



Interest Groups NEWSLETTER

August 2022

Kia ora koutou

In the words of Ogden Nash “spring is sprung” - welcome to our August Newsletter. We know you will enjoy sharing the many and varied experiences our Interest Groups have had this month.



I have enjoyed yet another birthday and along with many other joyous things, received, not only a new puppy, Maggie, but some lovely books. This has prompted me to wonder why we don't at the moment have a forum for sharing our current reading interests. If you are interested in a **Book Share group** which would meet one afternoon a month, I would be happy to facilitate this on the **first Friday of each month at 1.30pm**. Contact me if

you are interested – all you need to do is bring along what you are currently reading and share it with the group. First meeting would be Friday October 7th at 1.30pm

Interest Group facilitators are meeting up together in September — if you have suggestions or feedback, please pass it on to your group's leader, or me. Remember if you wish to join a group please apply through the website.

Another thing I got for my birthday was Covid; if you have also been in isolation, I hope you are on the mend. The U3A vaccine and mask policy remains the same, so we ask your co-operation by wearing a mask indoors and we trust that you have been vaccinated when asked. Some of our groups are meeting online e.g. Film and Music, and this enables those isolating to maintain that social connection.

Thanks to all our facilitators for their contributions to this month's newsletter and to Ann once again for the great editing.

Ngā mihi

Trish Irvine

Convenor Interest Groups trishjockloch@gmail.com

Art Collections Group

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 / online**

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



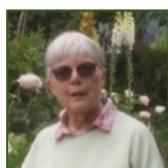
Film Group 1 **online**

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



Film Group 2 **online**

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

Second Wednesday, 1:30
Facilitator: Robyne Selbie
E: robyneselbie1945@gmail.com



Luncheon Group

Facilitator: Trish 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;
Third 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 1 **full**

Every Thursday, 10:30
Joint Facilitators:



Averil McLean
E: averilmclean2@gmail.com



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

Walking Group 2

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





Monday Current Affairs Group August

The group has met infrequently over the past twelve months because of concerns about the Covid-19 pandemic. Our August meeting was a welcome return to an 'in person' meeting and the opportunity to meet a new member. We re-introduced ourselves so that the new member would get an appreciation of the

group's interests. It turned out that we had a wide variety of interests, but nearly everyone expressed interest in local and national politics, and most admitted to being keen gardeners!



THREE WATERS

There was no topic set for discussion at the meeting and, as a result, members raised issues relating to just about everything under the sun with particular emphasis on Three Waters and Health NZ/Māori Health Authority. Concern was expressed at the number of people who have become disillusioned with politics, partly because of disinformation and online abuse, and partly because of the behaviour of some of our elected politicians and local body members.

The need to be aware of what candidates in the forthcoming local body elections stand for was reinforced by the news that at least five members of 'Voices for Freedom' have put their names forward for the Christchurch City Council but deliberately not declared their association with the organisation which was prominent in the Parliamentary protests earlier this year. Members of the group were advised to attend 'candidate' meetings.



The media may appear to be full of bad news, but it is evident that our younger people often act in a way that makes one more confident about the future.

John Burton



the stories behind the snowdrops planted at the castle to our group before we set off to see them in their surroundings

Margaret described the early find of a snowdrop as they uncovered the rock garden planted by Mrs Purdie. She thought it would have been planted back in the 1930's and it had lain dormant under the debris of time until she rediscovered it. That was the beginning of the snowdrop story.



Today there are several snowdrop varieties spread throughout the garden and we were taken on a guided tour of the garden by Margaret who explained the growth and development of the garden, ending at the disaster zone where a large macrocarpa tree

came down in the latest winter storm and destroyed the South Seas lookout and steps. Always work to do in a garden as large as this. Margaret gave us all maps so we could go on to explore the gardens at our leisure, visit the gift shop and plant stand, before we enjoyed a lovely Devonshire tea at the Café.



