



# Interest Groups NEWSLETTER

September 2023

Greetings from afar!

After a few cold and wet days in Cape Town, we took a short break to see the wildflowers for which Namaqualand is famous. The photos show some scenes from our trip.



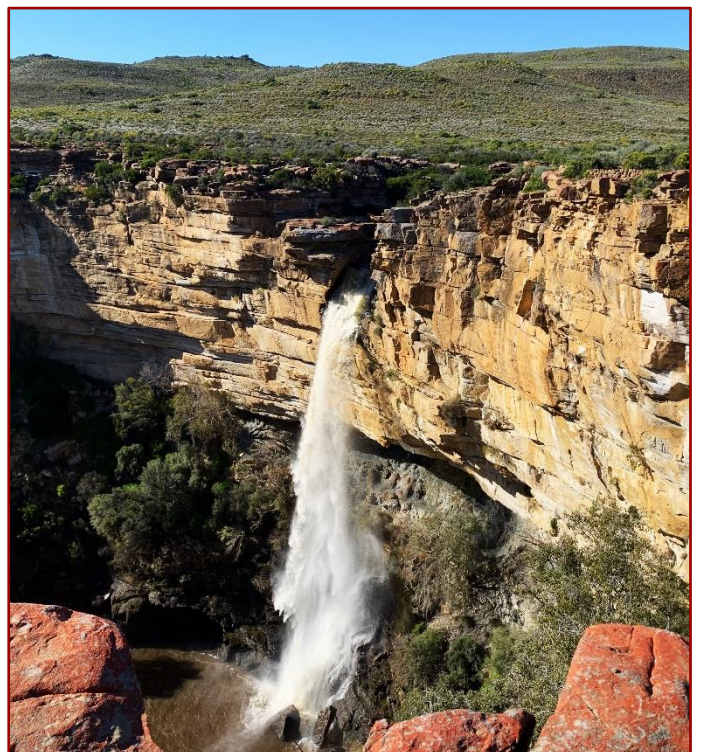
Included are shots of flowers along the west coast, quiver trees and a beautiful waterfall. The latter is near a little village called Nieuwoudtville, about 350 km inland from the city. The falls are usually dry, but they had good rains this winter.

I received a few emails with queries since leaving Dunedin. They are not urgent and will be attended to on my return.



Hopefully the spring colours will still be around a few weeks from now. We should be back in time to cast our votes in the upcoming election!

Kind regards and best wishes to all. Andre



### Art Collections Group

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



### Book Share Group

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



### Dining Group

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



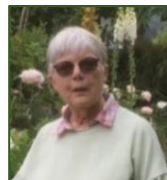
### Expanding Musical Horizons full

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



### Gallery Group full

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



### Gardens & Botanical Group full

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



### Genealogy Group full

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



### Home Gardens Group

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



### Lunch Group

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



### Mahjong Group

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



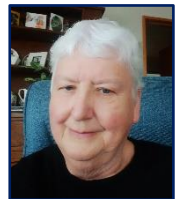
### Monday Current Affairs Group full

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



### Photography Group full

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



### Poetry Group full

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



### Singing Group

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



### Waikouaiti Global Conversations

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



### Walking Group full

Every Thursday, 10:30  
Joint Convenors:



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

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



## Garden and Botanical Group September



It has been a turbulent Spring to date so we were not sure if our garden visit would go ahead as planned last



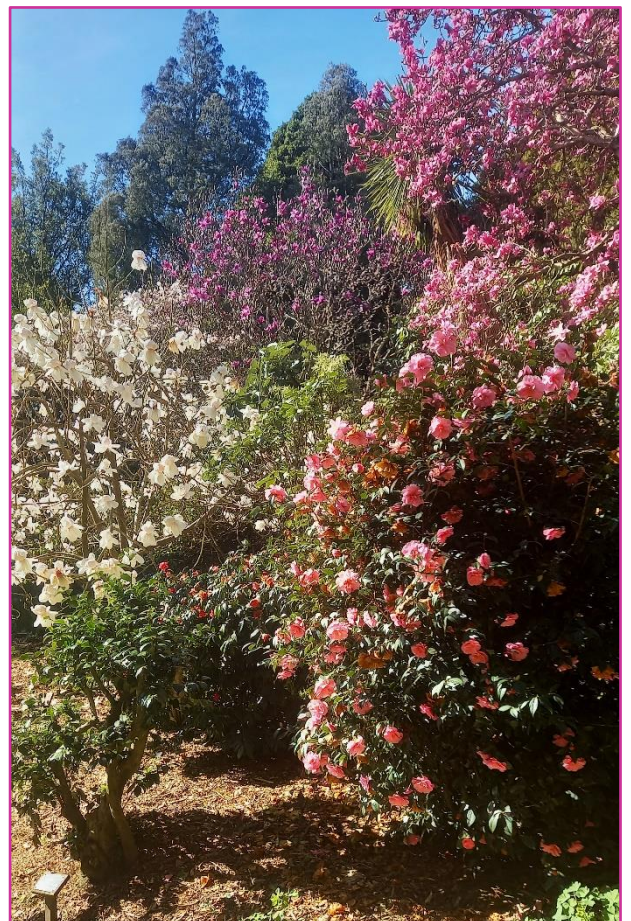
Wednesday. We were lucky, it was a blue-sky day and perfect for a walk around the Botanic gardens and the University grounds to check out the spring blossom displays.

It was to be an easy trip to plan, as a number of our group are attending lectures

and unavailable for one reason or another. Overseas trips are popular and grandparenting duties have priority for many members.

Our day started at the Upper Gardens car park and a walk through the Upper Gardens. The magnolias were perfect, pink and white blooms standing out against the blue sky. Rhododendrons and camellias were also well out and many of the herbaceous border plants were flowering so we had plenty of interesting plants to identify as we walked down to the cherry walk.

Again, our timing was good because the blossom was just coming out and showing off its beauty. Another week and it will all be over. Well, after today's storm there may not be a lot of blossoms left.





