



Discussion Groups NEWSLETTER

March 2021

Convener's report

Yet another month has whizzed by. I do hope you are all enjoying the continuing good, warm weather. Long may it last.

We still have had no new member putting their hand up to join in with the podcast group. So, we will put this group on one side for now. If there is interest shown at a later date, we will look again at it.

The **Singing** group, announced in January but not yet off the ground, is going through a resurgence — we have a new facilitator who has provided me with the following, so I really hope you will all look at it and then decide whether it is for you or not:

"If you can talk, you can sing!"

Haven't sung for years? Not sure if you can? Willing to give it a go for a short term? Why not get together with an experienced song leader to have fun singing in a weekly daytime session over 4 – 5 weeks. Singers/potential singers of any level of ability and experience are welcome. No auditions or music reading ability needed."

For details or to register your interest in singing, please contact Ngaire's email: ngairemichael@gmail.com in the first instance. (There would be a small charge for hall hire.)

I was overwhelmed with the response to the **Croquet** offer that was advertised last month. I had 47 replies!! There are three sessions going, accommodating 24 new players!! Five of these have ended up joining the club

Art Collections

Facilitator: Moya Smith
Third Wednesday, 2 pm
E: moya.smith@xtra.co.nz

Book Group

Facilitator: Garda Cortesi
First Friday, 1.30
E: gardacortesi@gmail.com

Dining Group

Facilitator: Karen Wards
Third Friday, 7 pm
E: karendwards@gmail.com

Expanding

Musical Horizon (**full**)

Facilitator: Paul Wheeler
Second Monday, 10 am
E: wheeler@outlook.co.nz

Film Group 1

Facilitator: Bill Stanford
Third Wednesday, 1.30
E: billstanford9@gmail.com

Film Group 2 (**full**)

Facilitator: Bill Stanford
Second Wednesday, 1.30
E: billstanford9@gmail.com

Gallery Group (**full**)

Facilitator: Tash Hurst
Second Wednesday, 10.30
E: tash.hurst@xtra.co.nz

German Language

Facilitator: Rob Lawson
Third Monday, 2 pm
E: roblawson75@gmail.com

already as a result of the lessons. My thanks to Claire and her helpers. It was a marvelously generous offer which has had a tremendous result. If there are more potential members out there who have an urge to try this new game please contact Ngaire.

The Sign language group is now on hold as we have had no new applicants so the group is not viable. This is a great pity as Sign is the third recognized language in this country.

Thank you to Bridget Brown for her kind offer of teaching this new language. Perhaps if there is enough interest at a later date we can look at this group again then.

The photography group is keenly looking forward to a trip to the Albatross colony to take advantage of the kind offer of the colony to give members of U3A Dunedin a 2 to 1 discount for entry into their colony in April. If this sounds like you please contact Ngaire if you would like to join us as a member of this group. Next month we are planning a trip to Cargills Castle to take photos there. One of our members has arranged access to this castle even though it is fenced off. Looking forward to that trip also.

Due to health issues amongst our facilitators and committee we have had to cancel some of the groups this month also. Hopefully April will see a change in everyone's fortunes and see this period finally over and we can put it to rest and get on with the rest of the year.

Just another friendly reminder to all facilitators to please get your groups reports to Bill (billstanford9@gmail.com). Remember, Facilitators, this is an excellent way to advertise your group also.

I really sincerely hope that you all have a wonderful Easter and are like me looking forward to a warm and cosy winter, meeting up with all our friends in our different groups.

Ngaire Bates

454 2170
ngairemichael@gmail.com

Local History

Facilitator: Stuart Strachan
Fourth Wednesday, 10.30
E: sistrachanz@gmail.com

Luncheon Group

Facilitator: Patricia Irvine
Second Friday, 12.30
E: trishjockloch@gmail.com

Mahjong Group

Facilitator: Hilary Allison
Second Thursday, 10 am
E: hilary.allison@xtra.co.nz

Monday Current Affairs (full)

Facilitator: Joy Hayward
Third Monday, 1.30
E: joyhayward@hotmail.co.nz

Opera Group

Facilitator: Garda Cortesi
Fourth Wednesday, 1.30
E: gardacortesi@gmail.com

Photography Group

Facilitator: Ngaire Bates
First Wednesday, 1.30
E: ngairemichael@gmail.com

Thursday Current Affairs

Facilitator: Clare Hamel
Fourth Thursday, 1.30
hameldownunder@yahoo.com.au

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



Mah Jong Group

The fortnightly sessions continue with a small group, usually of two tables.