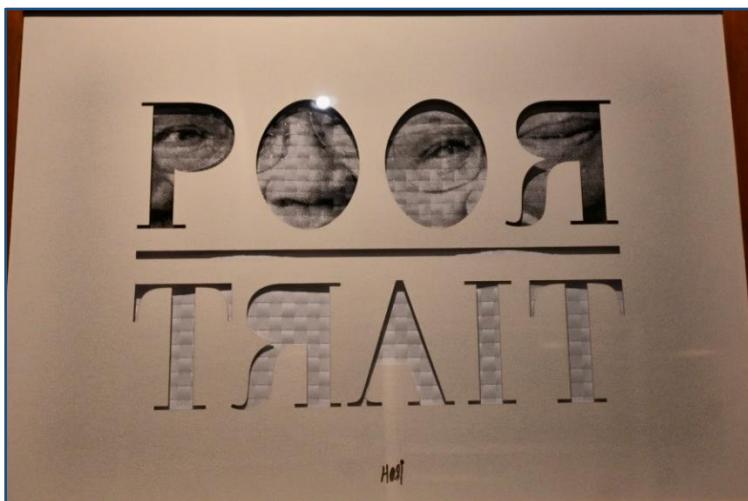
It may have been a cold beginning, but the sun did come out, and we were able to wander at will through the gardens. The snowdrops were the drawcard, but other treasures were on show. The hellebores were eye-catching, and Margaret had added to the collection with some from the Rodney Davy marbled group, notably, Sophie's Choice, Molly's White and Anna's Red. I think some of our gardening group went home with some new 'must haves'. Robyne

Art Collections Group August

This month we went to Otago Museum. We first visited the Kiingi Tuheitia Portraiture Award Finalist Exhibition. This is a competition that encourages emerging Māori artists to create portraits of their tūpuna (ancestors) in any medium. It features paintings, whakairo (carving), raranga (weaving), photography, and ceramics, all the works are portraits of the artists' tūpuna (ancestors), in the first and only showing in the South Island. There were some really striking images which respect dictates we did not photograph. This exhibition is open until 22nd Jan 2023

Portrait of Waatara Black by Michelle Black 2021

Glass, tile, and ceramic mosaic mounted on plywood



Poor Trait by Hohepa Thompson 2021

Woven paper



We then continued on to the *Kura Pounamu: Our Treasured Stone* exhibition. This features over 200 ancient and contemporary pounamu pieces and features some lovely examples of traditional toki (tools), hei tiki, and mere, with some of the oldest thought to originate from early settlement times, around 700 – 800 years ago. Featuring a beautiful hei tiki wall and large pounamu touchstones, the largest of which, 'Te Hurika', weighs 170kg; this exhibition, not to be missed, closes on the 28th August.

We were invited to touch the huge piece of pounamu on the right Anne-Marie



Walking Group One August

July was wet so our walking was curtailed somewhat, but we still managed to get together. It is difficult to decide our dominant activity and whether we should call ourselves the "Talking Walkers" or the "Walking Talkers"

The group at Coffee Culture



Kris led us on an interesting Inner City walk starting at the Town Hall, looping thru the back streets taking in the Archibald Baxter memorial, which triggered a lot of talk about past and present wars, and later many interesting internet links to both, his history, and to Millicent Baxter's.

Inscription: We Shall Bend But Not Be Broken.



A rain abbreviated walk around my old haunts in Roslyn and historical snippets; on the siting of Campbell House (which tied in with a historical marker on an earlier walk around Port Chalmers), Roberts Park, the location of the Dunedin Lunatic Asylum and the present school grounds, the cable car route and the making of "Stuart Street extension" as it was called, and finally the construction method used to build Roslyn Bridge, which brought us back to our starting point.
Averil

Poetry Group August

Five of us met up for poetry and a shared lunch on the third of the deluge days in late July... five months rain in a few days takes a lot of coming to terms with. However good fellowship, tasty food and laughs aplenty brightened the dampest of spirits. The topic set for today was **Daughters**. There was a SNAP moment when we found two of us had chosen the poem below.

