



Interest Groups NEWSLETTER

April 2022

Kia ora koutou

Welcome to our newsletter for April, which has seen many of us dealing with Covid present in our homes and families. Keeping ourselves safe from infection is ongoing and many of our Interest Groups are still in recess. Until the U3A Dunedin Board meets to review its approach to Covid, vaccine passes and masks are still required at its events.

This month, however, has seen two new groups established. Walking Group 2 had its first outings and already has 14 members. Thanks to Ailsa Williams for agreeing to be the Facilitator and Barrie Peake for his support in getting this group up and running. Art Collections has also met for the first time and has 12 people interested in these visits. This group is being ably lead by Anne-Marie Hutton as its Facilitator.

Nora Dowse, who has a background in playing the piano, teaching, and music therapy, has offered to form an Interactive Music Group. The aim of this group will be to encourage people with various musical interests to listen, play and sing — individually and in ensembles. Facilitator and venue for this group are still being negotiated, so in the first instance please contact me with any enquiries or expressions of interest.

The Garden Group will have two new Facilitators when it reconvenes in Spring. Thanks to Carole Bezett and Robyne Selbie for volunteering to do this. Without people giving us their time, interest, and expertise none of our groups could function.

Finally, my thanks to Ann Wood, who works alongside me to keep you informed about the Interest Groups and put the newsletter out each month.

Noho haumaru me te pai, Stay safe and well everyone
Trish Irvine
Convenor

Phone: 03 482 1651
Email: trishjockloch@gmail.com

As usual, all Interest Group Facilitator names plus contact details and their pics are attached at the end of this newsletter. Thanks so much to the group leaders. We wouldn't have a newsletter without your regular input. Keep the reports rolling in please to ann.wood14blaw@gmail.com Ann

Art Collections Report April Anne-Marie

On the 6th April we had our inaugural Gallery visit. Although the numbers were few we had a successful visit to Paemanu: Tauraka Toi- The Landing Place. This exhibition was jointly curated by the Dunedin Public Art Gallery and Kai Tahu. It was contemporary art produced by artists from throughout New Zealand and represented themes of Transition and Connection. There were clear links to tupuna and to whenua . Lucy Hammond, the curator conducted us on a superb one hour guided tour giving background and context to many of the works.

The six first floor galleries of works encompassed video, sculpture, painting, photography and installations. All were thought provoking and beautifully executed. Highlights

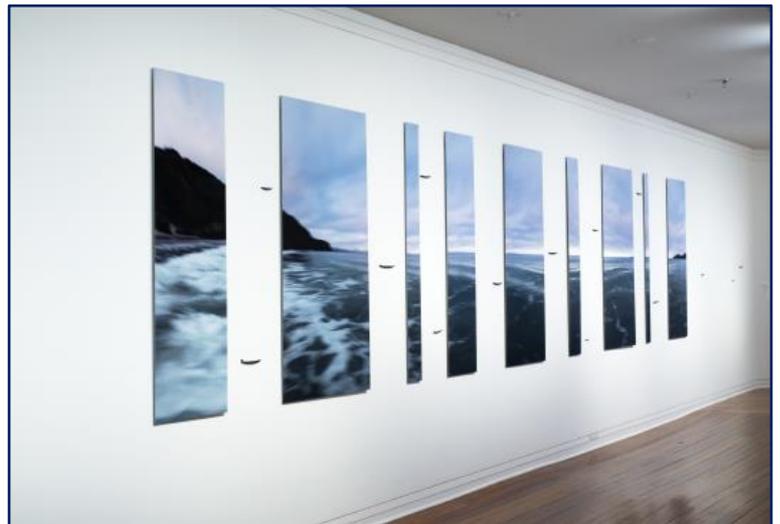


included the section on Mahika Kai, featuring traditional food gathering practices.

Left:
Kaihaukai Collective:
Untitled Midden

Right : *Whakaruru* by Simon Kaan

You can almost feel the motion of the waves.