U3A members with curiosity about the game of Mah Jong, or with some experience of many years ago, continue to be most welcome!

The next sessions are Thursday 8 and 22 April at the Beth Henderson Lounge, Otago Golf Club with a fee of \$3.

Enquiries to Hilary Allison
hilary.allison@xtra.co.nz or
021 393 323



Facilitators' Reports



Expanding Musical Horizons

Our first meeting for the year featured Part 5 of the series “Pops Meet the Classics”.

We start each year with a new session in this series. It's partly a trip down memory lane – who can remember these hit parade songs, and who was the singer?

Every piece we listened to had been utilized, borrowed, appropriated, pinched, nicked or flogged from a classical piece by one of the masters. Sometimes a substantial extract was used only for bridging parts but mostly the song consisted of complete melodies and often the original harmonies. We found we could remember nearly every bit of pop music (although names of the singers were sometimes a little more elusive).



And of course we recognized the melodies that had been lifted from the masters, but when taken out of context, it became much more difficult to name the original piece and the composer. Once we knew the answer, the usual response was “Oh of course it was – I should have remembered that!” We then listened to each original piece, and talked about its context or other details.

Who knew that Billy Joel used Beethoven to express his feelings after he unsuccessfully dated Elle Macpherson? Or that an improvisation by Emerson Lake and Palmer, accidentally recorded in a break between sessions, became a best seller after Aaron Copland (the original composer) said he loved it?

Our picture above features artists and composers from Session 5, including Borodin, Vivaldi, Donna Summer, Beethoven, Elvis Presley, Liszt, Ponchielli, Emerson Lake and Palmer, Billy Joel, Nancy Sinatra, Verdi, Tony Martin and Hayley Westenra among a number of others who were also on the programme.



Paul Wheeler

Gallery Group

Sorry some people couldn't make our latest excursion but it was an excellent day out. Roxburgh was abuzz, not only with our group but with a librarians group, various cycling groups and 2 more expected at the gallery after we left.

Our 1st visit was to the Endemic Gallery on the main street. Here Rebecca Gilmore, the painter member of the partnership, entertained us with the story of how she came to specialize in wonderful bird paintings.

Rebecca also explained about the framing and printing techniques that they experiment with and which ones are most successful. Rebecca has a list of commissions that will keep her busy for years ahead as each painting takes months to finish, but then sells for many thousands of dollars.



Many of her supporters are from overseas and will buy as many paintings as she can produce. There is a proviso that she is entitled to make a set number of prints from each painting and this is what she mainly sells from the gallery. It is virtually impossible to tell a print from the original with so many technical advances in printing.

The other side of the gallery features photographs taken by her partner Gregory Slui, aiming to capture mood and lighting to highlight images from the local landscapes:



We also met the 3 Airedale dogs that are so much a part of the gallery and also a money spinner, with the photographs of the dogs providing material for a yearly Airedale calendar.



Rebecca is enthusiastic, passionate, computer savvy and lots of fun with an amazing patience for detail in her art combined with a friendly personality. We loved the visit and I am sure many of us will call in again if we are passing through Roxburgh.

Lunch across the road in a very busy cafe and then on to our next visit.

One of the many advantages of being in a group is that we are able to search out and find artists to visit who you would never know were

there, and this is the case with our next artist Sheena Lassen:



We went through an inauspicious gate, past the house and to a studio at the end of the property. Sheena specializes in landscapes using oil as her chosen medium, but also still life paintings and portraits.

Sheena has been painting most of her life and has a photo album full of her paintings just about all of which have sold, so there weren't a lot of paintings left for us to see.

Sheena talked about her techniques and the places where she sells her art. The last exhibition was at the Eade Gallery in Clyde where once again most of her paintings sold. The hot weather has meant she hasn't been as productive over this summer, but she is working on some beach scenes from Kaka Point.

When not painting Sheena is a picture framer and has equipment in her studio to facilitate this. We will keep an eye out for future paintings from this very talented artist.

Many thanks to the excellent planning Laurie and Rosemary put into organising this trip to Roxburgh!

Our next visit is being organised by Sue, to The Forrester Gallery in Oamaru and Teschmakers to visit artist Mary Horn. We are having our out of town visits in this summer/autumn time when we hope the conditions are favourable for travelling. After the Oamaru visit we are mainly in town.

