



Interest Groups NEWSLETTER

November 2023

Greetings to all

After a few months spent on distant shores, it was good to get back to a Dunedin in full bloom. Our interest groups show no sign of slowing down, even with the Festive Season approaching. Good news is that the second walking group, The Wanderers, is 'up and running' again and looking for new members.

I am making progress with attending meetings of individual groups. My thanks to those who have invited me along to share in their activities. A wet and windy afternoon did not discourage the Garden Group, and I picked up a few tips to pass on to the gardener in our family. In our garden, I am only the manual labourer!

A pleasant morning with the Poetry Group introduced me to some new material, and I could also share a few perspectives with them.

(R: the poem Andre didn't bring to the meeting). Ani

The visit to the Hocken Library with the Genealogy Group was very informative - so much so that I signed up as a member of the library.

As all convenors have been invited to the end-of-year function early in December, I look forward to meeting up with those that I have not met yet.

Until next time!

Andre

The Lama

by Ogden Nash

The one-l lama,
He's a priest.
The two-l llama,
He's a beast.
And I will bet
A silk pajama
There isn't any
Three-l lllama.

I could make a faux apology for my excessiveness in putting together the report of the Photography Group which enjoyed a weekend on the Maniototo this month, but that would not be mannerly. So please enjoy the pages, or skip through quickly.

Ann (Ani) Editor

Art Collections Group

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



Book Share Group

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



Dining Group

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



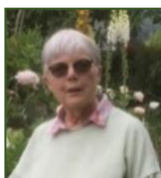
Expanding Musical Horizons **full**

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



Gallery Group **full**

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



Gardens & Botanical Group

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



Genealogy Group **full**

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



Lunch Group

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



Mahjong Group

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



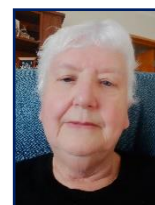
Monday Current Affairs Group **full**

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



Photography Group **full**

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



Poetry Group

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



Singing Group

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



Tuesday Current Issues Group **full**

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



Waikouaiti Global **Conversations**

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



Walking Group **full**

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



Wanderers Group

Interim Convenor:
Anne Stratford
Every Wednesday at 1pm
annepstratford@gmail.com



Poetry Group November

Dharma by Billy Collins

The way the dog trots out the front door
every morning
without a hat or an umbrella,
without any money
or the keys to her doghouse
never fails to fill the saucer of my heart
with milky admiration.

Who provides a finer example
of a life without encumbrance—
Thoreau in his curtainless hut
with a single plate, a single spoon?
Gandhi with his staff and his holy diapers?

Off she goes into the material world
with nothing but her brown coat
and her modest blue collar,
following only her wet nose,
the twin portals of her steady breathing,
followed only by the plume of her tail.

If only she did not shove the cat aside
every morning
and eat all his food
what a model of self-containment she
would be,
what a paragon of earthly detachment.
If only she were not so eager
for a rub behind the ears,
so acrobatic in her welcomes,
if only I were not her god.

Our group, minus two members, met in mid-November. We welcomed along Andre Smith as part of his plan to visit each of the Interest Groups during the year. He brought along a poem by a South African poet, Roy Campbell, who, initially, became friendly with the Bloomsbury Group. Eventually he became very hostile towards them, declaring that they were sexually promiscuous, snobbish, and anti-Christian. Roy Campbell's poem was titled 'Horses on the Camargue.'

The topic this month was 'Creatures' and what a variety we had this month. From the magnificent 'Basking Shark' by Norman McCaig, several by Billy Collins and a couple by Philip Larkin, which showed his gentler side. 'Sitting Bird' by Fiona Kidman was another. 'The Creature in the Classroom' by Jack Prelutsky was the amusing choice of one member.



Ani

The Mower BY PHILIP LARKIN

The mower stalled, twice; kneeling, I
found
A hedgehog jammed up against the
blades,
Killed. It had been in the long grass.

I had seen it before, and even fed it, once.
Now I had mauled its unobtrusive world
Unmendably. Burial was no help:

Next morning I got up and it did not.
The first day after a death, the new
absence
Is always the same; we should be careful

Of each other, we should be kind
While there is still time.

Gardens and Botanical Group November



Another month has passed, and our group was looking forward to this meeting. This time we were planning to visit two gardens in the Upper Junction area of the city. Sadly, the weather was un-spring like and the views over the harbour were restricted by the low cloud and fog. That cannot be said about the gardens, however. They were both most interesting for different reasons.

One was a work in progress, led by an intrepid gardener, undaunted by the large area she had turned into a garden because she was driven by a vision of colour, form, and productive uses for the garden. Robyn bought the property about six years ago from a ninety-year-old farmer and set to work with a chainsaw and buckets of enthusiasm to achieve her dream of creating a garden. Her first job was to clear the four-acre garden of broom, gorse, blackberry, and hemlock.

The section was high up on the ridge, but massive old pine trees provided the shelter needed for the garden to get established and



the soil was a rich volcanic loam, perfect for her dream of selling cut flowers and floral arrangements. The shelter belts were important, but a lot of work was needed to thin and top them. Her saviour was the Delta team providing her with endless amounts of mulch to cover the ground; old sacks and fallen logs helped build up the permaculture so she could start planting.

Robyn lived off grid for three years until she could connect to the grid. She is now living in a new house she is building for herself as her son and family have joined her in the hilltop garden. I think you could call her a modern-day pioneer! Robyn took us on a tour of the garden, explaining her progress and the challenges she had experienced. A big one was preserving the old-time buildings of character and history.

The vegetable garden was impressive. The volcanic soil was giving those plants a rich start in life. We followed the pathways Robyn had created through the beds of tulips, perennials, roses, and a Bonsai nursery where her son grows trees ready for the transformation to Bonsai plants for sale. I feel I have not

done justice to this garden as there was so much to see of interest to the group and we enjoyed the stories Robyn shared of her journey towards self-sufficiency.

Our next garden was that of Christine Cooper, a member of our group and a longtime resident of this area. Her story is one of courage and tenacity - rabbits are her challenge. They



have caused such damage to her rose collections that she has reduced the rose gardens and built rabbit proof fencing to contain them. The battle continues.