Left: *Tutakitaka*
by Mya Morrison-Middleton and Madison Kelly

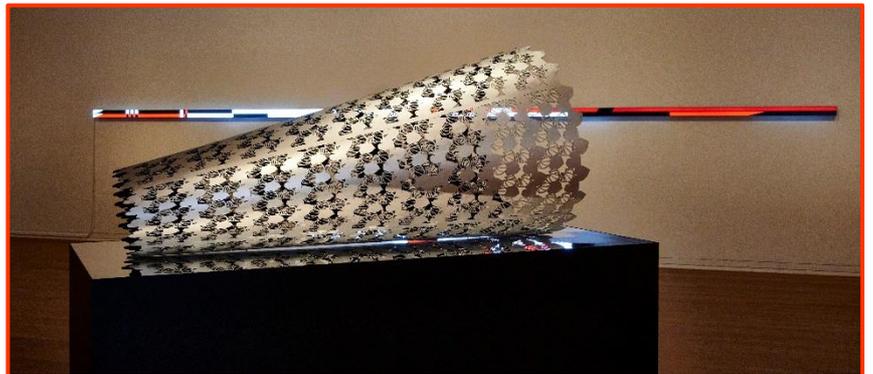


Left: Three beautiful vessels made from clay, wood, and the clear pot is laser printed by *Martin Awa Clarke Langdon*



Right: *For Titi Palmer : Simone Montgomery*

Just a few more pics from this wonderful exhibition



Detail of Embroidery



Walking Group Two Report April

We're the very new Walking Group #2, just two walks to our repertoire, so far, as we meet on Fridays and thus didn't gather this past Good Friday. The first walk, organised by Barrie Peake, took us from the Stadium past Logan Park up the trail to the Northern Cemetery, through there, along the footpath to Opoho before back tracking through the Upper Botanical Gardens and down to the Hub at Polytech for a coffee and discussion.



The following Friday, with me somehow becoming the coordinator of this group,

six of us met by the Molars on Portsmouth Drive, braving gale force winds to walk to the Vauxhall Yacht Club, then back to the Nichols Cafe for our refreshment. This coming Friday, depending on the elements, we plan to meet for an exploration of Mornington. Ailsa

Dining Group Report April

The Dining Group has been meeting over the last few months. In February we went to Impression Manor, in the old Crown Roller Mills building. The food was very good, but it was immensely noisy, so very much limited any conversation.



Last month we decided to give restaurants a miss for a time, so had a potluck dinner at Karen's. This was a nice change, and we enjoyed a variety of food and conversation.

This month we went to Takeichi and tried many different Japanese dishes under the maple tree. Pictured are two of the group stalwarts consulting the menu.

Next month we are planning to try out the Black Dog. Karen

Gallery Group Report April

A very enjoyable visit to-day to visit the studio of Julia McNaughton, situated high up on the cliffs above St. Clair.... Julia has been painting for many years and started her artistic life by attending summer art school for several years, where she was able to develop her painting techniques and knowledge. Julia explained how she experimented with an abstract interpretation of landscape features mainly in Central Otago. (See picture with circles)



An example of her work was two pictures of the Remarkables in Queenstown. The first picture is a landscape of the mountains with Lake Wakatipu in the foreground. The second picture using similar colours, and the characteristic blue for the sky and the lake, is of the stylised form of the mountains broken down into the angular "horst and graben" landscape that is a feature of the faulted nature of our Central Otago mountains.

The style is unique to Julia and has set her apart from other landscape painters. She has been very successful in selling her paintings, especially at the Otago Art Society, where she has been a very active member for many years. Thank you so much to Julia for spending time with us and allowing us to see your inspiring house, garden, and view. Thanks also to Chris Hewitt for organising the visit and having the foresight to buy one of Julia's first abstract paintings.

After our visit to Julia, most of us met again at the Otago Art Society "Hopes" exhibition where we had an interesting time finding out about each others varied tastes in art. We also continued our discussion about how you define abstract art and which paintings would fit into that category. Fascinating!

Our next meeting in May is to visit the home of Ross Currie who has an amazing houseful of art. Jill is organising this visit. **Tash Hurst**

Tuesday Current Issues Group Report April

Our meeting on 19 April:

Several people were not free to come [Covid, etc], but the five of us who were there had no shortage of discussion material – from Ukraine to globalisation to the dangers of relying on growth, to climate change and more.

