



Interest Groups NEWSLETTER

July 2022

Kia ora koutou

Our July newsletter is action packed and reflects that, despite the current pandemic and it's restrictions on our lives, U3A Interest group members have been active and engaged. I hope you had a highlight in your life this month that has bought you a new experience and kept you involved – if not think about joining us.

Paul Wheeler's Expanding Musical Horizons interest group demonstrates you don't need to meet to be involved. Using technology enables the members of this group to still exchange views, post challenges and explore topics of interest independently. Guided by Paul, this has been a successful format when meeting in a restricted area was not safe. If your group has had to forgo meeting in conventional settings and adapting to meet the current restrictions let us know the innovative ways you are going about keeping contact.

The poetry group have been discussing how some of them have a very limited knowledge of Shakespeare. This would be a rich subject with an infinite amount of resources available for an Interest group. A knowledgeable facilitator would be an advantage, but interactive learning with discussion on an agreed focus e.g., specific plays or sonnets, would be a great starting point. Please contact me if this is of interest to you – don't let those long-ago school experiences put you off!

Things we can all remember with awe in July : 53 years ago on July 20 1969, Neil Armstrong descended the cramped lunar module Eagles ladder and became the first human being to set foot on the moon. Can you remember where you were? I was at Invercargill Airport about to board a Grumman Widgeon sea plane to fly to Stewart Island (it landed in the water). Oh, how far we have come, or have we?

Kia kaha everyone – take care – stay strong.

Trish Irvine

Convenor

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 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



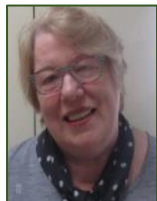
Gardens & Botanical Group

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



STOP PRESS: **Gardens & Botanical Group** IS COMING OUT OF RECESS.

Wednesday 7 July

The facilitator of the garden group Robyne Selbie and her assistant, Carole Bezett, met today to discuss the format of this recently created group. So far, we have thirty-six members indicating they wish to participate, so there is a need to cater for these numbers as best we can.



Tentatively, we will be meeting on the 2nd Wednesday of each month, probably around 1.30. This may rule out some who have joined thinking Tuesday was the set day. Please let Robyne know if Wednesday does not suit you..... email robyneselbie1945@gmail.com

Initially we are aiming to feature places where large groups may go, carpooling

may be an organised option.

Our planning to date includes a visit to the snowdrops at Larnach Castle in August where we may also have a speaker and afternoon tea.

Other destinations mentioned include a visit to Maple Glen down south, a speaker and tour of the Northern cemetery with its heritage roses, a possible tour of gardens of interest around Dunedin, this to be done in smaller groups, and much, much more. Carole



Maple Glen



The Best Café

A long time ago
On Lower Stuart Street
There was a wee place
Where people would meet

It was just an ole chip shop
When you got off the train
Somewhere to warm up
And get out of the rain

A meal of fresh fish
Was usually the reason
The place would go crazy
In the Bluff oyster season

But time has moved on
There's a lot more racket
Computers and cellphones
Meals in a packet

But a legend still standing
It will always be true
Because we've been feeding
you

Since 1932

M.D. Y.

Luncheon Group July



The July lunch was a nostalgia trip for our group as we visited The Best Café in Stuart Street. I, as a Port Chalmers train schoolgirl, remember passing this iconic cafe on my way to and from the railway station. Since 1932 this has been the best place for oysters in town, still served with bread and butter – half white bread and half brown.

While the wall plaques that tell the tale of the famous people who have enjoyed a fish meal here are still in situ, the same cannot be said for the formica tables and vinyl covered chairs. Only the one setting, in the window, remains to remind us of what was. No prizes at all for guessing to which table our group made a beeline!!

Started by Mr Peter Dalessi, it comprised in the early days a central dining room offering workmen hearty meals flanked by a fish shop on one side and a milk bar on the other. The café was a family business for generations of the Collins family from the early 1930's until 1986 when it was sold to Mabel McCormack who continued with the traditional meals.

The Best Café always had regular business from the courtroom across the road. On trial days it was not unusual to have judge, jury and lawyers from both sides, enjoying lunch at separate tables at the "Best". A policeman always sat with the jurors to keep them apart from any undue influence.

Now back in Collins family hands again, we can recommend it as The Best Café for seafood in Dunedin.

