



# Discussion Groups NEWSLETTER

April 2021

## Convener's report

Well the cooler days are nearly here. Today I have finally bought in a bin of wood ready to light my first fire just in case I can no longer stand the chill in the air. I guess many of you will be doing the same.

We have had another busy month in the Discussion group world. Those in the photography group had a very successful visit to the Albatross colony and were witness to some wonderful sights of these huge birds feeding their young, soaring in the heavens and just hanging out with their mates. A wonderful experience.

Next month Photography will be visiting Cargills Castle to take photos there. We are all looking forward to that.

We have had another two groups start up. First the Singing group and then the Podcast group have finally got underway with a very enthusiastic group of people. There is still room in these two new groups for a few more members so just let Ngaire know if you are interested.

Our third Current Affairs group has had to temporarily go into recession due to illness and so we are looking for more members for this group and also a new facilitator. If you are at all interested, please contact Ngaire and she will point you in the right direction.

### 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: Karen Wards  
Third Friday, 7 pm  
E: [karendwards@gmail.com](mailto:karendwards@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 1

Facilitator: Bill Stanford  
Third Wednesday, 1.30  
E: [billstanford9@gmail.com](mailto:billstanford9@gmail.com)

### Film Group 2 (full)

Facilitator: Bill Stanford  
Second 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)

Just a gentle reminder: to be able to join in these Discussion groups you must be a member of U3A Dunedin. The groups are largely held in someone's home who has volunteered for this role. Some groups however like the Singing and Mahjong are held in halls which does mean a small cost to the participants.

There is an enrollment form on the U3A website for new members to fill in so they can join the organization and be given a username and number.

### **Plastic free Group**

I would like to introduce a new group to our growing list. That is a group which is keen to pool ideas on how to go about getting rid of single use plastics in our environment. We would look at different options of how to go about this in a small way in our homes and maybe eventually take part in an organization called 'Plastic Free July'.

This is an almost worldwide idea that has taken wings led by different groups wanting to change our world for the better and to try and eliminate this pesky substance that is ending up being fed unwittingly to our wild life by their unsuspecting parents as well as being found in our oceans, fish etc. If you are interested in this please contact Ngaire who will be taking names and setting up the group.

If you are looking for a new group, you could peruse the U3A Dunedin website under Discussion Groups where you will find a list of the groups available. The groups without a 'Full' after them all have room for more members.

Keep warm.

Ngaire Bates

454 2170  
ngairemichael@gmail.com

### **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)

### **Podcast Group**

Facilitator: Ann Broadfoot  
Third Thursday, 1.30  
[annbroadfoot2012@gmail.com](mailto:annbroadfoot2012@gmail.com)

### **Photography Group**

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

### **Thursday Current Affairs**

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

### **Singing Group**

Facilitator: Claire Stevens  
Weekly, Monday, 1 pm  
E: [cstevensnz@gmail.com](mailto:cstevensnz@gmail.com)

### **Tuesday Current Issues Group (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 Thursday, 10.30  
E: [hoguetimaru@xtra.co.nz](mailto:hoguetimaru@xtra.co.nz)



## Announcement



### **Golf Croquet sessions**

There are two U3A Golf Croquet sessions each week at the Punga Croquet Club (Lawson St and Ross Streets): Thursday 1pm and Friday 10am. People can come to both, or either, each week. There is also a Sunday 1pm club day.

The fee is \$5 per session attended, payable on the day. All equipment and tuition in the basics are provided. Bring sunhat, sun glasses, or maybe wind jacket, flat shoes. Basic tea and coffee will be available. The sessions last around 2 hours. A club member will be there 10 minutes beforehand to open up.



## Facilitators' Reports



Once again the Gallery Group has forwarded an enticing report!

### **Gallery Group**

Many thanks to Sue Smaill for organising a very successful day's visit to Oamaru.

The morning visit was to the refurbished Forrester Gallery that has been tastefully restored and made into a superb gallery with several exhibition areas. The first exhibition area was the community gallery where people can hire the room for an exhibition for 4 weeks at a reasonable cost. Our excellent hosts, Elizabeth King and Imogen Stockwell were informative and enthusiastic and made the visit so worthwhile.

Elizabeth King in front of a painting by Yvonne Gillespie.  
Community Gallery.



The next exhibition area showcased the wearable art designs by Dyan Prujean.



These fabric art clothes were exquisitely sewn and presented and many were made during lockdown from recycled material including damask tablecloths.

The third artist was from Dunedin, Bruce Mahalski who founded the Dunedin Museum of Natural Mystery on Royal Terrace. The exhibition focused on his selection of bone sculptures and paintings, collected over the years:



Perhaps the biggest treat was being taken downstairs to see the collection of art stored in the basement. Each rack had well known artists awaiting their turn to be exhibited.