Tash Hurst

Notice Board

Hi Facilitators! April group reports scheduled are: Opera, Diners, and Gallery. 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

ngairemichael@gmail.com

Discussion Groups Committee

Garda Cortesi

gardacortesi@gmail.com

Discussion Groups Newsletter

Bill Stanford

billstanford9@gmail.com

Photography Group Gallery

This month the Group went to St Clair at sunset hopefully to catch the 'golden hour' – much appreciated by photographers! Unfortunately it was cloudy – though sunset touched in some instances...

[Ann Wood: a classic shot of St Clair & sky...](#)



Hoping for gold, Bill got rocks instead:



Ngaire though found a secret gate:



Ngaire photographed those clouds:



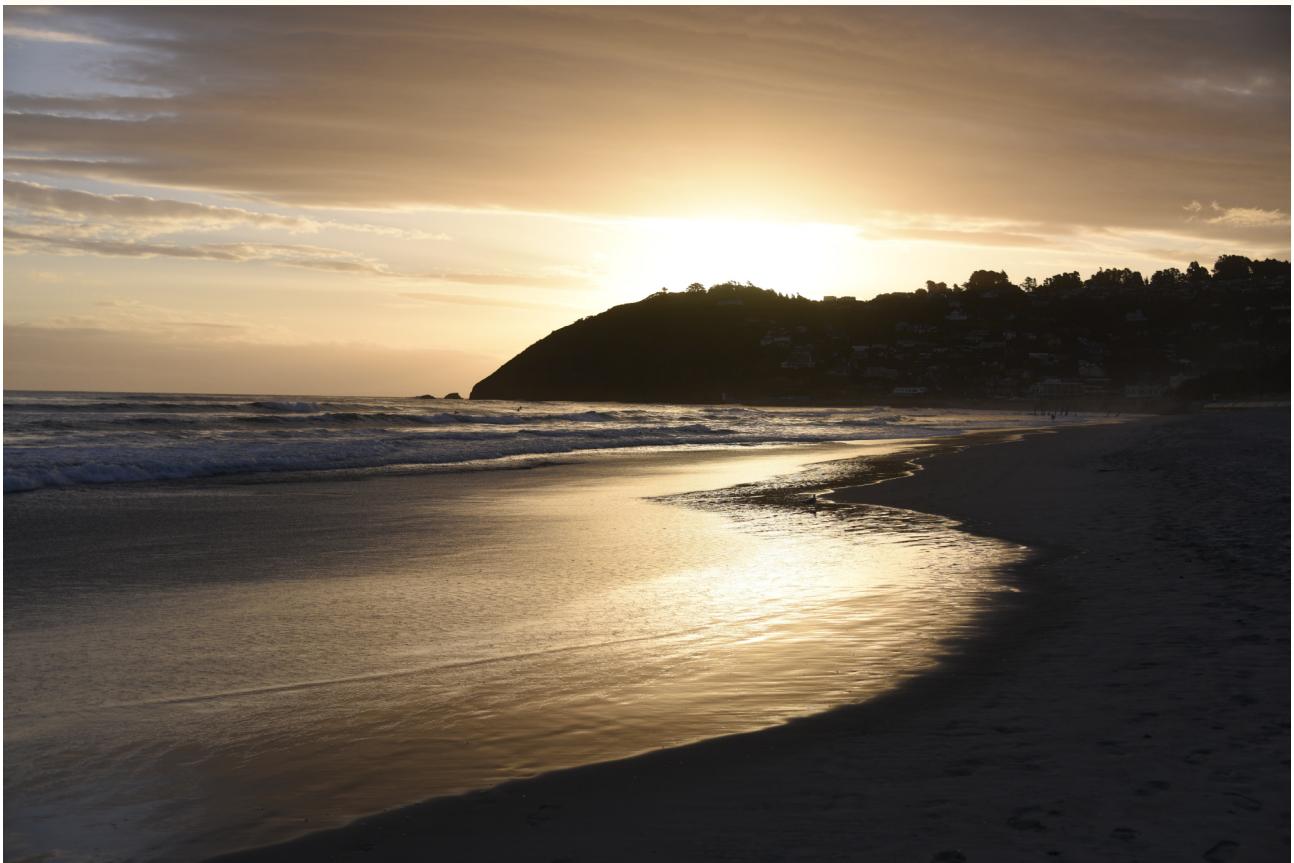
and the day fading above the Peninsular:



Ann caught the fading day from a different viewpoint:



Bill was still hoping to catch a golden hour shot at St Clair, so a day later:



For April: the Photography Group will go to the Albatross Colony to take advantage of their kind offer of a 2 to 1 discount to U3A for entry into their colony next month.



If you'd like to join us, do contact Ngaire at ngairemichael@gmail.com !!
