



June 2019

# DiscussionGroups NEWSLETTER

**Good Day Everyone,**

*This month has been a very busy one for us arranging and keeping tabs of the groups activities.*

*However the latest news is that the second book group is up and running. It would like more members — as would the Friday group as two current members opted for the new one.*

*We have had a few people interested in the proposed Mahjong group. However we do require someone from U3A Dunedin's membership, who already knows how to play, who would be willing to come and teach us how to play — please! (If interested give Ngaire a call or email her to offer your services.)*

*The second film group and Dining group also would like more members. As would the proposed Poetry group.*

*Moya's Art class has had its first meeting. Moya does have room for a couple more members.*

**Stay warm, dry and healthy!**

## Friday Book Club - (full)

Facilitator: Clare Hamel  
T 425 8394, Cell 021 1764883

## Monday Current Affairs

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

## Book Club 2

Facilitator: Angela Vickers  
E: [angela.nz@e3.net.nz](mailto:angela.nz@e3.net.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: Nanette Linklater. (McKendry)  
E: [nanettelinklater@gmail.com](mailto:nanettelinklater@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)

## Local History

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

## Walking Group

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

## ***Friday Book Group***

The Friday Book Group had a recent, very pleasant and well-attended meeting at St Clair - in spite of the blustering wind. A wide variety of books were discussed and we had a brief discussion also about what constituted a good review. Some of our members manage to read 4 books each month and produce coherent, interesting accounts of each.

Two of the books presented were by authors who spoke at the recent Writer's Festival in Dunedin. 'TRUTH TELLER', in which award winning journalist, foreign correspondent and documentary film maker Stephen Davis, reveals the ways in which the world is deceived. How shocking details are covered up by the rich, the powerful and the elected; how real news is labelled fake, and how perpetrators of fake news are promoted and applauded.

The other, 'NATIVES: Race and Class in the Ruins of Empire' is written by an engaging young British author and rapper Akala who has a Jamaican father and Scottish mother.



His book is part autobiographical, part historical, part political and explores issues of class, race and discrimination in Britain.

Other books dealt with war, murder and the purpose of making lists. Novels based on the ongoing conflict between Palestine and Israel, and The Plague were discussed while the story of Shackleton's life was described by the reviewer as the best biography he had ever read.

A thoroughly entertaining afternoon was enjoyed by all present.

***Clare Hamel***

## *Expanding Musical Horizons*

We have had two meetings since our last report. In May, we completed a series started in 2018 called “Singing Through the Centuries”. Once again, we listened to samples of music under each of the headings – choral, a cappella, music theatre, other vocal forms and gifted child singers.

This month we had a session called “**Fiddling**”, which implies a style of playing the violin but we broadened it to listen to composers of the past who influenced the development of classical violin music through their own virtuosic and compositional skills.



We then listened to the use of these virtuoso techniques in bluegrass and klezmer fiddling, with some follow-up suggestions of other world-wide fiddling techniques to check out.

Other members of the orchestral string family made an appearance in rather different contexts to the norm, and we even had time for some related stringed

instruments like the viola and the erhu.

There was much more historical and international material we could have included but that can wait for a future session.

Our July meeting will be exciting – it’s an “own choice” session and the most eclectic mix of music has already been suggested by group members with several more to add to the programme. Each person will talk about their choice and there will be some interesting stories told here.

***Paul Wheeler***



## Gallery Group

A small group of us spent a very pleasant morning at Barbara Cushen's house, looking at her beautiful paintings on the walls and looking through an extensive photo album of paintings that Barbara has sold over the past few years. Some of the paintings have been awarded the Peoples' Choice at the Art Society exhibitions, and one was runner up for the top prize.

We enjoyed a delicious morning tea and had a good discussion about the "wheres" and "whens" of painting! All very friendly and enjoyable.



Our **next meeting** is at the **Dunedin Public Library** on **July 10th**. to visit the bindery where restoration work takes place. Laurie will let us know the details nearer the time.

Cheers for now

*Tash*

## Monday Current Affairs

*Members who hadn't been able to attend last time took issue with the statement in the report that 'we couldn't do a lot individually' about climate change. Whilst individual decisions won't remedy the state of crisis, there are multiple things we can each be doing that have an impact. It seemed the group agreed with this but it hadn't been reflected in the report.*

*Our topic this week was **The Impact of Social Media on our Lives**. Jennifer Bradshaw circulated a number of articles prior to the meeting which stimulated our thinking. We covered issues such as the impact on relationships, cyber bullying, the way social media provides a home*



*for social outliers, the impact of self esteem particularly for young people who see others who have portrayed themselves as always having a happy time, the way businesses and politicians use social media as a promotional tool, the way narcissism is fuelled, and the negative impacts when a persons career or character is attacked and they have no recourse to defend themselves.*

*The next meeting will be at Clare Dorking 's place on 15 July at 1.30. We plan to view a recent episode of What Next, which pertained to alternative plans for our future. The questions posed were , can the economy be fair for everyone ? Is profit the number one priority for business?*

**Joy Hayward**

## **Film Group Report**

### **May & June 2019**

For the two past screenings our group has viewed Jacques Tati's *Mon Oncle*; and today 10 of us watched Akira Kurosawa's *Rhapsody in August*.

Tati is very well known: in the early '50's he creates his 'masterpiece character', Monsieur Hulot, in a movie named *Monsieur Hulot's Holiday*. *Mon Oncle* develops M. Hulot, placing him in his Parisian context, as the uncle of nine-year-old Gerard, whose parents live in an absurd, ultra-modern home.

Kurosawa's *Rhapsody in August* focuses on the grandmother of two pairs of young cousins, visiting her home on the outskirts of Nagasaki. Kurosawa has made a Macbeth (*Throne of Blood*), a modern dress Hamlet (*The Bad Sleep Well*), a close version of Dostoyevsky's *Idiot* and a late King Lear ("*Ran*" — *Turmoil*). He makes a beautiful film of the final days of a city official who builds a park (*Living*); a long engrossing film about a doctor whose focus is social change (*Red Beard*); and a 1958 movie, *Hidden Fortress*, which inspires the characters of Star Wars.

He makes *Seven Samurai*, one of the greatest movies ever filmed. Not for nothing is he nicknamed "The Emperor"! The master Ingmar Bergman, thinking of himself and the Russian genius Andrei Tarkovsky, wrote: "I make Bergman films; Tarkovsky makes Tarkovsky films; but Kurosawa *never* made a Kurosawa film" — and yes, Kurosawa's range is very great. Many consider him the premier director of all time.

So what will Kurosawa make of a grandmother living outside Nagasaki, hosting 4 youngsters for the summer? Their parents are visiting a rich great uncle in Hawaii; and they are visited in turn by one of his sons, beautifully played by Richard Gere. The youngsters want their grandmother to take them to Hawaii too — which she is avoiding by telling them stories, sometimes ghost stories, for how else to keep cool in the heat of August nights? The grandmother has a small organ, which the elder boy is tuning — on this he plays Schubert. A rose, and an eye in the sky — *this is Nagasaki, after all!*