



February 2020

DiscussionGroups NEWSLETTER

Discussion Groups take off

The year has started with a great deal happening which I am hoping you will all be interested in.

NZSL group

We have been offered the chance to have a New Zealand Sign Language group, which is wonderful. NZ Sign is our third official language, and there is increasing interest in it. We are so fortunate to have been approached by a qualified and very experienced teacher of the language, Bridget Brown

INTRODUCTION TO NEW ZEALAND SIGN LANGUAGE (NZSL)

A brief and relaxed look at New Zealand's third official language, NZSL

The course aims to teach basic elements and vocabulary of NZSL, as well as introduce some of the cultural and linguistic issues about Deafness and its unique culture and language. The approach taken requires everyone to participate and may suggest a bit of 'homework' or preparation and practice outside of course time.

The course is interactive, and facilitated by a qualified Sign Language Interpreter who has

Book Club Friday

Facilitator: Garda Cortesi
E: gardacortesi@gmail.com

Book Club 2

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

Monday Current Affairs

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

Tuesday Current Affairs (full)

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

Dining group

Facilitator: Ann Wood
T: 03 455 6061 E: ann.wood14blaw@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 group

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

German Language

Facilitator: Rob Lawson
T: 021 023 91642 E: roblawson75@gmail.com

Local History

Facilitator: Stuart Strachan
T 482 2339 E: sistrachanz@gmail.com

Invisible Women in Art History

Facilitator: Moya Smith
T 476-1415 E: moya.smith@xtra.co.nz

been working in Deaf communities , both here and in the UK, for over 30 years.

Maximum number of course participants is 10 members.

Internet group

Another new group we are starting reflects the increasing trend for branches of post offices, banks and other institutions to close, and when some banks and organisations are withdrawing the use of cheques. These changes create anxiety for all of us!

Thus, we are extremely keen to begin what we are calling an Internet course. This will cover both Windows and Mac, and be very, very basic to begin with. The object is to enable members of U3A Dunedin who have computers, but are unsure really how to use them, to get up and running.

The emphasis will be on getting to know your computer, how to start it and sleep it; then how to take advantage of the internet. How to stay safe on the internet and also how to use the U3A website so that you can eventually navigate around it with expertise and confidence at your leisure.

This will also cover, towards the end of the lessons, how to pay for any U3A lecture series; which will mean using internet banking with confidence. It is also hoped that by the end of these sessions you will be also be able to use email facilities if you wish.

The Internet group will be run fortnightly in a member's home so there will be a need to have a laptop and a fully charged battery before each session.

At a later date we will be looking at the possibility of another series of sessions on using an iPad and iPhone/Android.

If either of these sessions sound like you please contact Ngaire to register your name.

Mahjong Group

Facilitator: Hilary Allison
T 4772903 Cell; 021 393 323
e: hilary.allison@xtra.co.nz

Walking Group

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

Photography group

We have decided to begin the Photography group. This has only four members at the moment so if there is anyone else keen to participate please let me know and you can be included from the start.

It will be held on a monthly basis and have an out and about component as well as a stay at home day when the weather is not conducive to being out in it. These sessions will be held in a member's home. This will require the use of a computer for processing photos taken, and increasing our skills in the use of Lightroom, Photoshop, or other photo processing software.

Podcast group

Don't forget also that the Podcast group is slowly getting members keen to join this group that will beginning in May/June. Again, contact Ngaire if you are interested in this group. It will be held monthly at a member's home.