This is a beautiful manor-like garden and once was a rhododendron nursery. Christine and her husband bought the property and built their home there thirty years ago. Many of the original rhododendrons remain and they are probably over a hundred years old. Many were in flower for our visit. Christine has added to the collection and the long borders contained a mixed variety of shrubs, rhododendrons, and perennials.



The enclosed formal garden was inviting, and the roses formed a centrepiece in the garden. A lovely spot to sit and listen to the birds. Expansive lawns are the realm of Ian, Christine's husband, who keeps them looking manicured and these are a perfect foil to the garden.

We had a very pleasant afternoon exploring two very different but complementary gardens as they were led by true enthusiasts who knew and loved their gardens. Next month we are meeting at Shona's garden for a Christmas ramble and lunch.

Robyne

Dining Group November

The group met at The Parcels restaurant in the old Post Office this month. All enjoyed their menu choices.

Price wise, the food appeared to be at the higher end of the scale, and vegetables were an extra cost with a main dish. Trip Advisor says \$\$-\$\$\$ but it seems to be out of date. Some of us chose an entrée, with a side of fries, or followed by a dessert.



Conversation, at least at one end of the table, centred mainly around travel. Some enlightening incidents and hints were shared. Phyll is enthused to follow up on a possible travel lecture series.
Karen

Mahjong Group November

We continue to meet as usual on the 2nd and 4th of the month. Everyone is welcome, even if you haven't played before. It's a game you can learn quickly, while still being complex enough to not get boring.



Many of the group took part in the Mahjong event organised by Anne Pentecost and her helpers. It was great fun, and the catering was exceptional. There was an amazing number of prizes and raffles. Many of our members won prizes in the competitive and the social groups.

A great day was had by all. Jean

Waikouaiti Global Conversations November

Our conversation this month was held at a member's home that we had not visited before and, since she lives on a small farm in a beautiful setting in a lovely, very old home that has been tastefully modernised in keeping with its age, we spent a lot of time ooling and aahing over her Shacklock Orion coal range (which she still uses) and a couple of bread ovens (which she doesn't use). Later, we enjoyed a tour of all the old outbuildings. These pleasures bookended our discussion nicely.

Whew! It's all over for another three years, well nearly – as I write we still don't have agreement on a coalition government but that is not really a surprise ... however, we wait to see which of the election



promises get dropped and which survive. Some cause us much consternation, such as the Act Party's call for a referendum on Te Tiriti, which led us onto Australia's recent referendum about The Voice. We recalled what one of our members said a few meetings ago: issues affecting minorities should never be put to referendum.

Something that seems to have become a feature of our group is sharing books and articles that we have



read. It is so nice to have recommendations that further your knowledge or push you out of your comfort zone. This month someone shared the recent Listener article (October 21-27, 2023) entitled 'Plastic Bandaid' exposing the myths about plastic recycling – it doesn't slow climate change, it doesn't decrease plastic use or production, it increases harmful chemicals in

foods and the environment, and it masks reducing use of materials and reusing products.

Since our group has been meeting for six months now, we reviewed our conversation format. Most were happy with the informality and enjoying getting to know each other but a set topic occasionally would provide variety. So, we have decided to invite a guest speaker to our next meeting to share their expertise on what we, as individuals or groups of citizens, can do about climate change. Watch this space!

Kath Ryan

Art Collections Group November

This month's visit was to a friend (we'll call her Jeanne for non-identification purposes) of two of our group, who kindly opened her home to us. Thank you, Jeanne, indeed, for the very informative tour.

Her house is full of items to regard, both art works and other pieces of interest. The art comprised a significant number of works from Canada, mainly landscapes. One room, ironically the sunniest in her home, is devoted to works featuring snow. Jeanne has a passion for the art of the Group of Seven, for whom we now have a real appreciation.

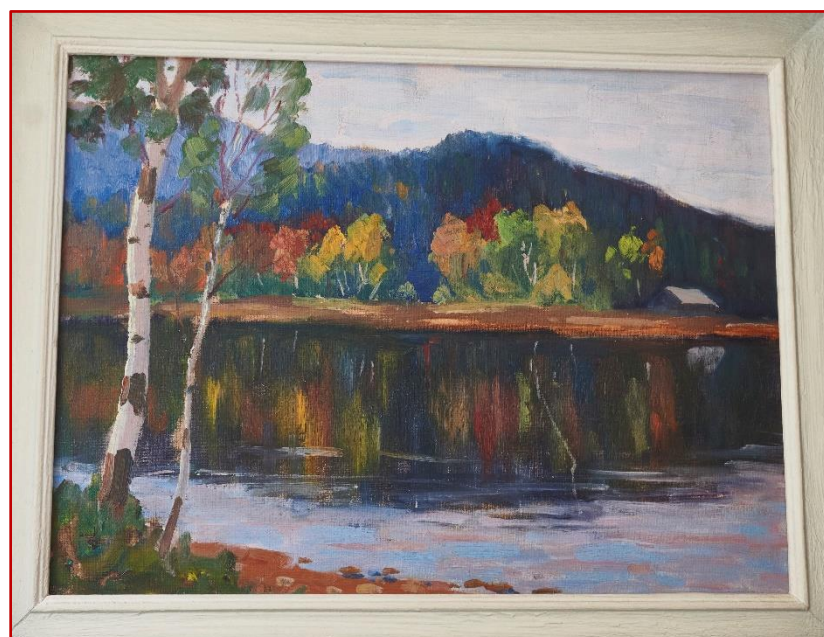
Before reading on, you may like to discover the artists themselves in a video made by the Art Gallery of Ontario: [youtube.com/watch?v=hiAvYGTB8xk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hiAvYGTB8xk)



While Jeanne has none of the originals of the group of seven, her paintings from Canada, mostly inherited from



her parents, show the influence of the group. Many of the Group of Seven worked as graphic artists in her grandfather's printing works in Toronto where the cards depicted were made. Jeanne



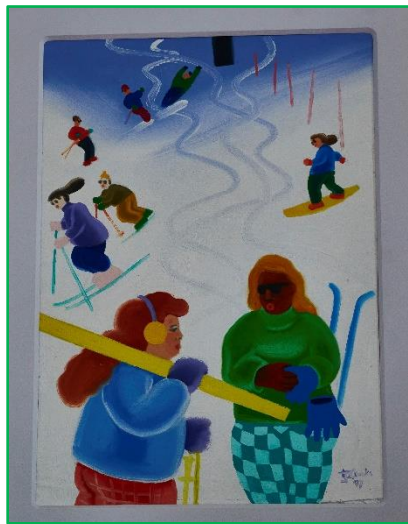
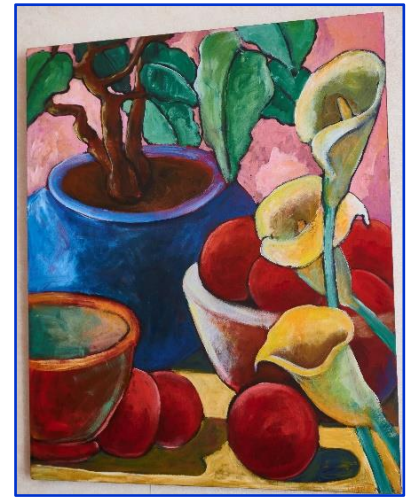
commented that she had been told by an art appraiser that if a horse featured in a scene, then the value of the painting increased incrementally.