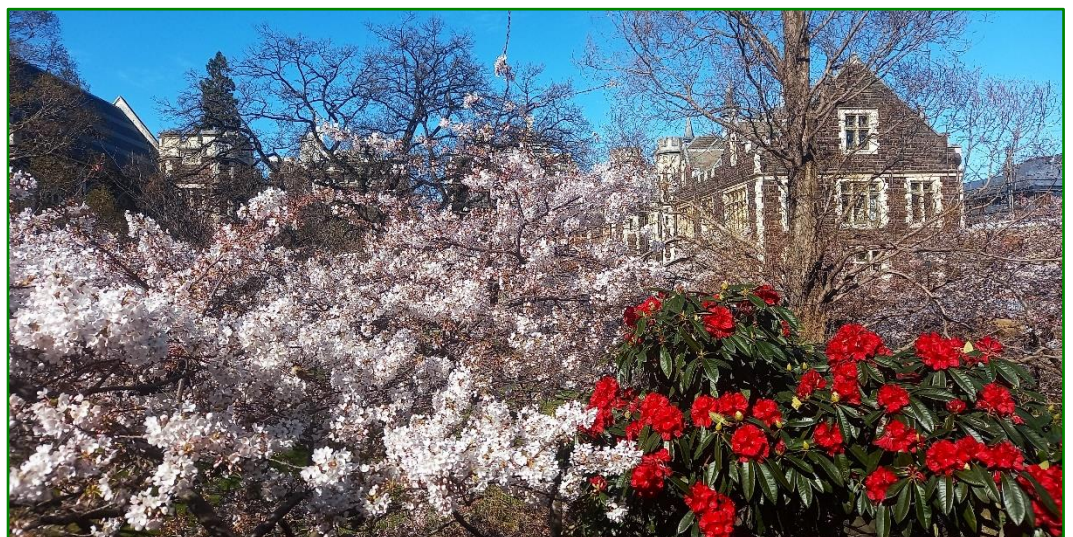
We walked down through the gardens to the University grounds to look at the displays there. There was a quick stop at the Staff Club Café for afternoon tea, a lovely venue which is now open to the public.

After the break we enjoyed a walk through the grounds looking at the blossoms. The white blossom against the

grey Breccia stone walls really is a stunning picture. Then there was the walk back up to the carpark. Not a challenge for the group, so we had our exercise and our gardening fix on the same day.

Next time is Rhododendron Day celebrations and we have two exciting gardens to visit. See you there.

Robyne Selbie



## Tuesday Current Issues Group August

We began our August meeting with the challenging question 'Why no more taxes?' We noted that



the countries of Scandinavia which have relatively high taxes also have greater personal and community satisfaction levels.

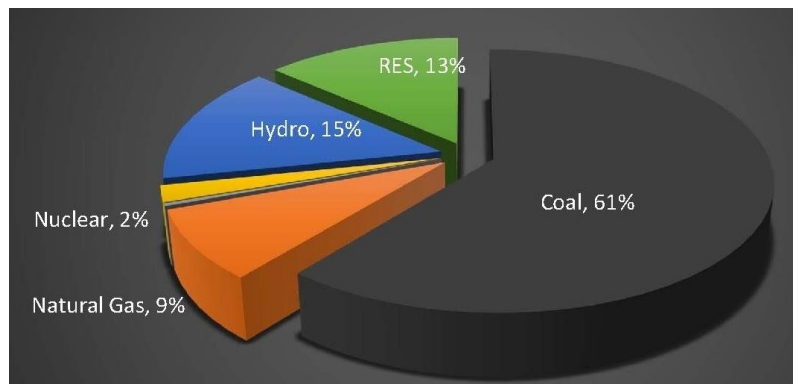
This led to a general discussion on wellbeing in which double bunking in prisons was mentioned. Connected to this was the story of the 'boarding house' operating out of the former Carisbrook hotel and the seeming

lack of support for homeless people.

The major discussion centred around the consequences of climate change for tens of millions of people. We noted the heating of the Mediterranean region, water pollution in Bangladesh brought about by the encroaching ocean, and the stress on communities in Central America brought about

by heat, gangs, and a lack of food. These issues came out of the research and spirit of inquiry in the group. This research also revealed that 20% of the carbon dioxide in the atmosphere was added in the time from 2012 to 2020.

And India with its reliance on coal for electricity and industry is adding much to this.



An estimated trillion trees could alleviate some of the very worst consequences. And it was sad to note that so little is being done to save the Amazon rain forest.

The second focus was Rebecca MacFie's Listener series on Hardship and Hope. In amongst the terrible statistics Rebecca had discovered signs of hope in an all-age health and development



hub; new approaches to the provision of housing and a marae in South Auckland working with the government for better outcomes in its community.

A stimulating morning.

Roly Scott

## Poetry Group September

Six of us met on the first Wednesday of the month for readings and an afternoon tea where cupcakes carried the day. A departure from the norm, as four of us are attending Doug Hart's excellent Artists and Artisans course. The topic for this month was Movement. Amazing variations in our choices that ranged from the glorious 'The Windhover' by Gerald Manley Hopkins through to the amusing 'The Benefits of Exercise' by Alan Balter. One of the poems was in song form, but so moving, that it must not be omitted:

Recommend you watch one before reading on. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VAq8mHYWafY>

First speaks young love. Second is life-long love: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NGorjBVag0I>

'Dance Me to The End of Love' by Leonard Cohen; ... "curious how songs begin because the origin of



the song, every song, has a kind of grain or seed that somebody hands you or the world hands you and that is why the process is so mysterious about writing a song. But that came from just hearing or reading or knowing that in the death camps, beside the crematoria, in certain of the death camps, a string quartet was pressed into performance while this horror was going on, those were the people whose fate was this horror also. And they would be playing classical music while their fellow prisoners were being killed and burnt. So, that music, Dance me to your beauty with a burning violin, meaning the beauty there of being the consummation of life, the end of this existence and of the passionate element in that consummation. But it is the same language that we use for surrender to the beloved, so that the song – it's not important that anybody knows the genesis of it, because if the language comes from that passionate resource, it will be able to embrace all passionate activity." *Leonard Cohen in Wikipedia.*

It seems we may have had a gloomy afternoon, but not so. The poignant sonnet below was written by a young Canadian pilot, at a training facility in Britain, who was killed, aged 19, in an air accident in November 1941, just one month after his first combat flight.