Ani

A Little Tooth

Thomas Lux - 1946-2017

Your baby grows a tooth, then two,
and four, and five, then she wants some meat
directly from the bone. It's all

over: she'll learn some words, she'll fall
in love with cretins, dolts, a sweet
talker on his way to jail. And you,

your wife, get old, flyblown, and rue
nothing. You did, you loved, your feet
are sore. It's dusk. Your daughter's tall.



Note the rhyme scheme in this poem: ABC CBA ABC

Thomas Lux was an American poet from a working-class background in Massachusetts. As well as publishing several volumes of poetry, he taught and won many awards.

He commented in an interview with the Los Angeles Times 'I like to make the reader laugh and then steal that laugh right out of the throat because I think life is like that, tragedy right alongside humour.'

The hostess of the day had set us a line from a song in the Mikado "The flowers that bloom in the Spring" that we should use as the first line of our poem this month. This was Mary's contribution:



*The flowers that bloom in spring
With sharp and greening shoots
Have thrust through darkened earth
So thawing hearts might sing

Blossom, all froth and foam,
Wild weeds a-tangle,
Sweet and fresh, breathe the air
Drunk on scent, free to roam.*



Tuesday Current Issues Group August

This month our long discussion was an in-depth history of the He Puapua report. It is advisory, not policy. It has cross-party origins: National signed the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in 2010 and committed to a declaration plan; Labour established the Declaration Working Group in 2019. Labour unfortunately kept the DWG's report under wraps for too long, indicating there might be something to hide. It has got caught up with more recent concerns about co-governance e.g. in the Three Waters legislation.



After the coffee break we started with Should NZ become a Republic? An issue that will be revisited with time, for sure, and it led onto the need to reinstate an Upper House and how the country might go about that. How to elect a President, and what powers should they have? How to find members for an upper house? On thinking about it, we found many fine, and apolitical, New Zealanders who could rise to these new needs.

And, then, we turned to bullying – its effects on the bullied, as well as whether a young bully should be forgiven, and this led onto the activities of the Freedom and Rights coalition, and, finally, to the upcoming Stuff Circuit documentary 'Fire and Fury', about the worrying underbelly of the Parliament Grounds protest.

Gretchen Kivell

Expanding Musical Horizons August

Because our Interest Group has been having online sessions while infection rates remain high, I have been presenting material to the group via email on a monthly basis. Each time, the topic has been on a theme which differs from what I would otherwise cover in a “live” session. Members are provided with a small amount of background information and a YouTube link, followed by some ideas that members might like to follow up afterwards. In the interim weeks, Ian Winter has provided some challenges that also introduce members to different genres of music. There has been such variety that members are bound to come across something new that really appeals, even if other genres are not for them.

The challenges usually follow the format of a few clips on YouTube. They are linked in some way, and the challenge is for members to discover what that link might be. The link can be quite cryptic or could be simple and straightforward. To solve the challenges, one has to have a flexible mind, and at times it’s almost like solving a cryptic crossword puzzle, depending on the difficulty level.

The solution is often not in the music itself. Frequently the link relates to the performers, or the lyrics, or the composers, or the context in which it has been performed. It might even be rather quirky. It’s possible to over-think a solution, when in fact the link was simply staring you in the face. Sometimes it runs deeper than an apparently too easy answer. Ian’s view is that even if the idea of spending time trying to find a solution doesn’t appeal to everyone, he hopes that the clips will be enjoyed, possibly bring back memories and maybe lead to further exploration and sharing of ideas with the group. Paul



Readers of the U3A Interest Groups newsletter might like to try one of Ian’s challenges for themselves. It is quite straightforward and full of interesting material:

Clip 1: <https://youtu.be/wiwkBFR6rW0>

Not part of the challenge but here he is in a recent performance: <https://youtu.be/3qrKjywjo7Q>

Clip 2: not a music clip but fits the solution and is a lot of fun: <https://youtu.be/n6mbW-iMtrY>

Clip 3: <https://youtu.be/efIaM5dzuDs> Did you recognise the woman in the audience who was so moved by the performance? If you weren’t sure, this should help: <https://youtu.be/MOyvYnkdEcc>

Clip 4 should just confirm your solution but I believe it is worth a look especially if you do not like rap: <https://youtu.be/ZPrAKuOBWzw>. If you wish to skip the long introduction by President Obama, the performance starts at 9.00 minutes. I do recommend though that you watch President Obama's introduction.