The gallery is the perfect size for a town like Oamaru and has a friendly, welcoming feel. Perhaps this is due to the fact it was not only a bank but also the private residence of the bank manager.

Lunch at the Galley cafe gave us a chance to mull over the morning visit and then on to Teschemakers, the Catholic Priory and chapel.

Here we visited Mary Horn who has a house and studio in the grounds of the old school. Mary came late to art but has since made up for this with her prolific output of drawings and paintings that fill the drawers in her large studio. Mary has had many exhibitions and her art is well known. Her outlets are now from the Crafted Artisan Gallery Oamaru and from the Athol gallery in Southland. Her studio was warm and cosy and Mary entertained us with the story of her life as a nun and her painting vivacity.

Mary Horn in her studio, in front of a painting she did during lockdown as a response to her brothers last illness.



Our next visit on May 12th is to Chris Hewitt's daughter's house in Mornington to see the family art collection. Details from Chris nearer the time..Sue will also be sending out an information sheet about the June meeting to "Pour Paint"...

Tash Hurst

Both Film groups were able to hold April screenings:

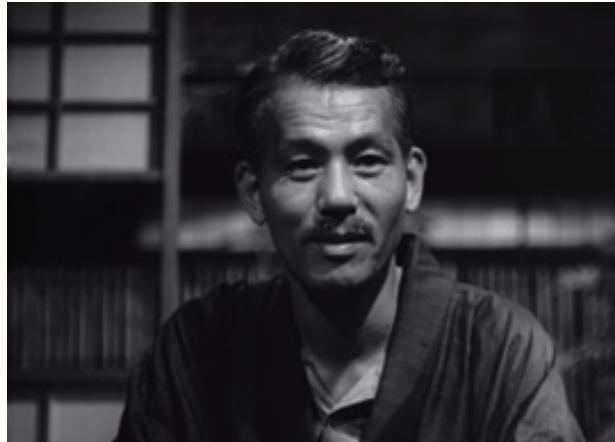
## Film Groups

Our April screenings were Yasujiro Ozu's *Late Spring* and Andrei Tarkovsky's *The Sacrifice*.

In 1949, and leading into the early '50s, the film director Ozu made a group of three films generally seen as masterpieces: *Late Spring*, *Early Summer* and *Tokyo Story*. (*Tokyo Story* has been voted 'Greatest Film ever Made' by other directors — *Sight & Sound*, 2011).

Ozu had been making films since the later 1920s — starting with comedies often featuring children's views of an adult world (*I was born, but...*, *Passing Fancy*, and many others). During the war he had carefully avoided engagement with the military, relocating to Singapore where he spent the time... watching the films of others!)

Then in 1949 he joined with Japan's most admired actor, Setsuko Hara, and with her and his male lead, the great Chishu Ryu, made *Late Spring*:



There are occasional moments of discomfort, I think, where Ozu & Hara are concerned: they are yet to understand each other completely (she will make six films with him, and cease to act when Ozu dies in 1963). And *Late Spring* has only a simple story, involving merely a benevolently intended lie.

But over a number of screenings, people come to think it is a nearly perfect film.

This is high praise — but all agree it is a rather wonderful film. Can the peeling of a piece of fruit carry a profound, ultimate meaning? In *Late Spring* it is so.



The film visits Kyoto, where in a ryokan the daughter declares her happiness in living with her widowed father. In a film discussing Ozu, French film maker Claire Denis spotlights this sequence as one of the simplest, yet greatest, in all cinema!



Tarkovsky's *Sacrifice* is a very different film. Tarkovsky was a visionary Russian director, and is now seen as one of the great masters of the later 20<sup>th</sup> Century.



A man waters a dead tree. Why would he do this? And this isn't enough — a bit crazed, and believing his world is about to be enveloped in war, a greater effort is required, a real sacrifice!

But what shall it be?

Tarkovsky exiled himself from his home country in the early 1980s. Working in Italy and Sweden, he was able to film with master director Ingmar Bergman's great cinema photographer Sven Nykvist, and Bergman's close friend, actor Erland Josephson.

Bergman himself wrote of Tarkovsky: "My discovery of Tarkovsky's first film was like a miracle. Suddenly, I found myself standing at the door of a room the keys of which had until then, never been given to me. It was a room I had always wanted to enter and where he was moving freely and fully at ease".

Tarkovsky isn't an easy film maker; but he is rewarding. In some ways he's a bit above one's likes or dislikes or beliefs; and the Film One group discussed *The Sacrifice* more vigorously than we had for many easier films!