He had written to his parents: An aeroplane is not to us a weapon of war, but a flash of silver slanting the skies; the hum of a deep voiced motor; a feeling of dizziness; it is speed and ecstasy."

### High Flight by John Gillespie Magee Jr

Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of earth,  
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;  
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth  
Of sun-split clouds, - and done a hundred things  
You have not dreamed of - Wheeled and soared and swung  
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there  
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung  
My eager craft through footless halls of air...

Up, up the long, delirious, burning blue  
I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace  
Where never lark or even eagle flew.  
And, while with silent, lifting mind I've trod  
The high untrespassed sanctity of space,  
- Put out my hand, and touched the face of God.



Ani

## Monday Current Affairs September

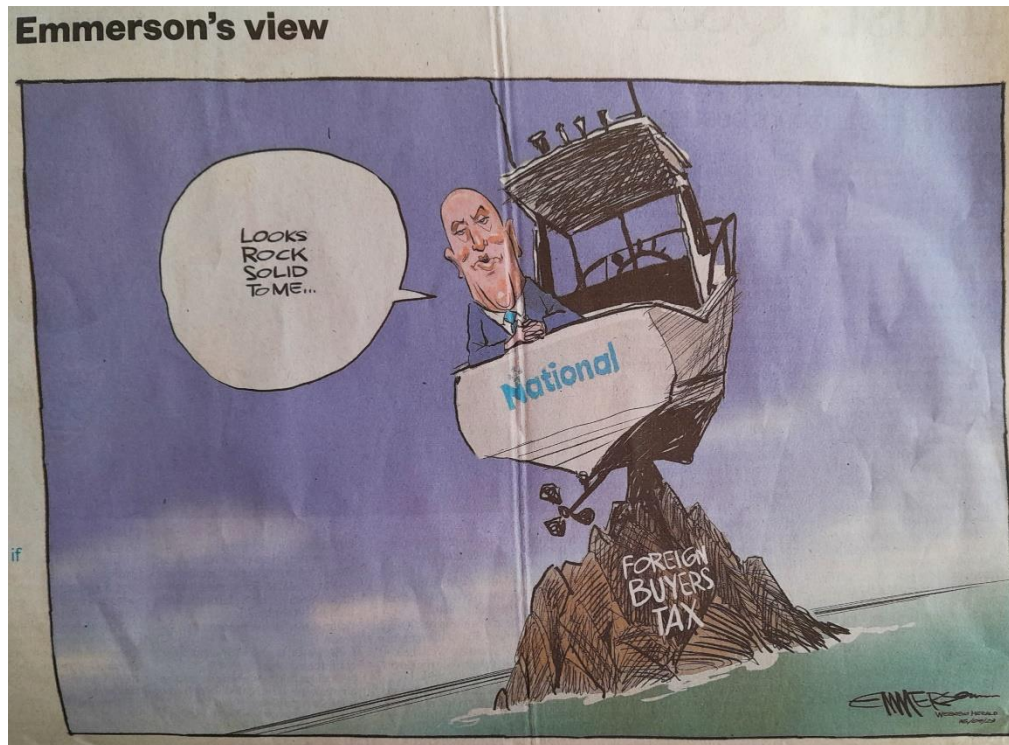
Despite being numerically depleted this month, robust discussion was had. Our task was to find an election policy, from any party, that we liked, and one we didn't. Some of us had used google searches that compared and contrasted policies, thus making the task easier.

([tvnzvotecompasspolicy](#). or [nz/2023/partyvotepolicies](#))

We traversed free dental care, universal basic income, a land tax, health, education, punitive

approaches to law and order, gangs, consumerism and economic growth.

Some of us who had attended climate change meetings, understood that economic growth in the way it is currently measured, is no longer possible for the planet.



One member who was not able to be present, sent a report from the International Monetary Fund, endorsing Labour's financial management. Whilst we are all aware of the appetite for change, based mostly on the cost of living, this recent report demonstrated that New Zealand is, in fact, doing very well.

*'With exemplary management of the pandemic, New Zealand recovered faster than most advanced countries.'* It goes on to talk about global post pandemic fall out, and concludes, *'The economy is likely to continue its slow growth in the near term as monetary tightening continues to take deepening hold'*.

Given the constant claim of mismanagement we are hearing from opposition parties it is heartening to hear that an independent body was rating the government highly in this respect. We could all agree that National's plan to accrue money through foreign buyer's tax has been widely derided by anyone with expertise in this area.

As our next meeting is two days after the election, we didn't have to work too hard to come up with our next topic.

Joy Hayward

## Gallery Group September

With nearly a full muster, we headed to Owaka to the wonderful little Museum in the centre of town. It was in the library area where Marie Reid Beadle gave us a delightful talk about her evolving art journey and her life in a small town. Marie had always enjoyed drawing and painting, but it wasn't until her thirties that she started painting again. She produced a picture of a succulent that sold and so she continued with this subject. However,

when she tired of this she moved on, and one of her favourite topics became cows, especially Highland cows that have a very forgiving fringe over the top of their head.

The cow scenes became more imaginative with flowers and birds added, often on top of their heads. The expressions on the cows varied and each cow had its own personality. Marie drove around looking for a variety of cows and photographing them from different angles. This theme was expanded with Marie's increasing interest in bees, and she combined bees and cows in a series called 'Milk and Honey'.

The cow scenes became more imaginative with flowers and birds added, often on top of their heads. The expressions on the cows varied and each cow had its own personality. Marie drove around looking for a variety of cows and photographing them from different angles. This theme was expanded with Marie's increasing interest in bees, and she combined bees and cows in a series called 'Milk and Honey'.

