



January 2020

# Discussion Groups NEWSLETTER

## *Happy New year to you all*

This year looks to be a bright new year for the **Discussion Groups**. Already we have had a committee meeting and there are new groups in the mix starting up. So, keep reading and see what is on offer for this coming month – if we can get enough members to make them viable.

The **Mahjong group** is going very well. We could do with another 2 members or another 6 to make 4 tables. So, if anyone is interested contact Ngaire Bates.

Both the **Walking & Film** groups are starting well, with complete programmes for 2020 already developed. While Film is full and there are usually one or two people on its waiting list, we are hoping to establish a second Film day later in the year.

Our **Friday Book group** needs more members. We operate by being able to read whatever we choose during the month. At the monthly meetings we have approximately five minutes of uninterrupted time to present one book that really took our fancy. This report would include information about the author, publisher and the plot. At the end of that uninterrupted time we open the conversation up to include everyone else present. This is the time when we can ask questions, perhaps talk about other books we have read by the same author and generally comment on the book presented. If there is time left over after everyone has had a turn, we can talk about any other book that we have read that we think the group would be interested in. So, if this sounds like your sort of thing please contact Ngaire Bates in the first instance to find out about meeting details.

### **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  
T 454 4996 E: [joyhayward@hotmail.co.nz](mailto:joyhayward@hotmail.co.nz)

### **Tuesday Current Affairs** (full)

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

### **Dining group**

Facilitator: Ann Wood  
T: 03 455 6061 E: [ann.wood14blaw@gmail.com](mailto:ann.wood14blaw@gmail.com)

### **Expanding Musical Horizons** (full)

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

### **Film Group** (full)

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

### **Gallery group**

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

### **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)

### **Invisible Women in Art History**

Facilitator: Moya Smith  
T 476-1415 E: [moya.smith@xtra.co.nz](mailto:moya.smith@xtra.co.nz)

We are re offering the **Photography group**. The idea is excursions, combined with discussion/ learning sessions. We would go out and about taking photos as the weather permits and when we can't we can use those days to share ideas and learn; improving our post processing skills using Photoshop, Lightroom or other photo manipulations programs. We had one member who was keen on this last year but perhaps with Christmas over and everything settling down again there may be more members interested this year. We would need 6-7 members to make this viable – all with their own charged up laptops and programs installed.

### **Mahjong Group**

Facilitator: Ngaire Bates

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

### **Walking Group**

Facilitator: John Hogue

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

As a new idea for this year we would like to try an **Ikebana group**. We don't have anyone to facilitate this group as yet but if you know about Ikebana and would like to facilitate this group please contact Ngaire. If you are interested in learning about Ikebana please contact Ngaire for joining the group. We will see where it leads us.

Coming up in our April newsletter for beginning in May we are also offering a **Podcast group**.

The idea is that the facilitator or the group decides on a topic, person or event and have a podcast to listen to before, or at the meeting. Then a discussion of the podcast at the meeting.

*So, already we are up and running. Hope you would like to join us.* **Ngaire Bates T 454 2170**  
*E [ngairemichael@gmail.com](mailto:ngairemichael@gmail.com)*

## ***Dining Group***



The U3A Dining Group met at **Careys Bay Hotel** in December. We had a great time and the food was superb. The highlight of the night was our secret Santa.

This produced a lot of laughter and the night ended on a high note as everyone said what a lot of fun they had that night.

Our next meeting was held on January 17th at the **Village Green restaurant**.



## ***Expanding Musical Horizons***

September's theme was **Spring**. Most of the pieces had "**Spring**" in the title but others were closely related to the sights and sounds of the season. Many better known composers of the past were represented, but there was a good mix of 20th Century composers including some English light music.

The subject for October was "**The Funny Side of Music**", a look at the use of humour in music. We listened to a range of music, some of which was more intellectual in its humour, sometimes outrageously slapstick, sometimes biting political commentary or social satire, or music that was a parody, or whimsical, or just plain witty.

Humour and music have gone together over the centuries with medieval jongleurs and troubadours, with bawdy songs in the pub, and serious composers who have poked fun at anything that has caught their attention. We pulled Mozart's "**Musical Joke**" apart to see how he poked fun at contemporary composers who had little imagination, much less an understanding of the rules of composition, yet were regarded as big fish in their village pond. Our selection included music from the middle Baroque period, through every century to the present day.

Among the composers whose work we listened to can be seen in the picture: (*Spring*) Mendelssohn, Handel, Tchaikovsky, Grieg and Britten, and (*Humour*) Mozart, Rameau, Gilbert & Sullivan, Cole Porter and Saint-Saens.



