



May 2019

DiscussionGroups NEWSLETTER

Hello members!

Autumn has drawn to a close. However, we have U3A to keep our minds off impending winter. Last month saw a hiccup with the emailing of the newsletter so hopefully everyone will get it safely this month and enjoy it.

We have had a kind offer from Moya Smith to run a course on the topic of "The Obstacle Race - the invisible women of art history".

If you would be interested in attending this course please contact Ngaire Bates in the first instance. If there is enough interest Moya has said she will hold an initial meeting with the group and decide on a common day and time.

Our second Book group and the Walking group are up and running and both are looking for more members.

The second Film group is also waiting in the wings for members, and we are still taking names for a Mahjong group.'

We would like to see a Poetry Group start up so if anyone is interested in that please let Ngaire know. We already have a couple interested.

The Dining group is also wanting to expand its membership. We have been out to some great venues. In June we are going out to a restaurant in Andersons Bay for a mid-winter Christmas Dinner.

Friday Book Club - (full)

Facilitator: Clare Hamel T 425 8394
Mobile is 021 176 4883

Monday Current Affairs

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

Book Club 2

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

Tuesday Current Affairs - (full)

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

Dining group

Facilitator: Nanette Linklater. (McKendry)
E: nanettelinklater@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

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

Local History

Stuart Strachan, T 482 2339
E sistrachanz@gmail.com

Walking Group

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



If anyone would like to join us please contact Ngaire and she will give you contact details.

I am interested in the Monday Current Affairs account of this month's meeting It would be really great to get a worthwhile TED/ Podcast group going so different issues can be discussed after watching a clip on any subject.

Please keep warm and and well so that immune systems can stay functional to keep colds and flu's away.

Ngaire

Dining Group

The dining club on Friday May 11th was at Emerson's and although the food was excellent it was not as good as the laughter and enjoyment. We all had a wonderful time with interesting conversations and lots of humour.

Our next meeting will be at 7 pm on June 7th at Cafe Rue.

We are all looking forward to meeting again and meeting new people as membership and inquiries are rapidly increasing .

Nanette

C u r r e n t A f f a i r s M o n d a y

Seven members attended the meeting on Monday 20th May at the home of John and Chris Burton.



To set the tone, we watched a TED talk by **young Swedish Climate Change Activist Greta Thunberg** and a short extract from last week's TVNZ 'Q and A' program in which **UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres**, was interviewed by Jack Tame. This gave us a focus for the rest of the meeting.

Lively discussion regarding climate change followed. We noted the increase in the severity of weather-related activities throughout the world which are resulting in major disruption to people's lives. An obvious conclusion was that we couldn't do a lot individually. A groundswell is necessary for change and clearly this will come as more people are convinced there is a problem. We acknowledged that there are views that climate change it is part of a natural 1500 year cycle.

Next month's meeting will be held at Joy Hayward's home on Monday 17th June. The topic will be *'The impact of social media on our lives'*.

John Burton

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but wait! there's more! see over for a review on Local History

Local History Group

So far this year, we have continued our programme of visiting local heritage institutions the last Wednesday of each month, with coffee to follow.

After a month's break, in February we visited the Hocken pictures and photographs collections, amongst the most important in the country. Both are vast. The art collection alone comprises over 15,000 original works, whilst the photographs are almost beyond counting, but thought to number about 2 million items. This was our second Hocken visit, previously covering publications and archives (now including those of U3A). Hocken is much too big for a single foray.

In March we took ourselves to the New Zealand Sports Hall of Fame housed in the railway station and opened here in 1999. Here can be seen Sarah Ulmer's Athens Olympic gold medal winning bicycle (no gears or brakes) and the kayak in which Ferguson and MacDonald powered to gold at the Los Angeles Olympics in 1984. And so much else of our sporting history. The Sports Hall of Fame must surely be Dunedin's most underrated and underfunded heritage institution.

In April it was the turn of the Port Chalmers Maritime Museum, also less visited by locals than it should be, but very popular with cruise ship visitors. Here there is an extensive array of objects and archives, especially photographs relating to Port Chalmers and Otago's connection with the sea, including the local fishing industry.

Finally and most recently, we visited the Presbyterian Research Centre at Knox College, which incorporates the Hewitson Library as well as the central archives of the New Zealand Presbyterian Church, including those of the General Assembly and its committees, but also of many parishes from around the country. Particularly notable are the mission archives for the Punjab, southern China around Canton, and Vanuatu. Of especial significance are the collected archives gathered by Dr James Ng and his wife Eva relating to the Chinese in New Zealand, which have recently been inscribed into Register of the UNESCO Memory of the World for New Zealand.

For the future, we have our eye on visits to collections at the Taieri and Waikouaiti historical museums, as well as other Dunedin heritage institutions.

At present our membership is about 12, but a few new members would be most welcome.

Stuart Strachan, Group Facilitator