A clip from a live original cast performance: <https://youtu.be/0VVuEPbjLoU>

Gallery Group August

It was great to meet with almost everyone together again. Due to sickness or overseas trips a couple of members had not been able to go on our last 2 visits. We assembled at the Port Chalmers Maritime

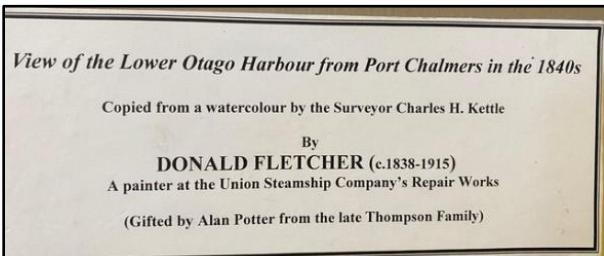
Museum right in the heart of the town.



Port Otago are constructing a new building next door to the Museum that is to be the new exhibition space for the artefacts, and plan to take over the present Museum, which was the old Post Office, for their own use. They are hoping it will be better able to display much of the interesting history of seafaring in Port Chalmers.

Despite an information overload we were able to enjoy much of the history on display, and several found the early paintings

particularly interesting.



Below: Maryalyce viewing a cabinet showing the fashion of the times.



Below: Peter and Chris discussing ringing the bell.



Within a stone's throw the second part of our morning was a visit to the Pea Sea Art Gallery owned by Dallas Henley and Robert Scott. Robert gave us an excellent talk about the current display involving many different artists from places around Otago. This eclectic collection of work had something for everyone from pottery to abstracts to landscapes, and from a couple of hundred dollars to a few thousand. Many had been sold showing the popularity of this special art venue.



Robert talking to us about the art display.



After looking at the art we browsed in the shop, finding many interesting artistic aids that were very reasonably priced. I am sure many of us will be back there, having been introduced to this great asset on the main street of Port Chalmers.

.And, so to lunch in the cafe next door where we enjoyed a well-served lunch in a convivial atmosphere.

Queueing up for lunch.

Thank you very much to Laurie for organising another very enjoyable day.

The next visit details will be advised in due course....
Cheers

Tash



Walking Group Two August

Defying wintry weather and viruses, Walking Group Two, admitted Wanderers, managed to explore some off the beaten track parts of Dunedin whilst keeping feet dry.

The Heritage District and streets from it provided ample opportunities to enjoy classic Dunedin



Architecture along with modern mural talent...

.and who knew you could wash your dog along with your car?



Our next wander was around the Wharf district - more murals, hidden treasures & history.



