



# Discussion Groups NEWSLETTER

## Convener's report

We hope you have enjoyed reading the first edition of our new look newsletter that we put out last month.

So far, we haven't had any requests for items to go onto the Notice Board. As from this month though we will be sending a gentle notice to facilitators reminding them which groups are due for reports the following month.

Don't forget the Notice Board can also be used to find a ride to any of the Series Lectures or Discussion Groups if you are stuck for transport. (Or for anything else personal...)

Although it is late in this very mixed up disrupted year, we are also offering another new group. It is a Poetry group which is facilitated by Carole Bezett. This group has already been running but really needs more participants. So, as Carole is a member of U3A Dunedin she wishes to expand the membership of her existing group; and invites U3A members to join if they are interested.

The group meets monthly at each other's homes in the morning with a break for a cup of tea. This is an opportunity for people to get familiar with, and enjoy poetry; and for others to share a pleasure they already enjoy.

Carole feels that the group could cope with eight members altogether. So there is an opportunity to join for another four people. Enquiries to Ngaire in the first instance and she will forward them on to Carole for you.

### 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: Ann James  
Third Friday, 7 pm  
E: [anniejgm@gmail.com](mailto:anniejgm@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 (full)

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)

The Photography group also was all geared up to initiate its second meeting this month; but at the very last minute the weather beat us to it. However, this will get underway in November. There is still room for more members in this group if you are interested.

The Podcast group will see its start this month also which exciting. We have had an initial meet up to set the format for the meetings; and Garda, the facilitator, will be contacting those interested with the day and time shortly.

The Opera group has met for the second time this month; and has openings for more members. So if you are keen don't be shy.

Have a lovely warm November and get out in the garden and enjoy the sunshine when it is available.

*Ngaire Bates*



## Announcements



### ***Mah Jong***

U3A Dunedin members are very welcome to join the Mah Jong Group which meets fortnightly on Thursdays at the Beverley Anderson Lounge of the Otago Golf Club, 10.00 – 12 Noon. Those wishing to learn or refreshing in the game of Mah Jong, will find a relaxed, learning atmosphere.

Contact Hilary Allison on [hilary.allison@xtra.co.nz](mailto:hilary.allison@xtra.co.nz) or 021 393 323

### ***Walker's correction***

Last month the side bar of groups here listed the Walkers Group as meeting Wednesday – this should have read ***Thursdays***, as per their report in the same Newsletter! Error much regretted!

### **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  
Every 2nd 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)

### **Photography Group**

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

### **Podcast Group**

Facilitator; Garda Cortesi  
Third Thursday, 1.30  
E: [gardacortesi@gmail.com](mailto:gardacortesi@gmail.com)

### **Thursday Current Affairs**

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

### **Tuesday Current Affairs (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)



## Facilitators' Reports

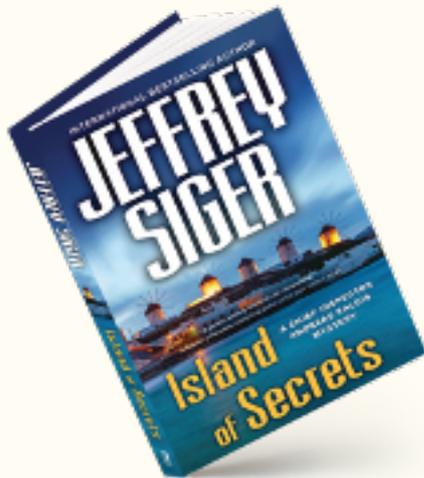


### **Book Group**

Four members attended. We had a spirited discussion, not always on topic but very satisfying none the less! The following books were discussed:

#### **Pat:**

*Island of Secrets* by Jeffrey Siger



Siger is an American lawyer living in Greece. The book is about police procedures set in Athens and gives a good picture of present day Greek society. Eight books by Siger are in the library, and they are highly recommended.

#### **Moya:**

*The Life of Germaine Greer* by Elizabeth Kleinhenz.

*The Obstacle Race - The Fortunes of Women* by Germaine Greer

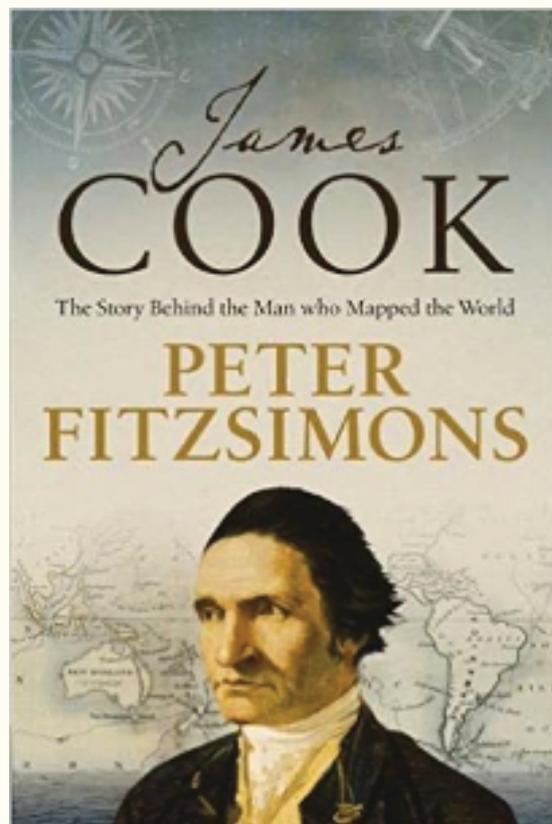
A history of the obstacles that faced and are facing women in gaining recognition in the art world!

