



28 FEBRUARY 2019

Discussion Groups NEWSLETTER

What's happening?

Welcome to our new look Discussion Groups Newsletter for the month of February 2019. This will be emailed to all members of U3A on the internet, on a six-month trial.

All our Discussion groups running at the moment are doing very well. However, we do need and want to get more on offer so that all tastes are catered for.

If you are not sure how the groups operate why not phone one of the facilitators running a course, to see if you may attend a meeting, see what it's like, and if one of the discussion groups may appeal to you.



There are many ways of operating a group:

- If someone has a particular field of expertise and would like to pass their knowledge onto others, then they can undertake to either run a group in their own home or facilitate it at someone else's home. We have a Film Group operating in this fashion at present which is very successful.
- We have funds available to buy some of the excellent series that are available e.g. BBC series, on just about any topic. The idea is that one episode per month is watched and then for the second half of the meeting there is a discussion about what you have heard and learnt.
- Or there is the option of a meeting run like a Current Affairs group that everyone contributes their own information. e.g. Philosophy, Creative Writing, etc.
- Some meetings entail an out and about style e.g. the Gallery Group who visit a different Art Gallery once a month. Or the likes of the Local History Group who visit a different historical site around Dunedin once a month.

We have had an offer from a long-term ex-board member, who attends a present group, to hold a short course in how these groups operate and what is involved with facilitating and/or hosting a group.

No topic or game is off limits as long as there is someone to run it. Each group would have to have at least three members to start with to make it worthwhile.

Current Affairs
Monday group

Facilitator

Joy Hayward T 454 4996
or 021 150 8387
E joyhayward@hotmail.co.nz

Current Affairs
Tuesday group

Facilitator

Gretchen Kivell T 473 0031
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Expanding Musical
Horizons

Facilitator

Paul Wheeler
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E wheeler@outlook.co.nz

Film Group

Facilitator

Bill Stanford

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Tell me about the
Film group

The Film Group met at Ngaire Bate's, as usual, a little early this time, as this month's movie ran 180+ minutes! Previously we've watched Carné's *Les Enfants du Paradis*, and Cocteau's *La Belle et la Bête* from the 1940's – it seemed a good time to watch a New Wave classic from 1974, Jacques Rivette's *Celine et Julie vont en bateau*.

Initially François Truffaut's 400 Blows and Jean-Luc Godard's À bout de souffle were the successes of New Wave; with Rivette as a leading theorist of the movement. Rivette's first films, Paris belongs to us (1961), La Religieuse (1966) and Out 1 (1971) didn't achieve wide release; but in 1974 he teamed with friends, the actors Dominique Labourier and Juliet Berto, and writing with them on a day to day basis from a plot based on Henry James stories and Alice in Wonderland, made *Celine et Julie vont en bateau*, his first masterpiece.

Book Club

Facilitator

Jean Ralston

T 455 0952
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Gallery

Facilitator

Tash Hurst

T 467 9747
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Local History

Facilitator

Stuart Strachan
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Poetry

Facilitator

Judith Cowley
T to be advised

The two women have very different characters, yet over the course of the film they exchange critical aspects of their lives, Celine saving Julie from engagement with an unsuitable man, Julie removing Celine from a rather degrading job. Meanwhile they share a single role, that of nurse to a small girl in a mysterious house. And then go boating...

The film is mysterious, and provides no basis for a definite interpretation – but over mousse au chocolat it was agreed it's a very interesting movie!



Current Affairs - Monday Discussion Group

In February the group met at the home of Chris and John Burton on 18th February to consider the topic '**Retirement**'. Numbers were down to 4 as many members were away from Dunedin. Nevertheless, there was plenty of discussion. The group viewed an excellent TED talk by Dame Carol Black entitled '**Retirement – a false goal?**' Members then discussed how they each handled retirement and some of the difficulties it presented. It considered changes that might be necessary to ensure that a reasonable retirement was freely available in the future. The group was not overly enthusiastic about prospects for future generations unless major changes are made at government level.

John Burton

And how does the Gallery group operate?

This month we enjoyed a very interesting visit to *Scapes Gallery* in Caversham, where Kathy Palenski greeted us warmly, showing us around the gallery and pottery workshop where she and another potter are based. It is a great location from which to work and a good display area for the finished pots. Kathy demonstrated how to throw a pot on the wheel and also talked about the many different ways of finishing and decorating pots. A gallery seems to come alive when you see the steps taken by the artists to achieve the end results and many of us indulged in buying several pieces of pottery either for ourselves or as great gifts. We adjourned for coffee over the road at an interesting asian cafe that also had an international food section.

Our next meeting is a group visit to an Elizabeth Street gallery in Timaru! This is scheduled for 13 March.

Tash Hurst

***We would love you to join in -
have fun - evolve ideas -
maybe change our way of
thinking?***

Contact: Ngaire Bates

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So do I just phone the Facilitator to find out more and join in?
Oh yes - our Discussion Groups are friendly and compatible, and always receptive to your input.
Come, listen and participate.