



28 MARCH 2019

# Discussion Groups NEWSLETTER

*We do sincerely hope you all enjoyed our first edition of our new look newsletter. As a follow up to what was hinted at in that newsletter, we are putting our feelers out for members who may be interested in the following groups.*

1. Podcast group: This would include TED talks. We envisage it taking the form of watching a podcast and then having a discussion about what was presented. But it would be over to the new members to work out their own format.
2. Second Book Group
3. Second Film Group
4. Walking group
5. Climate Change
6. Diners Group

*If you are interested in any or all of the above groups please contact Ngaire on [ngairemichael@gmail.com](mailto:ngairemichael@gmail.com) We hope to hear from you shortly. Enjoy this edition.  
Your Discussion group team.*

## ***Music Group provides a most entertaining account of their discussion.***

Our March session was Part 3 in the series “Pops Meet the Classics”. We start each year with another in this series. It’s partly a trip down memory lane – who can remember these numbers off the hit parades, who was the artist, and most importantly, where did the music come from? Every piece we listen to has been taken entirely or in substantial part from a classical piece by one of the masters. We then listen to the original and the back story that goes with it (the back story might be details about the music, its significance in musical history or a quick analysis, or even some juicy gossip about the composer). Group members would only allow the backs of their heads to be photographed, as they listen to the performers. *From left, Debussy, Saint-Saens, JS Bach, Praetorius, Liszt and Chopin.*



**Current Affairs**  
**Monday group**

**Facilitator**

Joy Hayward T 454 4996  
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**Current Affairs**  
**Tuesday group**

**Facilitator**

Gretchen Kivell T 473 0031  
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**Expanding Musical**  
**Horizons**

**Facilitator**

Paul Wheeler  
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**Film Group**

**Facilitator**

Bill Stanford  
  
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Our April Music session is Part 3 from our series "British Music in the Twentieth Century". It is a series that traces the development of British music since 1900, covering the fields of classical music, pop and rock, and music theatre. This month we'll be working through the British music scene from the 1960s onwards.

**Gallery Group**

Nine members of the U3A Gallery Group drove to Timaru on Wednesday the 13th, to visit the York Street Gallery. The Gallery is open Thursday, Friday and Saturdays but Debbie is happy to open specially for people - which is what she did for us. She had also recommended a cafe on the outskirts of Timaru where we could have our lunch - this also meant we couldn't get lost looking for somewhere to eat in Timaru itself.

The Gallery had (as always) an eclectic mix of paintings, jewellery and sculpture (metal, Oamaru stone and glass) - both inside and out in the courtyard at the back of the Gallery. Out the back was a kiln that we thought was used for pottery but

Debbie uses this for firing her glass sculptures. The paintings came from a wide variety of artists, some of them from Dunedin. I had said to people that the Gallery is the best small gallery that I'd been to and everyone enjoyed looking around. A number of people made purchases as well. Here is a text I received from Debbie in the weekend. "Hi Sue ..... More than happy to open any time for you. I so enjoyed your group's visit. Thank you for coming". I think that sums it up really. Thanks Sue.

Our next meeting (April 10th) we meet President of the Otago Art Society, Doug Hart.

**Book Club**

**Facilitator**

Clare Hamel  
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E

**Gallery**

**Facilitator**

Tash Hurst

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**Local History**

**Facilitator**

Stuart Strachan  
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**Poetry**

**Facilitator**

Judith Cowley  
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or 021 1674 994



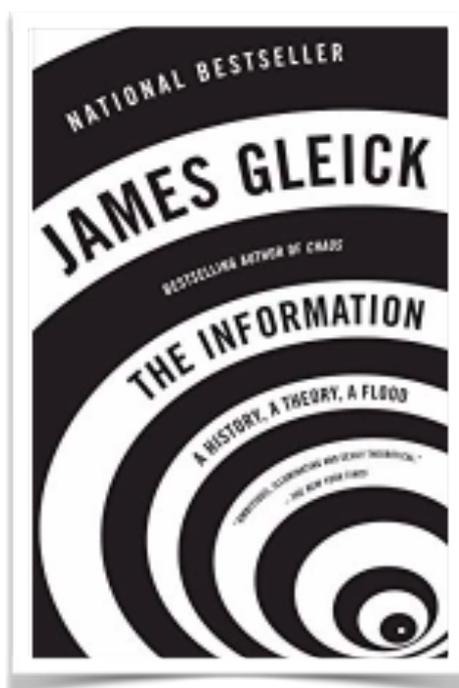
## *Current Affairs Tuesday*

We meet for two hours, with a break for morning tea. Someone starts the discussion with a local, national or international topic that they have given some thought to, and the conversation moves slowly to other topics of interest too. When that comes to a halt, someone else starts another topic. And so on.