*The piece (L) is entitled Land of Milk and Honey*



Then began the balancing act with birds and other creatures perched atop of each other in a tower formation. Another favourite of Marie's is to illustrate sayings and she had us guessing what some of the sayings were from her pictures.

*(R) Can you guess what saying this picture illustrates?*





What a fun and enjoyable talk where everyone was involved and enjoying the occasion. We want to thank Marie so much for bringing in so many paintings and prints of her work and preparing such a polished and humorous presentation.



And, so to lunch, just a stone's throw away at the Lumberjack Cafe. We were greeted by a roaring log fire, a delightfully set table and Louise who



was our friendly host. We enjoyed an extensive menu and wonderful food ... we highly recommend it, and this place has great reviews on its web site.

After lunch Sue led us on a drive out into the country and on to the Art Nuggets Gallery at Paretai. Here Beth and Peter Linklater have an exhibition of their work with paintings and jewellery of a varied nature. The site is an old cheese factory beside a huge stop bank that is holding back the Koau branch of the Clutha River. There used to be a punt at this site to transport goods and people across the river to the island of Inch Clutha on the other side, but this was discontinued many years ago.



Thank you Sue for organising the afternoon's activities.

Our next visit is to Claire Beynon's studio on the Peninsula. Peter is organising this visit.

Tash

Puzzle Answer:

Cock and Bull

## Waikouaiti Global Conversations September

You would be forgiven for thinking that this month's conversation might have been dominated by talk about politics and the forthcoming election but, no! Apart from a brief mention of VoteCompass, centralisation of healthcare and a joke about David Seymour sorting out local youth, we didn't dwell on what dominates our national news these days.

After a brief discussion about local concerns, such as fluctuating water levels in the Hawksbury Lagoon, we spent most of our time talking about the current U3A course on climate change, particularly the variation in the quality of presentations and credibility of speakers. Last week's session on individual responses led to examination of the pros and cons of insulation, double/triple glazing, solar panels and electric cars. Our conclusion was that each of our circumstances differs, and we can only do what is within our means and makes sense to each of us. We did agree, though, that technology is changing rapidly and options that might not be available to us this year, could be in a few years' time, especially as infrastructure is improved.

A couple of us had been to the New Zealand International Film Festival observational documentary 'Ms. Information', directed by Gwen Isaac, about Siouxsie Wiles' experiences during the Covid-19 pandemic.



The festival organisers treated us to a surprise, live audience with Siouxsie and Gwen after the screening. We were impressed by the sheer number of interviews she undertook, horrified by the vitriolic emails she received and distressed that they continue. Siouxsie and her then colleague, Shaun Hendy (covid modeller), sued the University of Auckland for breach of contract in relation to duty of care and academic freedom during that time. Shaun has since resigned from the University and withdrawn his complaint to start his own not-for-profit independent science agency, Toha Science, about which he says:

*The science system in NZ only works for a privileged few, and certainly not those working at the frontlines, who are trying to make change. One of the silver linings of the COVID crisis was that we saw how science can make a difference to everyone's lives when it is responsive and put in the hands of those who can use it. The goal of Toha Science is to do just that to enable a just transition to a zero-carbon society.*

This information led to discussion about the advantages and disadvantages of privately funded research.

Kath Ryan



## Walking Group September

It was a superb day, a real pearler; the light was crystal, the silence complete, not a breath of wind with sun beaming down all day. We felt blessed traversing the empty roads to Ranfurly with a stop for excellent coffee and cake in the 4 Square Cafe. Looking out that window we could see the contrast in lifestyle environments, the mud

encrusted wheel wells of the country car and the pristine gleam from the rosy, red city one. The seven of us piled back into our city shiners and onwards to St Bathans. I had forgotten how quiet, quiet can be. Not a noise of a



motor, a person or plane, just a lake imitating a mirror. We marvelled at what we could see as we circled the water, a landscape at peace and facing the other way it looked like a moonscape, all encircled by snow-capped mountains in the distance.

After another tasty repast under the trees outside the famous Vulcan Hotel, we digested on our short drive to Cambrians. Here we were greeted by an interesting long-time resident, Bob. We

could roam along the river and up to the white carpet of snowdrops spreading out under the leafless trees. A lot of the plantings had been done by Wwoofer's (willing workers on organic farms) over the years and there were several varieties shooting out of the ground around our feet. Bob bought grain to feed the ducks, greedily gobbled up faster than 'Jack Robinson' from our hands.



Annette was fascinated by all the old wringer washing machines huddled in a shed,



as if they were confabbing on whose whites were the whitest.

When we were pulling out to retrace our path homewards a couple of cars arrived - so we had a top day in unique places in perfect weather and good company all arranged and managed thanks to John and Shona, the other careful driver. What more could one want?



Meantime back in Dunedin, Barrie led the rest of the group on a jaunt around Mornington, Maryhill and A H Reed's houses on Glenpark Avenue which had been previously cancelled because of snow and ice. All were smiling and content with refreshments on completion at Alto. You can follow this route in Paul Hayward's *More Intriguing Dunedin Street Walks*

Spring was definitely being kind to us for our next week's walk starting and ending at Macandrew Bay and skirting a very still harbour to Mission Cove. We walked up through the Mission Gates on what had been the road into the Methodist Mission and Eventide Home, variously used to house children and older people over the years, but now provides space for new housing. It's a prime sunny site, looking out over the water to the remnant rocky peaks of the extinct Otago Volcano opposite.

Bev had a very obliging friend who allowed us to invade their delightful home in the deconsecrated church still on the site. With a view to die for out of the massive picture window on the north side, and colourful stained-glass windows made with great craftsmanship down

both sidewalls. She and her partner have ingeniously created a very cosy home within these



walls and steeply pitched roof. We relaxed with coffee and cake outside on the terrace at Glenfalloch, to conclude another delightful day of exercise and exploration.

