



DiscussionGroups NEWSLETTER

let's get together for a chat, get to know you

Welcome

We have had a great response to the new groups suggested in last month's newsletter. The Dining Group has had its first dinner out. This group is still open to new members.

The Walking Group has also had its first outing, as you will see in the report below. The group walks around for an hour to hour and a half at a gentle pace so all welcome. (If there are demands for a more vigorous walking approach a second pack could be considered.) At present the group starts and returns to the same spot followed by a coffee. They would also like to build their numbers – particularly blokes.

The second Book Group is underway as well and looking to add to their numbers. A second Film Group is also now taking members. (See below for contact details.)

Ngaire has had a request for members who play bridge to form a bridge group. Bill McKinley has offered to run the group and he would really like to see members who play at the senior or open level. He would like to see eight members with a couple of spares, playing 24 boards in an afternoon – preferably with no post mortems. You can either contact Bill directly on email at billruth@clear.net.nz or phone 477 4161.

We are now taking names for a Computer Interest group, a Mah-jong group, and perhaps a Fast Scrabble group.

If you are interested please let Ngaire know ngairemichael@gmail.com or T 454 2170.

Friday Book Club - (full)

Facilitator: Clare Hamel T 453 0584

Monday Current Affairs

Facilitator: Joy Hayward, T 454 4996,
E: joyhayward@hotmail.co.nz

Book Club 2

Facilitator: Angela Vickers
E: angela.nz@e3.net.nz

Tuesday Current Affairs - (full)

Facilitator: Gretchen Kivell
T: 4730031 E: gretchen.kivell@xtra.co.nz

Dining group

Facilitator: Nanette Linklater. (McKendry)
E: nanettelinklater@gmail.com

Expanding Musical Horizons (full)

Facilitator: Paul Wheeler,
T 476 0462
E: wheeler@outlook.co.nz

Film Group (full)

Facilitator: Bill Stanford,
T 027 461 5343
E billstanford9@gmail.com

Gallery

Facilitator: Tash Hurst, T 467 9747
E cash.hurst@xtra.co.nz

Local History

Stuart Strachan, T 482 2339
E sistrachanz@gmail.com

Walking Group

Facilitator: John Hogue,
E hoguetimaru@xtra.co.nz

Music Group

At our April meeting, we completed our series about British Music in the 20th Century by listening to some of the more influential groups and composers from the late 1960s to the 1990s. We looked at their particular passions and what inspired them. We covered developments in the fields of classical music, music theatre, and rock and pop.

*In May, we will continue with another of the series *Singing Through the Centuries*.*

The Music group listening to some of the later 20th Century composers whose work we listened to at our April meeting.



Friday Book Group

Our April meeting was most successful and several new members have boosted our numbers to eleven. An eclectic and interesting mix of fiction and non-fiction books were presented by everyone present, followed by afternoon tea which is the normal routine. The list below gives a good indication of the wide ranging reading habits of our members. *Space limits the quantity of books discussed.*

‘PARIHAKA Te Whiti- o- Rangomai’: Danny Keanen. The story of a great Maori chief, born in 1830, who established a village at Parihaka which became a stronghold of non-violent, Maori opposition in Taranaki to the loss of tribal lands being confiscated by the New Zealand Government.



'THE GOOD DOCTOR': Lance O'Sullivan. The biography of an inspirational New Zealander. Son of a Pakeha mother and Maori father with whom he never really established a strong bond, and after a rocky start as a young boy, Lance trained as a doctor and was determined to make a difference to the lives of remote poor communities in the very north of New Zealand.

'PARIS ECHO': Sebastian Faulks. A compelling novel mixing fiction w historical fact.

'GODSEND': John Ray. A novel about a young American woman who leaves a suffocating home environment to study Islam in Pakistan. Disguised as a man, she finds herself in more danger than she ever could have imagined.

The above represents a sample and not a complete list of the books reviewed on the day. Our next meeting will be on Friday May 3 1.30pm with a reminder email going out that week and the address of the venue. Clare Hamel, Facilitator

Current Affairs - Tuesday

The Tuesday Current Issues Group discussed matters close to home at its April meeting. These included racism toward Maori in Dunedin, over our lifetimes; the new book by Sir David Skegg 'The Health of the People'; and the idiocy of continuing to search for oil off the Otago Coast.

Gretchen Kivell



Current Affairs Monday

Topic: Terrorism, racial and religious intolerance

Present: David Cooper, John Burton, Chris Burton, Jennifer Bradshaw

The group met at my home, just the four of us, but still an enjoyable time. It was my first meeting and I only knew John previously. The conversation flowed from the start and we very soon turned to our topic.

We discussed the nature of terrorism and its origins and detection, the particular situation currently in NZ with the flow of refugees and, their difficulties in settling and becoming integrated, in particular housing and jobs, the importation of tensions between groups, the nature of community and the breakdown of neighbourhoods with increased short term rental and the likelihood of that contributing to dangerousness going unnoticed. And then the problem of not knowing what to do about it if someone is exhibiting unusual behaviour.

We discussed race relations in NZ and racial tensions and awareness/unawareness between Maori/Pakeha and the relatively recent ability (few decades only) to discuss this; even then the not very profound discussion that takes place. And in the South here, the lack of appreciation of these Maori/Pakeha tensions. We were throughout focussed on the origins of terrorism within New Zealand. Jennifer Bradshaw (for Joy Hayward)

Film Group

A Common Thread

This month our film was *A Common Thread* (*Brodeuses*), a 2004 French film directed by Éléonore Faucher, featuring Lola Naymark, Ariane Ascaride and Thomas Laroppe.



The film won "Critics Week Grand Prize" and "SACD Screenwriting Award" at the 2004 Cannes Film Festival. It was also nominated for "European Discovery of the Year" at the 2004 European Film Awards.

Claire, a pregnant teenager and Madame Mélikian, a mourning mother, form a bond through crafting embroidery. As the two women work together, they soon develop a supportive relationship. Set in the picturesque French countryside, the film deals with their friendship – thus it involves the meaning of friendship and how it can develop between individuals,

The film also examines the realities of women's lives and experiences, the decisions they have to make and honour in the face of whatever is anyone else's judgement about the matter at hand. Of course, the film doesn't resolve every issue, because life isn't like that...

Walking Group

Kia ora Kotou

Three of us walked this morning as the first 'outing' of the U3A walking group. Apologies from Ngarie and Garda. A pleasant walk through the Ross Creek followed by a coffee.

Agreed to walk again Thursday week May 2 at 10:00am. Meet at the Uni. Rowing Club down near Stadium and walk out along cycle/walkway to St Leonards - it's flat. Bring a friend.

John Hogue

Gallery Group



On Wednesday, 10 April, nine members of the Gallery Group visited the Otago Arts Society's Gallery and were treated to a talk and a tour with Doug Hart, the president of the Society. Doug shared some of the history of the Society, especially the part played by William Mathew Hodgkins. Doug not only took us through his art career but also his various activities in

Dunedin during the late 19th century. William Hodgkins is mostly known as the father of Frances Hodgkins, but Doug's talk not only presented his art, but also high lighted his part in the cultural history of this city.

A second part of Doug's presentation was on his own creative process with examples of his work which generated interesting and educational discussion. Finally we had a short but very entertaining tour of the Society's Heritage Collection. Thank you Doug Hart.

Maryalyce Reed

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