



Interest Groups NEWSLETTER

March 2022

Kia ora koutou

Here we are at the beginning of Autumn and with many changes still to happen in the coming month with our management of the pandemic. From 11:59pm on the 25th March mask wearing will only be a requirement indoors, the size limit for gatherings indoors increases to 200 people and scanning and sighting of vaccine passes is now optional.

My thanks to all Interest Group attendees who have complied with all we asked them to do over the last few months. As you will see groups who have been able to meet outdoors have been very active and hopefully when this wave of infection passes most of us will be able to resume meeting again indoors.

Walking Group 2

Barrie Peake who was one of the early members of the first Dunedin U3A Walking group (which is now full), has offered to help start a second walking group. He proposes to start this off with a modest walk beginning at 10 am on Friday April 1st at the Dunedin Stadium and progressing around Logan Park, up through the Botanic Gardens and then back to the Stadium via the Otago Polytechnic Hub for coffee. This should take no more than approximately 2 hours and would require only a modest level of fitness. If you are interested in such a walk at this time, please contact Barrie (021 079 5054 or barrie.m.peake@gmail.com). Thank you, Barrie and members of the current group for organising this for us.

Facilitators are still required for these groups:

Art Collections to coordinate trips to visit exhibitions at public and dealer galleries

Current Affairs 3 to lead discussion on news and current events of the day

Music 2 to lead listening and discussion on musical genres of the group's choice

Book Group to lead and organise discussion on either an agreed book, or members share what they are currently reading

If you have an interest in joining or leading any of these groups please be in touch:
trishjockloch@gmail.com

I have continued to enjoy the Wellington Lecture series which has a wide and varied range of topics from an insight into forensic science – who knew “working with stiffs” could be so interesting, to a very provocative look at He Puapua by Dr John Robinson. If you haven't seen any of these you are missing out. This coming week they have Sue Kedgley talking on fifty years of feminism which will be a must watch for me. These are available via Zoom on Tuesday and Friday mornings.

My thanks to all the photographers who have shared their pictures in this month's edition– it gives us a real sense of what your group is doing and thanks to Ann for her work in putting this Newsletter together.

Ngā mihi nui

Trish

Walking Group

Our group of 20 organize a variety of 60 – 90-minute walks every week around Dunedin and a bit further out. These range from easy flat rambles through the town belt and various interesting neighbourhoods (with local knowledge commentary) to uphill climbs and deserted beaches with wonderful high views and endless coastline.



For example:

Sandymount,

Brighton Beach, Allans Beach, Victory Beach, Outram Glen, Tunnel Beach, Haywards Point, Purakaunui and Ross Creek

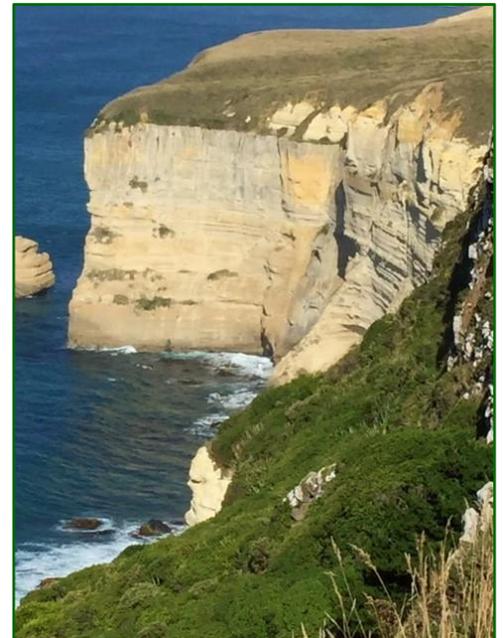
a private garden



Karetai Track



Highgrove overlook



We end up at a nearby spot for coffee and chats for those who have a bit of time.

We either carpool or take the bus to the starting point and everyone gets home on time feeling refreshed, exercised and socialized.

Thank you for all reports and pics sent in this month. Keep them coming please to ann.wood14blaw@gmail.com.

All Group Facilitator's details are at the end of this newsletter.

Poetry Group

Our enthusiastic little group (there are now six of us) enjoy our monthly meetings at the homes of members. Six seems to be the optimal number to allow us to take time exploring and discussing our choice of poems.



Three of our members are keen poets, which is NOT a requirement for joining, but adds a different flavour to our meetings.

