



# Interest Groups NEWSLETTER

June 2022

Kia ora koutou

Welcome to our June Newsletter and winter. Edith Sitwell said “Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth, for the touch of a friendly hand and talk beside the fire, it is the time for home”. For a number of us, home has been where we are spending most of our time. Covid is still having a significant effect on our daily lives with family, friends and colleagues spending time either sick or isolating. Some of our Interest groups are still in recess awaiting spring and the current wave of Covid to abate. Remember the booster shot is recommended for those with increased risk of severe illness from Covid 19 – available six months after the first booster.

June is also a time for celebrating Matariki often called the Māori New Year. It is a time where people, whānau and communities gather to remember the year passed, to celebrate the present, and to plan for the next year. It is a time to reflect with loved ones, remember those no longer with us, to feast and celebrate with our relatives and friends and to look to the future and the hope of a season full of bounty. I encourage you to join the many events planned over the long weekend, such as Mana Moana Ōtepoti Friday to Sunday 5.30pm to 8.30pm at the Steamer Basin.



Many of our Interest groups have been out and about and we thank them for sharing their interesting experiences with us. Please stay warm and well, and hopefully July and August will see us all enjoying spring. If you are looking for a new interest, we look forward to hearing from you.

Ngā mihi o Matariki, te tau hou Māori. Happy Matariki, the Māori new year.

Trish Irvine  
**Interest Groups Convenor**  
Phone 027 227 2240



### Art Collections

Facilitator: Anne-Marie Hutton  
Monthly: First Tuesday 10:30  
E: [annemariehutton@gmail.com](mailto:annemariehutton@gmail.com)



### Dining Group

Facilitator: Karen Wards  
Third Friday, 7 pm  
E: [karendwards@gmail.com](mailto:karendwards@gmail.com)



### Expanding Musical Horizons

**full / on hold until August**

Facilitator: Paul Wheeler  
Second Monday, 10 am  
E: [wheeler@outlook.co.nz](mailto:wheeler@outlook.co.nz)



### Film Group 1 in recess

Facilitator: Bill Stanford  
Third Wednesday, 1:30  
E: [w.stanford@protonmail.com](mailto:w.stanford@protonmail.com)



### Film Group 2 in recess

Facilitator: Bill Stanford  
Second Wednesday, 1:30  
E: [w.stanford@protonmail.com](mailto:w.stanford@protonmail.com)

### Gallery Group full

Facilitator: Tash Hurst  
Second Wednesday, 10:30  
E: [tash.hurst@xtra.co.nz](mailto:tash.hurst@xtra.co.nz)



### Gardens & Botanical Group

Third Tuesday, 1:30  
Joint Facilitators:

Robyne Selbie  
E: [robyneselbie1945@gmail.com](mailto:robyneselbie1945@gmail.com)



Carole Bezett  
E: [carolebezett@gmail.com](mailto:carolebezett@gmail.com)



### Luncheon Group

Facilitator: Trish Irvine  
Second Friday, 12:30  
E: [trishjockloch@gmail.com](mailto:trishjockloch@gmail.com)



### Mahjong Group

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



### Monday Current Affairs Group full

Facilitator: Joy Hayward  
Third Monday, 1.30  
E: [joyhayward@hotmail.co.nz](mailto:joyhayward@hotmail.co.nz)



### Photography Group

Facilitator: Ann Wood  
First Thursday, 1:30;  
Third Thursday, TBA  
E: [ann.wood14blaw@gmail.com](mailto:ann.wood14blaw@gmail.com)



### Poetry Group full

Facilitator: Carole Bezett  
Fourth Wednesday, 11 am  
E: [carolebezett@gmail.com](mailto:carolebezett@gmail.com)



### Singing Group in recess

Facilitator: Claire Stevens  
Weekly: Monday, 1 pm  
E: [cstevensnz@gmail.com](mailto:cstevensnz@gmail.com)