A Russian friend in Moscow told one of our members of her concern about the “civil war” in Ukraine and hope that “the nationalists would come to their senses”



Ukraine, and followed that with further effects of globalisation in our own country with shortages of timber and paper.



We discussed the world hunger that is likely to follow the destruction of the ‘breadbasket’ that is

Members want more tax, not less, and wonder what happened to the idea of a tax on bank transactions. We would like a rise in road user charges, and favour the idea of putting trucks on trains to take them to Ports.

Claire Brown



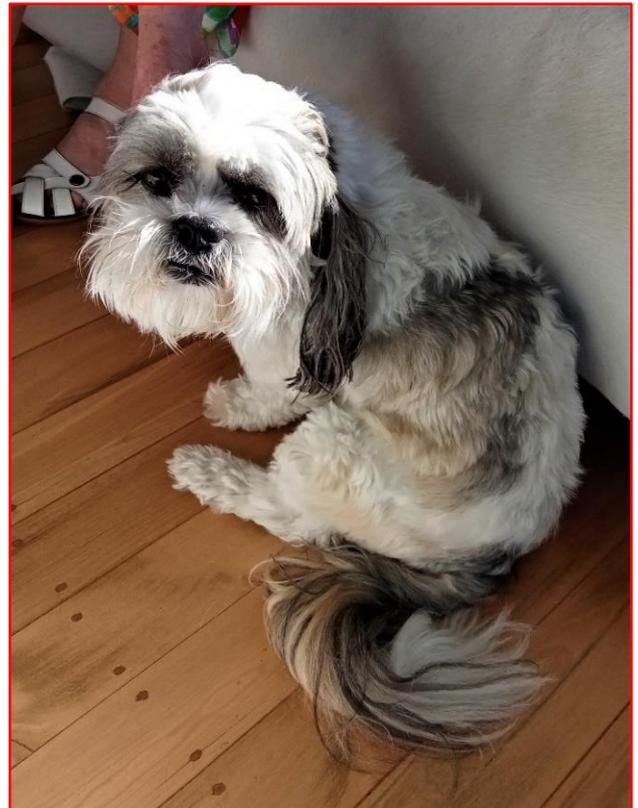
Poetry Group Report April

Our group of six, soon to be seven, met up to read a poem apiece and then partake of a shared lunch on a sunny deck. Alfie was a very attentive host and the recipient of the odd titbit under the table. Then poetry recommenced for the second round of our choice of poems on the topic of strength.

An innovation over the past few months is that the hostess of the day provides, ahead of time, the first line of a well-known poem and two or three of us write a light-hearted ditty to that line. We, today, had to offer an apology to Rudyard Kipling and his famous 'If'

*If you can keep your head when all about you
Are panic buying paper for the loo.
When strength lies in your vaccinations,
Wearing masks and risking constipation.
Though, in the day, a newspaper would do.*

*If you can keep your head when all about you
Resemble two of Henry's wives
Best watch out for stray assassins, in the queue,
Concealing very sharp knives
A head on one's shoulders is much to be desired
But is of no use and none
If the corresponding body has, just lately, expired.
Life is totally over and done.*



***** Why not have a go yourself? You must agree we haven't set the bar very high *****

Email your ditties beginning with the line: *If you can keep your head when all about you*

to: ann.wood14blaw@gmail.com

Our group's pick of the best submission will be published in the newsletter next month



Garden Group Report April ...Trish

Bellbird Heights was the beautiful garden we visited on a sunny April day. Our hosts



Doreen and Bruce Fraser have, over thirty years and a lot of hard work, transformed four paddocks into the most interesting setting for hundreds of rhododendrons and a large variety of plants sheltered by large trees. This garden at the top of Upper Junction Road has the most stunning view over the harbour looking at the peninsular and harbour cone. We will be visiting again in the spring, and a visit during rhododendron week is a must.



Photography Group Report April



Pics this month from Chris Watson, Anne Stratford, Graham Corbett, Ann Wood, Caz Brigham, Dot Mowat, Hildegard Lubcke, Ann Trewern and Laurie White.