Judith has the most fantastic view of the Harbour from her home. Ever changing. Inspirational.

Our choice of poem for the newsletter is by Thomas Gunn

who has been described as a serious intellectual by day and a free spirit by night. Later in life he moved from academic Cambridge to bohemian California. His poems often centre around the modern anxieties of life.

Tamer and Hawk

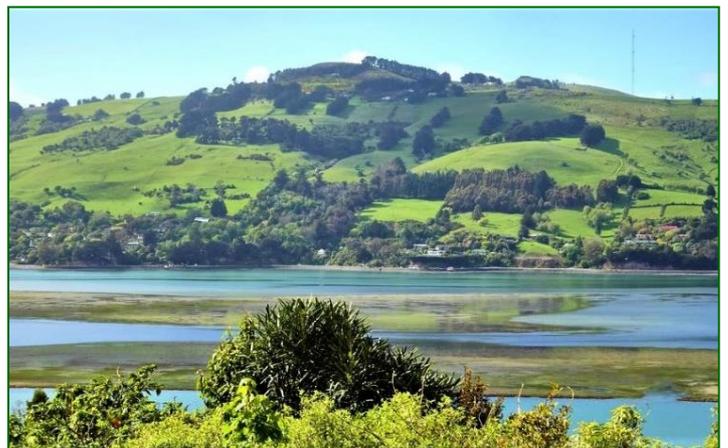
Thom Gunn

I thought I was so tough,
But gentled at your hands,
Cannot be quick enough
To fly for you and show
That when I go I go
At your commands.

Even in flight above
I am no longer free:
You sealed me with your love,
I am blind to other birds—
The habit of your words
Has hooded me.

As formerly, I wheel
I hover and I twist,
But only want the feel,
In my possessive thought,
Of catcher and of caught
Upon your wrist.

You but half civilize,
Taming me in this way.
Through having only eyes
For you I fear to lose,
I lose to keep, and choose
Tamer as prey.

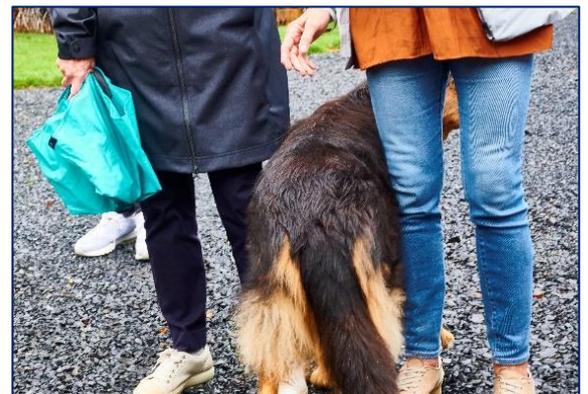


Garden Group

Wylde Willow garden is a beautiful tranquil garden of 2.1 hectares in Abbotsford with the picturesque Abbots creek flowing through it. This was the setting for our garden group visit in March.



A damp day, but great hosts, Fran and Mike Rawlings, were ably assisted by Wolfe the rescue huntaway who enjoyed lots of pats. If you love vintage roses and a parkland setting Wylde Willow is well worth a visit.



Gallery Group

Wednesday 9th March dawned with low cloud and drizzle in Dunedin but it did not dampen members' enthusiasm and there was an excellent turnout for the trip. The weather improved as we reached the Maniototo, and we met up in Ranfurly's sunshine and blue skies with Laurie White, who had kindly organised the trip and Rosemary his navigator. The group arrived punctually at the home and studio of artist Julie Grieg, near Patearoa.



Julie is an accomplished pastellist, being a Master Pastellist of Pastel Artists of New Zealand (MPANZ) one of only four, and a Signature Member of the Pastel Society of America (PSA). In the past she has designed and illustrated children's books and postage stamps. In addition to pastels, she also does oil on canvas and panel, oil mono prints and drawings in charcoal.

Julie told us about her work with much enthusiasm and passion and was most generous in explaining how she cared for her pastels, paint brushes and pigments. She



provided detailed instruction in priming of boards and canvas and use of a fixing spray to speed up the application of layers in her pastel work. We saw a wonderful, recently completed portrait that she had done of her husband and another scene of a placid river with great light and atmosphere. Her husband does all the framing and glass cutting. Julie favours the tray type frame now in which the finished oil painting on a stretched canvas sits nicely in the tray. Members were

fascinated to see Julie's amazing collection of oil paints, pastels and quality brushes. She can also make her own pastels.



