

## **Newsletter March 2017**

The month has whizzed by as usual. Our groups are all now up and running well after the Christmas break.

I now have someone to facilitate the new TEDX group which is wonderful. So I am now taking members name's if they wish to join this new group. It will be held at my home and I can comfortably seat 8 adults so they can see the television. Ravi Vohora will be running the sessions. He is hoping to combine the TED talks with trips to hear the odd lecture from the Open Lectures at Otago University. After listening to the lecture the group would adjourn to a house in order to discuss what has been talked about.

I still would like someone to offer to facilitate the Philosophy group. So if you are interested in Philosophy and know enough about it to be able to run the group how about letting me know.

Likewise the Local History and Book groups are still looking for new members.

### **Art Group**

The Art Gallery group visited Neville's Picture frames and learnt of the work involved in presenting art works. A most interesting morning. April meeting to be arranged. Jane

### **Art History Group**

The theme of the study of the Art History group for March centred on the use of nudity in western art. The Auckland Art Gallery's exciting new exhibition "The Body Laid Bare: Masterpieces from the Tate" is focused on the nude. We viewed the tradition of the nude beginning with the Greek's Kouros and Kore figures through to the Renaissance and Baroque and 19th century Impressionism. We looked at the nude in the art of Rodin, Manet, Botticelli and other great painters and sculptors.

The next session will be Wednesday 12th April, 2-4pm. Moya

### **Creative Writing**

This month we had a look at critiquing our written work. We are working off information we found off the internet. The information appears to be quite detailed so we are hoping for some good honest critiquing to come out of it. It is a difficult thing to do however so it may take a while for group members to get used to giving and receiving it. This month's homework was to write a short account of our take on Trump's actions to date. Members have started sending their accounts around by email to be read before the next meeting which is really great. This should give everyone time to read the articles and critique them constructively. Feedback will be given at our April meeting on the 6th April at Ngaire's place after the writer has read the article to the group.

### **Book Group**

No meeting was held this month as only two members were available to attend. There is still room for a lot of new members in this group. Please phone Sallyann Hart the facilitator on 0211732119 if you would like to become a member. The next meeting will be held on 20<sup>th</sup> April at Sallyann's home 38 Minto Street, Andersons Bay.

### **Expanding Musical Horizons**

Our first session for the year was called "Pops Meet the Classics". We listened to pop music that we had grown up with, or had listened to in our adult life. But what these Top 40 hits all had in common was that each piece had been taken completely or in part from classical music of an earlier age. Some of the original pieces and composers were very easy to pick, but for

some, we had to dig around in our musical memories. We reminisced a little about the pop artists or their music, but then we listened to the original classical pieces and learnt more about the composers and had a brief introduction to the way the classical versions had been put together. We will revisit this topic later this year because there are lots more pop and rock hits we know well, but they are not as new or original as we thought they were.

### **Local History Group**

This group did not meet this month due to lack of numbers. If you would like to join this group please phone Ngaire on 454 2170 to become a member.

### **Monday Current Affairs Group**

The current affairs group had a very interesting and disturbing report on Libya and the struggle to live through the revolution and its awful aftermath.

We will not meet in April due to Anzac Day and Easter. Joy will be away during May and June so meetings will be held at Ngaire 's house at 67a Tahuna Road on the 15 th May. The subject of the next meeting will be on aging and Clare and Joy (in their absence) will provide questions for discussion. The following meeting will be on June 19 th. June. Joy

### **Museum Group**

We meet next on Monday 27th March when we will be viewing the Museum's Classical collection under the guidance of Robert and Pat Hannah. Robert was an honorary curator of the collection.

### **Poetry Group**

As our group is small enough to fit comfortably in a sitting room, our members continue to enjoy circling around the city to each other's homes to read and discuss poems. The topic is selected by the host and recent ones were 'Yesterday's

World' and 'Distressing or disturbing poems' which proved challenging and stimulating. Our April meeting will be looking at poems inspired by one or all four of the compass points.

We continue to encounter new poems and poets and find our sessions extremely rewarding .  
Judith Cowley

### **Tuesday Current Affairs Group**

The TUESDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS GROUP raises any local, New Zealand, or international current issue, and this is followed by discussion. The format is very relaxed; each member would have the opportunity to raise an issue at least once every two meetings. Some topics are followed for several meetings. Membership is currently ten; we could take two or three more. Note there is likely to be a short but steep walk up to my house from your car, so membership requires some nimbleness. Cost of membership is a gold coin per meeting, towards the morning tea/coffee