Trish Irvine

Walking Group One

June and July

We started June, and winter, with a walk up the "Big Easy", this zig zags up towards Signal Hill behind Logan Park High. It's always a great fallback walk, the track is mostly all weather, it's sheltered from howling winds, has parking; beautiful trees; views; gentle gradients and keeps us on our toes as it's shared with yikes. (speedy bikes suddenly appearing).



The next good winter walk was on well-draining sand, congregating at Dinosaur Park and proceeding along behind the beach dunes through Kettle Park, then a loop along the parade at St Kilda and back via the streets further inland to our starting point.



We tackled the hill suburb of Roslyn next and the cuttings for the cable cars at Belgrave Crescent and the Observatory were of great interest for those not familiar with this area.



Gretchen led us through places many of us had never been in Opoho, and treated us to delicious toasties.

Our last walk began at Glenfalloch, then looped along the harbour walkway, up around the streets behind



Macandrew Bay and finished scoffing coffee and cake in the sunshine and birdsong of Glenfalloch garden.

I, for one, really enjoy our urban strolls around our members' suburban "backyards", you see parts

of Dunedin you have never ventured on foot before and learn some of the settlement history. Averil

Gallery Group July

A lovely visit to the home/studio of Jayne Tui Schwenke today... Jayne welcomed us into her lovely warm and inviting home (in from the heavy rain and cold outside) to enjoy a homemade morning tea and to view and talk about her amazing art.

Jayne did not always concentrate on art and enjoyed several other pursuits first. She was inspired to start her art career by attending a painting class in Dunedin where she explored the colours and textures of oil painting.



Several years spent in Japan had inspired her first phase of painting concentrating on people and portraits rather than landscapes. Jayne has a love of colour and experimenting with mixing the nuances of tones from the primary colours. Jayne moved on to painting the beauty of the scenery from

photos she had taken on numerous tramps and trips to the outdoors.

Stitching together photos to make bigger scenes inspired many of her works and lots of commissions started to roll in. Jayne joined the Otago Art Society and was thrilled by selling her first painting from an exhibition, and, also with the support she received from the members.

Jayne has started to prefer the simpler versions of her landscapes and concentrating on a narrower viewpoint. The unique style in her painting has made her art instantly recognisable and very popular with admirers of landscapes

The detail makes close-up study of each feature so worthwhile and inspiring. The landscape has forever become enhanced by seeing the intricate features of the Southern Alps with their faults and folds, nooks and crannies that delights every lover of geology. The photo (above) shows details of her painting of Milford Sound.



Thank you so much to Jayne for a most entertaining and worthwhile morning, and to Peter for organising it. Details of our next visit will be sent out soon. Tash

Poetry Group July

Our group enjoyed a vibrant meeting in late June. The topic was Ageing... doesn't sound riveting does it, but the poems chosen by the seven

AUGUST THIRD

These days
Lifting myself up
Like a heavy weight,
Old camel getting to her knees,
I think of my mother
And the inexhaustible flame
That kept her alive
Until she died.

She knew all about fatigue
And how one pushes it aside
For staking up the lilies
Early in the morning,
The way one pushes it aside
For a friend in need,
For a hungry cat.

Mother, be with me.
Today on your birthday
I am older than you were
When you died
Thirty-five years ago.
Thinking of you
The old camel gets to her knees,
Stands up,
Moves forward slowly
Into the new day.

If you taught me one thing
It was never to fail life.

participants ranged widely from Shakespeare's 'Sonnet 73' through to 'Warning' by Jenny Joseph... first line.... 'When I am an old woman I shall wear purple'

One bought along a poem that she had written in the Upper Sixth Form while at Queens High. A thrill, at the time, that it was published in the school magazine.

Another wrote that when she was young, she foresaw death by age forty ... that was when she thought meaningful life would end. Unbelievably, she writes, that didn't happen and now, at twice that age plus, she is a member of our group who is treasured for her knowledgeable input. Ani



Two poems, selected by different members, were written by May Sarton.

Now I become myself and August Third

May Sarton was the pen name of Eleanore Marie Sarton, a Belgian-American poet, novelist and memoirist. Although her best work is strongly personalised with erotic female imagery, she resisted the label of 'lesbian writer', preferring to convey the universality of human love. [Wikipedia](#)

Born: 3 May 1912, [Wondelgem, Ghent, Belgium](#)

Died: 16 July 1995, [York, Maine, United States](#)

Awards: [Guggenheim Fellowship for Creative Arts, US & Canada](#) [American Book Award](#)



- “We have to dare to be ourselves, however frightening or strange that self may prove to be.” ...

