

Discussion Groups Newsletter - March 2018

I sincerely hope that everyone connected to U3A Dunedin survived the latest storm that hit us last week. By all accounts the city got off reasonably well compared to other parts of the country.

February has seen all the Discussion Groups start up for the year. I would like to see our list of groups keep on growing this year so any ideas for new groups would be appreciated.

I have had replies from 5 members who wish to join a Philosophy group. However as yet I haven't been able to find a facilitator. If anyone knows of a person who would be able to run this group please let me know.

The TED talk group is another one that I would love to see up and running as soon as possible. So again please let me know if you are able to facilitate this group or if you would like to join it.

The Museum group is still in recession as is the Creative Writing.

Art History Group

The Art History group (6 members with two more from last year likely to re-join) met in Macandrew Bay for our second year of Art History. The genre of portrait painting was the main theme. We considered the birth of humanist portrait painting with the Renaissance works of Raphael and Leonardo. A couple of Vermeer's memorable women portraits were viewed, and then we moved to the modern world of portraiture with Francis Bacon's caged and curtained versions of Velázquez's Pope Innocent X portraits. We finished with the fascinating portraits of Australian Margaret Olley and Marianne von Werefkin. We will examine the work of German Expressionists of the early 20th century, the Die Brücke and Der Blaue Reiter groups among others.

At our next meeting, I would like to look at the work of the Russian artist, Marianne von Werefkin, at one time a member of Der Blaue Reiter group and friend of Kandinsky.

Cheers, Moya

Book Group

This month the book club met at Ngairé's home. A new member, Claire Hamel, was welcomed into the group. The topic for the meeting was a book published within the last 10 years. Those that were presented were: The Midnight Line by Lee Child, the latest in the Jack Reacher series; The Grampian Quartet, by Nan Shepherd - short stories relating to Scotland's past; Notes from the Margins: The West Coast's Peter Hooper by Pat White, and Fire and Fury: inside the Trump White House by Michael Wolff. An eclectic mix, encompassing fiction and non – fiction, ranging from gripping to 'we've read that before' content.

Next month the club will meet at Kris Bennet's home: 165 Surrey Street at 1.30 p.m., on the 8th March. The topic is 'Egypt'. Some latitude is given as to whether the book is by an Egyptian or about Egypt. The afternoon will be divided into a discussion of the chosen book, followed by afternoon tea, and an introduction to another book that each member has read that month. Jean Roulston (Facilitator)

Creative Writing Group

This group is in recession but we do have a possible venue and a possible facilitator so if you would like to take part in this group please phone Ngairé on 454 2170 to register your interest.

Current Affairs Group-Monday

The Current Affairs group have held discussions with Gretchen Kivell, the coordinator of the other current affairs group following concerns about our numbers. There are 7 in our group which is a great number if we are all present, but often we have a number of people away at the same time. We would welcome new members if anyone is interested. We meet on the 3rd Monday of the month at 1.30.

Last week we discussed plastics. Whilst we are aware of the useful role of plastics we are also very concerned about the alarming pollution caused to our waterways and the very limited attempts to recycle. With this in mind, Jill Geary wrote to the city council with a view to asking them to consider a scheme where plastic is mixed with concrete. This provided benefits to the way concrete is used as well as an excellent durable way of recycling. This topic has provided a segue way into our next which will be trends in shopping. We will consider the impact of internet buying, online groceries, the growth of Amazon and how changing shopping patterns might impact on our way of life.

Joy Hayward

Current Affairs Group-Tuesday

The Tuesday Current Issues group February meeting started with the use and misuse of the Official Information Act, and toured a range of topics from there. After a coffee break, another starting point was the book Collusion by Luke Harding. (One of our members bought and read it prior to Christmas, and it's now working its way around the group. We've become something of a book recommending/reviewing/lending group.) One of our members, an NZer who has lived all her working life in the US, is particularly helpful when talking about events in the US. This month we learned that States have a lot of autonomy, so what happens federally is often not as disastrous as it seems from this distance.

Expanding Musical Horizons Group

Our February session was "Pops Meet the Classics, Part 2". Once again we looked at the fields of pop, rock and jazz music which derived in varying degrees from classical music. In last year's session we listened to popular music of the first half of the 20th Century and this time we listened to music of the 60s and 70s which we remember well but didn't always know which classical music it was based on. Best wishes, Paul

Gallery Group

8 members of the U3A art/gallery group visited the Nevill Studios Picture Framers for our February outing. Greig O'Kane an enthusiastic and knowledgeable owner took the members through the entire framing process demonstrating with an actual framing of a print. From colour of matt to suit the colours in the print to the size of the frame. Demonstrating the four types of glass from ordinary to museum quality, Moving through the workshop it was interesting to see the fast computerised matt cutter at work and then following the assembly stages through to the finished framed print. The number of questions asked was a

sure sign that we all enjoyed this most enjoyable and informative visit. We finished up with coffee at the recently opened Heritage Café a few minutes walk from the Studio.

