



# Discussion Groups NEWSLETTER

## Convener's report

*I am sitting writing this with the wind and rain raging outside. It is hard to credit that summer is just around the corner right at this moment. However, we have had some lovely days and I do hope you have been able to get outside and enjoy them.*

*This month sees quite a few changes for our newsletter. Firstly, Jill Geary has resigned her role as editor of the newsletter. Jill has been responsible for getting the new look newsletter up and running and has been very successful at it. Our sincere thanks to Jill for doing such a great job of it and we wish her well for the future. I daresay we will also see her at many of the U3A meetings as well, so that we can keep in touch with her.*

*Bill Stanford has taken over the role of newsletter editor from Jill. He has already suggested a few changes and has many ideas going forward. Some of these can be found in this month's edition.*

### 1. Noticeboard

*This is for members of U3A Dunedin who perhaps have something they wish to sell, or give away, or offer. Pets e.g. kittens they wish to go to a new home. Firewood. A room or apartment to let. A flat mate sought. A ride to an event! The list is endless.*

*We ask however that the notices are kept brief, and pertinent, e.g. the item and contact details. You may have found a reliable tradesman who you have found helpful and obliging and wish to tell people about also.*

*The noticeboard could also be used for special requests for a new group to start up...*

### Art Collections

Facilitator: Moya Smith  
Third Wednesday, 2 pm

E: [moya.smith@xtra.co.nz](mailto:moya.smith@xtra.co.nz)

### Book Group

Facilitator: Garda Cortesi  
First Friday, 1.30

E: [gardacortesi@gmail.com](mailto:gardacortesi@gmail.com)

### Dining Group

Facilitator: Ann James  
Third Friday, 7 pm

E: [anniejgm@gmail.com](mailto:anniejgm@gmail.com)

### Expanding

#### Musical Horizon (full)

Facilitator: Paul Wheeler  
Second Monday, 10 am

E: [wheeler@outlook.co.nz](mailto:wheeler@outlook.co.nz)

### Film Group 2

Facilitator: Bill Stanford  
Second Wednesday, 1.30

E: [billstanford9@gmail.com](mailto:billstanford9@gmail.com)

### Film Group 1 (full)

Facilitator: Bill Stanford  
Third Wednesday, 1.30

E: [billstanford9@gmail.com](mailto:billstanford9@gmail.com)

### Gallery Group (full)

Facilitator: Tash Hurst  
Second Wednesday, 10.30

E: [tash.hurst@xtra.co.nz](mailto:tash.hurst@xtra.co.nz)

### German Language

Facilitator: Rob Lawson  
Third Monday, 2 pm

E: [roblawson75@gmail.com](mailto:roblawson75@gmail.com)

## 2. Announcements

*I will still be giving a brief introduction of any new groups in my report. But the announcement section will be a ready reference to these for a quick glance at, and a reminder.*

*The committee will also be using this space for any special announcements they may have. E.g. Facilitators meeting, new groups on offer etc. Which groups require a report for the next month's newsletter etc.*

*These will be on a trial basis to see if they are worthwhile. An email to either Bill Stanford, Garda Cotesi or myself will be enough to get your requirements listed. (See table at the end of the newsletter for our contact details.)*

*To group news. The Podcast group will be getting underway in October as well as the Singing group. We sincerely hope that these groups can get going and establish themselves before any other changes become necessary because of covid-19. (We have certainly had a year of it haven't we.) There is still room in both of these groups for new members. As well as the Photography group or any other group not listed as full on the Discussion Group website.*

*I would like to thank each member of the Discussion groups for their patience in hanging in there while groups have had to be cancelled, venues changed etc. It has been a difficult time for everyone. We can only hope that the new year will see some settling down of this virus.*

*There has also been a lot of work done on the Discussion Groups website. If the name of the group is clicked on the screen opens to information about each group and details pertaining to that group e.g. who runs it, where it is held.*

*You will also find that the name of the groups in the side panel here are a link to this web page as well. So, it is all in a nice neat bundle.*

*Enjoy this newsletter. Any comments are always welcome, anything you would like changed or included.*

Ngaire Bates

### **Local History**

Facilitator: Stuart Strachan  
Fourth Wednesday, 10.30  
E: [sistrachanz@gmail.com](mailto:sistrachanz@gmail.com)

### **Luncheon Group**

Facilitator: Patricia Irvine  
Second Friday, 12.30  
E: [trishjockloch@gmail.com](mailto:trishjockloch@gmail.com)

### **Mahjong Group**

Facilitator: Hilary Allison  
Second Thursday, 10 am  
E: [hilary.allison@xtra.co.nz](mailto:hilary.allison@xtra.co.nz)