Leaving the studio, we went into the sitting room where we met Julie's affectionate, cafe au lait coloured rescue cat, which charmed most of the members. In the paddock we could hear the small flock of Julie's pet sheep, a rare breed of black sheep with with no fleece on the face, a small tail that never required docking and beautiful fleeces that looked like they had been recently groomed. The wool was destined for the

spinning wheel and loom. Once outside, the group was treated to a loud rendition of "Ba Ba Black Sheep"

as the flock came racing over to us for a feast of windfall pears and sheep pellets. We enjoyed Julie's garden with an amazing display of roses and were left wondering how she could fit all this work into her day, as well as the teaching which she also enjoys. Then we repaired back to Ranfurly where a sunny lunch was enjoyed 'en plein air' in the Railway Station Garden.

A fifteen minute drive took us to "Dust", the Gallery and Studio of Jenny Chisholm in the Main Street of Naseby. We were warmly welcomed by her at the Gallery entrance where we learnt that she and her



partner had owned the building for about a year. It had been vacant and unloved for some time. They were in the process of restoring it, room by room. We started in Jenny's studio which was light and bright, seven partly finished paintings adorned the rooms, rather more than usual she assured us. In her earlier days as an artist, she had enjoyed doing rock carving in Oamaru white stone and sandstone and also low relief carvings in wood. Now she mainly paints in oils on canvas, wood and board.

The Gallery entrance/hallway displayed a number of Jenny's works and an interesting piece of metal work, a hall

table of metal tiles supported on an old relic of a water pump. Phil Flanagan, a photographer and Jenny's partner exhibited his impressive landscape and big sky photographs in the next gallery along with further interesting metal work structures by another artist. A number of pastel works by Jane Whittaker were also exhibited in the other main room along with further large metal art works.

All this added up to fascinating visit which was concluded with farewells and thanks to Jenny, who kindly took some photos of the whole group outside the gallery. The Gallery is open every day of the year and is well worth a visit if you are in the vicinity.

Many thanks again to Laurie White for organising a most enjoyable, successful day's excursion and to Rosemary for the great guiding. Next month's visit is on Wednesday 9th April when, Covid permitting, we will visit the home of Julia McNaughton, 77 Cliffs Road, St Clair.

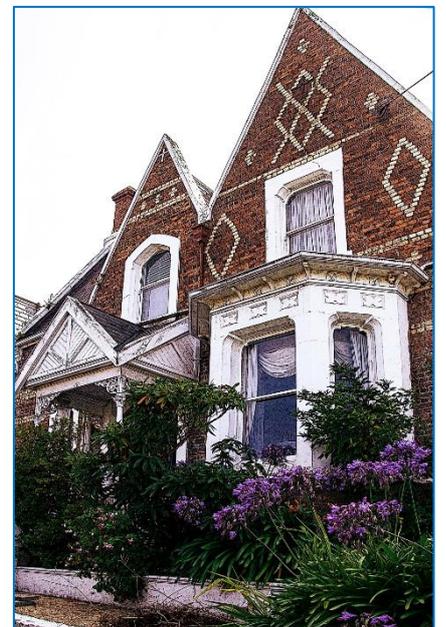
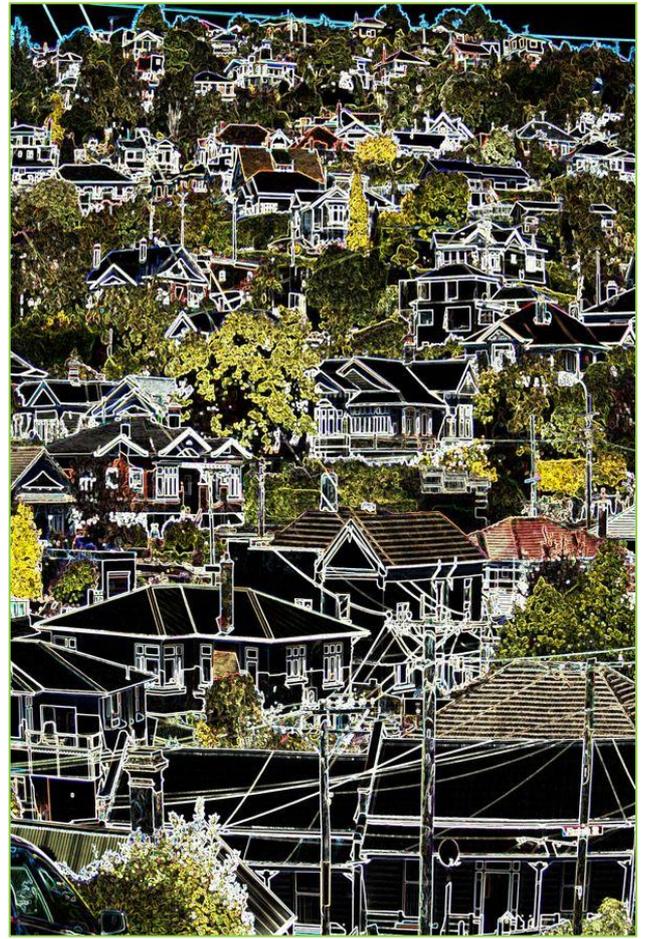
Also thank you everyone for coming on this arty odyssey in these somewhat hazardous times. It was a great day!
Chris Hewitt.