Local History Group

The Group's second February visit of the year is to St Barnabas Anglican Church at Warrington, built in 1872 and now blessed with stained glass windows of extraordinary beauty. Bishop Samuel Nevill (1837–1921), whose long episcopate began in 1871 lasting until 1919, is buried in its churchyard next to Thomas Parker FRS (1859–97), passionate advocate of evolution.

A full programme of monthly visits has been arranged for the rest of the year: Otago Boys High School (March), University of Otago (April), Public Library Heritage Collections (May), First Church (June), Law Courts (July) TBC, DCC Archives (August), Toitu (September), Gas Works (October) TBC, and Botanic Gardens (November). December could be a celebration, perhaps. A rather formidable reading list has been circulated to members as an aid to appreciation, and for each meeting an associated notable historical figure has been proposed for prior research, which should lead to some interesting discussion.

At present we are just six, but there is still room for two or three more members who may care to join us. Contact Stuart Strachan: sjstrachanz@gmail.com or Ph. 482 2339.

Museum Group

This group is in recession.

Poetry Group

The first poetry group meeting for 2018 was held on 7 February with each member required to present two poems on the topic 'Education'. Despite the challenge members came up with an interesting range of authors. Their work generated unexpected titles to fit the theme. Readers might like to search for some of the poets and poems. For example: A R D Fairburn NZ (I'm Older than you. Please Listen), Imtiaz Dharker, Pakistan-born British woman poet (How to cut a Pomegranate), Glenn Colquhoun NZ (A Medical Education), Rhian Gallagher, current Burns Fellow, (Learning to Read), Adrian Mitchell, UK, (Back to the Playground Blues), Vincent O'Sullivan, now Dunedin, (Not one to let on), Philip Levine, American (He made a line on the blackboard), Simon Armitage, British (My father thought it bloody queer,) Thomas Warton, 18th C. English (I rise about nine . . .)

Gary Blackman

TED Talk Group

This group is in recession but is looking for more interested members to join in our discussions.

Please phone Ngaire if you are interested.

Group Schedule March 2018

Please phone the hostess if you are unable to attend.

Please contact the facilitator if you wish to join a group

<p><u>Art History</u></p> <p>Facilitator – Moya Smith Phone- 4761415 or 0274761415 Email – moya.smith@xtra.co.nz Next Meeting – Wednesday 14th March at 2pm <i>(second Wednesday)</i></p>	<p>Venue: Home of Moya Smith 43 Wharfdale Street</p> <p>Topic – Russian artist, Marianne von Werefkin, at one time a member of Der Blaue Reiter group and friend of Kandinsky.</p> <p>New members welcome.</p>
<p><u>Current Affairs - Monday Group</u></p> <p>Facilitator:- Joy Hayward Phone:-454 4996 or 021 150 8387 Email:- joyhayward@hotmail.co.nz Next meeting- Monday 19th March 2018 at 1.30pm <i>(third Monday)</i></p>	<p>Venue: - Home of Joy Hayward. 195 Portobello Road. Topic – Trends in shopping</p> <p>Please note:- We meet in the Vauxhall carpark at 1.25pm and share a ride up the hill.</p>
<p><u>Current Affairs - Tuesday Group</u></p> <p>Facilitator;- Gretchen Kivell Email:-gretchen.kivell@xtra.co.nz Phone;- 473 0031 Next Meeting:- Tuesday 20th March at 10am <i>(third Tuesday)</i></p>	<p>Venue;- Home of Gretchen Kivell 1 Windsor St Opoho Topic – To be advised. New members welcome</p>
<p><u>Expanding Musical Horizons</u></p> <p>Facilitator:- Paul Wheeler Phone:- 476 0462 Email:- wheeler@outlook.co.nz Next meeting:- Monday 12th March at 10am <i>(Second Monday)</i></p>	<p>Venue:- Home of Paul Wheeler 5 Roger Street MacAndrew Bay</p> <p>Topic;-</p> <p>New members welcome</p>
<p><u>Gallery</u></p> <p>Facilitator:- Tash Hurst Phone:- 467 9747 Email:- tash.hurst@xtra.co.nz Next meeting:- Wednesday 14th March at 10.00am <i>(Second Wednesday)</i></p>	<p>Venue-</p> <p>Topic:</p> <p>New members welcome</p>
<p><u>Book Group</u></p>	

<p>Facilitator:- Jean Roulston Email:-jeanr08@xtra.co.nz Phone:- 455 0941. Next meeting:- Thursday 8th March at 1.30pm (Second Thursday)</p>	<p>Venue-Kris Bennetts home 165 Surrey Street Phone</p> <p>Topic:- A book about Egypt or written by an Egyptian. New members welcome</p>
<p><u>Poetry</u> Facilitator:-_ Judith Cowley Meetings and contact details change from month to month.</p>	<p>Venue:- Changes from month to month</p> <p>Group Full</p>
<p><u>Local History Group</u> Facilitator;- Stuart Strachan Email:- sjstrachanz@gmail.com Phone:- 482 2339 Next meeting:- Wednesday 28th March at 10am</p>	<p>Venue;- At Otago Boys High School Research Topic: G M Thomson New members welcome</p>