### **Monday Current Affairs (full)**

Facilitator: Joy Hayward  
Third Monday, 1.30  
E: [joyhayward@hotmail.co.nz](mailto:joyhayward@hotmail.co.nz)

### **Opera Group**

Facilitator: Garda Cortesi  
Fourth Wednesday, 1.30  
E: [gardacortesi@gmail.com](mailto:gardacortesi@gmail.com)

### **Photography Group**

Facilitator: Ngaire Bates  
First Wednesday, 1.30  
E: [ngairemichael@gmail.com](mailto:ngairemichael@gmail.com)

### **Podcast Group**

Facilitator: Garda Cortesi  
Third Thursday, 1.30  
E: [gardacortesi@gmail.com](mailto:gardacortesi@gmail.com)

### **Thursday Current Affairs**

Facilitator: Clare Hamel  
Fourth Thursday, 1.30  
[hameldownunder@yahoo.com.au](mailto:hameldownunder@yahoo.com.au)

### **Tuesday Current Affairs (full)**

Facilitator: Gretchen Kivell  
Third Tuesday, 10 am  
E: [gretchen.kivell@xtra.co.nz](mailto:gretchen.kivell@xtra.co.nz)

### **Walking Group**

Facilitator: John Hogue  
Every Wednesday, 10.30  
E: [hoguetimaru@xtra.co.nz](mailto:hoguetimaru@xtra.co.nz)



## Announcements



### **Walkers**

The Walking Group meets on a Thursday every week. There is a range of fitness in a core of eight or so regulars.

We walk and explore for up to 90 minutes at different locations around Dunedin and environs. These range from historical walks to our recent walk where we explored the upper Kaikorai Stream. If you're interested you'd be most welcome!

### **Film Group 2**

Following its initial screening this month, Film Group 2 is very pleased to announce a new host, Jennifer Bannister. Jennifer's is a decidedly more suitable venue, as she has a large TV screen; and more seating — we can now accommodate up to seven people. We'd like to thank Jennifer very much, it's a great development for our new group — which still has an opening for one additional member. Our next screening is the French masterpiece, *Les Enfants du Paradis* (*Children of Paradise*).

### **Newsletter: Links**

As our Convener noted, one development this month in this Newsletter is that our list of groups in the side panel now has each group linked to its brochure at the U3A Website — if you're tempted by a group, just click its name and read the brochure details immediately.

**Happy linking!**



## Facilitators' Reports



### **Walking Group'**

This month the Walkers explored the upper Kaikorai Stream. There we were shown around the community gardens below the Arai Te Uru Marae.

One of the walkers took home some 'miners' lettuce' that we were introduced to.

Our last ramble was around the Highgrove area with its magnificent views including one south to the Nuggets.



*U3A Walkers exploring Upper Kaikorai Stream: Barrie Peake, Annette Direen, John Hogue and Janet Hewson.*



Planned walks include one to Orokonui lagoon- so we travel and carpool.

Members of the group take turns at suggesting and planning walks with a bit of research on points of local interest.



These walks are followed by a coffee and a bite to eat and the inevitable discussion on the points of interest associated with the walks. Recently the mysteries of the disappearing bananas created much mirth!

We welcome anyone interested in a walk on a Thursday morning!

Contact: John Hogue  
Email: [hoguettiamru@xtra.co.nz](mailto:hoguettiamru@xtra.co.nz)

### ***The Thursday Current Affairs Group...***

...had their September meeting this week and all were present.

Several topics were discussed vigorously (the culling of 600,000 books from the National Library... The Greatness or lack of Greatness of the USA; the controversy around capping of the number of students wishing to enter 2nd Year medicine), but overwhelmingly, members were concerned about two important issues:

One:- The recent sinking of a vessel, the Gulf Livestock 1, carrying a large cargo of live cows from New Zealand to China.

It was reported many of the animals were pregnant and the fear and suffering aboard that ship when she was hit by a typhoon that subsequently sank her off the coast of Japan, are horrendous. After discussing the issue we decided we needed to do something rather than just sit and talk.

The outcome was, that without involving the U3A, we would write a joint letter to the

Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition, asking to have all live exports from New Zealand banned. This is in the pipeline now.

This is not the first time a tragedy has happened at sea whereby live animals have endured unnecessary suffering.

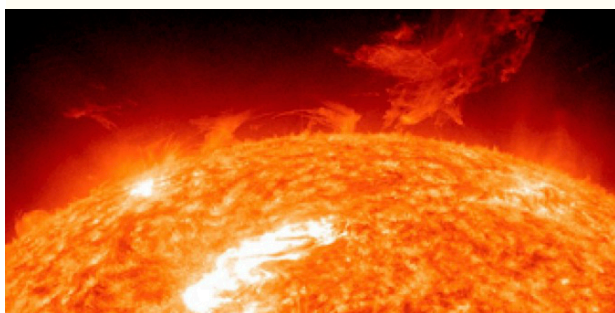


New Zealand has a reputation for being green and clean, somewhere people want to come after the events of the last six months which have caused such devastation all around the world. Why are we still doing this?

