



# Discussion Groups NEWSLETTER

## *Welcome members*

I am sitting writing this with the lovely warm sun pouring in on me. I do hope everyone of you is enjoying this lovely day as well.

We have had a good response to the groups that were outlined in last month's newsletter.

The **Singing** group has nearly enough members to begin. We have also had an offer from a member willing to play the piano for the singers which is wonderful.

We have enough members to begin a second Film group also. They will be having their first screening, hopefully in September. Unfortunately, this second group is also now full. But if there is anyone out there who would also like to join such a group please pass your name onto to Ngaire and we can see what can be done if the waiting list gets up.

Likewise, the **Luncheon** group. This group has had its first meet up. But if you are still keen to join up with this new group please contact Ngaire. It does have room for more.

The **Podcast** Group has now got enough members to begin meeting. A notice will be going out to those who expressed interest in this group shortly. If there is anyone else who would be interested in this group also

### **Book Club Friday**

Facilitator: Garda Cortesi  
E: [gardacortesi@gmail.com](mailto:gardacortesi@gmail.com)

### **Book Club 2**

Facilitator: Angela Vickers  
E: [angela.nz@e3/net.nz](mailto:angela.nz@e3/net.nz)

### **Monday Current Affairs**

Facilitator: Joy Hayward - **full**  
T 454 4996 E: [joyhayward@hotmail.co.nz](mailto:joyhayward@hotmail.co.nz)

### **Tuesday Current Affairs**

Facilitator: Gretchen Kivell - **full**  
T: 4730031 E: [gretchen.kivell@xtra.co.nz](mailto:gretchen.kivell@xtra.co.nz)

### **Thursday Current Affairs**

Facilitator: Clare Hamel - **full**  
T: 0211764883  
E: [hameldownunder@yahoo.com.au](mailto:hameldownunder@yahoo.com.au)

### **Dining group**

Facilitator: Ann James  
E: [anniejgm@gmail.com](mailto:anniejgm@gmail.com)

### **Expanding Musical Horizons**

Facilitator: Paul Wheeler - **full**  
T 476 0462 E: [wheeler@outlook.co.nz](mailto:wheeler@outlook.co.nz)

### **Film Group**

Facilitator: Bill Stanford - **full**  
T 027 461 5343 E: [billstanford9@gmail.com](mailto:billstanford9@gmail.com)

### **World Famous Art Collections**

Facilitator: Moya Smith  
E: [moya.smith@xtra.co.nz](mailto:moya.smith@xtra.co.nz)

### **Gallery group**

Facilitator: Tash Hurst - **full**  
T 467 9747 E: [tash.hurst@xtra.co.nz](mailto:tash.hurst@xtra.co.nz)

please pass your name on to Ngaire.

The other groups on offer outlined in last month's newsletter are **Gardening, Philosophy, Current Affairs, Singing, Easy walking**, and an **Excursions** group. Data about these new groups can be viewed in July's newsletter on our website.

So, another successful month!

Please keep warm on the cold days and enjoy the sunshine on the sunny warm days -- and continue to take care.

Ngaire Bates **T 454 2170 E**  
**[ngairemichael@gmail.com](mailto:ngairemichael@gmail.com)**

### German Language

Facilitator: Rob Lawson  
T: 021 023 91642 E: [roblawson75@gmail.com](mailto:roblawson75@gmail.com)

### Local History

Facilitator: Stuart Strachan  
T 482 2339 E: [sistrachanz@gmail.com](mailto:sistrachanz@gmail.com):

### Luncheon Group

Facilitator: Patricia Irvine  
E: [trishjocklock@gmail.com](mailto:trishjocklock@gmail.com)

### Mahjong Group

Facilitator: Hilary Allison  
T 4772903 Cell; 021 393 323  
E: [hilary.allison@xtra.co.nz](mailto:hilary.allison@xtra.co.nz)

### Opera Group

Facilitator: Garda Cortesi  
E: [gardacortesi@gmail.com](mailto:gardacortesi@gmail.com)

### Photography

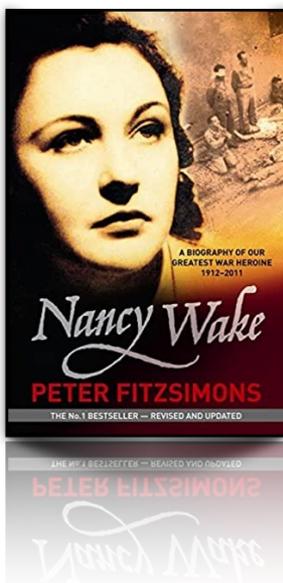
Facilitator: Ngaire Bates  
T: 4542170 E [ngairemichael@gmail.com](mailto:ngairemichael@gmail.com)

### Walking Group

Facilitator: John Hogue  
E: [hoguetimearu@xtra.co.nz](mailto:hoguetimearu@xtra.co.nz)

## Book Club Friday

The group met on the 7th, the first Friday of the month and six members attended. The discussion was lively and a lot of fun was had by all with everyone touting their favourite read of the month. Here is the list of books we discussed:



*Unorthodox* by Deborah Feldman  
*Disobedience* by Naomi Alderman  
*Unveiled* by Yasmine Mohammed  
*Olive Again* by Elizabeth Strout  
*Nancy Wake* by Peter FitzSimons  
*The Shape of Snakes* by Minette Walters  
*The House at Evelyn's Pond* by Wendy Orr  
*Angus Wilson, Anglo Saxon Attitudes*  
*The Barkeep* by William Lashner  
*Still Life with Breadcrumbs* by Anna Quindlyn

**Garda Cortesi**

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## **Walking Group**

August exploration at the a  
**Tomahawk Bunker**

John Hogue



## **Monday Current Affairs**

*Six of us met on Monday to discuss the election and referenda. We had a lot of difficulty staying on topic. The current situation re Covid was preoccupying a lot of us. We even discussed religion, Oranga Tamariki, and via the comparison of cannabis with alcohol, foetal alcohol syndrome and adoptions from Eastern Europe. A lot of us were disheartened by the thought that there might be low voter turnout and we all seemed to be in a vacuum about party policy. We discussed briefly why people around the world were disheartened and disillusioned by voting. Maori seats, number of Maori on the electoral roles and even our uncertainty how one did enrol for the Maori option were mentioned.*

*We briefly touched on the cannabis referendum and surveyed the general arguments but again not much energy for discussing specifics. Despite all this there was energy in the room and we all contributed. I for one enjoyed it.*

*As I was writing this up and reflecting on it I am wondering about not only our combined state of mind but that of the population. We came back at the end to the topic of managing ourselves in the face of the pandemic. That is what is on our minds. Although we touched on how the current situation will influence people, turnout and voting, we didn't do this justice. We looked at it from the politicians' points of view but not much from the public beyond the turnout issue. I haven't seen much in the media about it, but others might have different knowledge. I am myself mindful that people are variously in fight/fight /freeze mode, sometimes shuffling, sometimes in just one. What do these emotions do to beliefs and voting patterns?*

Jennifer Bradshaw (for Joy Hayward)



## **Tuesday Current Affairs**

*Tuesday Current Issues met in  
August  
with lots of spacing between us*

*I am personally over Zoom  
for a conversational meeting.*

*Cheers, Gretchen*