## Notice Board

Hi Facilitators! May group reports scheduled are: Current Affairs Monday, Walkers, Local History & Book. Thanks!

And everyone, don't forget -- this is your spot. If you have a pup to give away, a tip re a coffee shop, a flat to let -- this board is a way to reach the U3A membership!

## Groups Committee

***Discussion Groups Convener***

Ngaire Bates

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***Discussion Groups Committee***

Garda Cortesi

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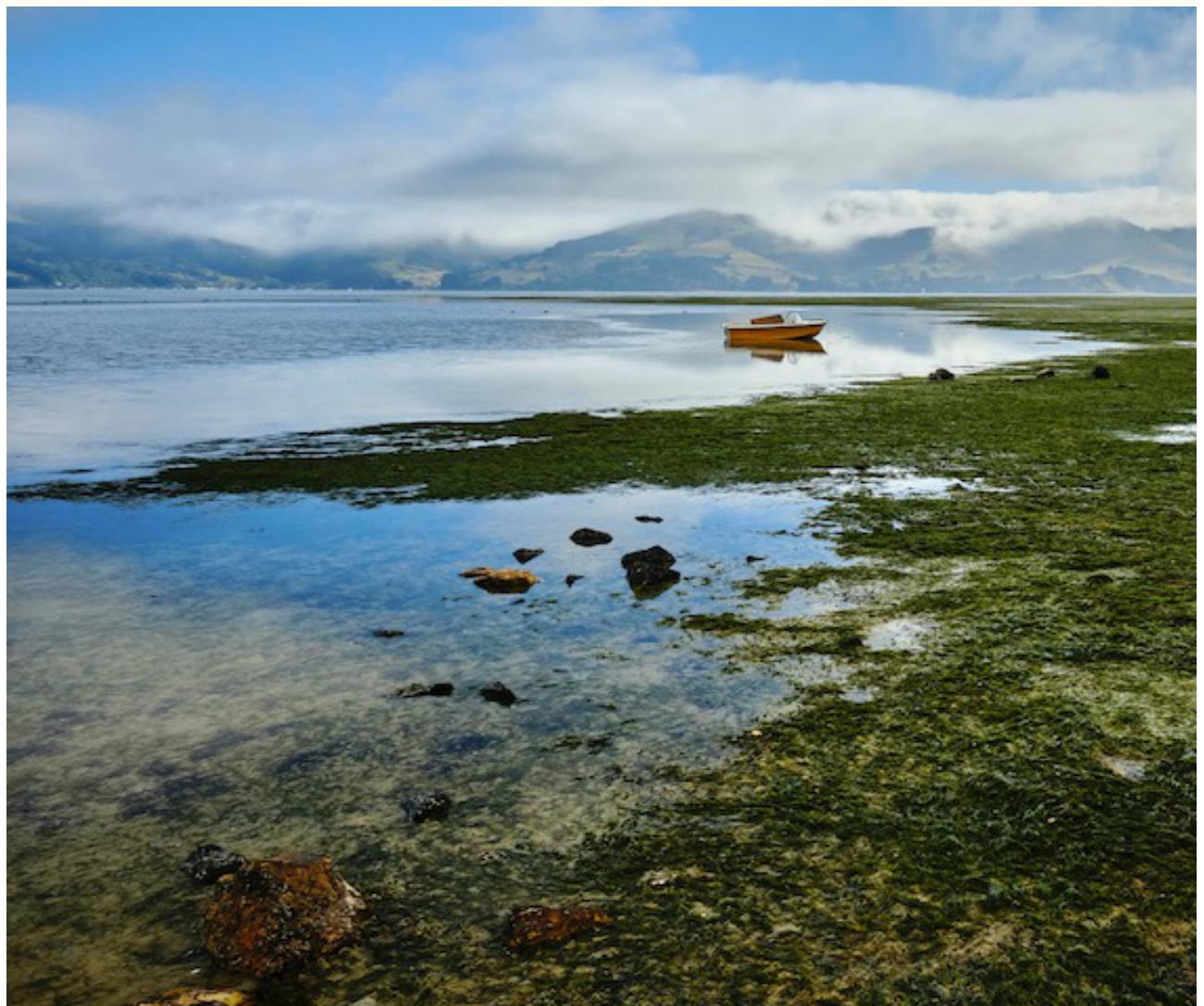
***Discussion Groups Newsletter***

Bill Stanford

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

## Photography Group Gallery

This month the Group visited the Albatross Colony. Graham sets the scene:



Ann captured a convocation of albatrosses:



While Bill concentrated on the family...



looking at family politics:



Meanwhile Ann captures the whole scene:



as the day fades into dusk:



and Ngaire shows us the oncoming night:

