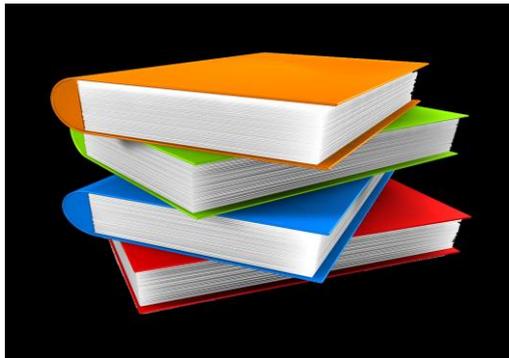


U3A Dunedin Charitable Trust

Small Groups Newsletter February 2017

Well how did the first month of the groups go? I do hope that you were satisfied with what you learned and are ready now to settle down for the year of learning and social interaction with the rest of your groups. As I mentioned in January's newsletter there are two groups who need new members if they are to continue to function as a group. The first is:-

- **Book Group.** The members of this group meet in each others homes and have some lively discussions around the books they have been reading since the last meeting. We swap books amongst ourselves and it is all very friendly and relaxed. Any new members may wish to do things slightly differently e.g. all members read the same book and then the discussion is around that one book. Existing members are flexible about this so please make sure you put your ideas forward. Please phone Ngaire Bates on 454 2170 if you would like to join us.



The second group is the;-

- **Local History group.** As a new member of the city I have a vested interest in making sure that this group stays. I would love to learn more about my new home town and its environs. So if anyone out there in U3A Dunedin land has an interest in this topic could they please let me know on 454 2170. The other members of the group are from overseas so they are really in the same boat as me. so come on Dunedinites. We are all willing and able to contribute to the meetings with research etc but we just need ideas of where and what to see.



So if you are interested in either of these two groups please contact Ngaire on 454 2170 or mikni@ihug.co.nz

Paul is still taking names so that he can get started with his exciting new group about music. Please contact him directly if you would like to join this group.

Expanding Musical Horizons

Facilitator: Paul Wheeler. Paul's career included a significant period specialising in music education, and he is still involved in musical activities in the community.

This group is for people who enjoy listening to music and are interested in broadening their musical horizons. It's for people who have had no formal musical training, but people who have knowledge or passion for certain styles of music are also most welcome, as there will be opportunities to share their knowledge.

Each day, there will be a different theme or topic. The choice of music and the presentation won't be heavily "academic" or totally light and frothy, but somewhere in between. The emphasis is likely to be on light classical, but the range will include other styles with wide appeal (jazz, world, rock, musical theatre, bluegrass, pop and so on).

There will be a maximum of eight group members. Sessions will be in the mornings on the fourth Monday of each month and will last 1½ - 2 hours. Initially, they will be held at Paul Wheeler's home but this may be flexible.

Contact Paul Wheeler by phone 476 0462, or by email at wheeler@ihug.co.nz.



Textiles including the Otago Banner and weaving.

We have asked people to pick up an idea, or add to the list, and organise the group for our meeting - the 2nd Wednesday of the month.

Art History Group

The U3A Art History group met at 43 Wharfdale Street, Macandrew Bay on the 13th February. The first discussion of the new year revolved around questions of what we do when we talk about art. The traditional view has been for the 'experts' to select and canon of art (leaving out all the art they believed was 'not good enough for the canon') and discuss the works of the 'great masters'. Nowadays, we have a more open and democratic view of what art is. While oil was considered the 'best' medium, artists have engaged in photographic methods and many other technologies in producing 'art works'. The term 'artist' is no longer confined to the 'great masters' but embraces a wide diversity of genders, ages, cultures and places. The next meeting will be at the above address on Monday March 13th at 11.00am.

Book Group.

There was no meeting of this group this month. If you would like to join with this group please phone Ngaire Bates on 454 2170 or email mikni@ihug.co.nz.

The next meeting will be on March 16th at Sallyann's home 38 Minto Street, Anderson's Bay, Phone:- 021 173 2119 unless you hear otherwise.

Creative Writing Group.

We had a wonderful first meeting of the year. We welcomed two new members to the group, one of whom has just had her 90th birthday, and decided on our format for this coming year. The members all pooled their ideas of what they would like to see us do this year and we have a lot of great ideas to see us through the year. We decided as a group to do our homework and then circulate it to the rest of the members in the group before the next meeting. That would enable everyone to read the work and practice their critiquing. Then when we meet we all read our own work and this will be followed by the comments from members about their work. As we all have to learn to critique this will be a learning curve but that is why we are all here isn't it. The next meeting will be at Ngaire Bates home 67A Tahuna Road on the 2nd March at 1.30pm.

Local History Group

This group desperately requires some new members and a new facilitator. If you are interested in joining the group please contact Ngaire Bates on phone 454 2170 or mikni@ihug.co.nz

Monday Current Affairs Group.

Today John Burton circulated information and led the discussion on The Future of Dunedin. There was a stimulating discussion which erred in the direction of Dunedin having a very positive future and, in fact, topping the ratings for having the greatest satisfaction by its residents of any city in N.Z.

The next meeting will be on 20th March at 1.30pm at Portobello Road and Coralie Daniel will present, and we will discuss, Libya.

In April, and June, the group will meet at Ngaire's house. 67aTahuna Road.

Museum Group

The Museum Group met for its inaugural meeting on 20 February. There was a 30 % attendance although a number of people had put in apologies. We viewed the NZ fur seal display and had an interesting discussion about that animal and the NZ Sea lion, as well as a number of more general aspects of museum functions.

Our next meeting will be Monday 27 March at 2:00pm, assembling at the Museum reception area. We plan to explore the Museum's ancient ceramics collection, and hope to have a knowledgeable guide to assist us.

Poetry group

We had our first monthly meeting of the year on February 1st and the hosts chose the topic of 'Yesterday's World'. Group members picked a wide variety of poems on this subject from the nostalgic to the tragic. As usual the choices led to considerable discussion of style and meaning.

Our next meeting on March 1st will look at 'Distressing or disturbing poems'.

Our group is full, but I am sure there would be enthusiasm from U3A members for the formation of another group.

Please phone Ngaire Bates on 454 2170 if you are interested in joining another Poetry Group

Tuesday Current Affairs Group

In February we discussed what it means to be a citizen; whether North Korea's actions are indeed maniacal; Donald Trump's progress as President; technology and its impact on jobs; and UBI. Plenty else of interest cropped up during our discussions, too.