Two paintings above: Manley MacDonald (1889-1971) born in Ontario, Canada.

L: Douglas I McLeod (1886-1967) who painted alongside the artists, but never sold his works. He gave them to friends, one of whom was Jeanne's father.

She also has a considerable number of lovely works by local artists including Lindsay Crooks, Janet Weir, and Gillian Pope. An interesting fact was that the couple's original Dunedin art purchases were made at the annual art sale where works were propped up against walls in a laneway just off the Octagon. I'm sure a lot of us started out that way, Jeanne.

R: Janet Weir who painted this after her husband, Lindsay Crooks, when she was ill, bought her plums and lilies.



So many purchases were made from Lindsay Crooks, that the couple



became firm friends with him.



All six of the works above are by Lindsay Crooks (1957 – 2005)



L: Patterson Parkin (1948 –



We spent a very pleasant morning looking at, and discussing, these works plus enjoying a cuppa, and Jeanne welcomed inside the beautiful Elsie, a

visitor, who had been the model of patience.

Anne-Marie

Expanding Musical Horizons

As everybody knows, famous composers of the past were nearly all shy, sensitive, scholarly, and gentle types who loved nothing better than to live quietly, enjoy nature, sit in secluded spaces, and compose wonderful music while studying the occasional bit of harmony and counterpoint. Yeah ... right.

Our November session was called 'Music Stories You Were Never Told in School'. It looked at a range of famous composers across the centuries, whose names are well-known to us, and who behaved badly. Among their ranks were murderers, alcoholics, social outcasts, jailbirds, slave traders, drug addicts, tantrum-throwers, the completely potty-mouthed and the insane. The session wasn't just about composers with less sociably acceptable behaviours but included some weird tales of other odd-ball things that have happened in musical history.



Throughout the session, we listened to some lesser-known music by these characters that some might think was heavenly, but composed while their creator might have been on his personal journey to hell.

So, who was the slave trader? He's a man who isn't known so much as a composer, but he composed one of the most famous hymns in the world. John Newton was someone who started in the slave trade at the age of 20, and gradually worked his way up to the rank of captain. His outstanding skill in profanity is an interesting study in itself.

He had never been much of a religious person but on May 10, 1748, his ship was foundering in a huge storm off the coast of Ireland. As the ship nearly capsized and started breaking up amongst massive waves, he tied himself to the ship's pump to save himself from being washed overboard like one of the sailors just minutes before. He prayed "God have mercy!" over and over. The storm died down eventually, whereupon he determined to devote the rest of his life to God. Within five years, he had left the slave trade. He trained to be an Anglican minister and became a crusading abolitionist. He wrote several hymns, of which *Amazing Grace* is the best known. It remained somewhat obscure in England but has been hugely popular ever since in the United States.

Paul

Wanderers Group November



The U3A Wanderers Group had a walk along John Wilson Drive and down onto the beach where, with Hildegard's wildlife knowledge, we had a very interesting discussion about sea lions.

We are hoping to restart this group on a Wednesday afternoon, and will meet at various places in Dunedin at 1 p.m. All very welcome to join us. Our second planned walk did not quite make the grade, but we will go forward.

Please email me at:

annestratford@gmail.com for

more information.

Anne



It was with sadness that we heard of the recent death of Ailsa Williams. Despite being new to this city, Ailsa took on the role of the first convenor of the Wanderers and quickly gathered around her a very enthusiastic group. We extend our condolences to her wider family.



Lunch Group November

Five of us met at the Village Green Cafe & Bar in Sunnyvale this month.

We variously chose bacon and liver, pumpkin soup, pancakes, a fish burger and a caesar salad from a good selection on the menu.

A plus was the Gold Card discount of 10%, and good parking!

If you would like to join us at Mitre 10 next month on Friday 8th December, please contact Anne Stratford on 021 0247 9803.

Anne

Singing Group November

The U3A singing group has had a successful year with very stable membership and we continue to enjoy singing at our weekly sessions. The great outcome so far, is the group singing in up to four parts, which makes for a strong sound, and offers some new challenges.



We finish in early December but will be resuming in February. No stopping us ... at least 95% of the members have signed up again up for 2024.

Claire

Genealogy Group November

Last week, we visited the Hocken Library, where staff were very generous with their time and assistance. We explored the Hocken's website including the expanded resources on Hocken.recollect.co.nz, as well as viewing the resources available in the research room. Thanks so much to Katherine and Judith.



Hot on the trail.

The resources available are so great that we are now all joining the library, so we can make the most of them. We were impressed by the huge range of photos and artworks as well as documents, focusing particularly, but not exclusively, on Otago and Southland.

Jean



Book Share Group

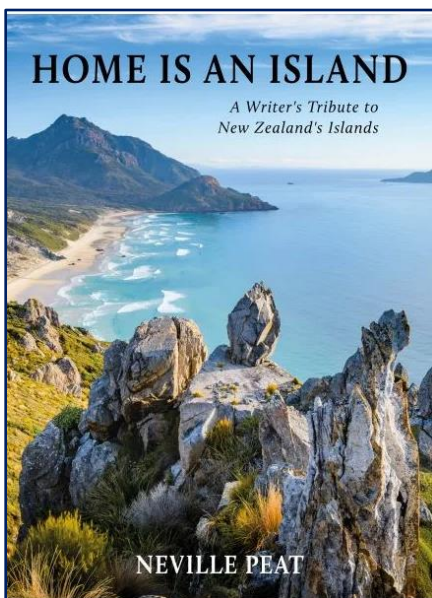
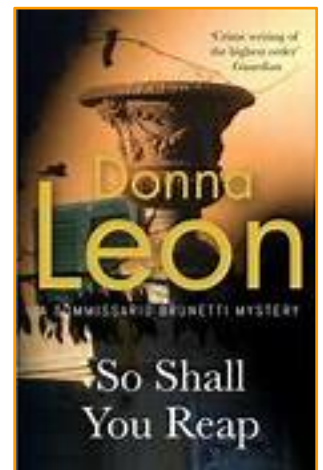
November

We had apologies from Ros and Elaine this month and our meeting was held outside in warm summer sunshine.



Trish had been reading ***There's a Cure for This: a memoir by Emma Espiner.*** This is Dr Emma Espiner's own story from a childhood spent shuttling between a purple lesbian state house and a series of "man-alone" rentals to navigating parenthood on her own terms; from the quietly perceived inequities of her early life to hard-won revelations as a Māori medical student and junior doctor during the COVID-19 pandemic. Gutsy, fierce, and reflective, Dr Espiner tells compelling stories about finding and then making her own path: as a modern Māori woman; a descendant of Ngāti Tukorehe and Ngāti Porou; a mother, friend, partner; and a doctor of medicine. Published this year, this is a striking debut memoir from an award-winning writer and doctor.

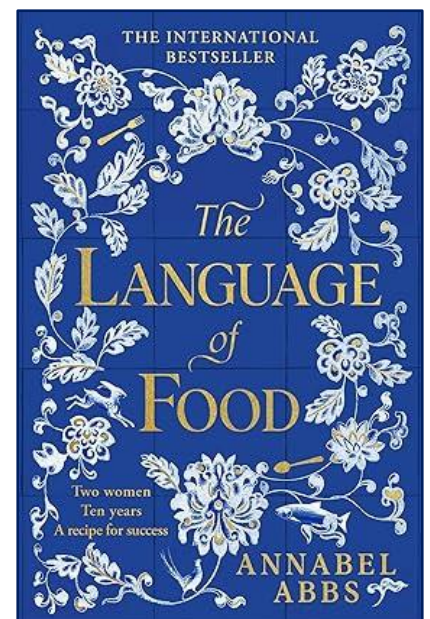
Nola had been reading ***So Shall You Reap by Donna Leon.*** This is the 32nd instalment of a best-selling book series where a connection to Guido Brunetti's own youthful past helps solve a mysterious murder. On a cold November night Guido and his colleague receive a call that a hand has been seen in one of Venice's canals. The body is soon found, and Brunetti is assigned to investigate the murder of an undocumented Sri Lankan immigrant. Because no official record



of the man's presence in Venice exists Brunetti is forced to use the city's far richer resources of information — gossip and the memories of the people who knew the victim. Nola finds these stories light reading with 'nice lunches' to try out.

She had also been reading ***Home is an Island: A Writer's Tribute to New Zealand's Islands by Neville Peat.*** As the subtitle suggests this is the writer's tribute to the islands of New Zealand. It is a collection of essays and stories that the front cover blurb describes as a "narrative of place and belonging". The connecting theme of the book is islands which Peat writes "induce powerful emotions, commonly an aching attachment". This book is less a memoir and more a guidebook, an intimate front row seat to Peat in lecturer mode. Highly recommended.

Carolyn had been reading ***The Language of Food by Annabel Abbs.*** Eliza Acton, despite having never before boiled an egg, became one of the world's most successful cookery writers, revolutionising cooking and cookbooks around the world. Told in alternate voices of Eliza and her assistant Anne Kirby ("I do more than serve") this is a page turning historical novel: exploring the struggle for female freedom; the power of female relationships; the creativity and quiet joy of cooking; and the poetry of food. With recipes that leap to life from the page this is a fascinating, uplifting story and brings Eliza Acton out of the archives and back into the public eye. Carolyn really enjoyed this book and recommends it.



Our next meeting is a shared Xmas lunch on December 8th. There will be no meeting in January.

Trish Irvine

Walking Group November

Averil writes: I thought I would do something a little different this time. I have used the individual emails from each organiser to record our walks. I think it shows the individual interests and styles. And I am using excerpts from each,



so some of the organiser's meticulous planning skills are missing. Ani

Alison - 19th Oct

The walk this week will take us through the upper and lower Botanic Garden, Northern Cemetery, Bracken's Lookout, Logan Park, University and the student-ville area.

Meet at 10 a.m. lower Botanic Garden beside the 'Worm' sculpture.

There is an approximate 10-minute uphill walk to start, then all downhill and on the flat. We will be walking on formed tracks, footpaths, and playing fields. Coffee will be at the Croque-o-dile Cafe lower garden.

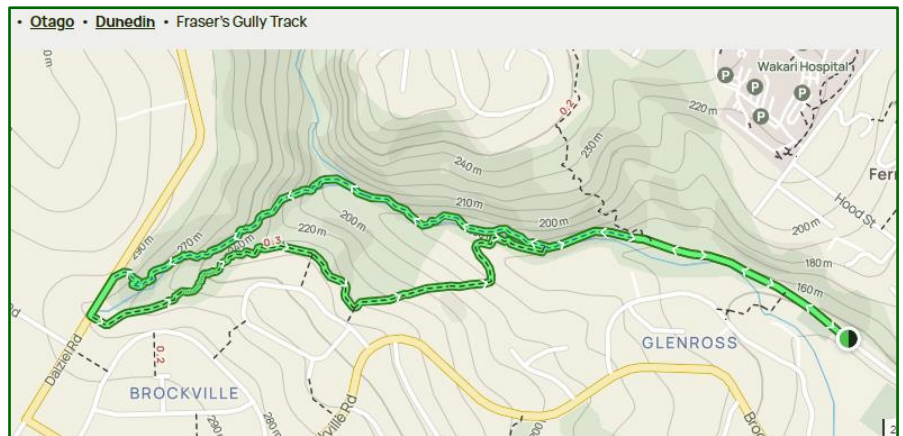
Tree - 26th Oct

Hoping for better weather to do Frasers Gully loop.

Meet 10am at car park at end of Frasers Rd. Walk takes ~ 75mins.