### Tuesday Current Issues Group full

Facilitator: Gretchen Kivell  
Third Tuesday, 10 am  
E: [gretchen.kivell@xtra.co.nz](mailto:gretchen.kivell@xtra.co.nz)



### Walking Group 1 full

Every Thursday, 10:30  
Joint Facilitators:  
Averil McLean  
E: [averilmclean2@gmail.com](mailto:averilmclean2@gmail.com)



Janet Hewson  
E: [je.hewson@xtra.co.nz](mailto:je.hewson@xtra.co.nz)



### Walking Group 2

Facilitator: Ailsa Williams  
Weekly: Every Friday 10 am  
E: [ailsasx@gmail.com](mailto:ailsasx@gmail.com)



## Gallery Group June

A wonderful gallery group visit today with a wide-ranging agenda. First we assembled at Toitu where our group of ten were met by our visit organiser, Athol Parks, who is an author and an excellent City Walks guide. And so, onto the auditorium where Peter Reid, a curator at Toitu, gave a visual presentation showing some of the early paintings of Dunedin and its surroundings.

It was suggested that these images act as a visual diary of events that took place in the 1840s and 50s. The early paintings showed a very different Dunedin than those after the gold rush when huge growth occurred. Peter then led us on a short tour that included going to the early portrait

gallery and then on up to the stack where the original paintings are stored on huge pull out shelves on runners. We felt very privileged to visit these behind the scenes areas that would not be available on a regular visit.

**L. Athol and Peter standing in front of a George O'Brien reproduction of early Dunedin.**

O'Brien only managed to finish this painting a short time before he died.

For the second part of our morning, we re-assembled at

Deborah Abbott's house where an excellent lunch was laid on for all. Many thanks to Deborah for providing such a lovely lunch and venue. Artist, Motoko

Watanabe, had some of her unique art works beautifully displayed in the open plan living area.

**R. Motoko Watanabe showing the method of construction.**

**L. Chris Hewitt and Doug Hart listening intently.**



Motoko talked to us about her art and how they were made and envisioned. Using recycled materials the forms gradually emerged and changed until Motoko felt happy with them.

They were all untitled, as each person can put their own interpretation on them, without being given a preconceived idea.

**Below:**  
**Viv Hewitt and Jan Wilson admiring the art works.**



To the members of the group who couldn't be there for health or other unavoidable reasons we wish you all the best.

We were pleased to be able to offer Viv and Doug the opportunity to join our group for the visit as in the past they have both hosted our group.

Our next visit is on July 13th. Peter will be sending out more information in the near future, when all is confirmed.

Tash

## Poetry Group June

Our group first heard this extract from T E Brown's narrative poem 'Betsy Lee' earlier this year when beautifully read in dialect by a proud Manxwoman, Judith Cowley. She has kindly contributed the following:

Born in Douglas Isle of Man in 1830, Thomas Edward Brown was an inspired teacher but is remembered now for his long narrative poems, in Manx dialect, combining humour and sadness, reflecting his love for the island, the beauty of its countryside and the innocence of childhood.

He is loved and remembered in Ellan Vannin (IOM) as the Manx National poet.



Now the beauty of the thing when childher plays is  
The terrible wonderful length the days is.  
Up you jumps, and out in the sun  
And you fancy the day will never be done;  
And you're chasin' the bumbees hummin' so cross  
In the hot sweet air among the goss,  
Or gath'rin bluebells, or lookin' for eggs.  
Or peltin' the ducks with their yalla legs,  
Or climin' and nearly breakin' your skulls,  
Or a shoutin' for divilment after the gulls,  
Or a thinkin' of nothin' but down at the tide  
Singin' out for the happy you feel inside  
That's the way with the kids, you know,  
And the years do come, and the years do go,  
And when you look back, it's all like a puff,  
Happy and over and short enough.