*Slip-Shod Sibyls: Recognition, Rejection and the Woman poet* by Germaine Greer.

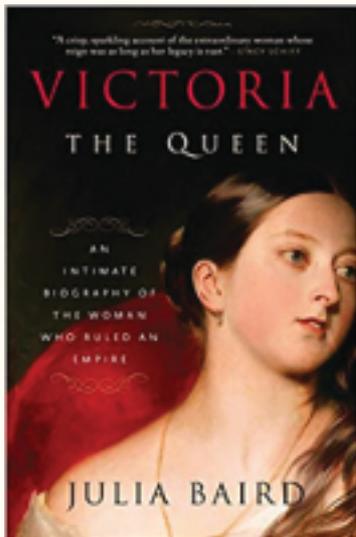


#### **Ngaire:**

*James Cook* by Peter Fitzsimmons. A description of his first trip to New Zealand. Banks was on board and he tried to claim credit for work done by Cook. Casts Cook in a new light, especially now that people want to cancel out his achievements because of his worst deeds.



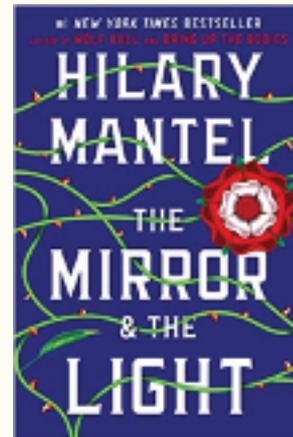
*Victoria the Queen* by Julia Baird:



A very good book that clarifies her realm of influence.

**Garda:**

*The Mirror and the Light* by Hillary Mantel:



The conclusion to the trilogy, the end of the line for Cromwell. Should be read after the first two novels, *Wolf Hall* and *Bring up the Bodies*.

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## ***Photography Group***

A day of terrible weather on which we had a photographic excursion along the Marina planned.



Our Facilitator, Ngaire, managed to catch all members involved to cancel; but just in case, being out & about, one of us did get down to the boats!

## ***Famous Art Collections Group***

The topic for our second meeting was the amazing Waddesdon Manor collection. Six members attended for this presentation and discussion. In order to house his art collection, Ferdinand de Rothschild built a chateau in the French style on a hill just above the village of Waddesdon, Buckinghamshire, UK.

We looked at the history of the Rothschild family in the wider European context, and how Ferdinand de Rothschild (born in Paris) came to settle in the UK.

Waddesdon Manor is today part of the National Trust, but is still lived in by the Rothschild family.



It houses a spectacular collection of 18th century art, including a number of Reynolds and Gainsboroughs:

Sophia Charlotte Digby,  
Lady Sheffield,

Thomas Gainsborough,  
1785-6,  
Waddesdon Manor.

©National Trust



And we find a great painting by the woman artist Élisabeth Le Brun:



Portrait of Gabrielle de Polastron  
(Martine-Gabrielle-Yoland de Polastron (1745–1793),  
Duchesse de Polignac.), Élisabeth Louise Vigée Le Brun

Each room is furnished with 18th century French carpets, tapestries, furniture, clocks, porcelain, armory, paintings, and even a desk of Marie Antoinette. This chateau is an unforgettable place with its gardens and stables, and even a modern art gallery in the vast park.

At our next meeting we will examine the collection of the Louvre, Paris.

## **Tuesday Current Affairs Group**

Meeting three days after the election the Tuesday Current Issues Group spent half the meeting on this topic. Then, after coffee and cake, we moved onto Māori culture and lore beginning to be brought into NZ law.

Discussion started with the BWB book *Imagining Decolonization*, highly recommended by one member, then to the most recent appeal in the Peter Ellis case where the Supreme Court took matters of mana into account in deciding to accept the appeal even after Ellis's death.



We noted the Whanganui River as a legal person has set a precedent, and in another area the Maori Youth Courts are innovative and becoming successful in reducing reoffending.

New Zealand is in the process of developing a unique and remarkable legal system.

Finally we talked about adoption, then and now, and the effects of doing it poorly or doing it well.

## **Luncheon Group**



The Luncheon group has met now for the last three months on the second Friday of each month.

We have enjoyed some lovely food and excellent company - a great way to get to know members better over a meal.

We have been all around town!

We plan to have our next outing at Emersons. Come and join us.



## **Notice Board**

Hi Facilitators! November group reports scheduled are: Current Affairs Thursday, Podcast, Mahjong, Film One, Expanding Musical Horizons. Thanks!



## **Groups Committee**

<b>Discussion Groups Convener</b>	Ngaire Bates	ngairemichael@gmail.com	454 2170
<b>Discussion Groups Committee</b>	Garda Cortesi	gardacortesi@gmail.com	
<b>Discussion Groups Newsletter</b>	Bill Stanford	billstanford9@gmail.com	027 4615343