



June 2020

# Discussion Groups NEWSLETTER

## *Discussion Groups*

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Once again this month has seen big changes in our lives and the way we live our daily lives post Covid-19. I really hope that all of you are coping well with these changes. If not please, please reach out to someone who can help you or point you in the right direction. Don't try and go it alone because within this organisation there are those who are only too willing to help those who require it.

Your Discussion Group committee has had its first post Covid-19 lockdown meeting last week. As a result, we have put our heads together and come up with what we think are exciting new options for U3A Dunedin members at large. We will be releasing these groups in selections over the coming months but we will list them all in this newsletter just so that you all know what is up front. They are:- **Excursions, Easy walking, Philosophy, Gardening, Luncheon, Singing, Writing, Scrabble, Opera** and also additional **Current Affairs** and **Music** groups.

The release of new groups on offer are:

### **1. Opera Group.**

We will discuss, enthuse and sometimes disagree about all things opera. Who is your favourite singer? Which opera stands out to you? The composer you love and the composer you hate. Talk about anything opera that may interest other enthusiasts. Bring proof to support your premises, everyone would love to hear the music!

### **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 (full)**

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)

### **Thursday Current Affairs**

Facilitator: Clare Hamel

T: 0211764883

E: [hameldownunder@yahoo.com.au](mailto:hameldownunder@yahoo.com.au)

### **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 (full)**

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 [roblawson75@gmail.com](mailto:roblawson75@gmail.com)

## 2. **Gardening Group.**

This group can be whatever the members wish it to be. Learning about plants, swapping plants, how to graft, garden planning, vege growing. The list goes on. We would like eventually to see the group members who are interested visiting other gardens; for both professional and general interest, to learn and see more as a group.

## 3. **Photography Group**

The Photography Group has had its initial meeting and would like to have more members. The idea is we would go out and about, taking images when the weather permits. When it doesn't permit, we would meet up at someone's home and practise using Photoshop or Lightroom, or other apps, on phones and pads as well as computers, so helping each other with issues we are having in processing our images. To participate you don't need to use a camera! Everyone with a smartphone can & does take photographs; and many phone apps do quite efficient post processing. So, if you're interested, do come along! And if you do have a camera, even better!

**4. Luncheon group** *The Dining Group* is a huge success. However, we are aware there are some U3A members who do not like going out at night. To accommodate these, we thought we would put feelers out to see how much interest there would be in a **Luncheon group**. It would need a facilitator to organise the group, but otherwise would be purely social.

## 5. **Easy Walking Group**

Some of us have expressed interest in walking as a group on a selected Flat location, e.g. the new walking track on Portobello Road harbour frontage; St Kilda/St Clair frontages [John Wilson Drive] or even beach walks when its warmer. Hands up a Facilitator to kick this one off.

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

## **Local History**

Facilitator: Stuart Strachan

T 482 2339

[sistrachanz@gmail.com](mailto:sistrachanz@gmail.com)

## **Mahjong Group**

Facilitator: Hilary Allison

T 4772903 Cell; 021 393 323

[e:hilary.allison@xtra.co.nz](mailto:e:hilary.allison@xtra.co.nz)

## **Photography**

Facilitator: Ngaire Bates

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

## **Walking Group**

Facilitator: John Hogue

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



## **Gallery Group**

What a wonderful visit we enjoyed seeing Chris Hewitt's collection of art from a lifetime of collecting. The beauty of this was the personal aspect of the collection with every item having a story over so many trips overseas and visits to local art exhibitions.

We were only one short of a full muster, one of the largest groups we have had

for any visit. The weather was picture perfect with the views over the harbour clear from nearly every room in the house. Chris provided us with a lovely morning tea and then bubbles with our lunch to celebrate our return get together after such a long break.  
Thank you Chris for such an interesting tour and great hospitality.  
We couldn't believe where the time had gone!

Over lunch we discussed the programme for the rest of the year.  
Here is the proposed plan. Hope this suits everybody.

- July 8th. Visit to artist Maria Kemp at her home in Waverley.  
Aug.12th. Visit to Ross Grimmer's house in Maori Hill to see his extensive art collection.  
(to be confirmed)  
Sept.9th. Adrienne Mulqueen, weaver, Harrington Point Jan to organise.  
Oct14th. Peter and Laura Gregory Waikouaiti. Sue to organise.  
November Trip to Cromwell and overnight stay. Various art galleries. Laurie to organise.  
Dec 9th. Planning for next year.

We discussed changing our name to *The Art Appreciation Society*  
but most people felt we should stick with Gallery Group for a variety of reasons!

Cheers for now, **Tash Hurst**

## ***Monday Current Affairs***

15th June 2020

We regrouped with enthusiasm and almost a full contingent, having tried a few somewhat unsatisfying zoom sessions. We are now quite a large group and happily the people who have been waiting are now in the throes of forming their own group.



Our topic was how Covid has changed the world and how we can contribute in a positive way to the reset. We started with an analogy from the children's book, *The Tiger Who Came to Tea* which many people will be familiar with. The tiger / covid caused mayhem in the family, drinking all the household water and eating up all the food. The parents, however found reassuring ways to manage this,

alternative solutions to the absence of food and water, and prepared for future incursions by buying a large tin of tiger food, should the tiger visit again. This was a great metaphor for the positive leadership we have seen in NZ with the 'parents' staying calm, reassuring, and adaptive and having a plan to manage future visits and complications.

We discussed how things might be '*ongoingly*' different in the future in the arenas of work, politics, travel and the environment.

Regarding the latter, we can't wait for the Covid crisis to be resolved, but have to tackle both crises concurrently. We wondered about what we as individuals can do and came up with, most importantly, *vote, consider how and where we spend our money, avoid purchases that will end up in the landfill, and travel less.*

**Joy Hayward**

*Note from Editor*

*Sadly, the very next day, our New Zealand Covid-19-free world, after 24 days of no new cases, was shattered with the arrival from Britain of two women, grieving for their dying mother, and whom they desperately motored through the North Island to see.*

*Other cases of shattered quarantine rules have evolved.*

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