



March 2020

Discussion Groups NEWSLETTER

Discussion Groups

What a difference a day makes!!

I have been sticking to the requirements about non-contact ever since the government made it mandatory for the 70's and over.

In lots of respects I am enjoying just having the time to do all the chores and things I have wanted and needed to do for some time but haven't found the time for because of all my other interests and commitments. I really hope that the rest of you are feeling pretty much the same as me because just sitting reading and listening to the radio can get very tedious long term.

However, that is not to say I will not reach that stage at some point. I have learnt though, that there are some wonderful resources on the internet for folk such as us so it is well worth a look.

Most of our Discussion groups have now ceased operating until the pandemic has finished. I do hope that you will all keep in touch with each other. I know the Dining group has set up a wonderful list of everyone's phone and email details so that any of the other members of your group, who are feeling like some company, can get hold of another person to talk to.

Book Club Friday

Facilitator: Garda Cortesi
E: gardacortesi@gmail.com

Book Club 2

Facilitator: Angela Vickers
E: angela.nz@e3/net.nz

Monday Current Affairs

Facilitator: Joy Hayward
T 454 4996 E: joyhayward@hotmail.co.nz

Tuesday Current Affairs (full)

Facilitator: Gretchen Kivell
T: 4730031 E: gretchen.kivell@xtra.co.nz

Dining group

Facilitator: Ann Wood
T: 03 455 6061 E: ann.wood14blaw@gmail.com

Expanding Musical Horizons (full)

Facilitator: Paul Wheeler
T 476 0462 E: wheeler@outlook.co.nz

Film Group (full)

Facilitator: Bill Stanford
T 027 461 5343 E: billstanford9@gmail.com

Gallery group

Facilitator: Tash Hurst
T 467 9747 E: tash.hurst@xtra.co.nz

German Language

Facilitator: Rob Lawson
T: 021 023 91642 roblawson75@gmail.com

Local History

Facilitator: Stuart Strachan
T 482 2339 E: sistrachanz@gmail.com

Invisible Women in Art History

Facilitator: Moya Smith
T 476-1415 E: moya.smith@xtra.co.nz

Zoom is also a wonderful platform for more of a conference sort of meet up. It is well worth investigating.

We have also done the same thing within our immediate neighborhood. This provides a feeling of increased security also because you know that if you require help it is only a phone call or email away.

No doubt there will be times when all of us need a bit of bolstering and help, so please be aware of these in yourself and others that you are in contact with so that you can reach out and help them. A little bit of time makes a huge difference to someone's feeling of wellbeing.

There is also the U3A Dunedin's website to keep dipping in and out of. There is a lot of helpful information on it that you all may find helpful at some stage during this upheaval. It will all end eventually.

So, as our Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern keeps reminding us, stay safe and **BE KIND**.

Ngairé Bates T 454 2170 E ngairemichael@gmail.com

Dining Group

There were eight of us for the dinner at Harbourside Grill on Friday 21 Feb. Among that number were two new members, Ann and Joyce.

We enjoyed the meal, but so large were the entrees, they may well have sufficed. One sensible soul chose two entrees rather than adding a main and was happy.

An unusually large number of apologies were received. Lots of families members were visiting Dunedin in our one month of summer.

We farewelled Anne who is away on a very intrepid six month trip. Will keep in touch with her adventures via FB.

Mahjong Group

Facilitator: Hilary Allison
T 4772903 Cell; 021 393 323
e: hilary.allison@xtra.co.nz

Walking Group

Facilitator: John Hogue
E: hoguetimaru@xtra.co.nz

Expanding Musical Horizons

Part 4 of the series “Pops Meet the Classics” was the theme for our first meeting for the year. Again, it was a light trip down memory lane to see who could remember the titles and singers of various chart toppers from our younger days.