Wharf Area



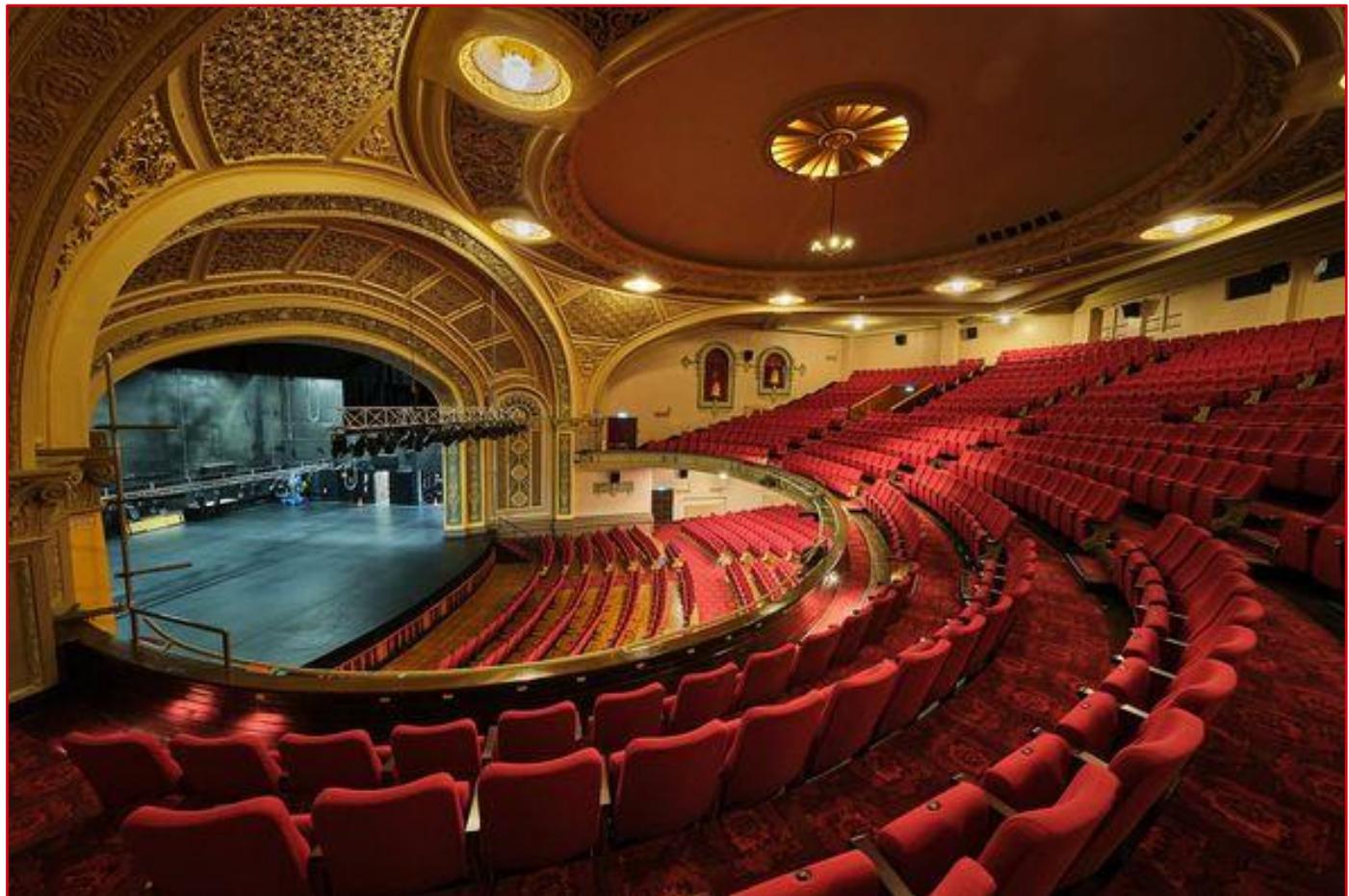
The Andersons Bay Inlet, on a calm, if chilly day, offered some history, birdlife and beautiful reflections of our cityscape.

Regards,
Ailsa

Photography Group August

A good number turned out for a visit to the Regent Theatre in early August. A warm welcome and an interesting tour was given by Nelson Miles: we were then free to wander at will. The Regent first opened in 1928 as a 2000 seat silent movie theatre, complete with an orchestra pit. Not too long after, along came the talkies. The décor is revived baroque style and was common in that era. Today, the Regent is the sole remaining theatre in Australasia, if not the world, to retain this decorative style. A Dunedin treasure!