Now I become myself

Now I become myself. It's taken
Time, many years and places;
I have been dissolved and shaken,
Worn other people's faces,
Run madly, as if Time were there,
Terribly old, crying a warning,
"Hurry, you will be dead before—"
(What? Before you reach the morning?
Or the end of the poem is clear?
Or love safe in the walled city?)
Now to stand still, to be here,
Feel my own weight and density!
The black shadow on the paper
Is my hand; the shadow of a word
As thought shapes the shaper
Falls heavy on the page, is heard.

All fuses now, falls into place
From wish to action, word to silence,
My work, my love, my time, my face
Gathered into one intense
Gesture of growing like a plant.
As slowly as the ripening fruit
Fertile, detached, and always spent,
Falls but does not exhaust the root,
So all the poem is, can give,
Grows in me to become the song,
Made so and rooted by love.
Now there is time and Time is young.
O, in this single hour I live
All of myself and do not move.
I, the pursued, who madly ran,
Stand still, stand still, and stop the sun!

Tuesday Current Issues July

Discussion started on the cost of preventing climate breakdown, with figures from Yuval Harari, and two other world-wide reviews. Harari's



scrutiny (put 'Sapienship Annual GDP' into your search engine) is simple to understand and stunning in its analysis: to stop climate change all countries should commit to 2% of their GDP right now. Harari includes a number of things countries do spend 2% of their GDP on.



These figures produced an interested and animated discussion.

Sapienship is a multidisciplinary organization advocating for global responsibility. Our mission is to clarify the global conversation, focus attention on the most important challenges and support the quest for solutions. There are many challenges facing the world today.

After the coffee break, we moved around several topics. Members questioned the ethics of the commitment to their profession and to medical science by the unvaccinated nurses wanting to return to work.



Then, three of our members had been to the U3A course on the New Dunedin Hospital. They had all become very impressed by the breadth and depth of effort to provide a well-considered and well-consulted medical service to the whole of Otago and Southland, in addition to the momentous physical facilities. One person asked if U3A could repeat the course, and maybe they will after two or three years – there is plenty to interest and plenty of time as the project moves ahead. Gretchen

Expanding Musical Horizons Group July

The Expanding Musical Horizons interest group hasn't met this year. Because of space restrictions and difficulties in meeting all the requirements that would ensure members' safety in a slightly cramped environment, the group decided it would remain in recess until the situation improves.

So, we've gone online. No Zoom, no fancy website, just email. There was a very enthusiastic response when I asked if our members would be interested in receiving each month's topic via email. The downside is that we can't enjoy the spontaneous discussions as well as all the chatter over morning coffee. On the upside, however, there have been a few people on the list waiting for ages to get into the group, so they are now fully involved.

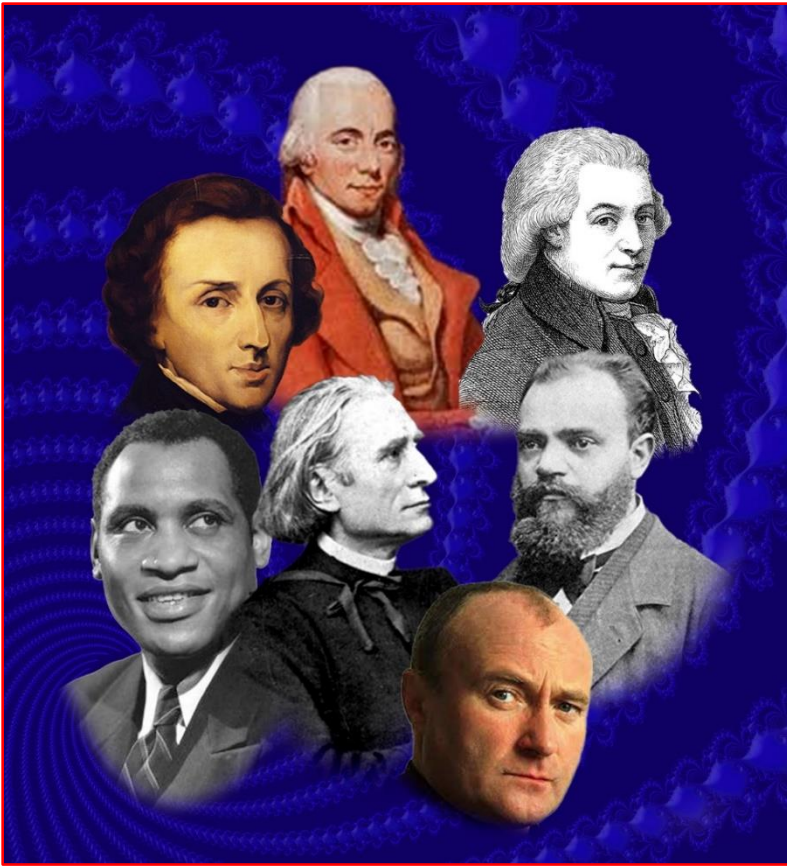
Each month, I am sending material out via email that covers a good proportion of what we might cover in a face-to-face session. It's a Word document that includes all the background information in an easily assimilated format with YouTube links so that people can watch and listen to what would have been on the programme if we had been meeting.