We enjoy learning new things, different points of view, different sources for news and information, and what is happening in our city.

We are currently nine, with another person to join us in April. That is the maximum my sitting area can take, so we will be a closed group for a while.

## *Book Group*



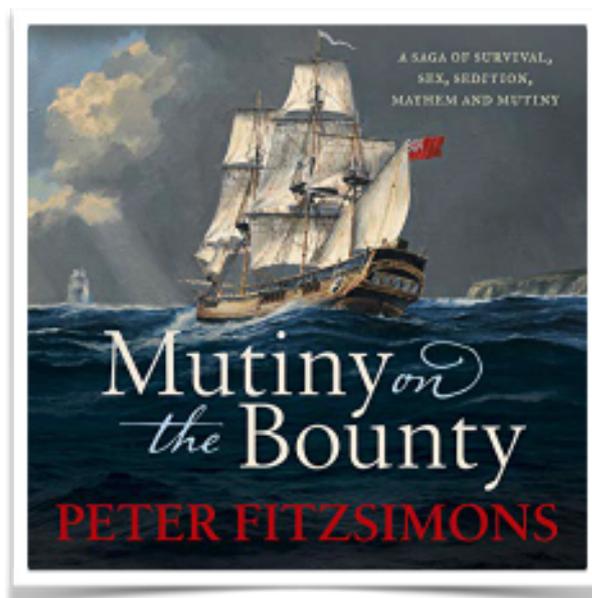
The Book group met at Ngaire Bates home this month. With great new members it was a very interesting afternoon. As a group we have decided to read our own book choice each month and present it at the meeting. So this month saw an eclectic range of books which were all very interesting.

We started with "Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine" An insightful novel by Gail Honeymoon. Ngaire presented another of Peter Fitzsimons books called "Mutiny on the Bounty" This book was really well written and researched.

Ngaire also presented a book by James Gleick called "The Information" A really wonderful read. Another good read was the book

"Gardens of Fire". This book was written by Stevan Eldred-Grigg about the Ballantynes fire in Christchurch. Very thought provoking.

Other books were "The last Time we Spoke" by Fiona Sussman. "The Tattologist of Auschwitz" by Heather Morris and "Poems that make Grown Women Cry" by Antony and Ben Holden. Looking forward to next month's collection. Facilitator - Clare Hamel



## Film Group

This month's screening for the Film group was Yasujiro Ozu's *Late Spring* (1949).

Ozu is understood to be one of the major auteurs: since Paul Schrader's important work of the 1970's, *Transcendental Style in Film*, Ozu, along with Robert Bresson & Carl Dreyer, has been a mainstay of Film school teaching around the world. Over the late '40's through to the early '60's Ozu shot a dozen films now acclaimed masterpieces: one of these, *Tokyo Story*, has been voted by film critics the greatest movie ever made!

Those of the Film group who have seen *Our Little Sister* of Hiro Kore'eda, and Ozu's *Early Summer*, have already visited the old Japanese capital Kamakura, just outside Tokyo Bay. *Late Spring* is also set in Kamakura; and features Ozu's long-time leading actor Chishu Ryu, and Ozu's first filming of the marvellous Setsuko Hara: brother & sister in *Early Summer*, they play father & daughter here.

In Kore'eda's *Still Walking*, a newly established couple resolve issues between them late one evening — Kore'eda then cuts to the image of a still vase, in half light, symbolising this resolution; quoting a similar cut in *Late Spring*.

Noriko, the daughter in *Late Spring*, has told a middle-aged male family friend who has remarried that he is 'dirty' — but now, on a visit to Kyoto before her own marriage, she has met his new wife and is much abashed. Late one evening she tells her father she is so embarrassed — her father tells her it was always taken lightly — and she confesses to her father that she had felt similarly about him. Ozu then cuts to a perfect still vase pictured in moonlight...

And as the film closes, the now solitary father peels a fruit — alone now...

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