*A couple of names central to the Methodist Mission - William Ready, who founded*

*the Dunedin Central Mission in 1890, and Leslie Neale, Methodist Minister, who was responsible for raising funds (even from the Art Union - the ends justify the means!) and establishing the children's camp at Company Bay. A little snippet from the ODT in 1944 says that "Uncle Leslie broadcasts the Radio Church of the Helping Hand, Station 4ZD."*

Our third walk was the newly opened 5 km shared cycle/walkway "Te Ara Moana", from St Leonard to Port Chalmers. After several blustery days which whipped up whitecaps on the harbour, we were fortunate to have a strong



southerly tail wind. With nineteen people in our group, we needed to be mindful to keep left as the cyclists whizzed past. No bells were rung, but most paid good attention. Café Santosha had a sheltered sunny courtyard and delicious food to enjoy before we decamped to the bus to reunite with our cars at St Leonards, or to more connections at the Bus Hub in town.

*The State Highway 88 trail has been named Te Ara Moana (The Ocean Path), while the eastern or Otago Peninsula trail is Te Awa Ōtākou (The Ocean River). The full trail from Port Chalmers to beyond Portobello is known as Te Aka Ōtākou (The Otago Vine), referring to the winding path of the trail and the harbour They were named by Tahu Pōtiki, of Te Rūnanga o Ōtākou in 2019, not long before he died.*

Our next adventure was down Portobello way. Starting from the Reserve on Allans Beach Rd we pushed into the teeth of the southerly whenever we rounded a corner of the harbourside path past Pudding Island to Edwards Bay. We shot up Beaconsfield Road and then around Landreth Street. back to the Harbour path



near the ferry

pier, and then with quickening steps to the Cove Cafe in Portobello to rehydrate and our reward of tasty treats. So, thanks Jill for nutting out this loop walk. I wonder where Janet will lead up next week. Averil

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**Lunch Group September**

Ngair reports that the group did not meet in September, so I thought you might like to see a few more pics of Anne Stratford's intrepid travels through India, Nepal, Bhutan, and Pakistan. *R is a floating market.*



*L. Two examples of the local animals watching the tourists.*



*R: Room with a view in Nepal. The power lines were a constant source of intrigue.*



Ani

## Expanding Musical Horizons September

Group members have had to tolerate my selections all year, so our September session was an opportunity to share their own choices (two each). The music had to have special significance for them. Some chose music that inspired them because it was uplifting and had positive impacts on their well-being. For others, it was a fascination with the performance of a piece of classical music, because the artist interpreted it a special way. Two or three people shared music that had helped them during traumatic times in their lives, when emotions were in a state of upheaval and the music helped to carry them through. One member shared three interpretations of a well-known song that had changed according to the times and the circumstances in which it was sung. The research that each group member did was remarkable, and we learnt not just about the music, the

composer/songwriter, or the interpretation, but about each other.



The programme featured an Armenian children's choir, Bach, Ennio Morricone, Chopin, Joan

Armatrading, Lin-Manuel Miranda (one of the most outstanding composers of musicals in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century) and Woody Guthrie. There were movie clips (*In the Heights*), vocal reinterpretations of orchestral music, and plenty of performing and conducting to watch while listening. In fact, we only managed to get through half of the programme that had been planned, so we'll start with everyone's second choice in October, before carrying on with a new topic. Concluding our own choice programme, we will be listening to another selection of You Tube clips that will feature lesser-known pieces of music, including a performance by Debussy of one of his famous piano pieces. How did he record it? On a piano roll, and he played it quite differently to most of the interpretations that we might normally hear today. The attached picture includes the composers and songwriters that we listened to.

Paul

## Home Gardens Group September

The Home Gardens Group has reconvened after a 'time out' spell attributed to the unkind winter's effect on our gardens. We met at Pat Russell's Fairfield garden to enjoy her delightful display of trilliums, hellebores, and fritillaries, in a garden that Pat is not only discovering the treasures of in her fairly recently acquired garden, but also enjoying enhancing it with many of her favourite plants and trees.

One of the issues facing our group is that many people who are willing to share their garden are faced with the dilemma that it is 'not looking its best'. Pat was happy to share her garden knowing that given time it



will look so much better than it does today. Thank you Pat for allowing us to come, and also for your scones and afternoon tea - much appreciated by members who enjoyed the sociability that ensued.

If you would like to offer your garden to share with our group, or join with us, please email me on:

[carolebezett@gmail.com](mailto:carolebezett@gmail.com)

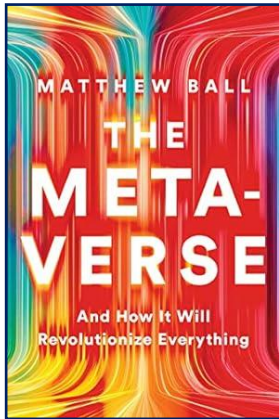
Many thanks

Carole



## Tuesday Current Issues Group September

We began our September meeting with a discussion/rant about the election (next time we meet it will be all over). The public and press are very concerned about any increase in taxation, but there is another angle: without more/new taxation some of the major changes to the way we with live in our world – the sorts of things previous Labour governments have been able to introduce – cannot be afforded. The current tinkering about the edges of both our major parties is boring. One party is basing its funding on the selling of expensive properties to the overseas



wealthy: what sort of country are we becoming?

One member has bought the book *The Metaverse* by Matthew Ball. He explained this new world coming to us, and how it will change our lives. Some more than others; there could be a world of, particularly, young men who sit in their bedrooms and interact with the world – their world – without ever coming up for air.

We also discussed the young man rescued from the crag at Piha – how can people who avoid the signs be made to pay for their rescue? We also discussed Sophie Barker's resignation, and Anna Campbell's experience in being sold a drug, \$70 in New Zealand, which cost her \$1.60 in the country that manufactures the world's generic drugs - India.

Gretchen Kivell

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## Invictus BY WILLIAM ERNEST HENLEY

Out of the night that covers me,  
Black as the pit from pole to pole,  
I thank whatever gods may be  
For my unconquerable soul.

In the fell clutch of circumstance  
I have not winced nor cried aloud.  
Under the bludgeonings of chance  
My head is bloody, but unbowed.