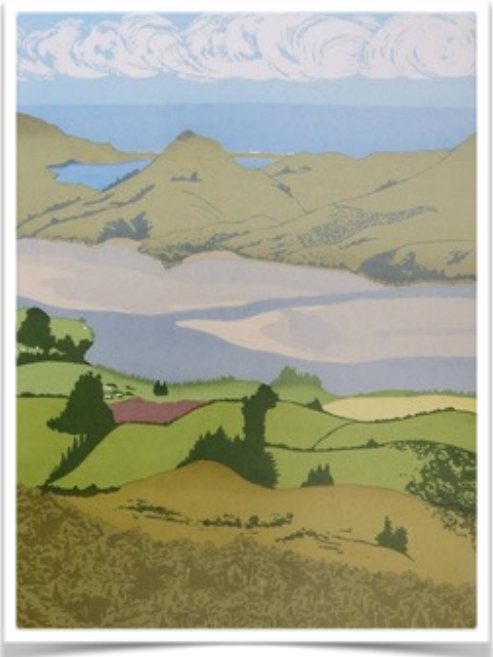
Have a great month

Ngaire Bates T 454 2170 E ngairemichael@gmail.com

Gallery Group

On Wednesday Feb 12th 2020 a group of nine Gallery Group members had a very successful visit to the unique studio and gallery of Gillian Pope. Gillian kindly provided a generous morning tea before we did a tour of her paintings and prints that adorned the walls. Gillian showed us how she does her silk screen prints and showed us some of her extensive body of work she has built up over the years showing her wide ranging artistic talent. It was a treat to be in such a unique building, with so much wonderful art in the most fantastic setting near the top of Mount Cargill, with extensive views over the harbour and the surrounding hills. A visual feast..

Our next meeting on March 11th. is a day trip to Ranfurly. Rosemary and Laurie have been on a day's recci to sort out 2 places of interesting art that we can visit.



Film Group

We had a great movie to begin the year with: Satyajit Ray's *Pather Panchali* — *Song of the little Path*.

It's the first film in a trilogy about a boy, Apu, of poor Brahmin family, growing up in rural Bengal — a masterpiece of childhood!

The film focuses on the mother, Sarbajaya, and Apu and his sister, Durga (named for a mythic woman warrior!). The family is poor; and the film itself, Ray's first, took over two years to shoot because of funding difficulties. Ray had worked in India with the French master, Jean Renoir; and though *Pather Panchali* was made without a script, Ray's work as a graphic designer allowed the production to be shot from sketches:



The American director John Huston saw rushes, and declared the film a masterpiece.

Indeed it is! And even better than that, a film of great beauty!

Overall, the Film Group's program for 2020 is as follows:

There are a couple of vacancies: first in first served!

Title	Director	Details	3rd Wednesday
<i>Pather Panchali</i>	Satyajit Ray	1955; 115m; G	19th Feb
<i>Still Walking</i>	Hiro Kore'eda	2008; 114m; G	18th March
<i>Not One Less</i>	Zhang Yimou	1999; 106m; M	15th April
<i>The Leopard</i>	Lucino Visconti	1963; 185m; PG-V	20th May
<i>The Sacrifice</i>	Andrei Tarkovsky	1986; 142m; PG	17th June
<i>My Neighbour Totoro</i>	Hayao Miyazaki	1988; 86m; G	15th July
<i>Bicycle Thieves</i>	Vittorio De Sica	1948; 89m; PG	19th Aug
<i>Blackboards</i>	Samira Makhmalbaf	2000; 85m; PG-V	16th Sep
<i>Hiroshima Mon Amour</i>	Alain Resnais	1959; 90m; R16	21st Oct
<i>La Strada</i>	Federico Fellini	1954; 104m; R16	18th Nov

Tuesday Current Issues Group

This month we traversed a number of issues including **Covid-19** – how would NZ cope? (*Interestingly, several members remember schools closing for a term around 1948/9 because of **polio**, and every child in the country was put onto correspondence learning.*) So obviously the country can rise to the occasion when it matters that much). Also a discussion on how this might affect politics in China, it could be quite destabilising in the medium-term.

The **Concert Programme reprieve** (we trust) was addressed, moving to the **BBC** being under threat from Boris Johnson's government and an Ofcom warning that BBC risks a "lost generation" unless it can retain and engage younger viewers: relevant to the current debate in NZ.



An update on **American politics** did nothing for our peace of mind, nor were we able to predict the final winner of the Democratic convention.

***We look forward to our other Discussion Groups contributing in March Newsletter.
Enjoy your U3A participation.***

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