Flat to start then a steady climb: return loop has several sets of steps. Good shoes advisable +/- walking pole.

Coffee at Coffee.



Gerard - 2nd Nov

Easy walk around Port Chalmers and Sawyers Bay. Meet at the PC end of the shared walkway/cycle track at 1000. That's at the corner of Wickliffe Ter. and the Main Road. Walk back on track to Sawyers Bay and through Sawyers Bay looping back to Port Chalmers. Coffee in PC.

Easy walk - around 1hr 15 - gentle climb.



Kris and
Graham - 9th
Nov

Please join
Graham and I
for a roller
coaster walk up
and down the
hills above St
Clair. Beautiful
gardens houses and views, then
coffee at Fugue
Start at the bottom of Allandale



Rd. Who knows what the weather will throw at us, let's just DO IT!



Richard - 16th Nov

I am looking forward to
taking you to The Cedars of Lebanon Garden (COLG), and
beyond, on Thursday. We will meet at 10.00am inside the main
entrance to the Botanic Gardens (North Road).

The proposed route from the COLG will be to the

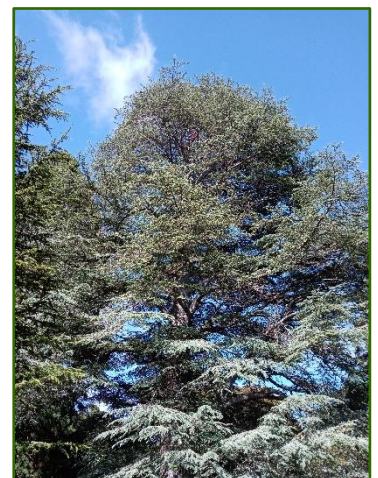
Mediterranean
Garden via the
new boardwalk,
then onto the
Rhododendron
Dell. From there



south-east perimeter of the gardens and meander down to the lower
level and finish with a walk through the Rose Garden. That will take
between 45-50 mins.

We will have coffee at the Gardens
Corner Café which is situated
immediately adjacent to the main
entrance.

*Averil wonders just who put the
traffic cone at the top of this very tall
tree!!*



Monday Current Affairs Group

Despite an uncertain outlook, the weather in Waikouaiti delivered perfect sunshine as in previous years when we've celebrated our last monthly meeting for the year of this group in the beautiful



garden of David Cooper and Julie Gemmell. We eschewed current affairs in the interests of feeding both our bodies and our souls.



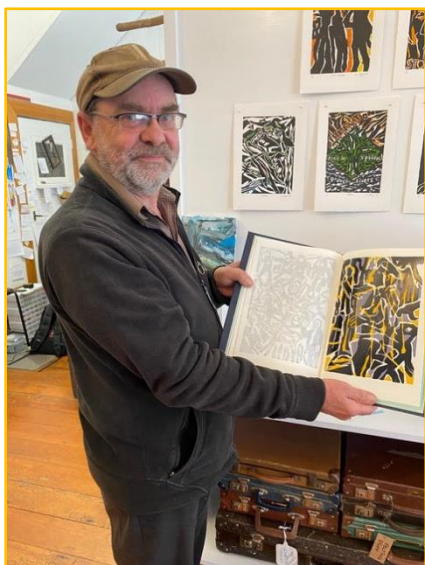
A new addition to the garden since last year is a pond well stocked with tadpoles. Julie is an excellent weaver and is in the throes of making a coracle to sail on the new body of water. Joy Hayward



Gallery Group November

We assembled in the fascinating town of Port Chalmers and visited the Pea Sea Art Gallery where the owner Robert Scott introduced us to the current exhibitions of Wayne Seyb and David Kilgour.

Wayne Seyb is from Christchurch but exhibits his colourful work all over



the South Island. His work would brighten up any wall if you had a space tall enough. They are WOW paintings and express joy and exuberance, but as we studied them in more detail the subject matter started to emerge ... the old cottage, New York City, or the waterfall landscape as examples.

L: Wayne has worked in collaboration with a book maker to put many of his works into a beautifully bound book.



David Kilgour's paintings were a great accompaniment to Wayne's and were mainly ribbon like patterns: some colourful, some dark. David is a band member of The Clean along with Robert Scott.



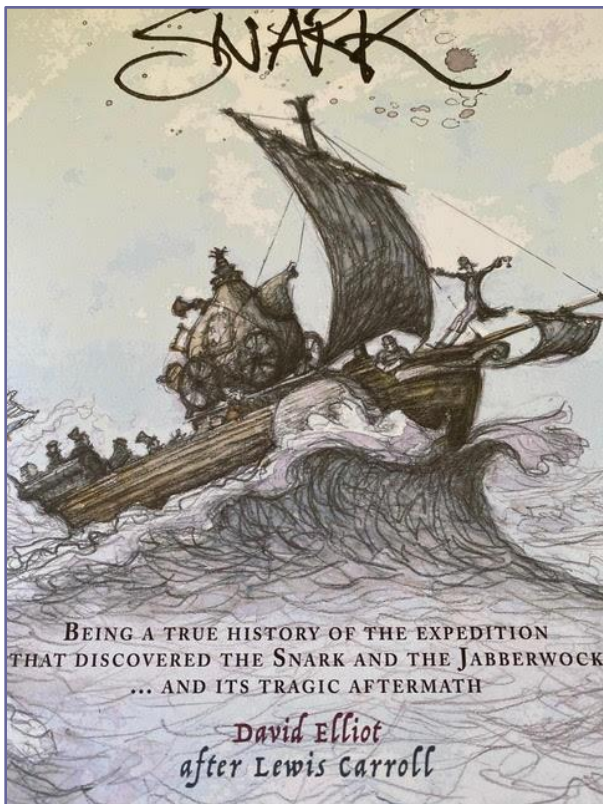
L: Purple Orange painting by David Kilgour.

R: Black + White Tornado by David Kilgour

The shop area of the Pea Sea Art Gallery sells art supplies plus other art works, and some of us enjoyed stocking up. The exhibition is on until November 29th, so there is time to visit.



The second instalment of our morning was to the Flying Whale over the road where Gillian and David Elliot welcomed us to their gallery and shop.

