



Interest Groups NEWSLETTER

August 2021

Convenor's report

Hello U3A members!

I hope you have survived our recent Level 4 lockdown with good food, long walks and movies online. The Spring weather has made it almost enjoyable!

I am Trish Irvine and I am the new Convenor of U3A Discussion Groups. I have taken this role on from Ngaire Bates, and I want to thank Ngaire for her work and service to U3A in the establishment and organisation of the Discussion Groups over the last five years.

My background is in education, and I already know many of you from my working life. As a young woman in the seventies I was a Director of the University Crèche, and worked hard with a lot of other pioneering women to establish the three centres still operating today. As a result of this I was made a life member of OUSA which meant a lot to me personally, and also meant I didn't have to pay student membership as I studied as an adult student (single parent with three children).

From there I went on to become an Adviser in the Education Department. I really enjoyed this role, where I got to work with great people such as Paul Wheeler who runs our Music group. Then the education reforms ("Tomorrow's Schools") came along and I moved to the Ministry of Education working in

Art Collections

Facilitator: Moya Smith
Third Wednesday, 2 pm

E: moya.smith@xtra.co.nz

Book Group
Facilitator: Moya Smith
First Friday, 1.30

E: moya.smith@xtra.co.nz

Dining Group

Facilitator: Karen Wards
Third Friday, 7 pm

E: karendwards@gmail.com

Expanding

Musical Horizons (full)

Facilitator: Paul Wheeler
Second Monday, 10 am

E: wheeler@outlook.co.nz

Film Group 1 (full)

Facilitator: Bill Stanford
Third Wednesday, 1.30

E: w.stanford@protonmail.com

Film Group 2 (full)

Facilitator: Bill Stanford
Second Wednesday, 1.30

E: w.stanford@protonmail.com

Gallery Group (full)

Facilitator: Tash Hurst
Second Wednesday, 10.30

E: tash.hurst@xtra.co.nz

both schools and ECE Centres, and then to Dunedin Teachers College as Co-coordinator of professional development programmes for ECE teachers. More recently I have lectured in ECE for Te Tari Puna and before I retired was a business manager for Barnardos NZ, which gave me a greater appreciation of the social services in this country.

I joined U3A when I retired and I have enjoyed all it has to offer since then, particularly the lecture series which has given me the opportunity to explore subjects I previously never had time for. I am a film buff – particularly French films, I have a large garden, and a very special wee Westie dog called Lochie. I am the Convenor of the Luncheon group which has now a regular attendance of 8-10 members each outing so is “nearly full”. We have eaten our way all around Dunedin and these are very lively gatherings.

As I write this we are still in Level 4 lockdown and won't be able to meet again until Level Two, which if the same rules apply as last time will be a group no larger than 100. Please follow the rules and wear your masks and wash your hands!

I look forward to working with you all in making the Discussion Groups — which we are planning to rename “Interest Groups” — a dynamic part of U3A. Please feel free to contact me if you have any suggestions about how we can develop this key part of the organisation.

Ngā mihi nui

Trish

Phone: 03 482 1651

Email: trishjockloch@gmail.com

Luncheon Group

Facilitator: Patricia Irvine
Second Friday, 12,30

E: trishjockloch@gmail.com

Mahjong Group

Facilitator: Hilary Allison
2nd & 4th Thursdays, 10 am
E: hilary.allison@xtra.co.nz

Monday Current Affairs (full)

Facilitator: Joy Hayward
Third Monday, 1.30

E: joyhayward@hotmail.co.nz

Podcast Group

Facilitator: Ann Broadfoot
Third Thursday, 1.30
annbroadfoot2012@gmail.com

Photography Group

Facilitator: Ann Wood
First Thursday, 1.30
E: ann.wood14blaw@gmail.com

Poetry Group

Facilitator: Carole Bezett
Fourth Wednesday
E: [<carolebezett@gmail.com>](mailto:carolebezett@gmail.com)

Singing Group

Facilitator: Claire Stevens
Weekly, Monday, 1 pm
E: cstevensnz@gmail.com

Tuesday Current Issues Group

(full)

Facilitator: Gretchen Kivell
Third Tuesday, 10 am
E: gretchen.kivell@xtra.co.nz

Walking Group

Facilitator: John Hogue
Every Thursday, 10.30
E: hoguetimaru@xtra.co.nz



Announcement



Level 2 soon we hope -- if we're lucky!

Just to pick up from Trish's note above on the Covid situation: we're all going to Level 3 Wednesday 1st September, but the official Health warning is: "Gatherings of up to 10 people can go ahead, but only ceremonies, funerals etc"

This excludes all our groups. But with good fortune, it's possible that Level 2 may commence 8th September, when "attending a social gathering" is possible.

But facilitators should note that at Level 2 they must "record attendance to make sure that contact tracing can happen"!