One group member thought this approach would be a great way to share his interest with the others. Ian Winter is an experienced performer and retired teacher who is sending out challenges for the others to solve in the weeks in between. Each week, he posts a new challenge that includes three YouTube links. But what is the link behind his three choices? It might be the composer, or something in the lyrics, or something common to the performers, or some other interesting facet that has people watching the video and then racing off to check with Google if they need more background. He sends hints for those who are getting stuck. Ian's musical background is broad, so we don't know if our challenge is going to be about opera, rap, folk, pop or any number of other genres.

A number of our members love solving puzzles, and at the same time, they are expanding their musical horizons. Two other members have also seen potential in the online format and are working on topics of particular interest to them, which will be shared when they are ready. As a result, there is a much greater variety of activity going on that has been particularly good value for those who are spending so much time at home, feeling somewhat isolated, and finding something interesting to do in this real wintry weather.



Some composers and performers that featured in our June session



The first topic I covered in the online format is “Pops Meet the Classics”. This is a session I start with each year, an easy-going look at the world of popular music. Over the years, I have built up a collection of around 80 pieces of popular music that we grew up with and heard played on the radio when we were kids. What makes the music in this collection special is that these picks from the hit parades over the years have been borrowed, stolen, nicked, purloined, plagiarised or flogged from some famous composer’s hard work, sometimes from centuries ago. And usually done so without any

acknowledgement of its source. So, we looked at a few of these (and the original classical pieces) to get us underway with our online series.

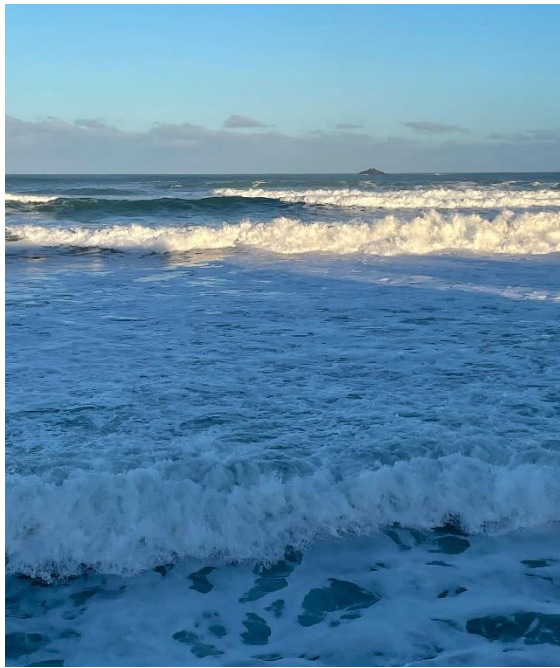
Some protests that were covered in our July session

The July topic was “The Sound of Protest”, a continuation of a series we started last year. Protests about the environment, war, civil rights, police brutality, women’s rights, the poverty gap, nuclear testing, treatment of veterans, and the reunification of Ireland are some of the many twentieth century areas that we have listened to and will continue to cover in this series. Music can be analysed in a formal and technical way, but it is just as interesting to study the social, historic, geographical and technological contexts which helped to shape its creation. Paul



Walking Group Two July

A curtailed number of walks, due to travel, but the two we did were pleasantly undertaken in crisp



sunshine.

A walk along John Wilson Drive to Lawyers' Head, surf up. In fact, we observed from our

perches at the Esplanade after our walk, the tide was so high it looked as if it was at the same level as the promenade.