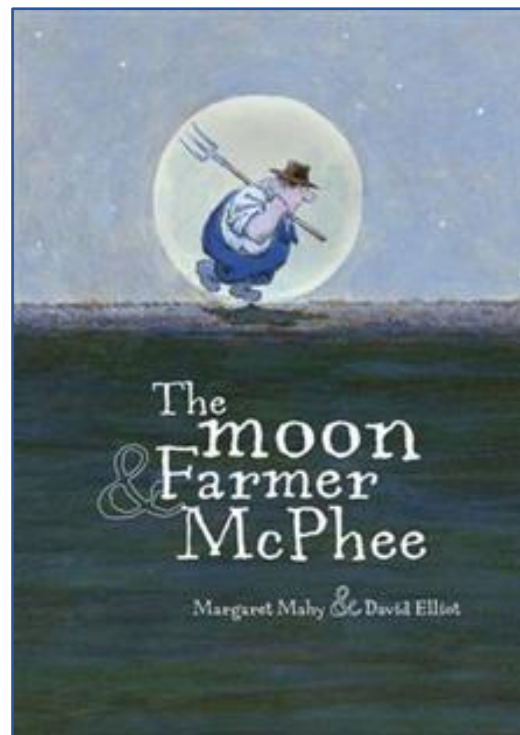


David Elliot spoke to us about the amazing work he has done illustrating books. He has won many awards for his books, in particular, *The Snark* but also *The Moon & Farmer McPhee* by Margaret Mahy.

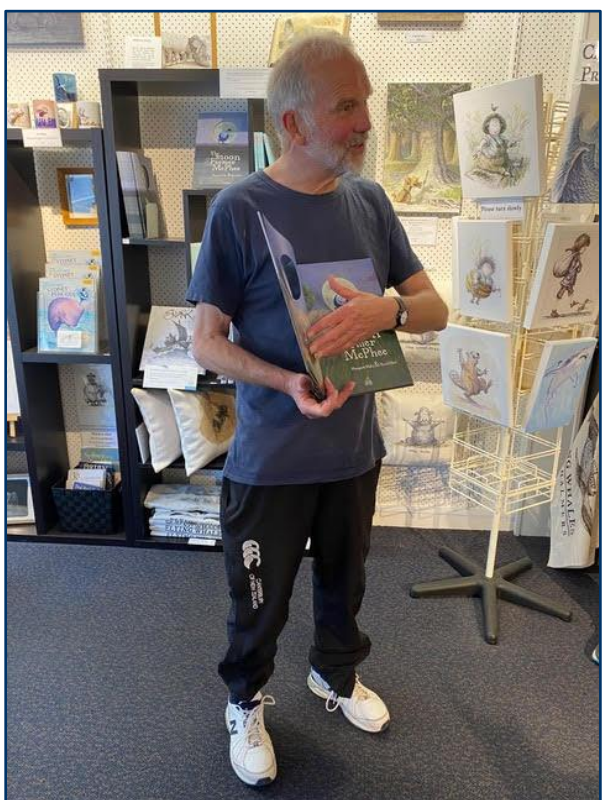


The Hunting of the Snark is a poem by Lewis Carroll, but this book is so much more, with much detective work about what happened in the past related to the 'Snark' poem.

David also showed us the amazing intricate modelling work he is preparing for an exhibition in Ashburton later this year. We were all transported to the imaginary world emanating from David's extensive imagination.



Many purchases were made. Gillian's role is crucial as she runs the business side of the relationship and is using all her skills to keep the shop and its appeal in tip top order.



And so, to lunch over the road and to the back of the Two Gypsies for a delicious meal around a large table at Cafe Santosha. Thank you to Laurie and Rosemary White for organising such a successful and rewarding excursion to Port Chalmers.

Tash Hurst

Photography Group November

Decided on a different approach this month ... it may be OTT ... but fifteen of us, plus two lovely dogs, big



Louie, and little Ben, had a great weekend trip to Naseby, Ranfurly, St Bathans, and Cambrians on the 4th and 5th of November. Not all of us were photographers, but there were so many great shots emerging that I thought we should have a page apiece to share our selections of a mixed weather weekend. We ask your patience and indulgence with the oversupply. Ani

A lot of food was eaten, and sleeping on the very hard beds at the Ranfurly Hotel was an optional extra! This

place should be good but ... one of the very best last-minute decisions made, was to switch the Saturday dinner to the Waipiata Hotel. Good, and generous, food. Thank you, Sue, it saved the evening.

We met up at the historic St George's Anglican Church in Naseby mid-Saturday morning. Before the end of the day, Naseby had been explored, a side trip to check out the fishing, a visit to what had once been a sanatorium along from Waipiata, one pair even got a conducted tour when the owners supposed I had booked such, (somebody did, but it wasn't me) and the cemetery on the hill, toddling around Ranfurly to see the Art Deco sights, had all been achieved by one or the other. The rain held off until our dinner was well underway.

Sunday morning was wet, but it cleared a little by lunchtime. The Blue Lake at St Bathans was decidedly not bright blue, but still beautiful. Some of us went back to Fall Dams. Fantastic in any weather I would think. Lunch followed at the Vulcan Hotel where we went 'old school' and had a boys' table and a girls' table.



Some of us then headed home but many went the short distance to Cambrians where we found a bluebell carpet under the trees. If you have never been, this quaint, stretched-out township is well worth a look.

Eunan sent the following: Attached is link to a Stuff article on the sanatorium. Also, at the Cambrians School there was a pamphlet on the sanatorium which had personal account of members of some local families who had been admitted there. Interesting social history if a bit grim.

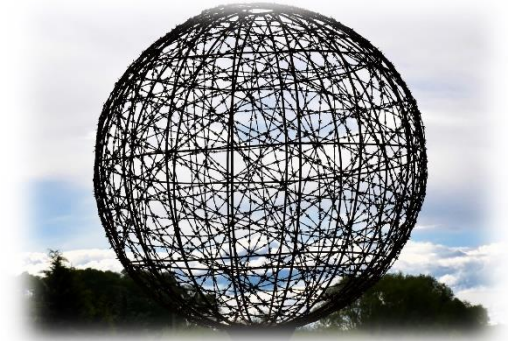
<https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/300110473/in-sympathy-with-the-isolated-the-tb-sanatorium-in-the-back-of-beyond>



Hildegard Lubcke has chosen these thoughtful shots from her weekend away on the Maniototo.



Below: The dinosaur





John Burton ranged further than most and chose these pics.