## ***Current Affairs Monday***

Happy new year. Next meeting will be held at John Burton's home on Monday 17th February, the topic will be NZ's future role as a food producer. John will send info prior to the group to get us thinking about the topic.  
Best wishes Joy

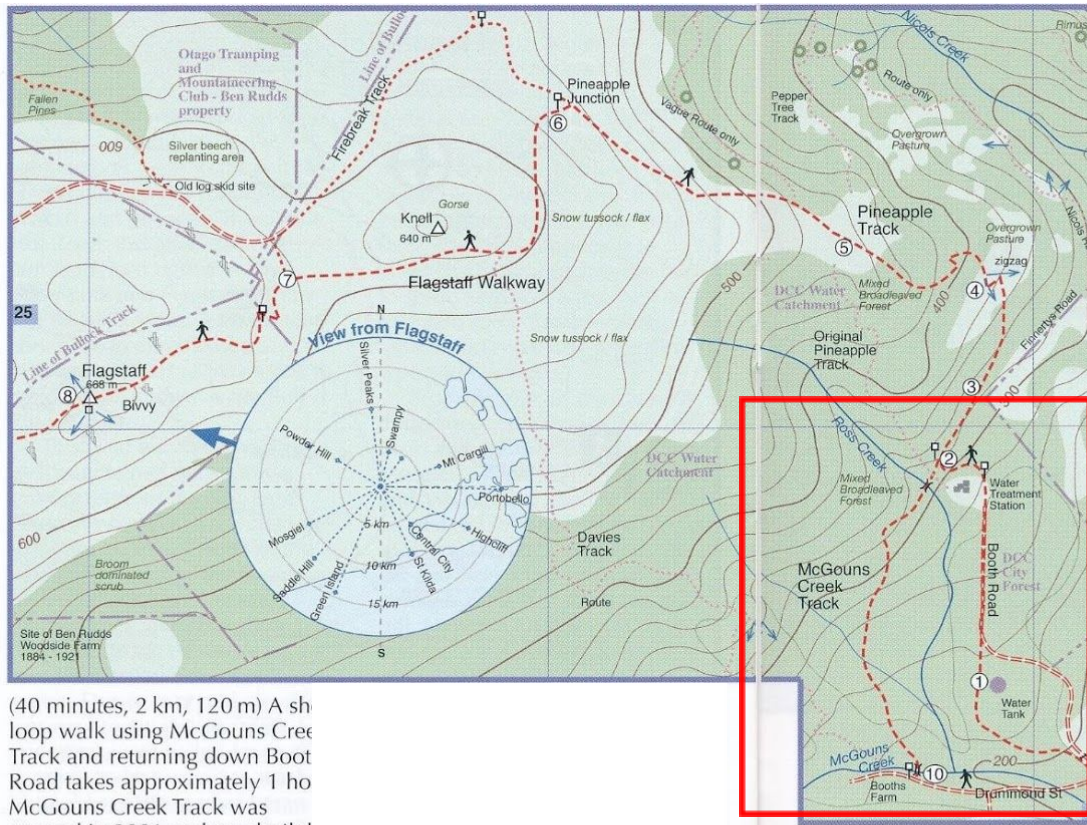
## Walking Group

### U3A Dunedin Walking Group Activities

Latest update : 21 January 2020

			Area	Organiser
2020	Jan	16	McGouns Track	Barrie Peake
		12	Millennium Walk, School Stream	Barrie Peake
	Dec	5	Nicol's Falls, Leith Valley	Barrie Peake
		28	Nicol's Creek, Leith Valley	Barrie Peake
		21	Back Beach, Port Chalmers	Averil Mclean
		14	Ravensbourne walkway	Barrie Peake
	Nov	7	Ross Creek /Tidmarsh Garden visit	Barrie Peake
		24	Frasers Gully	Averil Mclean
		17	Silverstream	John Hogue
	Oct	10	Coffee @Wolf & Door	John Hogue
		27	St Clair Back Beach	John Hogue
		20	Woodhaugh Gardens/ Millennium track	Barrie Peake
	Sept	13	Otago Yacht Club south	Barrie Peake
		22	Bethune's Gully track	Barrie Peake
		15	Harbour Walkway	John Hogue
		8	<u>Upper gardens / Signal Hill</u>	John Hogue
	Aug	1	cancelled (too cold)	
		25	Woodhaugh Gardens	John Hogue
		18	Signal Hill	Barrie Peake
		11	Ross Creek Reservoir	BarriePeake
	July	4	Vogel St. and around the Oval	Kris Wills
		27	Silver Stream Embankment, Mosgiel	Bob Smith
		20	John Wilson Memorial Drive	Kris Wills
		13	Frasers Gully	Averil Mclean
	June	6	Chingford Park	Barrie Peake
		30	Town Belt, Belleknowes	Barrie Peake
		23	Northern Cemetery / Botanic gardens	Barrie Peake





(40 minutes, 2 km, 120 m) A short loop walk using McGouns Creek Track and returning down Booth Road takes approximately 1 hour. McGouns Creek Track was opened in 2001 and was built by DCC City Forests Limited. It ensures access is maintained from Fultons Road to the Pineapple Track where Booth Road is closed for felling trees. McGouns Track may be closed from time to time due to forestry operations. Follow Drummond Street across Ross Creek and climb to a sign post at entrance [10]. A good quality gravel track winds and twists through native bush to connect with the Pineapple Track [2]. A number of large rimus and bridges are a feature of the top of the track. Return back to the car park using Booth Road [1].

### Tomahawk Track



**Discussion Group Convenor**  
**Newsletter Editor**

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