The practice of loading live animals aboard ships of questionable suitability and sending them abroad to countries where we have little knowledge about their future welfare, is not in keeping with the idea that all animals should be treated kindly and humanely. We felt the need to petition our government leaders to stop this practice.

The second topic was of a scientific nature outlining how activity on the sun affects temperatures here on earth.

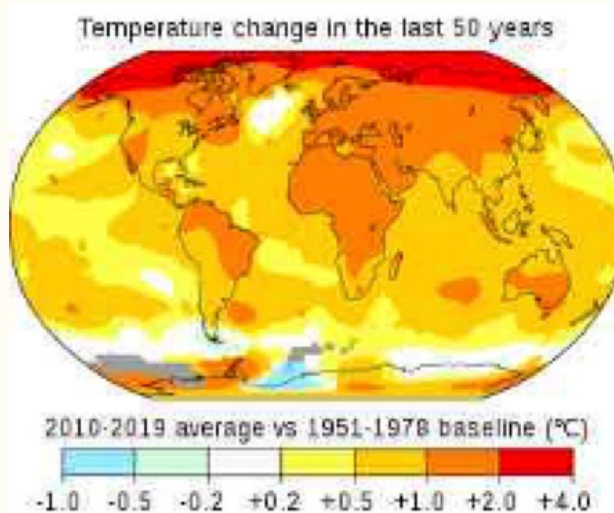
The article was written by Valentina Zharkova, Professor of Mathematics and Physics at Northumbria University. In layman's terms, the sun has now entered what is known as 'A Grand Solar Minimum' which it is estimated will last from 2020 - 2053.



There have been such cycles in the past with dramatic consequences for the earth as in 1645 ( -1710) when a seemingly small decrease of the average temperature in the Northern Hemisphere led to frozen rivers, cold long winters and cold summers. The current 'Grand Solar Minimum' which our sun has just entered will also lead to a noticeable reduction of temperatures on earth by up to 1.0oC and this could have important consequences

for different parts of our planet with regard to vegetation, agriculture, food supplies and heating needs in both Southern and Northern hemispheres.

Governments around the world will be required to tackle problems with heat and food supplies likely to affect every person on the planet.



This global cooling down during the upcoming Grand Solar Minimum could offset for 3 decades any signs of global warming.

The writer of this piece has drawn on group discussion of the article which appeared recently in our paper, and good old Mr Google who led the way to the scientific paper presented by Professor Valentina Zharkova. Some of you may wish to read it to discover more precise information than is able to be provided here

Clare Hamel  
Facilitator

## ***Film Group Two...***

Met for the first time on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of September, to view the Hiro Kore'eda film *Our Little Sister*.

*Sister* is partly a homage film, homage both to a past director, and to the location of some of his greatest films.

The past director is Yasujiro Ozu; who died nearly 60 years ago. Unlike Akira Kurosawa who made *Seven Samurai*, Ozu was not well known in the West until the 1970's, when

we began to understand that he had been a master — one of his films, *Tokyo Story*, has been recently voted by film directors as the greatest film ever made!

Ozu's film are very 'quiet' — as a member of the initial U3A Film group puts it, "Nothing happens — but everything happens." His recurring theme is the family, its tensions and its eventual breakup — as he said himself, "I make tofu, I don't make pork cutlets — I make tofu"!

The location of *Little Sister* deserves a word — outside Tokyo Bay is a small bay where there is an ancient capital, Kamakura. *Our Little Sister* involves an unconventional family of three sisters living there in an old house, near an old train line along the coast; who discover at his death that their divorced father had had a daughter by a second wife — they visit a mountain area for his funeral (a very Ozu touch), and meet her.



It's a rather special film: as with Ozu, nothing happens, but that's a lot!



*The director, Hiro Kore'eda, has recently won the Golden Palm at Cannes Film Festival for his Shoplifters; and has just made a film, The Truth, with Catherine Deneuve and Juliette Binoche!*

## **Notice Board**

As noted, a place where we can put offers, requests, requests for car sharing to events, and general information — all welcome!!

## **Groups Committee**

<b><i>Discussion Groups Convener</i></b>	Ngaire Bates	ngairemichael@gmail.com	454 2170
<b><i>Discussion Groups Committee</i></b>	Garda Cortesi	gardacortesi@gmail.com	
<b><i>Discussion Groups Newsletter</i></b>	Bill Stanford	billstanford9@gmail.com	027 4615343