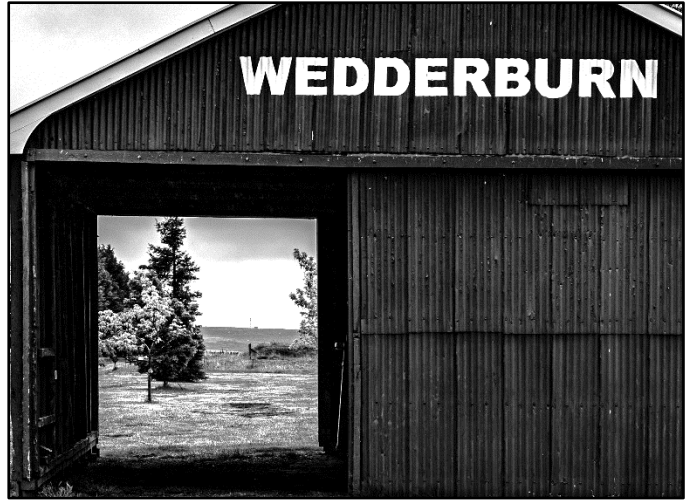
The hawthorn was in flower all over the Maniototo.



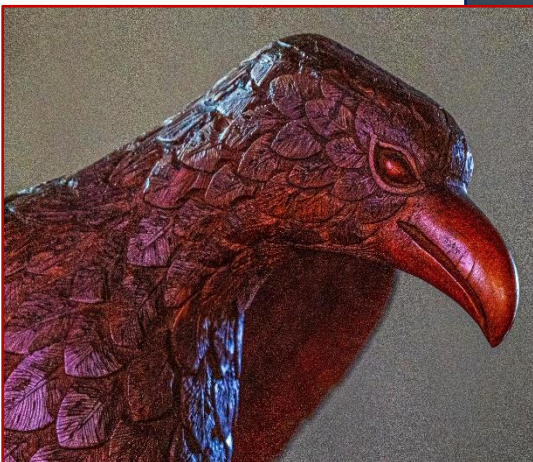


Graham Corbett selected mainly his beloved landscapes.





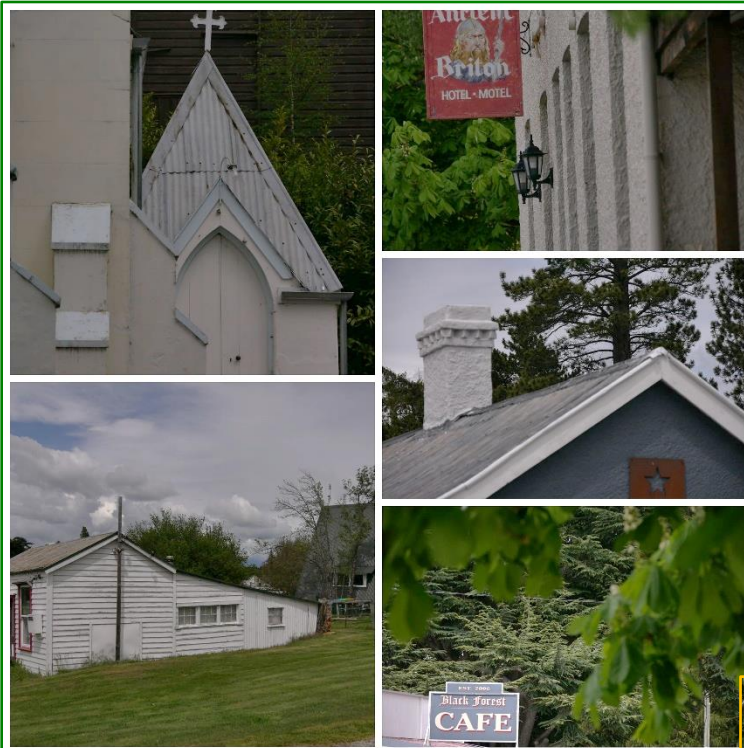
Ann Howarth's collection from the pic group's weekend of fun, exploration, and goodwill.

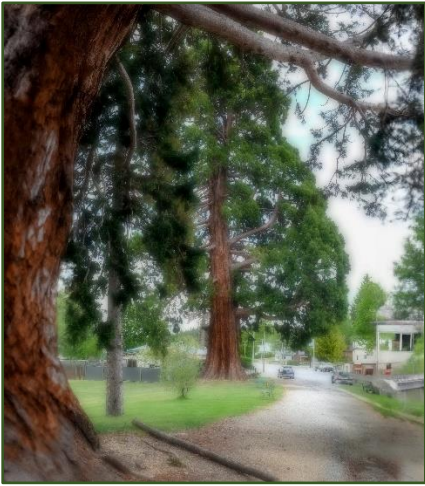




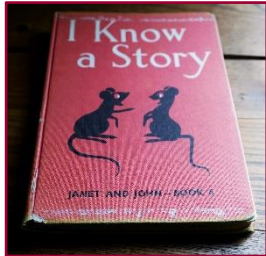
Kevin Morton and his partner, Anne, jet in each November from the UK, and they join our group for the downunder summer.

Love the montage, Kevin!





Chris Watson's photo's:
always interesting



Eunan Cleary regularly chooses to shoot in black and white. He thought the wet weather on Sunday morning made this a very good option.





Anne Kempthorne who, because of a severe oversupply of Ann/e's in our group, is referred to as UK Anne, sent these interesting pics.



L: The church mice were made by each congregation to be taken from one Maniototo Anglican church to another.