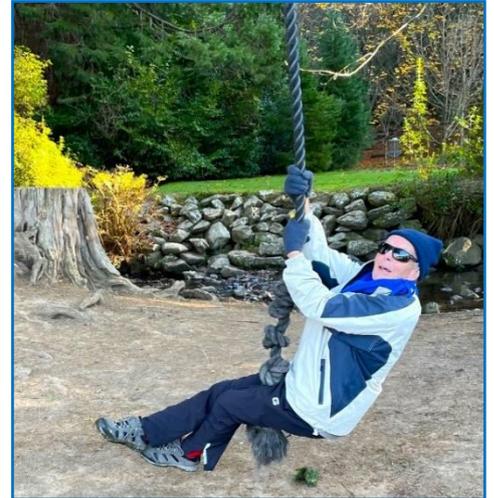


## Walking Group Two June

Our recent walks have varied in scenery, severity and slipperiness of terrain. We've realised that not only should the weather be considered re: our destination on the day of the walk, but the prior couple of days' precipitation as well.



Chingford Park was coated in our city's first frost, but the trails were mostly free of dampness under foot, and we observed further trails to be explored back there. One of the group took a break off his feet before all went to hug the magnificent tree further along. A warming drink was enjoyed at the quirky Blacks Road Grocer.



The Woodhaugh Gardens, along to the Millennium Track up to Ross Creek was a muddier experience, the rain only having ceased a while earlier. It was a delight for a number of us to discover the Star sculptures - depicting constellations of our southern skies; less of a delight was discovering the muddy north end of the reservoir caused by ongoing infrastructure improvements.



A walk along the northern side of Otago Harbour was cold, but enjoyable, along the trail to Ravensbourne & back, enjoying warm refreshments at the Plaza Cafe under the Stadium. Fortunately, one in our group had the wits to ask a chap sitting in his van to take a picture, so no selfies required.

Kia Ora,  
Ailsa

## Art Collections Group June

On Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June we went to the Dunedin Public art Gallery. Our small group visited three main exhibitions. The first was *Mother Tongue* by Jasmine Togo-Brisby. This visual presentation seems like a peaceful scene: a woman and her passenger rowing around a wreck. Upon reading the



information at the entrance (where we exited) one learns that the wreck is that of the Don Juan, a schooner resting under the water at Deborah Bay. Jasmine Togo-Brisby's great-great grandparents were "blackbirded" from Vanuatu by the crew of the Don Juan and forced into slavery in Queensland. In this video, Togo-Brisby shows us the grisly story beneath the tideline.



The second video work is *The Fall* by Christopher Ulutupu. This is a complex but compelling story told in a series of chapters on two screens. He presents his answer to the question "what happens when it all falls away?". The presentation features some



great music, and beautiful scenes from Otepoti and Te Waipounamu, some of which were immediately recognisable.

We spotted Karitane and Olveston in short order.

This installation runs until 2<sup>nd</sup> October.





The third installation we enjoyed was *Beyond the Hedge*. Our favourites from this being the giant rabbit; Jim McMurtry, by Michael Parekowhai in the Gallery foyer plus the interactive wall display that dropped leaves when one clapped. Also *The Golden Bearing* by Reuben Paterson.

The tree glitters beautifully in the sunlight. These works have wide appeal to all ages.

Anne-Marie



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## Mah Jong Group June

If you are curious about the game of Mah Jong or haven't played since childhood, you could join the Mah Jong group meeting every second and fourth Thursday from 10.00am until noon at the Beth Anderson Lounge at the Otago Golf Club, along the frontage of the Golf Club complex. All levels of play experience are very welcome.



Hilary Allison

## Monday Current Affairs Group June

Five members attended the meeting which was only the second for this year. The current Covid-19 and 'flu situation is certainly having an effect on both frequency of meetings and numbers attending.

Graham Batts surprised us by arriving with a large globe of the world and a question about Matariki. That set the conversation going and we talked about Pleiades and Matariki, visibility from various parts of the world, and the value of the cluster of stars



for many cultures throughout recorded history. We also discussed the current expansion in the use of the Māori language in Aotearoa/NZ and the importance of encouraging the use of indigenous languages.

Two members present had had Covid-19 and shared their experiences. We also talked about the war in Ukraine and possible long-term effects. There was general agreement among those present that it was important and good that we had met, and the discussion was nonstop and animated. We look forward to meeting up with more members of the group next month.

John Burton

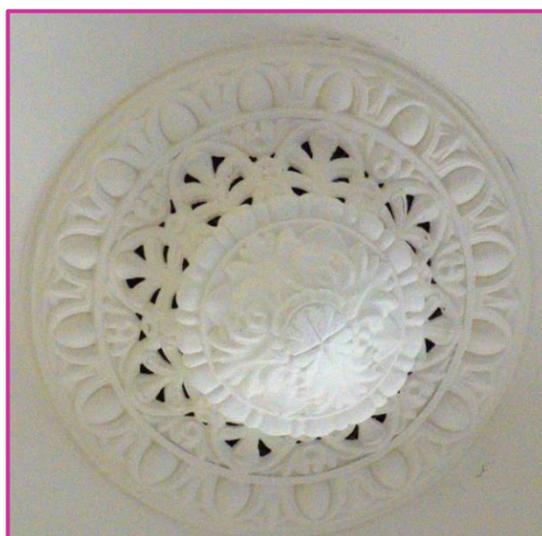
## Photography Group June

A small number of us met up on June 2 at St Patrick's Basilica in Macandrew Rd. Father Gerard Aynsley was very amenable to the idea of us looking through the church and, in particular, at the stained-glass windows which were made in Munich and installed in 1924. **The new blends seamlessly with the old.**



Pics this month from Graham Corbett, Peter McCaskill, Ann Wood, Chris Watson, Laurie White

**The ornate ceiling was a particularly lovely feature.**







We have been incredibly lucky with the weather on our outside shoots, but the Thursday forecast wasn't the best, so we transferred the Hawksbury Lagoon trip at Waikouaiti to Friday and lucked in.

**The water was so very still.**



Several of us enjoyed an early lunch at the café at Blueskin Nurseries and on we went to see what birds were about. Canada Geese, blue-eyed pied shags ...

**the one pictured here appears to have a feather stuck in its beak...,**

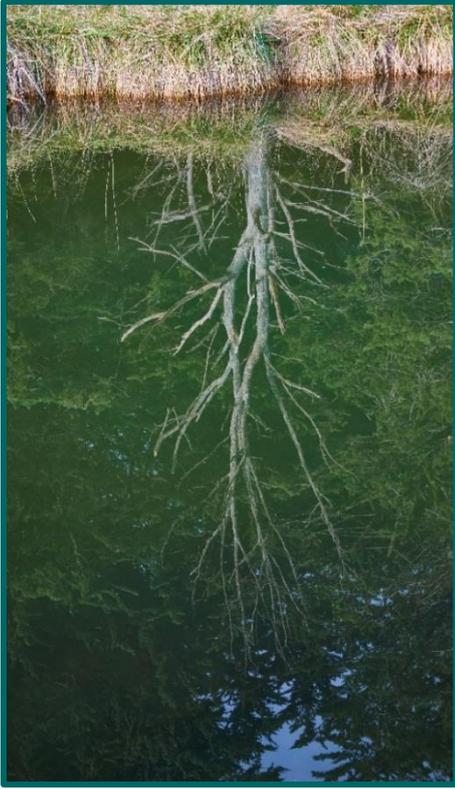
black swans and Paradise shelducks by the mile.



**Even Canada geese need a siesta after lunch.**

The locals were out walking on the tracks that cross the Lagoon.

A very peaceful and beautiful place to exercise on the flat.



**Black Swan**

**These three are practicing their synchronized swimming moves.**

**Not quite Monet**

Our group will certainly head out here again over the summer when the spoonbills are in residence.

Ann