Beyond this place of wrath and tears  
Looms but the Horror of the shade,  
And yet the menace of the years  
Finds and shall find me unafraid.

It matters not how strait the gate,  
How charged with punishments the scroll,  
I am the master of my fate,  
I am the captain of my soul.

The September Poetry Group theme was 'Movement' and this poem seemed to epitomise the Freedom Movement. Ani Nelson Mandela, the anti-apartheid leader who was jailed 27 years for his activism and in 1994 became President of South Africa, regularly recited the poem *Invictus* during his imprisonment. *Invictus*, meaning unconquerable or undefeated in Latin, was written in 1875 by William Ernest Henley.

# Mah Jong Group September

About twelve of us meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday, at the Otago Golf Club, each month and enjoy our Mah Jong amidst good company and laughter. You are very welcome to come and try Mah Jong anytime, it's not hard to learn, but is difficult enough to never get boring. Jean


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# Genealogy Group September

This month we have been exploring online resources, and how best to use them. We looked at Ancestry, FindmyPast, Family Search, British censuses, and historic births, deaths, and marriages. We also looked at how to get the most from Google searches.

*Here is Jean sharing tips for setting up and managing a tree on Ancestry, at our meeting in the McNab room at the library.*






**JAMES LAFFERTY**  
Born: about 1801, Ireland (very likely Northern Ireland)  
Married: 17 Feb 1822, Glasgow  
Died: unknown

When he married, James was described as a hawker (street vendor). In the 1841 census, he was described as an iron ship builder.

There was a family story that Michael was a linen weaver and travelled round in the summer selling his wares. This is not true, but the story could have transferred from James as he was a hawker in 1822, and could also have been a weaver, before turning to shipbuilding for better pay.

James may have died of lockjaw (tetanus) in 1854, as there is a Catholic burial record of similar age, but we can't be sure it's the right person.

"Shipbuilders of Glasgow" sculpture by John Kenne



**HANNAH McCULLOCH**  
Born: about 1806, Ireland  
Died: unknown

ISPIC, the Irish migration centre, staff told me she would have also been from the North of Ireland. McCulloch is originally a Scottish name, the family would have moved to Ireland during one of the waves of migration which began with the plantation by King James I, from 1609-20 - 30,000 Scots moved to Ireland during the plantation.

In the 1841 census, Marjorie and Sarah McCulloch were living with the Laffertys. Marjorie was born about 1770, so she could have been Hannah's mother. (Unfortunately, there's no relationship data in that census, and I can't find any more records for them)


**FAMILY OF JAMES AND HANNAH**

- Peter b 1827 in Edinburgh, died at 6 months in Gorbals, Glasgow of fever
- Hannah b 1828
- Thomas b 1830, died 1894 in Glasgow
- Michael b 1832, died 1892 in Glasgow
- Peter b 1837, died 1837 or 1839
- Margaret b 1838
- James 1841
- Mary b 1843
- Peter b 1845


The children were all baptised in the Catholic St Andrews parish. Apart from Michael, Thomas is the only child I have managed to track through adulthood. Mary isn't listed in the 1851 census so she may have died before then.

**THEIR LIFE**


In 1841, the Laffertys were living in Dale St, in the Tradeston area of Gorbals, close to the river Clyde and the shipyard. James was an iron ship builder. Many of their neighbours were cotton weavers, also born in Ireland. This was before the famine so the area was not as crowded as it became.



Gorbals Main Street



A much later photo of Dale St (now called Tradeston St)



Lafferty household 1841 census

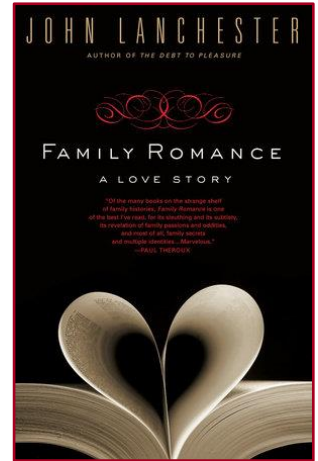
We shared our ways for presenting family history, including one scrapbook and an embroidered sampler.

*The beginning of Jean's family history book, inspired by Brian Miller's course on writing your memoirs. Jean*

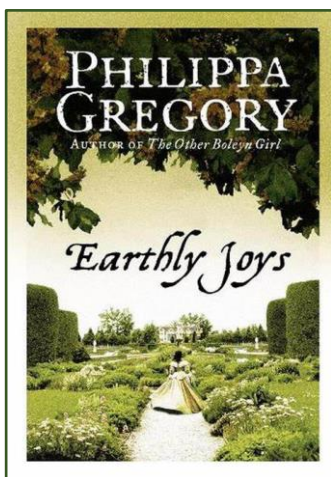
## Book Share Group September

We had only three weeks between meetings this month, so not as many books as usual to share. We had an apology from Meg.

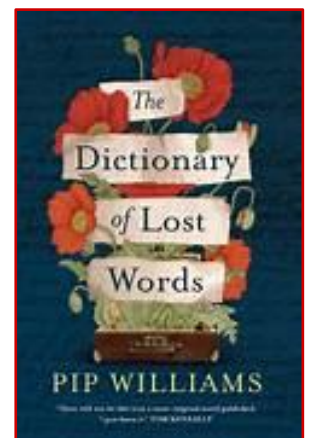
Carolyn had been reading ***Family Romance*** by **John Lancaster**, a memoir. The tone is set on the first page “I don’t remember how I found out my mother was, or rather had been, a nun”. His mother could not tell her story because, although she was briefly a successful author, she lived in terror that several things she had hidden about herself would come to light. Lopping nine years off her age was another secret, and deeper still was where her true self lay — if it existed at all, since she went by a variety of names. Born in County Mayo, Ireland as the eldest of eight children, Lancaster’s mother became a Postulant nun at age sixteen. She left after a year to become a nurse and got engaged. After her fiancé died, she became a nun again. The next fifteen years seem to have been her happiest, working as a teaching missionary in Madras in India. By 1958 she had returned to London and met Bill Lancaster, the author’s father. This a family story of secrets and lies which Carolyn enjoyed and made the rest of us eager to read.



