



November 2019

# DiscussionGroups NEWSLETTER

## ***Greetings members!***

Another year is rapidly drawing to a close.

I do hope you have all achieved what you set out to do at the beginning of the year. It certainly gives a great deal of satisfaction if you have.

Next year we are looking at starting up a photography group if there is enough interest! The idea is when the weather is fine, we can go 'abroad' and take our photos. When the weather is not so good, we thought we could look at critiquing the photos and also learn to use either Lightroom or Photoshop (or Photoshop Elements).

This would mean that you would have to have a fully charged laptop and either one of the above programs. As yet, we don't have anyone to run this group. However, if no one puts their hand up we could look at problem solving issues with these programs amongst ourselves. There are certainly a lot of how to do programs about these programs on the internet.

At this stage it is just an idea – but we thought that we would include it in this newsletter to gauge interest. So, if you are keen please let Ngaire know.

Our other groups are all flourishing. We are still looking for members keen on **Poetry** to join a new group. The **Music** group also has a space or two.

Our new **Mahjong** group would like to see more members. There will be a few more joining after the last lessons are completed. But if anyone else is keen and has a basic knowledge of how to play. *Please contact Ngaire if you fit the bill.*

**Friday Book Club**  
Facilitator; Garda Cotesi  
<[gardacortesi@gmail.com](mailto:gardacortesi@gmail.com)>

**Monday Current Affairs**  
Facilitator: Joy Hayward  
T 454 4996 E. [joyhayward@hotmail.co.nz](mailto:joyhayward@hotmail.co.nz)

**Book Club 2**  
Facilitator: Angela Vickers  
E: [angela.nz@e3.net.nz](mailto:angela.nz@e3.net.nz)

**Tuesday Current Affairs - (full)**  
Facilitator: Gretchen Kivell  
T: 4730031 E:[gretchen.kivell@xtra.co.nz](mailto:gretchen.kivell@xtra.co.nz)

**Dining group**  
Facilitator:Nanette Linklater  
E: [nanettelinklater@gmail.com](mailto:nanettelinklater@gmail.com)

**Expanding Musical Horizons**  
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**  
Facilitator: Tash Hurst  
T 467 9747 E [tash.hurst@xtra.co.nz](mailto:tash.hurst@xtra.co.nz)

**Local History**  
Facilitator: Stuart Strachan  
T 482 2339 E [sistrachanz@gmail.com](mailto:sistrachanz@gmail.com)

**Walking Group**  
Facilitator: John Hogue,  
E [hoguetimaru@xtra.co.nz](mailto:hoguetimaru@xtra.co.nz)

**Invisible Women in Art History**  
Facilitator: Moya Smith  
T 476-1415 and 027 4761415  
E: [moya.smith@xtra.co.nz](mailto:moya.smith@xtra.co.nz)

The new group called **German language** has now begun. It has had its first meeting this week and will get underway properly next year. Well done to all involved with that.



Any other new ideas for a group that you would like to see commence please let Ngaire know also.  
*We will see you all in the New Year.*

*Have a **Very Merry Christmas** and a **Very Happy New Year.***

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

## ***Monday Current Affairs***

Our topic this month was euthanasia, a timely discussion as the bill was being discussed in parliament, in preparation for next years referendum.

We had a zoom presentation from Marian Vlaar. Marian emigrated to N Z about 40 years ago and now lives in Golden Bay. She very movingly described getting a call to let her know that one of her closest friends in the Netherlands had limited time to live. She struggled with a gambit of feelings through out the time of her friends dying including the very precious feelings of being present at her friends death by euthanasia.

She described the way the law works in the Netherlands , who is eligible, the criteria for eligibility, the prior planning required and the very important safeguards to ensure that decisions are made humanely and ethically. She was able to answer most of our questions.

Our discussion then included what we might need to put in place to ensure the death we would most hope for, our experiences of what was available, and sometimes lacking ,in friends and partners deaths.



## ***German Language Discussion Group Report***

The first meeting of this group took place at 2.30 pm on Monday 18th November 2019. Six people attended at Rob Lawson's home with one apology.

Fortified with German baking (Rhubarb cake and Poppyseed cake) the discussion ran till 5.00pm covering a range of topics from introductory backgrounds from the people, to German dialects and the group members' favourite bread recipes.

Meetings are planned monthly for 2020. ***Rob Lawson (facilitator)***

## ***Gallery Group***

Our November meeting, which was kindly organised by Jan Wilson, was most interesting. We went to the **glass blowing facility** in the university that many of us didn't even know existed..

**Anne Ryan**, a full time glass blower with the university, demonstrated methods of producing specialised glass equipment for many departments. Anne works with staff and students to solve problems and design ways of using her skills to facilitate experiments. Several of the group had a go at glass blowing under Anne's watchful eye. There was a huge range of glassware on display, some of which could be adapted to ornamental use such as vases. Some of the elaborate designs demonstrated the high level of skill that was necessary for such an occupation.



Our next meeting in December is at Maryalyce's holiday home in Karitane. If you have a favourite or interesting piece of art please bring it for discussion. We will

have a brainstorming session to plan the programme for next year and several ideas have already been floated.

The February meeting is a visit to Mike Lillian in Kakanui to see the wonderful basket ware that he produces from his home grown willow.

The person who organises each meeting is also responsible for getting a card and the \$25 from Jane that we give to speakers. We will probably need to top up our kitty in the new year by sending some money to Jane. Jane is overseas at the moment so we will hear how much when we next see Jane. Some members have made small regular payments and others have preferred just to pay a bigger amount at one time. The last time we did that was after going to the gallery in Caversham. Jane will have all the details.

Maryalyce will be happy to provide coffee etc but would be grateful for any contributions for morning tea.

Cheers for now

## ***Film Group — November***

This month our screening was Yasujiro Ozu's ***Tokyo Story*** — the 3rd of his 'Noriko' trilogy with the wonderful Setsuko Hara — the darkest, the most complex, the most radiant of these three films.

Every 10 years, the influential film magazine ***Sight & Sound*** publishes critics & directors' lists of the 50 greatest films. The most recent is 2012:

### **Directors' Poll — The Sight & Sound Top 50 Greatest Films of All Time**

- 1 Tokyo Story (48 mentions)**
- 2 2001: A Space Odyssey (42 mentions)**
- 3 Citizen Kane (42 mentions)**
- 4 8½ (40 mentions)**
- 5 Taxi Driver (34 mentions)**
- 6 Apocalypse Now (33 mentions)**
- 7 The Godfather (31 mentions)**
- 8 Vertigo (31 mentions)**
- 9 Mirror (30 mentions)**
- 10 Bicycle Thieves (29 mentions)**



Does one detect an American tendency here?

Nevertheless their top 10 includes Fellini's great 8½, Di Sica's classic ***Bicycle Thieves*** and Tarkovski's ***Haunting Mirror***. Oh, and this month's screening as the greatest movie ever. Well may be so!

**Happy end of year everyone**

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