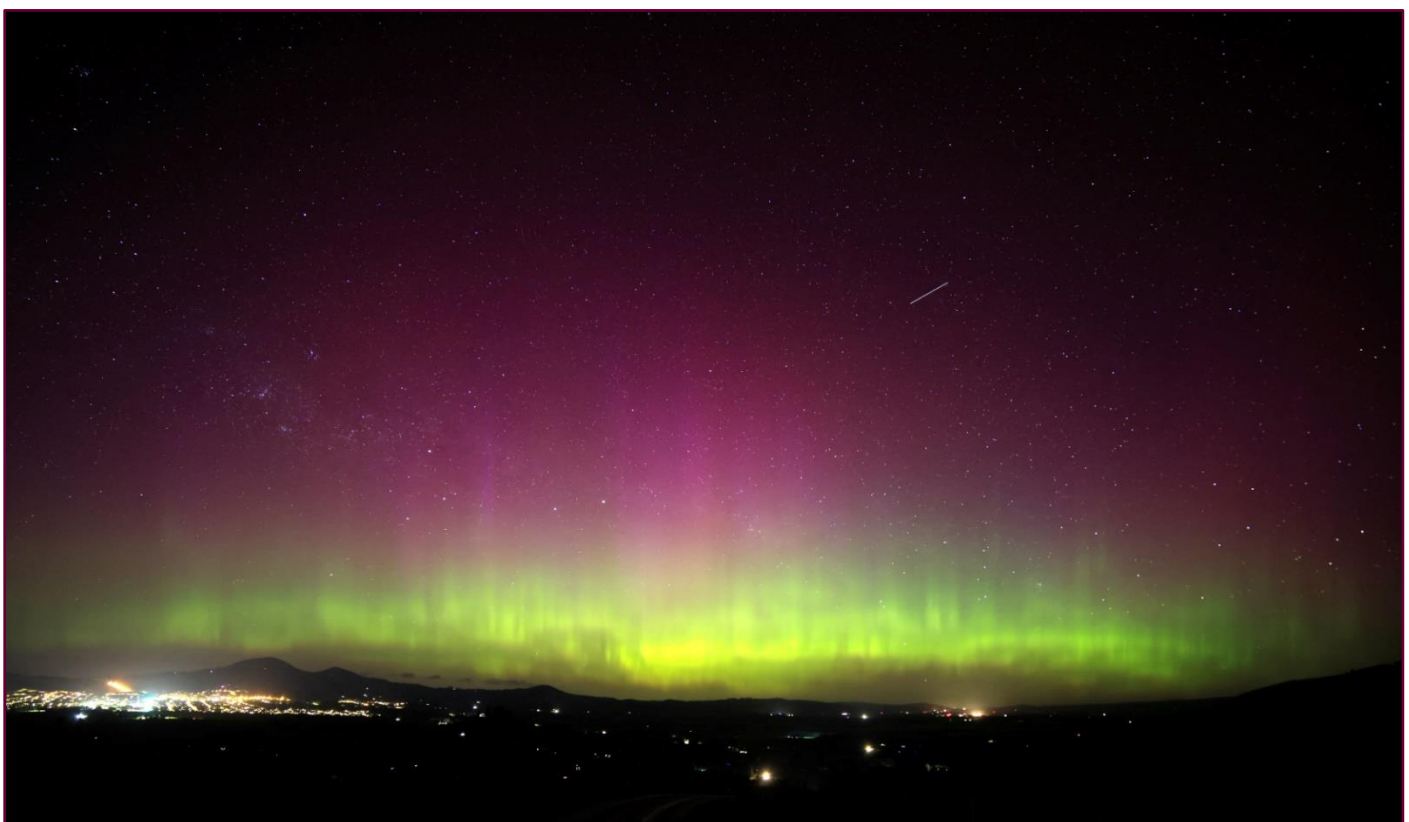
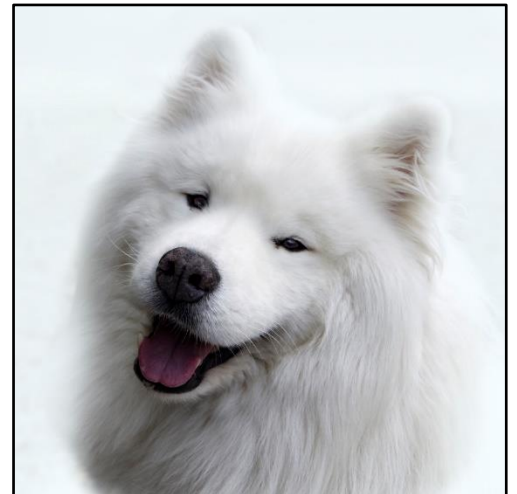
R: Is this the

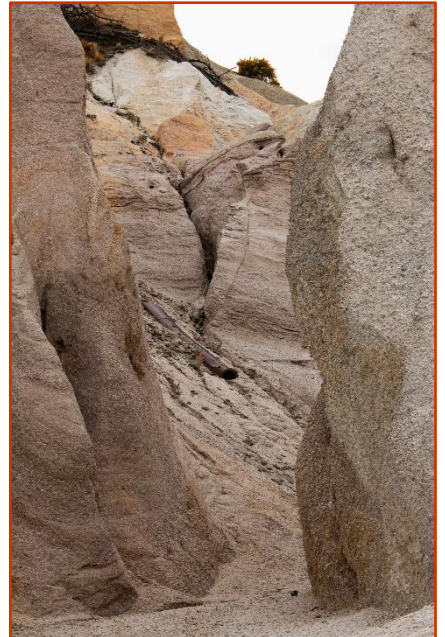
Ranfurly guillotine?



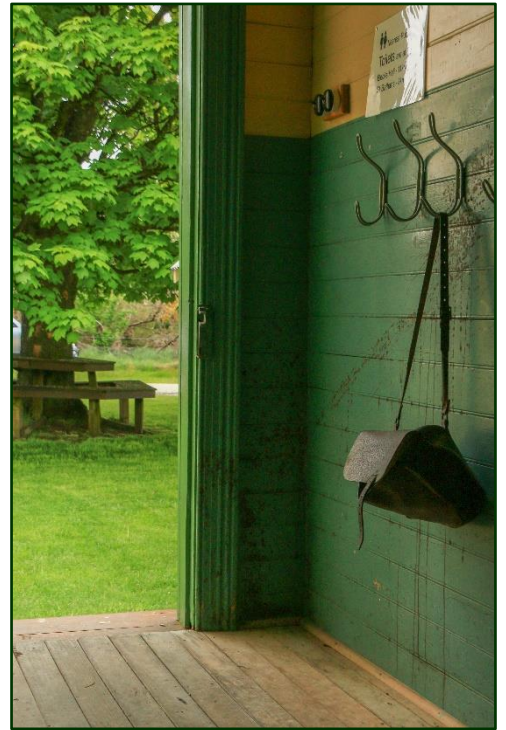


Ross McIvor took these great pics. The aurora seen above Mosgiel is not from 'the weekend', but the following night. Who would leave it out? Not me.





Sue Mitchell was intrigued with the big skies as were many of us.



I chose these randoms from far too many photos. Ani.