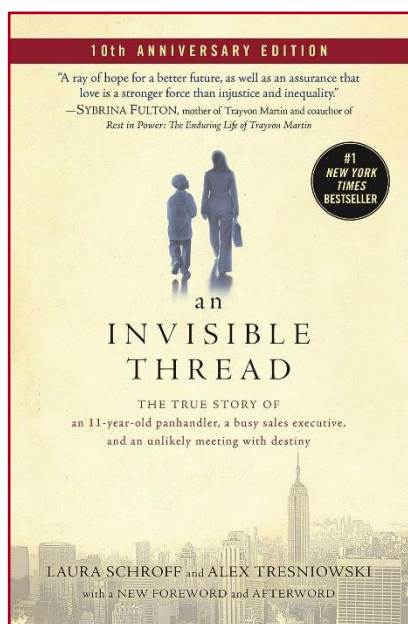
Nola had been reading ***Earthy Joys*** by **Phillippa Gregory**. A traveller in a time of discovery, the greatest gardening pioneer of his day, yet a man of humble birth; John Tradescant’s story is a mirror to the extraordinary age in which he lives. As a gardener and confidante to Sir Robert Cecil, the 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Salisbury, Tradescant is well placed to observe the social and political changes that are about to sweep through Tudor England. While his master conjures the intrigue at the Court of Queen Elizabeth I, Tradescant designs for him the magnificent garden at Hatfield, scouring the known world for ever more wonderful plants: new varieties of flowers; the first horse chestnuts to be cultivated in England; even larches from Russia. Moving to the household of the flamboyant Duke of Buckingham, Tradescant witnesses at first hand the growing division between Parliament and the people, and the most loyal of servants, must find a way to become an independent squire. Well researched historical fiction.



Ros had been reading ***The Dictionary of Lost Words*** by **Pip Williams**. In 1901 the word ‘Bondmaid’ was discovered missing from the Oxford English Dictionary. This is the story of the girl who stole it. Esme is born into a world of words. Motherless and irrepressibly curious, she spends her childhood in the



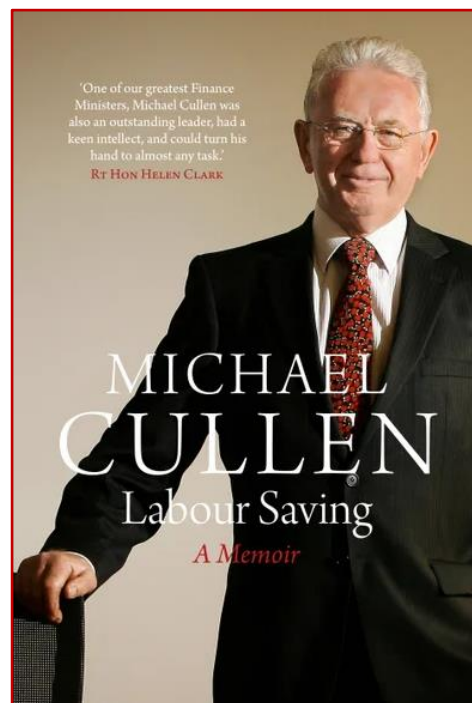
'Scriptorium', a garden shed in Oxford where her father and a team of dedicated lexicographers are collecting words for the very first Oxford English Dictionary. Esme's place is beneath the sorting table, unseen and unheard. One day a slip of paper containing the word 'bondmaid' flutters to the floor. Esme rescues the slip and stashes it in an old wooden case that belongs to her friend, Lizzie, a young servant in the big house. Esme begins to collect other words and they help her make sense of the world. Set when women's suffrage was at its height and the Great War looming, this story reveals a lost narrative of a history written by men. Ros really enjoyed this book about the power of language.



Elaine had been reading a true story ***An Invisible Thread*** by **Laura Schroff**, a revised edition with *An Afterword, Ten Years Later* by Maurice Mazyck. In the words of the Schroff "this is the inspiring story of Maurice and me. We met on 36<sup>th</sup> street in Manhattan in 1986 when I was a 35-year-old single, successful ad sales executive, and he was an 11-year-old homeless panhandler. He asked me for spare change; I said no and kept walking. But something made me stop turnaround and go back and take him out for lunch. We met the following Monday and every Monday for the next four years and hundreds of times after that. The impact of our meeting continues to resonate far beyond Maurice and me." An uplifting book, now part of the US school curriculum with

a young reader edition, and recommended reading.

Trish had been reading ***Labour Saving: A Memoir*** by **Michael Cullen**. In this clever, witty, and detailed memoir, Hon Michael Cullen describes his lengthy political career, including his major economic policies. As New Zealand's Minister of Finance, he also had the unenviable task of steering the economy through the onset of the Global Financial Crisis, drawing on the surpluses created during his careful stewardship of fiscal policy from 1999. He was also a key negotiator in Treaty of Waitangi claims, a stage in his political life of which he was very proud. A fascinating and in-depth insight into the extraordinary career of one of our most important politicians. As one of Labour's most trusted and senior party members he had a box seat during the highs and lows of the party's fortunes. Trish wonders what incisive comments he would be making now.



Our next meeting is on October 6<sup>th</sup> at 1.30pm

Trish Irvine

## Art Collections Group September



This month we went to Otago Museum to look at the Margery Blackman Textile Exhibition which is a celebration of Margery's personal textile accomplishments, and the collection she gathered from around the world during travels.

A longstanding member of the Dunedin visual arts community, Margery was a tapestry weaver who conducted research into textile practices around the world. Most of the textiles on show come from Turkey, Iran and



Indonesia and are a wide range of saddlebags, clothing, bedcovers, kilims and more.