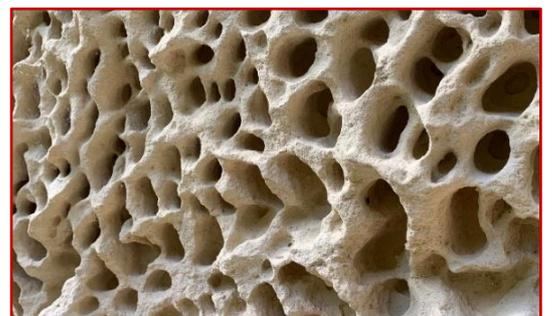
I asked Chris how he achieved the effects in this shot of a Japanese maple. He was exceedingly honest. Said he set his camera to a very slow shutter speed and then inadvertently bumped it during the process.



Early April two carloads of us headed off early to North Otago. Big day out, as we went firstly to see the Elephant Rocks site, and then made a ten-minute detour to Livingstone where one of our group has a lovely holiday home.



Sat out on the shaded deck on a brilliantly sunny day and ate our very late picnic lunches



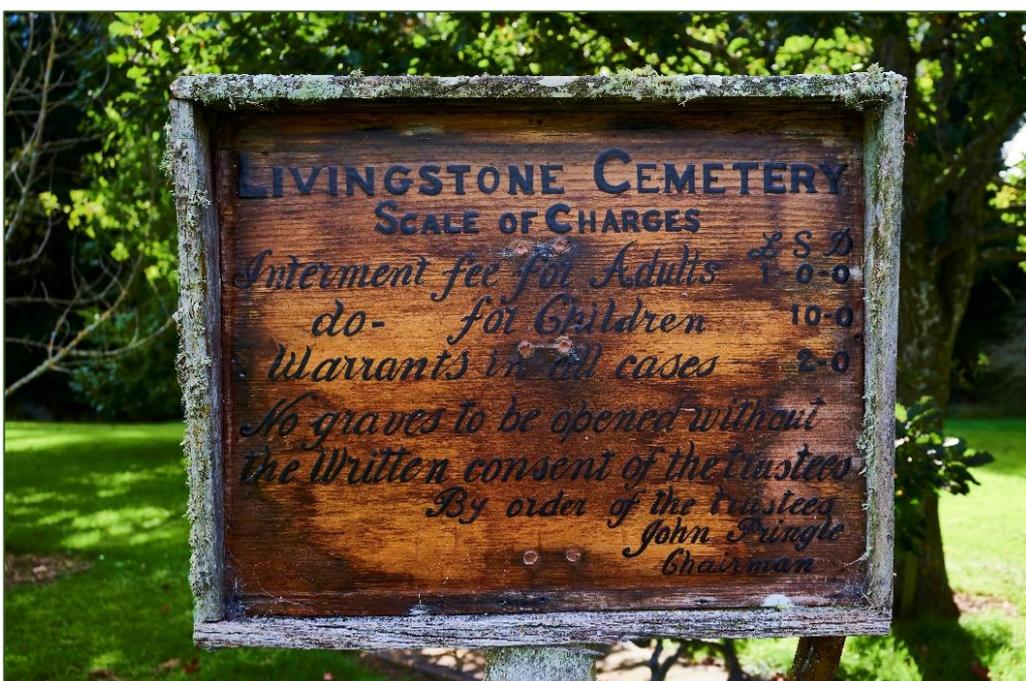
and we were treated to a delicious Quittenkuchen. The quince trees were loaded, and back to Dunedin came a goodly amount.



The Rocks appealed to us in different ways, some liked the



panoramic outlook, one spotted a vast number of animal shapes, and I hunted for the fossils that are emerging as the rocks weather. The birds have found several good-sized holes in the stone and made nests.



