



September 2019

DiscussionGroups NEWSLETTER

Welcome members!

I hope you are off to a great start with your spring cleaning. It has certainly been the best weather for it.

This week will see the last of our Mahjong lessons. To continue on with playing we have all agreed to hire out a room at St. Barnabas rest home. To cover costs of heating etc. there will be a charge of \$2 a time each. This will take place every second Thursday morning between 10.15am and 12.15 pm. There are eight of us but if anyone out there would like to join us if they already know how to play contact Ngaire.

We are also looking to start up three new groups. **Poetry** and **Chess** and **German Conversation** If you are keen to join any of these please contact Ngaire.

We have had a very generous offer from two members who would like to facilitate a German speaking /learning group. The idea is that it would meet each week on a Monday afternoon and would be based around texts, news reports, films/tv with subtitles etc. In the first instance please contact Ngaire on email or phone.

There is also still room in the second film group. This hasn't got underway as yet because the numbers are just not quite there. We need another couple of members to make it viable.

Both Book groups are also looking for new members.

Friday Book Club - (full)

Facilitator; Garda Cotesi
<gardacotesi@gmail.com>

Monday Current Affairs

Facilitator: Joy Hayward
T 454 4996 E. joyhayward@hotmail.co.nz

Book Club 2

Facilitator: Angela Vickers
E: angela.nz@e3.net.nz

Tuesday Current Affairs - (full)

Facilitator: Gretchen Kivell
T: 4730031 E: gretchen.kivell@xtra.co.nz

Dining group

Facilitator: Nanette Linklater
E: nanettelinklater@gmail.com

Expanding Musical Horizons(full)

Facilitator: Paul Wheeler
T 476 0462 E: wheeler@outlook.co.nz

Film Group (full)

Facilitator: Bill Stanford
T 027 461 5343 E billstanford9@gmail.com

Gallery group

Facilitator: Tash Hurst
T 467 9747 E tash.hurst@xtra.co.nz

Local History

Facilitator: Stuart Strachan
T 482 2339 E sistrachanz@gmail.com

Walking Group

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

Invisible Art History

Facilitator: Moya Smith
T 476 1416
E: moya.smith@xtra.co.nz

The Local History group is in recess currently while the facilitator is away overseas. All the other groups are ticking along. If you are keen to join a group or have an idea for a new group, please contact Ngaire in the first instance.

Ngaire Bates

T 454 2170 E ngairemichael@gmail.com

Book Club 1

Deciding on the format of the group was part of the agenda.
Consensus was reached on the following points:

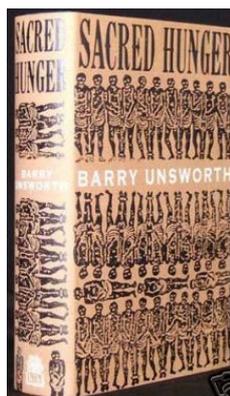
- 1 discuss the most inspiring book in detail, read what you like**
- 2 great to lend out books, so bring some along**
- 3 rotate venues**
- 4 person whose venue is used has the first word. Email info regarding next meeting should the person like to tweak the format**

Members discussed the following books:

Being Mortal by Atul Gawande,

Not an enjoyable read. Written by a surgeon concerned with improving the lot of the elderly weighs up the cost of caring for terminal patients and suggests using the money better. The older person has to make decisions re future while they still can. Atul describes the big gap between what the elderly need and what is provided. He shows that by re defining living in institutions and instead providing assisted living for the elderly, giving them autonomy, saves on medication and improves quality of life. Essential reading for all of us.

NANETTE



The Saced Hunger by Barry Unsworth

A historical novel that won the Booker. Set on a slave era ship, describing relationships between the lead characters, the families and slaves aboard. A very enjoyable very highly recommended read.

The Boy who followed his Father into Auschwitz by Jeremy Dronfield

The diary of concentration camp son that ends up in Australia was also highly recommended by Nanette

KAREN

Educated by Tara Westover

Family believes the world is going to end and father controlled never registered kids, did not send them to school so no one finds out . One son escapes and learns and goes back to teach the others to read . Daughter got a degree at oxford after leaving her family from family

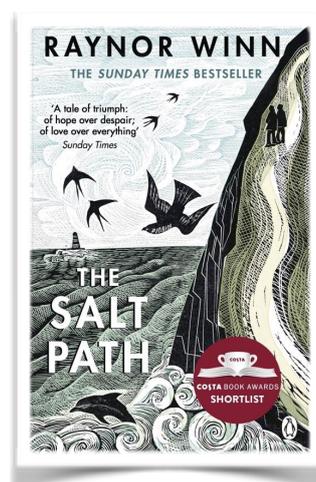
Elinor Oliphant is Completely Fine by Gail Honeyman

A woman sees a musician and believes that she is destined to be with him.

GARDA

Bound in Venice by Alessandro Mario Magno

History of the printing industry in Venice in the late 1400 to mid 1500. Facts interspersed with scandals, personal gossip about the kings, church elite and merchants. There are the economic ups and downs and the first blockbuster author who wrote salacious pornography, supported by the Doge became a tourist attraction in Venice. Riveting stuff!



The Salt Path by Raynor Winn

Autobiographical, shortlisted for the Costa Book Awards. Saying anything will. Give away too much, so I will quote the Sunday Times “ A tale of triumph, of hope over despair, of love over everything. Someone whose opinion I value recommended it, not being something I would ever read by choice, and I could not put it down.

A great afternoon in front of the fire with home made pizza and wine was had by all.

Gallery Group

Another great Gallery Group visit this morning to Angela Burns' house..Eight of us were warmly welcomed by Angela who took us into the lounge which was full of examples of paintings from her many series of works for different galleries in Dunedin and Cromwell.

Angela talked about her life as an artist over the last 35 years, and the need to have other jobs as well as painting to make a living. We went out to her studio in the garden where we saw far more examples of her art and also found out how she approaches her work. After home made muffins and coffee some purchases were made amid lively discussions followed. We were taken with the wonderful use of colour in Angela's interpretation of coastal and garden landscapes.. A most stimulating and happy morning.



The next visit is on October 9th and is a visit to Ron Esplin's exhibition at the Rob Pigott gallery.

Monday Current Affairs

Our topic this week was the local body elections. Most of us had attended the meet the candidates forum at Opoho church which was a very good way of getting to know what the issues are and candidates views of them. This had enabled us to get a lot clearer about who we are planning to vote for and why. The second candidates meeting is still to happen so most of us will repeat the process. Most of us were looking for candidates with views aligned to our own. We considered the need for innovation in the city particularly around climate change but also around what is possible within the constraints of the city's budget. We considered candidates who well informed, able to take appropriate advice , have a good team ethos, and we also looked at balance in our ideal council.

Our next topic will be Feminism in 2019.

JOY

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