Facilitators' Reports

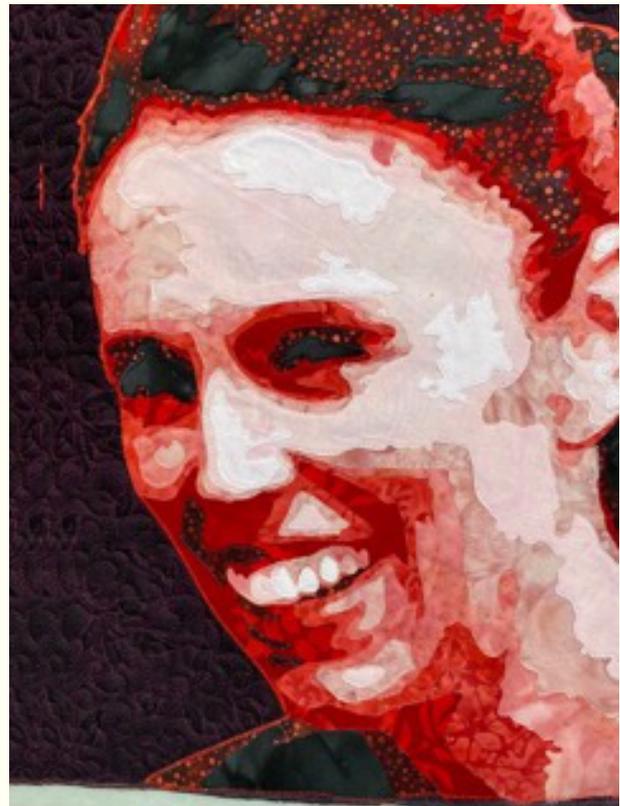


Gallery Group

The Gallery Group has been meeting nearly every month for several years and a while ago someone said "I wonder if we are going to run out of places to go?".....

Well it hasn't happened yet. This morning we discovered another talented artist, tucked away in a secret corner of Dunedin whose work is so outstanding that many of her works are at present touring in exhibitions of fabric portraiture in Hawaii and the States.

This amazing self-taught artist is Mary-Jane Sneyd whose work and attention to technique and detail astounded us all. The portraits are instantly recognisable and each one is becoming increasingly sophisticated.



Jacinda Ardern



This is Kamala Harris, Vice President of the U.S.

Mary-Jane explained the process she goes through to get an absolute likeness to the character. She uses the computer and her camera to distinguish the different tones of colour by using the grey scale and then selects fabrics that will correspond to these tonal differences.

The stash of fabrics is extensive. Luckily for Mary-Jane the studio above the garage has lots of room for storage as well as her 2 sewing machines and other necessary equipment.

Mary-Jane's family are prominent subjects in her work including sisters, grandchildren and husband:



Especially perhaps her grandchildren:



Mary-Jane is a valued member of The Otago Art Society and this is the entry that won one of the main awards in the recent exhibition "Cats":



Mary-Jane was most gracious and welcoming. Everyone was amazed and appreciative of visiting such a unique and inspiring artist and studio in such a wonderful setting with a historic house and extensive garden.

Thank you so much Mary-Jane!

Our next meeting in September is a visit to the home of Brenda Nyoff in Wingatui to see how her amazing "critters" are made.

Our October visit is to Cambrians to visit the studio of Graham Sydney.

Tash Hurst

We have had dinner at The Distinction Hotel:

Dining Group

The Dining group meets on the 3rd Friday of each month at 7pm. We have been to a variety of interesting dinners this year but had to postpone our visit to Fables this month because of lockdown.



We ate at Passha, a little Japanese Restaurant in North Rd, and a Chinese Restaurant in Mornington:



and a Mexican Restaurant in George St.

Singing Group

This is a great group of friendly people who really enjoy each other's company and our singing.

We've established a very encouraging group atmosphere; and are so enthusiastic about keeping going that every one of us from the first two months returned in August for more!

Like many choirs, women outnumber the men and we'd especially welcome more men to support those who are already members.

In May, we launched into our first series of 8 weekly sessions with a focus on enjoyment and singing together in an informal and friendly environment.

Each month we decide as a group where we will go the next month and seem to vary price wise and ethnicity wise!

Attendance also varies but we enjoy the company as well as the food. It was disappointing we didn't get to Fables but we will try again for next month. We welcome newcomers to join us.

Karen Wards
karendwards@gmail.com

While several of the sixteen men and women are members of other choirs, others had not sung for a long time or had not sung in a choir before. However our enthusiasm and a willingness to try new things meant that by the end of June, we were singing in two and three parts - and were keen to continue.

While we're in recess due to Level 4 we're looking forward to meeting and singing together again. New members are welcome and we'd love to have more singers of any level of experience. You don't have to be able to read music and there's no audition.

For more information contact Claire (0274 934 246) or cstevens@gmail.com

Notice Board

Hi Facilitators! September group reports: Monday Current Affairs, Walkers, Book, Film group 2. But if you want to send an unscheduled report, please do! Thanks!

Photography Group Gallery

This month the Group visited Olveston House! We have some rather outstanding photographs!

Graham Corbett shows us the quiet expressiveness of the exterior:



Then Graham goes on to demonstrate how impressive the interior is:



And how its denizens ate:



Charmian Smith shows us some of the collections, to start with some chinoiserie:



And Ann Trewern some memories of old Japan:



And Ann has seen the beauty of the lights:



Which Ann Wood echoes:



Wyn Barbezat gives us a glimpse of the Olveston statuary:



While Linda Forbes reminds us that there was something to be said for candlelit dining:

