeting established a few parameters such as the purpose of the group: to discuss local, national, and international topics of interest to our members, how often, and where to meet, and who would convene the group in the first instance.

The next task was to decide upon a name and one of our members consulted ChatGPT, which suggested Waikouaiti Global Conversations. We accepted that and so our first discussion, held this month, just had to include artificial intelligence, didn't it? In an informal and engaging conversational manner, we also covered a couple of local issues, including the Dunedin City and Otago Regional Council's Future Development Strategy that will impact our area over the next 30 years. Other topics included the sources of news we trust, U3A courses and electric vehicles.

This group is a test case for U3A, and it is quite possible that it, too, will be full in the very near future. We hope it can be inspirational to other people who would like to begin new U3A Interest Groups.

Kath Ryan



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Your Community Notices

If you belong to a group that is not for profit, looking to attract new participants, and has the benefit of improving either the physical and/or mental wellbeing of older people, I'm happy to pop in an advert for your group on this page. Email: ann.wood14blaw@gmail.com



Punga Croquet Club has several social golf croquet sessions regularly running each week and always welcomes new players to these. Golf croquet is easy to learn and gentle on the body. You can get underway in 10 minutes, but once you have mastered hitting the ball in vaguely the right direction, strategy will keep the game interesting. The club has plenty of mallets to borrow, and charges \$5



each session for non-members.

Monday 11am, Thursday 1pm, Friday 10am, Sunday 1pm

The club is on the corner of Lawson St and Ross St, with an entrance from each street.

Sandy Ritchie Gardner

Garden and Botanical Group May



Our May visit was a trip to Wal's Garden Centre for a yummy morning tea, followed by a talk from Kerry about current trends and garden care leading into winter. Kerry answered a range of questions from the group which was very timely and helpful to members.

I know I bought some granulated potash fertilizer to apply to my new fruit trees and several other members were at the same stand. Fruiting plants need feeding with a potash rich fertilizer if you want them to fruit in the spring. Lemons need large amounts of water and should be fertilized four times a year. The care of orchids was another topic of interest, especially the best way to get one flowering successfully. The answer was to keep it in a small pot, water by running the tap on it and letting it drain through the pot and apply orchid fertilizer as recommended.

Kerry had very interesting insights she shared with us about issues facing the industry. Fewer nurserymen are operating since Covid disrupted the supply lines, so it is harder to source rare plants and bring them to market. Propagating roses is another issue as this work is done by Mexican experts so fewer roses coming to market, importing pots are much more expensive as well as the ingredients in garden sprays etc. so costs are rising. I was surprised at how international the industry was and how the supply lines have been disrupted.

Top tip: if you delay that purchase today, costs will rise.

After a wander around the nursery, we departed for lunch before meeting again at Joy Moreton's home to view her Bonsai collection. What a revelation behind that garden gate.





We were treated to a master class of garden torture some might say. The art of Bonsai lies in the careful selection of suitable trees and then manipulating their growth, so they remain small, and pot bound for many years, by repotting every few years, root trimming and pruning into artistic shapes by wiring the branches and tying into art forms. Joy explained her extensive collection of bonsai specimens to us in loving terms, so, hardly torture, but a means of preservation and appreciation of the individual beauty of the variety of trees she cultivated. Many of the trees had lost their leaves but

the skeleton of the tree revealed its own beauty. Joy had some very special examples of heritage trees which were those grown by pioneers in the industry and passed on for generations to enjoy.



Her flowering chrysanthemum was another unusual and eye-catching example of her skill and reputation as one of the leading Bonsai experts in the country, all started from a eureka moment many years ago at a hospital along with a magazine article about Bonsai cultivation. Hundreds of trees later, her garden is the display of her expertise.

A most interesting day out gardening. Robyne



Art Collections Group May

This month we were fortunate to be invited to Kay Belsey and her partner, Craig's, home



which proved to be a total delight.

Kay combines a real

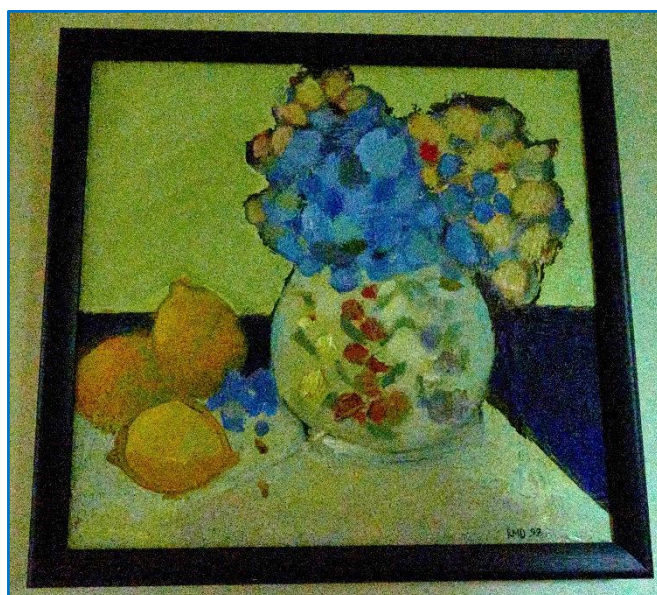
aesthetic sense with an artist's eye. She has a magnificent collection of art works. She chooses what she likes and is not constrained by provenance or value. *The painting above is by Pamela Brown and is of Kay and her pets, a year or three back.*



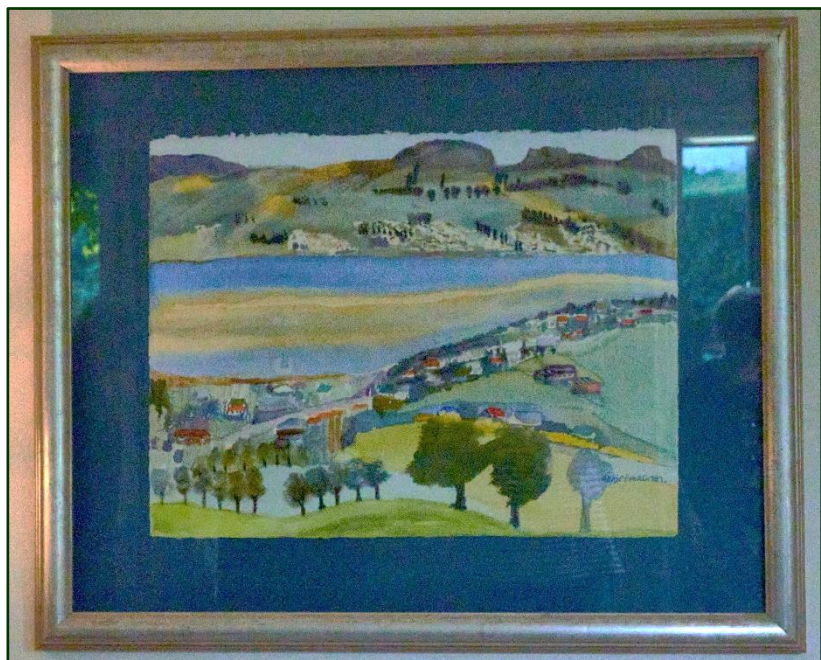
Kay's love of animals appears undiminished. We met Coco, a whippet cross, and Fluffy, part Maine Coon, today.



Many of the works are by well-known local artists, such as Annie Baird, Patricia Tough, H V Miller, Pamela Brown, to name but a few.



Often sourced from second hand shops and auctions, while others are posters, some from trips overseas.



Kay has the splendid ability to place pictures, pottery, floral arrangements and objet d'art so they complement each other very well. We spent two hours touring the house and

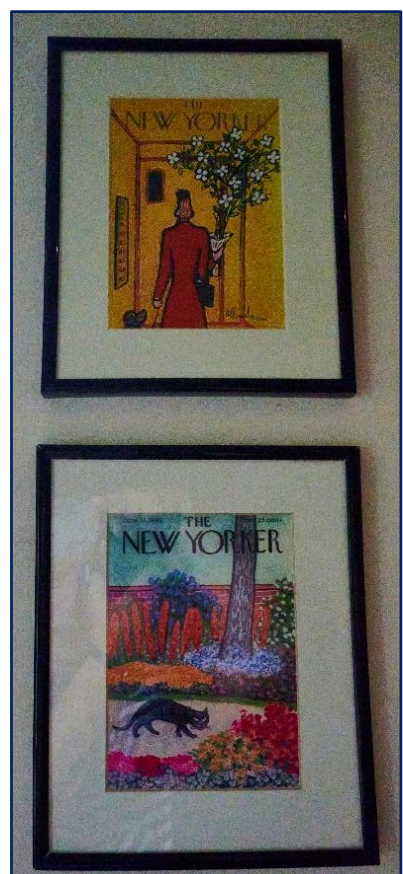


garden and could have been there for so much longer.



Thanks so much, Kay and Craig, for sharing your home and treasures with our group.

Anne-Marie



Singing Group May

This group made a brief start in 2021 before Covid and another lockdown put us into recess. After a long break, our group resumed this February. Membership has grown rapidly and with over thirty on the roll, including several men, we're now well and truly up and running. Our focus is on involvement and enjoyment rather than musical perfection.



The group meets weekly, and our repertoire includes a variety of songs that range from well-known numbers such as Shenandoah and Danny Boy, to songs from other countries, plus several by New Zealand composers, and a lot in between. We're increasingly introducing harmonies in two, three and four parts

which add richness and depth to our sound. While not quite ready for our world premiere, we're really enjoying what we're doing! The group is currently at capacity, but if you're interested in joining, please contact the convenor. Claire Stevens

And, might I add, the camera crew delighted in your joyous music. Ani



The Tale of Two Dinners Dinner Group May

The lovely convenor of the group did the decent thing earlier in the month: rang a Japanese restaurant and booked a table for nine. Six of us met at Jitsu in Stuart St on a cold, wet evening in late May. Most of us



chose a very reasonably priced Bento Box. We varied in our selections having chicken, pork, vegetable and seafood. It has been a while since I ate here and, while the price has remained low, I felt that both the food quality and variety of options in the box had diminished. However, it was nice to catch up with the others at the table, and none of us went home hungry.



We did, fleetingly, remark on the fact that Karen hadn't turned up and hoped she was OK. Not one of us made reference to the other two empty seats at the table.

Then, Saturday, there arrives in six inboxes an email from the boss: *Where did you get to last night? We did have dinner at Jitsu. It seems the restaurant had a muck up and for some reason didn't have my name. Sorry.*



A further four of the group had a delicious dinner at Jizo in Princes St! So, heed me well: never mind the drinks, just be careful not to mix your Jizo's with your Jitsu's Ani

Lunch Group May

Four members lunched on delicious mushroom or tomato soups, omelette, quiche, and salads, plus the essential hot drinks at The Lead Balloon restaurant in May. While the food, apart from the soups, was cabinet, there were no prices displayed, and no menu to consult. We would like to have known what things cost prior to us ordering.



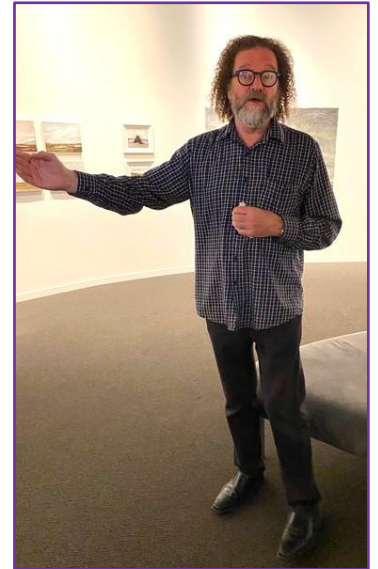
The café is very close to the Dental School, Museum and University buildings. It was very busy, and the takeaway trade was absolutely roaring.

In June we are going to Thai Mornington. You are welcome to join us by contacting Anne, the convenor of the Lunch Group. Anne

Gallery Group May

We had a very interesting gallery group visit in May when we carpoled and drove down to Gore on a day that was forecast to be extremely cold and wet with possible snow to 400 metres. How lucky we were in many ways. The predicted weather did not occur until late in the afternoon and we had a very successful tour under the direction of super curator, Jim Geddes. The history of how the Gore gallery was established and has subsequently expanded were an encouraging glimpse into the art scene in Gore.

Curator, Jim Geddes.



We began with an exhibition of photographs by Marc Doesburg, his first ever. These were digital photos taken locally in Dunedin but also from travels to different parts to the globe. We then moved into the Inge Doesburg exhibition room where Inge had demonstrated a wide variety of artistic skills from painting to prints to photographs. Jim compared her stormy landscapes to those of Van der Velden, e.g., the Otira Gorge painting in the Dunedin Public Art Gallery! The group admired many of her paintings of Dunedin beaches and landmarks.



Inge Doesburg's painting of Mount Cargill.

People admiring some Inge Doesburg paintings.

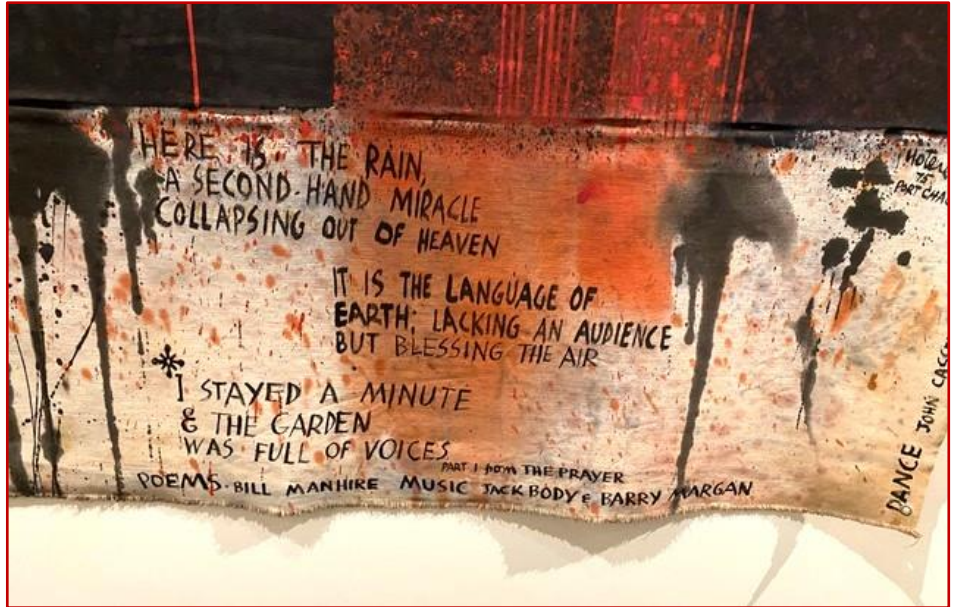


We moved into the Ralph Hotere area where we not only saw Ralph's paintings but also other famous artists such as Len Lye, Rita Angus and poems by Hone Tuwhare.

Len Lye moving sculpture, Marram Grass



Ralph Hotere wall hangings and rug.



Writing at the bottom of the wall hanging

Hotere painting.

But the biggest surprise was still to come. Jim had mentioned a venture over the road, but we never guessed the scale of it. The gallery has purchased a supermarket and other buildings across the road and are turning the whole area into a cultural hub. We went into the old supermarket that has been converted into a museum. The transformation was outstanding.



The illicit whisky distillers before they were betrayed by a neighbour



As we moved through a large range of exhibits depicting the local history we were amazed at the quality and extent of the displays. The main exhibits and story are about the illicit Hokonui



moonshine brewing, and some of the thrilling stories connected to it, but in between are the contrasting areas showing the church that was built in Gore, with quotes from the Bible with what would happen to these miscreants for their illicit drinking. There is also a display by

the Temperance Society. This society has just shut its doors, so they have generously donated their banner and other paraphernalia to the new display.

The Church that promoted temperance.



Many artists have contributed to the displays including Donna Demente, and Trevor Moffat, whose beautiful paintings depicting stories of the times are illuminated in a series of light boxes.

And so, to the end of the current displays, to the "piece de resistance", a working distillery using local barley and modern equipment as well as clever improvisations.

We moved through to the entrance way where we were offered little tastes of several different types of whisky brewed on the premises. Very smooth and tasty. The whisky is for sale and these profits are ploughed back into the development. They

hope to have the museum part open by August this year, so we are looking forward to a visit in the future when it is all finished. Over lunch in nearby cafes, we all wished we could take Jim back to Dunedin where his energy and vision would be wonderful assets to the Dunedin art scene.

Tash

Monday Current Affairs Group May

We met this month with a smaller than usual number, but with the welcome addition of a new member. Although we'd chosen Ten (as it has become) Waters as our topic, it seemed we'd rather lost heart for it in the intervening month. This was partly because of the complexity, uncertainty, and the impossibility of any plan ever pleasing everyone. We all agreed water is essential to life and needs to be upgraded. Thousands became sick in Havelock North and three people died. 80% of our water doesn't meet optimal drinking standards, 25% of wastewater permits have expired and there are no national standards for storm water.



It seems Three Waters was abandoned primarily because councils who'd already upgraded felt it unfair to subsidise ones who hadn't. We discussed Māori rights under the Treaty, the positive input of Kieran McNulty, and the amount of disinformation about it. We all felt frustrated at the lack of cross-party agreement about such a crucial issue.

Our deviations this time, were not 'old peoples' issues, but discussion about the coronation / future of the monarchy, Meka Whaitiri's defection to Te Pāti Māori, and the complexities of the dispute in the Gore District Council.

Joy Hayward

Expanding Musical Horizons May

This month we completed the series started late last year – **A Rough Guide to the Periods of Musical History**. It had to be a very rough guide with only fifty minutes allocated to each of the six main periods, but for each, we explored the main characteristics that might help identify the period in which an unknown piece of classical music might have been written. We spent only a little time revising the Romantic period, (through much of the 19th century), as we had spent three sessions on this topic about eighteen months ago.

To cover the complex 20th century in a session was impossible, so we skimmed over a few of the huge range of styles within the classical music genre. Many of the styles seemed barely listenable where composers seemed to be struggling to come up with

something new after the Romantic period appeared to have pushed every element to its limits. Although their explorations didn't last very long in mainstream music, they were nevertheless influential in their time and the composers' ideas were adapted and incorporated into subsequent styles. Among the lesser-known exploratory styles, we listened to 12 tone serialism (Webern), Stockhausen (electronic), le Caine (musique concrete), Cage (played on a prepared piano) and Berio (whose music could be described as labyrinthine, complex, experimental, or just plain weird, depending on your point of view).



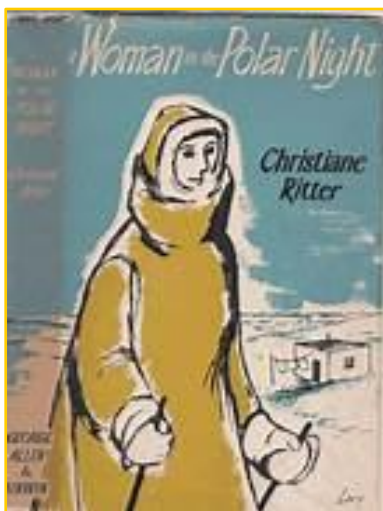
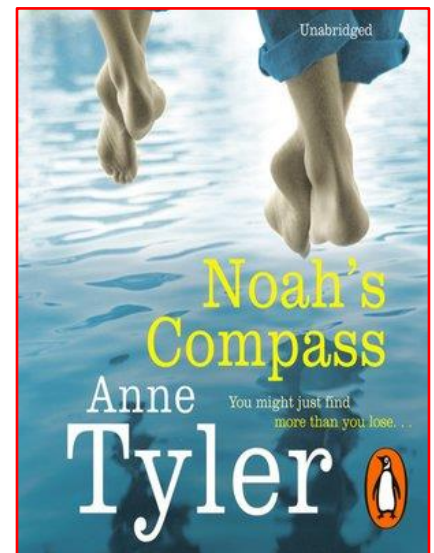
However, we had time to explore other more listenable strands, including the influence of jazz, world, and folk music on classical compositions, and listened to examples from Bernstein, Stravinsky and Prokofiev. We didn't have time to explore the more conventionally popular classical music of the 20th century, but this might not have been expanding musical horizons, which is what the group is about. As John Rutter said, "I happen not to believe in erecting needless barriers between composer and listener" and later adding that he preferred to "touch people's hearts rather than satisfying professional critics".

Paul

Book Share Group May

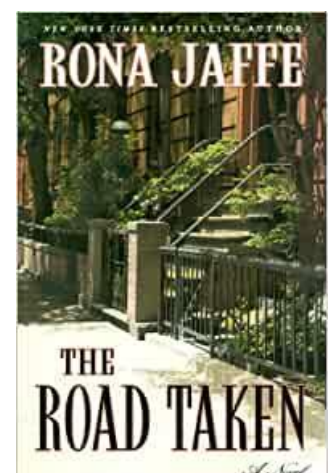
Our group shared many books this month and had lively conversation about current affairs. We discussed the recent coronation of Charles, whether New Zealand should be a republic, and ME, as it was ME Awareness week – is it related to Long Covid? Views were shared and debated, and we would welcome others to come and join us.

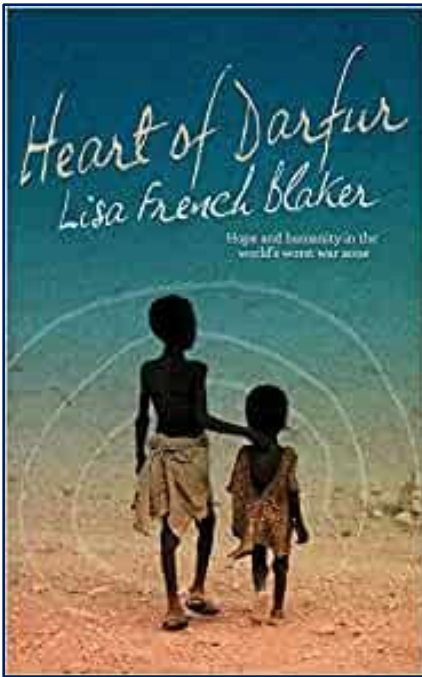
Carolyn has been reading ***Noah's Compass* by Anne Tyler** which was published in 2009. It concerns a man, Liam Pennywell, who at 60 years old has just lost his teaching job. Unsure as to whether he should retire he moves to a cheaper apartment to save money, and on the first night there he is assaulted during a break in and wakes up in hospital. Eunice, a 38-year-old woman, is assigned to help him recover his memories of the incident and Liam begins an affair with her. However, their relationship gets complicated when he discovers she is already married. Other complications arise as Liam navigates thorny relationships with his daughters and the mother of the burglar who assaulted him. Carolyn says this is an easy read set in Baltimore.



Ros shared a very special book of her mother's ***A Woman in the Polar Night* by Christiane Ritter**. Austrian painter Christiane Ritter was ambivalent at best when in 1934 her husband asked her to join him on a small Arctic Island, Spitsbergen, in a tarpaulin-covered hut sixty miles from the nearest neighbour. His descriptions of remarkable wildlife, alluring light shows, and treks over water and ice won her over and she grew to love life on this small isle off Norway's coast. In this charming memoir she describes her experiences with insight and wry humour. Great photos and sketches.

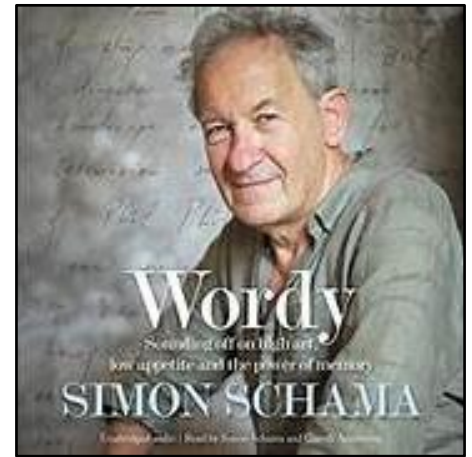
Ros also shared ***The Road Taken* by Rona Jaffe**. Rose Smith is born in America at the very beginning of 1900, which ushered in the most rapidly changing century in history. At the age of ten, Rose loses her mother and must learn to become independent and adaptable. As she grows up and begins a family of her own, she and her three daughters are a vital part of the country's rapid growth in a turbulent era. This is an ambitious story of choices, chances, and fate spanning four generations of an unforgettable American family.



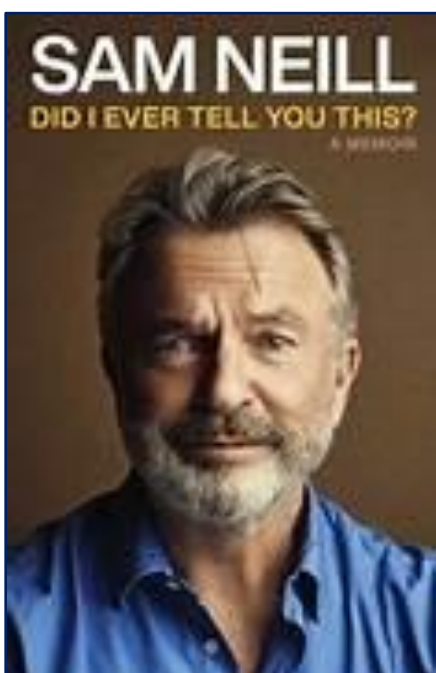


Elaine has been reading ***Heart of Darfur* by Lisa French Baker**. Lisa arrives in Sudan full of determination to use her skills as a nurse to do something to ease the plight of the hundreds of people caught up in the civil war raging through Darfur. She is working with Médecins Sans Frontières and the six months she spends on the mission will be the toughest of her life but will teach her some fundamental truths about what people are capable of, both good and bad, and about herself. Lisa describes the horrors of war — babies with machete wounds, girls giving birth at age 13 — but also her treasured relationships with her Sudanese colleagues. This book is exquisitely written without sentiment and bears witness to the remarkable courage of the people of Darfur.

Nola brought along ***Wordy* by Simon Schama**. This is a collection of fifty essays chosen by the man himself; it stretches four decades and is a treasure trove for all those who have a passion for arts, politics, food, and life. His commissioned subjects over the years have been numerous and wide ranging from the music of Tom Waits to the works of Sir Quentin Blake, the history of the colour blue, to discussing the skills and actor needs to create a unique performance of Falstaff. Nola enjoys the essay format — a witty thought-provoking book.



Trish shared an early Mother's Day present, ***Did I Ever Tell You This: a memoir* by Sam Neill**. This book was



prompted by a life-threatening cancer diagnosis and, although he says it was flung together, it is a tender, funny and emotional read. Born in Ireland in 1947 Sam came to New Zealand with his family aged seven. Young Sam discovered he was hopeless at sport but loved acting. In 1977 he played a leading role in the pioneering New Zealand film *Sleeping Dogs*, a performance that led to a starring role in Gillian Armstrong's ground-breaking film *My Brilliant Career*. After that Sam found his way, sometimes by accident, into his own brilliant career. He is a natural storyteller and writes with love and warmth about his friends and family, and about his adventures as a farmer and a winemaker. A truly lovely book.

Our next meeting is on June 3rd at 1.30pm

Trish Irvine

Walking Group May

Barrie, always one to get a walk together at the last minute, got us going up and down through Mornington to complete a 90-minute walk ending at Alto, a favourite spot.



Shona took us out to Mosgiel to view the almost finished pool. The men and machines were very active getting the place in shape for the grand opening.

We then walked along the Silverstream to the Helicopter place and back to town for a hot drink.

The Thursday Walkers welcomed Richard to the group. Gretchen took us on a new route around



Roslyn / Maori Hill area going through the Shetland Street Community Gardens. Interesting place with some very informative and dedicated volunteers prepared to tell you about their work. Coffee at Copper, again.

Mother Nature eventually kicked in with



wet weather, but our group has several hearty walkers, led by Tree and Bev, who just “rug up”



and go regardless. One through Fraser's Gully area and one around Mission Cove.



During the next U3A lecture series we will be walking on both Thursday and/or Friday as many members are either convening or attending a lecture.

Keep moving! Janet

Tuesday Current Issues Group May

Eight members gathered on a glorious autumn morning together with Andre from the U3A Board as our guest.

1. The key item for exploring was N Z's health system and the money needed to currently deliver that given that people in their last two years of life soak up half of this.

Should there be an age limit on what procedures are available, such as heart operations over the age of eighty?

Who would make such a decision? It goes against the traditional expectation of doctors to keep us alive at all costs, alongside letting nature 'take its course'.

If it is a question of individual choice such as 'Do Not Resuscitate' how do we manage family members who might see the issue differently? A Personal Care Power of Attorney, a document signed by you, your doctor and an agent will help.

A helpful book recommended was BEING MORTAL by Atul Gawande

2. Mayors, as in Auckland and Gore? We reflected on the value of listening to your people and the nature of facilitating the council decision-making. People often need help differentiating between 'governance' and 'management'. How is accountability managed?

Ken Baker



Home Gardens May

This group is going into recess for winter. The gardeners I approached when looking to book a visit were not keen because of the time of year, and I understand this, because my own garden which had been looking wonderful with lots of early autumn colour, has slipped badly as ill health has forced us to step back from our usual maintenance. Hopefully next year we will be in a position to bring it back to its usual - my computer suggests 'glory,' but that's way too strong a word - shall I say rather, unkempt beauty.

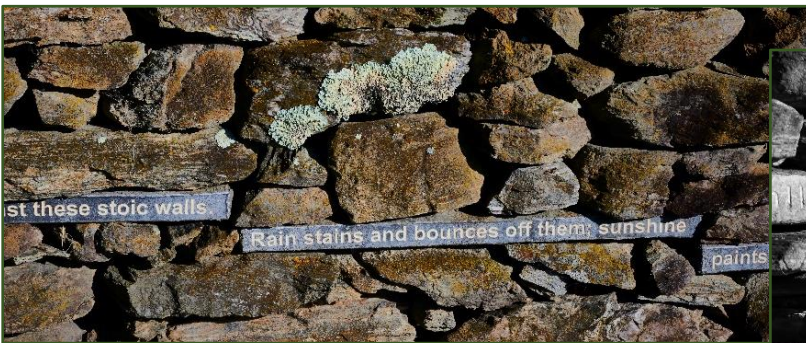
We will be back on deck in late August which is a good time as spring is about to burst forth and numerous people have suggested they would be happy to have their garden visited from then on. I am delighted our numbers have grown and am hoping the group will all be just as keen in September when we gather again. The group has space for more members, so please email me if you are interested. We meet on the third Thursday of the month, re-starting in September.

Carole

Photography Group May



Around a dozen of us met up at the Wobbly Goat Café at Outram for lunch on a stunning autumn day. We welcomed the new Interest Groups Coordinator, Andre Smith, who joined our group for a visit to look at the West Taieri Cemetery

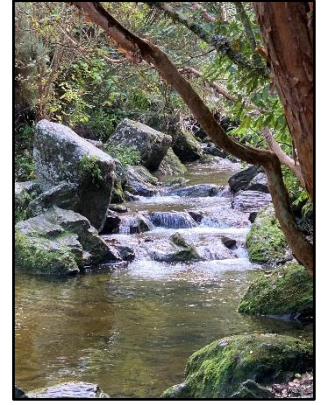
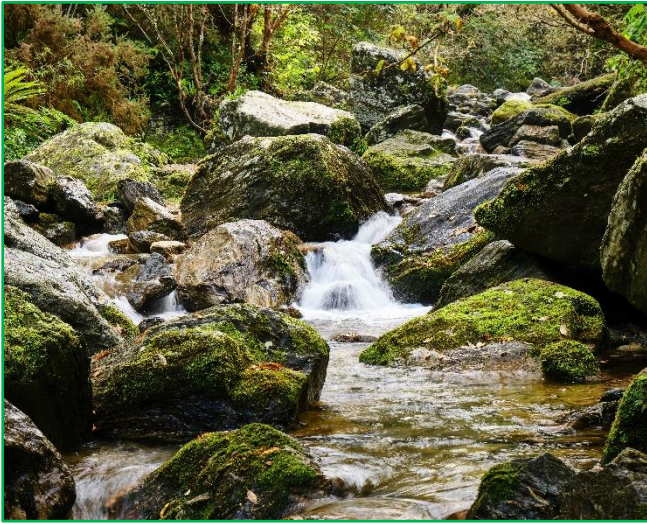


which features a Brian Turner poem 'Walls' running along the old stone wall. Well worth a drop by if you are in the area. Park at the second entry to the cemetery.

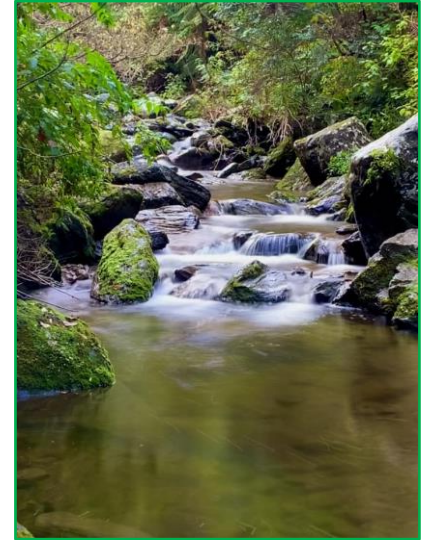
From there we headed to Woodside Glen and walked ... well some of us ... as far as Lee Stream. Described by DOC as an easy walk once the

first steep ascent was achieved. Might I just say, DOC track descriptions are not always strictly honest. Lots of fungi on the trees and trail edges and the best sight was several fantails who followed a small number of us for quite a way. Very busy darting about and it was hard to get a photo of them, let alone a good one. But some within the group did well. These shots were taken on a 'less than optimal for the job' camera and a cellphone.





Seven pics and seven mostly different views of Lee Stream taken by Graham, Linda, Andre, Caz, Chris, Anne M and Sue.



Reader: your task, should you choose to accept it, is to pick the two taken with iPhones.

(did you pick the two above?)

Once we had all our numbers accounted for, we set off to find the old stone



McDonald Cottage. John McIntyre who, along with his wife, gifted this cottage to the Taieri Historical Society, was happy to chat with us. He invited us into his home to show us a picture of the old homestead that had been demolished.

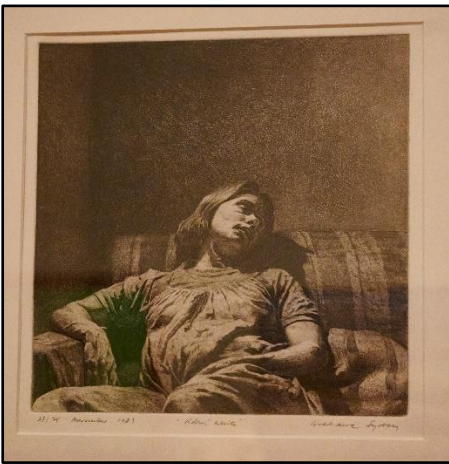
And he didn't stop there - as we were leaving, we heard the drones start up, and John played us a farewell air on his bagpipes.





I tempted fate by planning our second meeting for the month as a walk around the headland and pa at Karitane. Didn't happen, but one of our number who lives out that way said he might go if the weather picked up.

It didn't, but Chris went, took this great pic and shared it with us.



Plan B it was. Seven of us met up at the DPAG. Several exhibitions are being shown just now, including that of the wonderful Robin White. I asked if each of us at the Gallery might write a line or three about what appealed most to them.

Graham: I liked the picture of Robin White by Grahame Sydney. The Lowry and Toss Woolaston are always good value.

Robyne: I loved the transition of Robin White's work from her powerful



images of landscapes and friends in New Zealand to the collaborative work she undertook with fabric artists from the Pacific Islands.

The huge tapa cloth hangings were a rich mix of traditional patterns and designs that told a story of one's place in the world.



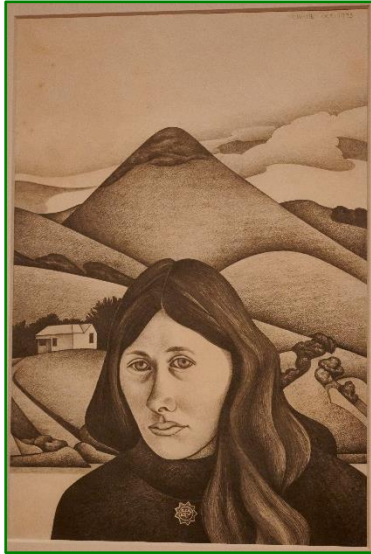
Anne M: Thinking ... thinking ... first impression was of the space in the foyer with the strong lines of balustrades and the spiral stair in the corner. I was also very impressed with the detail in Robin White's works on the tapa



mats. She also seemed strongly influenced by the Peninsula and I loved the painting of Sam Hunt outside the Portobello pub.

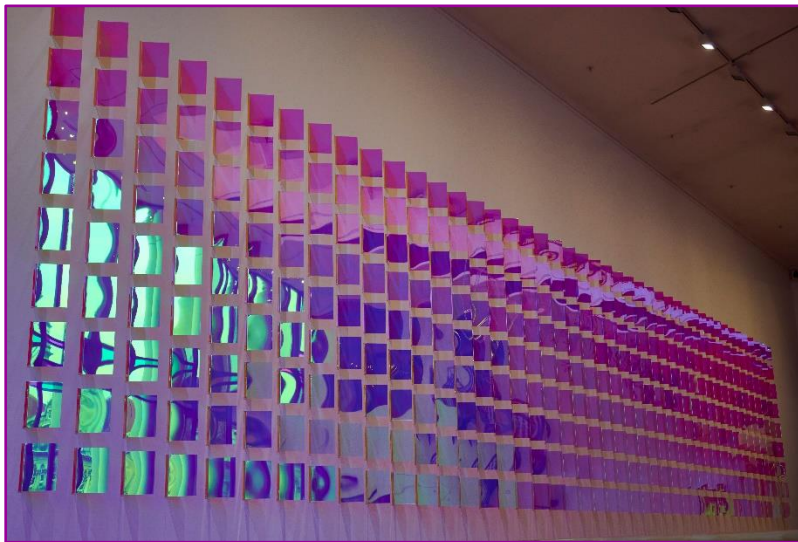
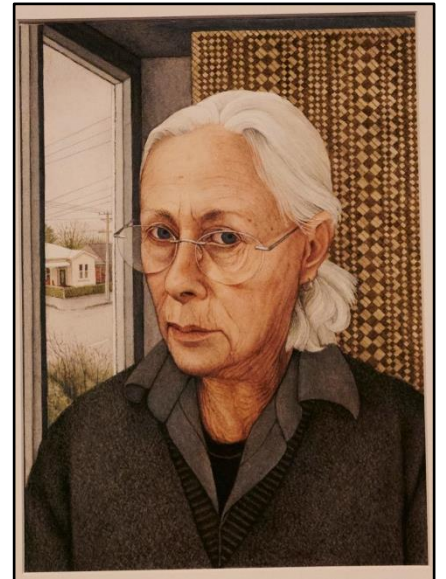


Hildegard: The Art Gallery – the perfect place for an outing of the Photography Group offering a diverse and interesting selection of photographic opportunities. I was on the hunt for the hand sanitiser bottle mentioned to be in one of Robin White’s tapestries - and found it! There was probably also one somewhere amongst Peter Robinson’s exhibits.

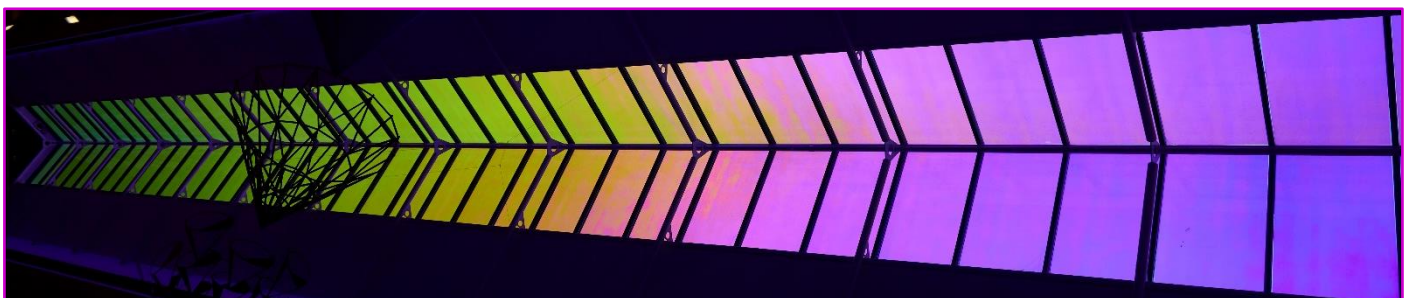


Ani: *Once Hildegard had read about the hand sanitiser, she left not an inch of any tapa cloth unexamined until discovery was achieved. I stood in the doorway of Peter’s exhibition but couldn’t quite muster the mental stamina required to venture further.*

As for me, I loved the early self portrait of Robin White with her beloved Harbour Cone, plus her very honest, much more recent, depiction of herself as an aging woman.



Another interesting exhibition that finishes shortly is Rebecca Baumann’s Light Interference. This may be the first time you have seen the



Gallery’s atrium roof side on. We capped off a different, but thoroughly enjoyable, afternoon with tea and coffee plus a multitude of treats at the Perc Café in Stuart St.

Ani