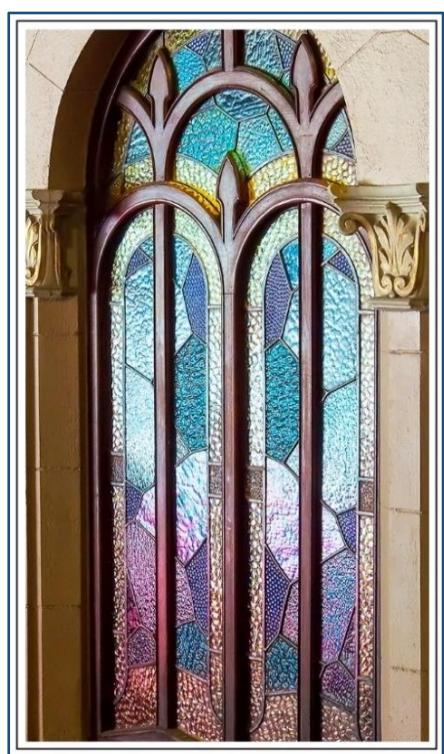
One of our group had the forethought to bring a tripod and he captured this great wide-angle view. Ani



In

and

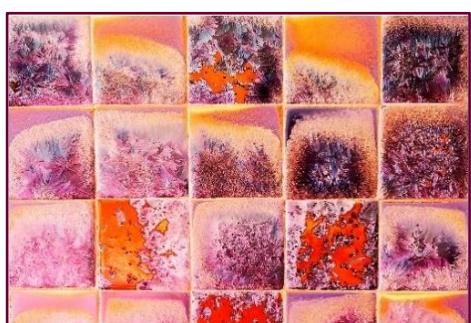
Out





Two aspects: two photographers

Playing with colour

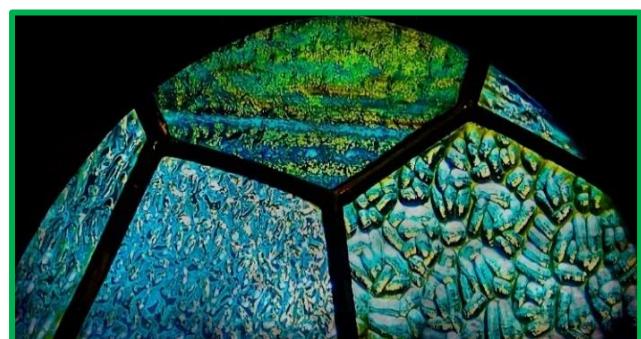




Interval, and the rush is on from the cheap seats



Detailing



The day we went to the Regent Theatre was stunning. Sunny, and the temp was in the early teens. Our second trip in August was a total contrast in both venue and weather. Six hardy souls met up for lunch at the Blueskin Gallery at Waitati on the 18th. The sun was certainly not shining, the rain was most assuredly falling, and lunch went on for far longer than was planned, or, indeed, seemly. Which one of us wanted to be the first person out into those elements??

Four of us walked along the beach to the caves, access to them is tide dependent, on Doctors Point Beach. And some of our



shots were passable with the rain glistening on the rocks. No precipitation at all for at least an hour of our walk. I hope to go back on a sunny clear day and compare views. Ani

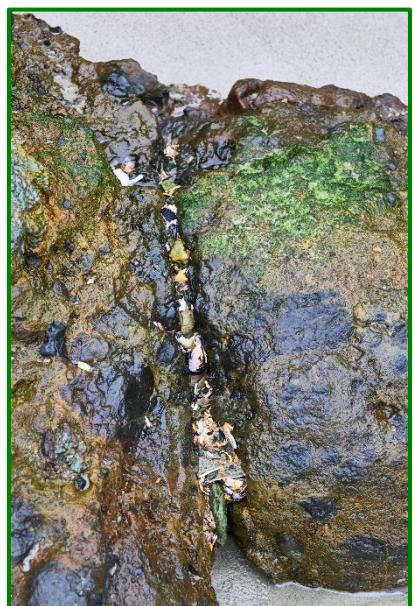




Ghost ship in the mist



Nature's way of decorating a crevice in the stone with broken shells



Pics this month from
Laurie White, Graham
Corbett, Linda Forbes,
Hildegard Lubcke,
Robyne Selbie, and Ann
Wood