The following Friday, we enjoyed what was termed an 'Ecumenical Walk', meeting at Knox



Church, walking along to the Archibald Baxter Peace Garden, a small haven with an unusual sculpture on George Street, before walking along to the Synagogue, crossing through the University campus

and over to the Mosque: a recognition of the diversity in this small, but dynamic, city. Ailsa



Art Collections Group July

The Otago Art Society 146th Annual Exhibition opened on the 18th of June and runs until the 16th of July. The exhibition features OAS member's artwork in a range of mediums including sculpture, painting, photography, and jewellery. This year, mother and son duo Pauline Bellamy and Manu Berry, judged the artworks together. Both are well regarded Dunedin artists whose works are

familiar to many, Pauline is primarily a painter, and Manu a printmaker.



Once again there was not a large number of members present, but those that were, enjoyed the exhibition. We didn't purchase any of the offerings, but certainly appreciated many of the works. My favourite was this landscape (left) by **Julia McNaughton**.

Another favourite of the group was this painting (right) of Sweet Peas by **Catriona Cunningham**.



After much discussion on the works in this show, we went up Stuart Street to Gallery de Novo to look at what they had on offer in their Winter Group Show. We liked:

(above) Vessel Group by **Stephanie Crisp** plus this lovely work (below) featuring Saddle Hill by **Maria Kemp**, and available as a print.