However, each song had been borrowed, stolen or pilfered from the world of classical music, so the challenge was identifying the original composer and the piece. So from the likes of Matt Monro, Elvis Presley and Ella Fitzgerald, we connected with Brahms, Borodin, Bach and other composers across the centuries.



At our next session (in May) we will start a series on music of the Romantic period. Here, we will consider the music in the context of the socio-political background of the times and how the thinking of composers was paralleled in art and literature across approximately a hundred years.

Gallery Group

Many thank to Laurie and Rosemary for organising such a great day out. Nine of us travelled to Ranfurly and visited the Art Deco Museum which was full of donated goods that made us laugh as we remembered them from our parents and our own younger days. It was a step back in time and showed us things that we had forgotten about, but so invoked past memories.

We had a pleasant social lunch in a cafe in Ranfurly and then went to Naseby for a look round and were interested to visit the Ancient Briton pub that had so tragically burnt down.

A quick visit to the Naseby Museum and then on to Jane Whitaker's house outside Naseby. Her house was full of her paintings in oils, pastels and water colours with a wide range of topics from



portraits to landscapes.

Jane gave us a tour of her art through time and place to the present works of art in progress. This was followed by an afternoon tea including pikelets..

It was a lovely, homely and personal visit concluding a social and varied day out. The scenery via Middlemarch and back via the Pigroot was a welcome addition to a most enjoyable day.

Our next visit is being organised by Sue Smaill and is to The Old Post Office in Waikouaiti to see the pottery of Peter Gregory.. Sue will let us know details of the visit nearer the time,,,,.Wed. April 8th.

Current Affairs Monday

17.3.20.

The discussion was animated. We shared what we knew from NZ and from overseas. We discussed our own personal responsibility in the community to support neighbours. We discussed services such as meals on wheels and how this is organised because we saw it as a key player in supporting the elderly in their home. Two members had disquiet about its local organisation. The is run through Age concern and as I belong to that and do Tai Chi there I fear that will shut down.

We discussed the emotional response to this epidemic, the fact that gun shops are doing a roaring trade in the States. We were horrified at the thought of shooting potential carriers (but I see in this mornings paper that there have been social attacks in NZ on a self-sought-tested carrier of the virus. Fear is alive and active here)

There was a divergence of opinion as to whether the epidemic would draw members of the community together or whether it would force isolation and distrust and ill health because of it. People may turn to social media even more. We also noted the widespread misunderstanding of the whole thing. (As it happened last night I had my grandson to dinner and he said there had been a major loss of share price and drop of consumption of Corona beer because people muddled it up with the virus and have been looking up Corona beer virus on the net!)

We briefly discussed my vulnerability given I live alone and have a pre-existing condition that might make me more vulnerable should I contract the virus. That was reassuring, although I don't need any new arrangements at the moment. My personal need at the moment is to keep connections with people in these type of small groups. We noted the health guidelines and discussed ways of doing shopping safely. I noted the supermarket was so full there was no way of keeping a safe separation from others. One person suggested wearing rubber gloves and then discarding them after leaving a store. Here are the MoH guidelines

Prevention – how to protect yourself and others

Cough or sneeze into your elbow or by covering your mouth and nose with tissues.

Put used tissues in the bin or a bag immediately.

Wash your hands with soap and water often (for at least 20 seconds).

Try to avoid close contact with people who are unwell.

Don't touch your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean.

Avoid personal contact, such as kissing, sharing cups or food with sick people.

Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects, such as doorknobs.

Stay home if you feel unwell.

Call Healthline on 0800 358 5453 if you have any symptoms and have been to any countries or territories of concern or have been in close contact with someone confirmed with COVID-19.

We discussed whether this group should continue but resolved to continue meeting as it was important to keep up social connection

Members will appreciate this Current Affairs Discussion Group protocol was written two weeks ago now, and with NZ progress into Level 4 our advice is to search the website of Covid-19 for advice and instruction.

Stay well, stay inside, keep safe.

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