The exhibition prompted reminiscences of travels through Turkey, and other journeys, of purchases made and lugged back to New Zealand, plus personal interactions with the Blackman family. As always, our visit finished with morning tea and a lively discussion. Anne-Marie



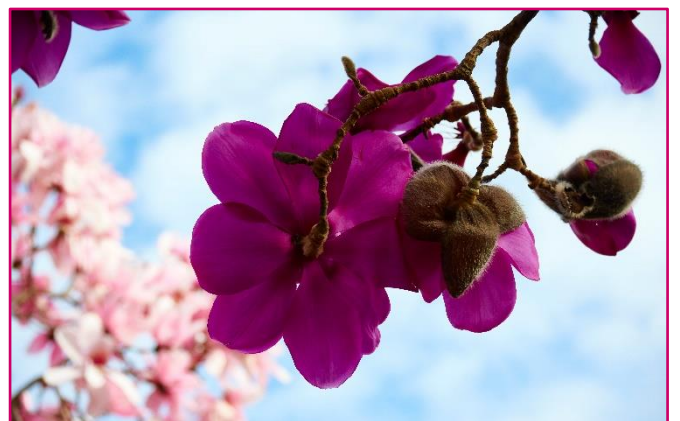
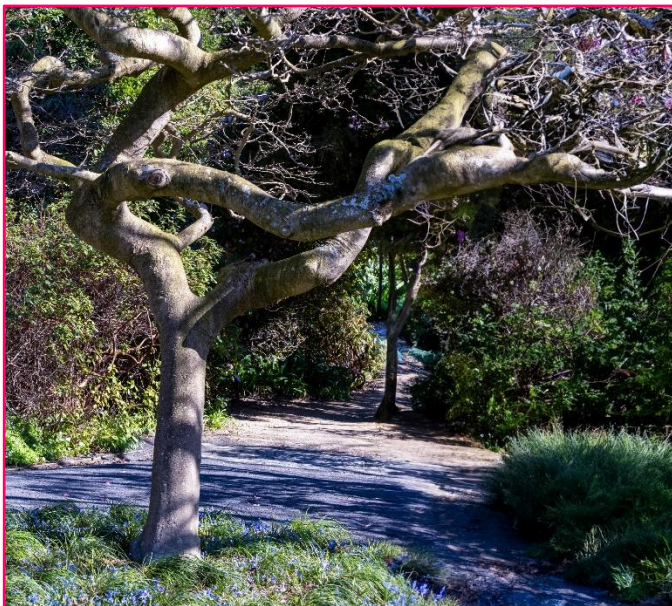
## Photography Group    September

We had a good turnout today for a trip to the Upper Gardens to see the Cherry Walk, so we imagined, in full bloom. I enquired two weeks ago as to the flowering time and was told that the first blossom had sprung to life and the walk was about to be opened. Disappointing then, to see only a few blossoms out



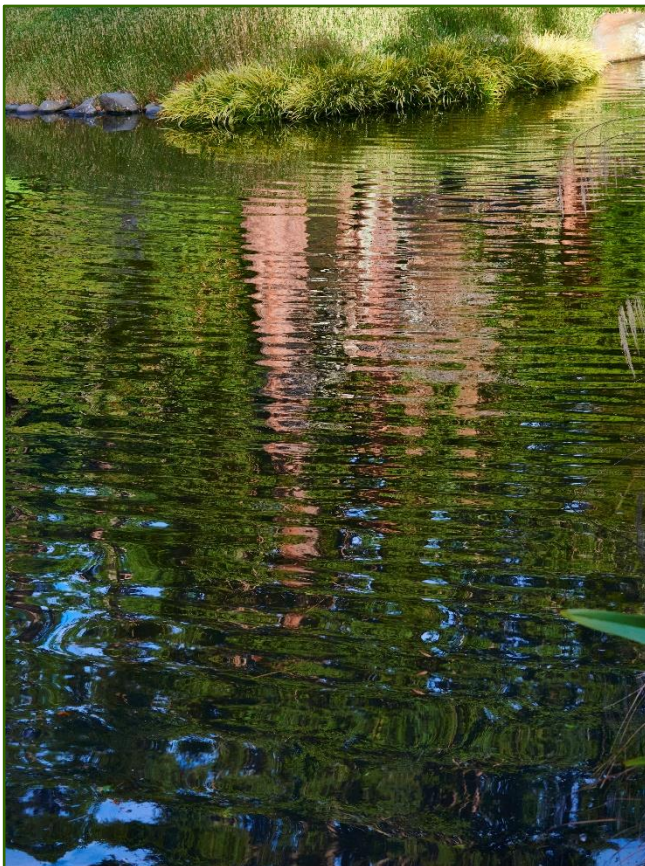
today, but the later magnolias were all flowering, after we saw the earlier varieties in bloom two weeks ago. This small tendril was the extent of the cherry blossoming.

The Monarch trip has been a hard act to follow, so successful was that day out. It was very pleasing to have covered all costs and be able to make a sixty-dollar donation to the Dunedin Wildlife Hospital.





These photos are an amalgam of our two trips in two weeks to the Botanic Gardens.



Sometimes the photographer does not spot the photobomber until the image is popped onto a computer. That was certainly the case with this shot.





Pic credits from two visits to the Gardens: Chris, Linda, Anne H, Graham, Ross, Ani, Hildegard and Eunan.



For those not in the know, I'm told the above are Erythronium buds. Ani





Just to show that good things come to those who wait, a fortnight after our second trip, Linda, one of our members who lives close by, sent in this pic taken on 20 September.

And so, to our next trip: we planned a walk from Osborne up over the Mopoutahi Pa site and down to Canoe Beach, along to the Doctors Point caves, and return. But nobody told Dan, the weatherman, so the forecast was dire. We will get there before summer is up!

Six of us met up at Toitu for coffee and my best pics were taken before we got there, I swear.



The reason, I was told today, why wedding portraits in bygone days were always on the serious side, is because it took so long to capture a photograph back then, about a 25 second shutter speed, people being photographed couldn't hold a smile for long enough. However, Time magazine states 'the technology needed to capture fleeting expressions like a genuine smile was available long before such a look became common'.

The Railway Station has re-emerged. Splendid! Ani