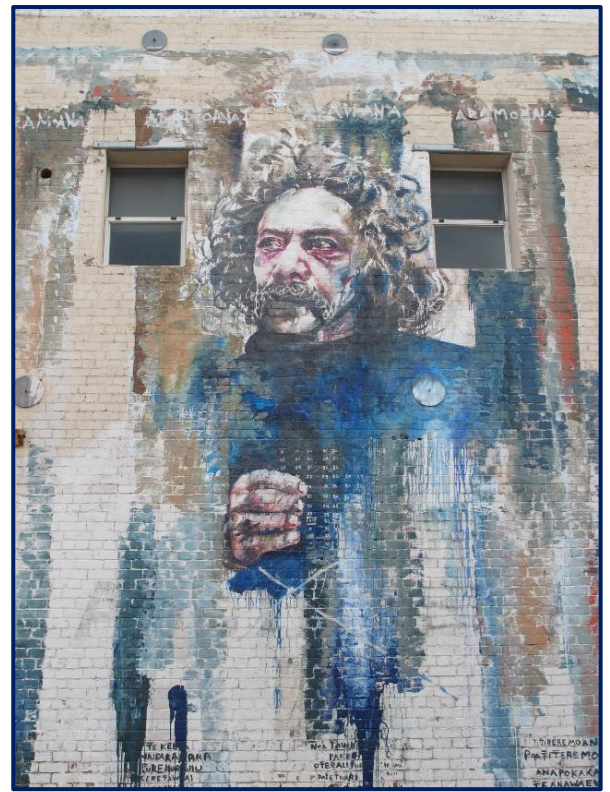
Anne- Marie



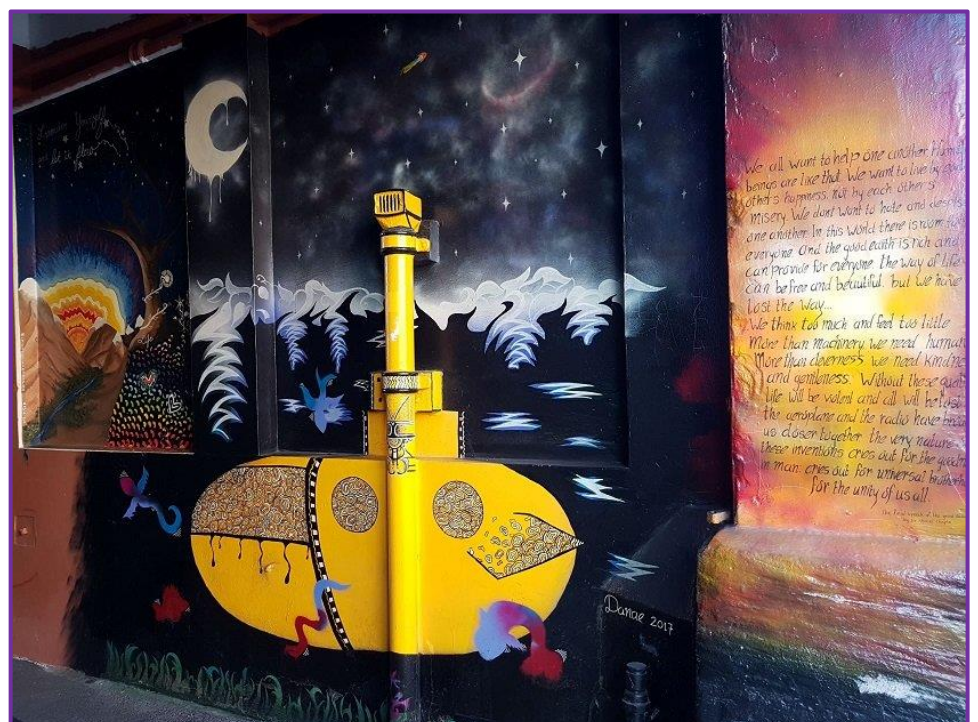
Photography Group July

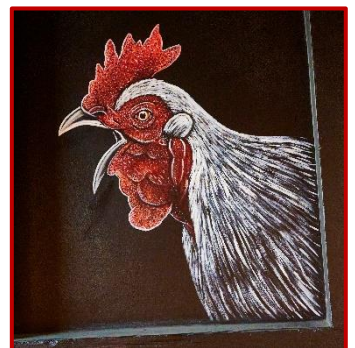
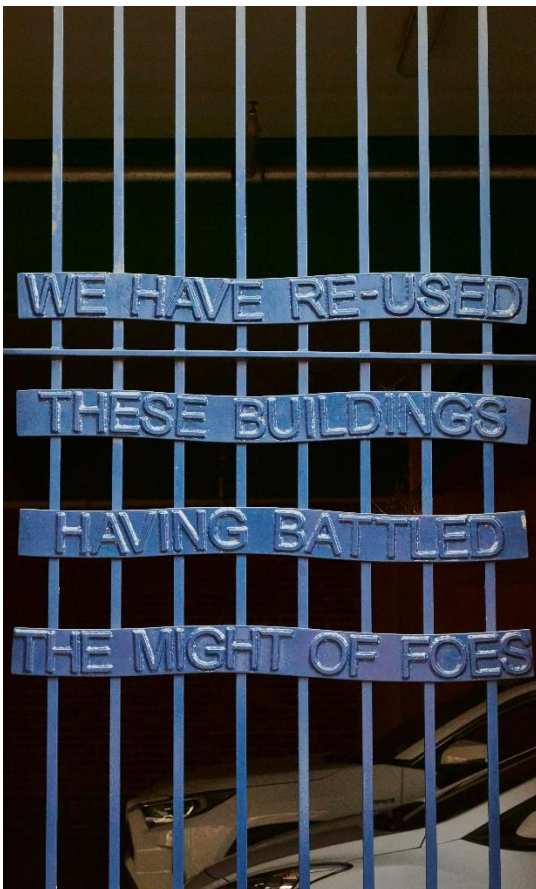
Photo credits this month: John Burton, Laurie White, Ann Wood, Hildegard Lubcke, Graham Corbett, Peter McCaskill

A good outing on a cool, but fine, first Thursday in July. Experiencing the wind and torrential rain on Friday, we were, once again, very lucky with the weather. We are all people who have families and/or belong to various groups and Covid has caught up with us as individuals. Some still in isolation and one or two who only very recently succumbed to its clutches, so just six, plus a visitor, turned up today to do the walk around the art streets of Vogel, Carroll, Stafford and Manse. We finished up at Fable Hotel for coffee, as it has become fashionable for the area's larger coffee



shops to stop table service circa 2pm. That didn't work well for us.





Petridish, not a mural, but it is an artwork to behold. A wonderful shared space.



This is a marvellous area to head to and just wander. No locations tagged because you really need to go and see what appeals to you. Peep around corners and you will be amazed at what is hiding.

And there is always an exception to every rule. Long time Dunedin residents will well remember

Bartons Butchers on the corner of Manse and Princes Streets. These beautiful tiles, still with us, are the very first street art.



Our second outing in July was challenging, to say the least. In the descriptive words of one of the attendees....



“On a dull wintry day this Edwardian railway station was darkened further by its renovator's gloomy shrouds. The light was so meagre that we photographers struggled, but mindful that King Dick had caused this great structure and because the coffee beforehand had been so good, no faint hearts were allowed.”



How many of these train trips have you enjoyed?

Three for me... must say I hadn't heard of The Racer. Ani