A few of us had a look at the peaceful old Livingstone Cemetery before heading home. The cost of an interment has certainly risen in real terms

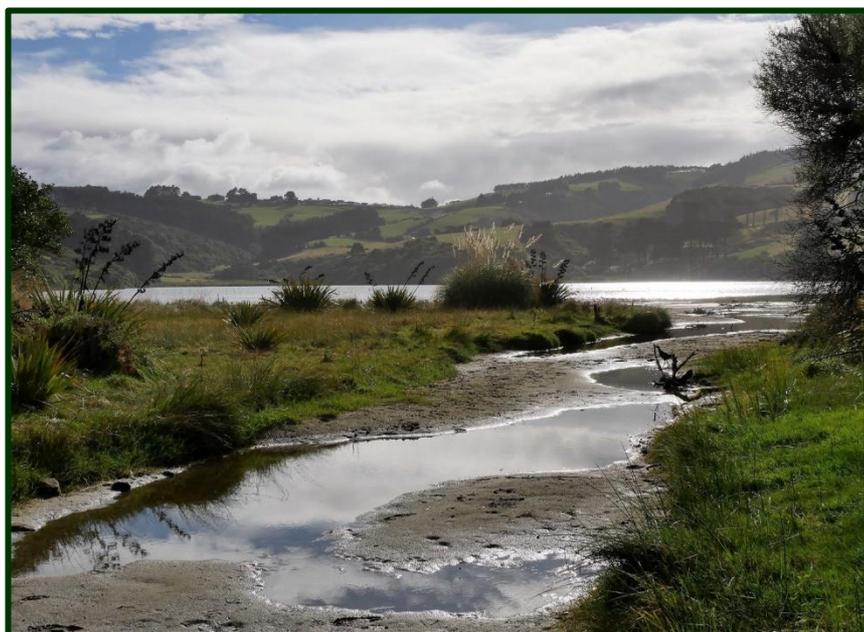
since the 1870's. £1.00 in 1873 is equivalent to \$152.50 in 2021

Our second field trip for the month was to Tomahawk Lagoon on a fine, but chilly, Sunday morning. Six of us were interested to meet the members of Birds NZ who were pointing

out the various species of birds at the lagoon. Part of the weeklong Wild New Zealand Festival offering that we are so lucky to have here in Dunedin. The star of the show was the kotuku which



took to the wing, albeit briefly. Very hard to get a pic, let alone a good pic. But the black swans



were also quite spectacular when they flew and then came in for a bumpy landing. Ann



Art Collections

Facilitator: Anne-Marie Hutton
Monthly: First Tuesday 10:30
E: annemariehutton@gmail.com



Dining Group

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



Expanding Musical Horizons

full / on hold until May

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



Film Group 1 in recess

Facilitator: Bill Stanford
Third Wednesday, 1:30
E: w.stanford@protonmail.com



Film Group 2 in recess

Facilitator: Bill Stanford
Second Wednesday 1:30
E: w.stanford@protonmail.com

Gallery Group full

Facilitator: Tash Hurst
Second Wednesday, 10:30
E: tash.hurst@xtra.co.nz



Gardens & Botanical Group

Facilitator: Patricia Irvine
Third Tuesday 1:30
E: trishjockloch@gmail.com



Luncheon Group

Facilitator: Patricia Irvine
Second Friday, 12:30
E: trishjockloch@gmail.com

Mahjong Group

Facilitator: Hilary Allison
2nd & 4th Thursdays, 10 am
E: hilary.allison@xtra.co.nz



Monday Current Affairs Group full

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



Photography Group

Facilitator: Ann Wood
First Thursday, 1:30;
3rd Thursday TBA
E: ann.wood14blaw@gmail.com



Poetry Group full

Facilitator: Carole Bezett
Fourth Wednesday, 11 am
E: carolebezett@gmail.com



Singing Group in recess

Facilitator: Claire Stevens
Weekly: Monday, 1 pm
E: cstevensnz@gmail.com



Tuesday Current Issues Group full

Facilitator: Gretchen Kivell
Third Tuesday, 10 am
E: gretchen.kivell@xtra.co.nz



Walking Group

Joint Facilitators:
Averil McLean
E: averilmclean2@gmail.com



Janet Hewson
E: je.hewson@xtra.co.nz



Every Thursday, 10:30

Walking Group 2

Facilitator: Ailsa Williams
Weekly: Every Friday 10 am
E: ailsasx@gmail.com