Photography Group

Pics this month from Ann Trewern, Hildegard Lubcke, Ann Wood and Graham Corbett

March was a right mixture of a month weatherwise. Our first scheduled photography walk in Caversham was a glorious day, but the second meet of the month, when we planned to join up with the Gardening Group was the opposite, wet wet wet



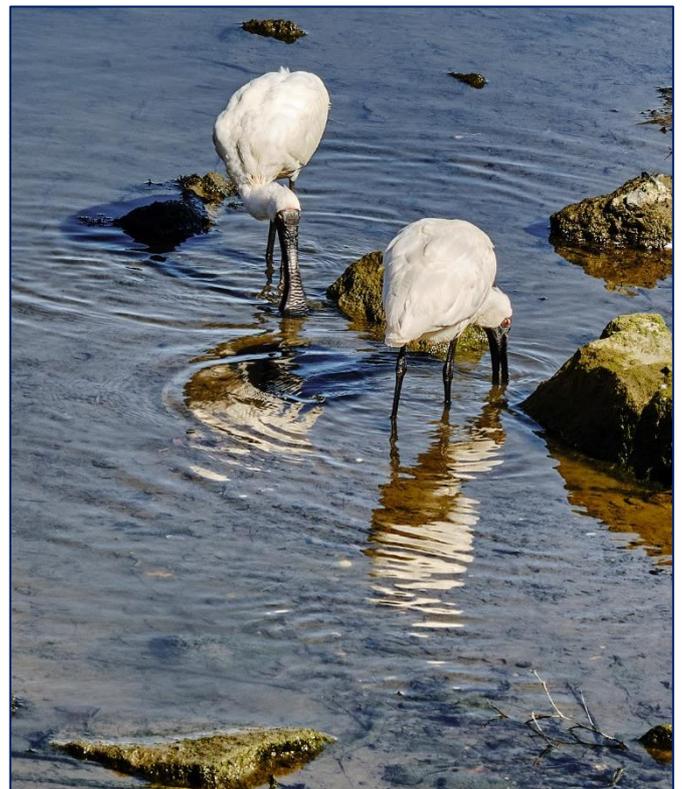


Add in the true onset of the 'Dunedin pandemic' and numbers turning up for outings were low. We did throw in an impromptu day to catch the spoonbills at the Andersons Bay Inlet.

Rose hips in the rain at Wylde Willow



A young family member of the photographer below refers to these beautiful birds as Spoonfuls



Dining Group

Facilitator: Karen Wards

Third Friday, 7 pm

E: karendwards@gmail.com



Mahjong Group

Facilitator: Hilary Allison

2nd & 4th Thursdays, 10 am

E: hilary.allison@xtra.co.nz



Expanding Musical Horizons

full / on hold until May

Facilitator: Paul Wheeler

Second Monday, 10 am

E: wheeler@outlook.co.nz



Monday Current Affairs Group **full**

Facilitator: Joy Hayward

Third Monday, 1.30

E: joyhayward@hotmail.co.nz



Film Group 1 **in recess**

Facilitator: Bill Stanford

Third Wednesday, 1:30

E: w.stanford@protonmail.com



Photography Group

Facilitator: Ann Wood

First Thursday, 1:30;

3rd Thursday TBA E:

ann.wood14blaw@gmail.com



Film Group 2 **in recess**

Facilitator: Bill Stanford

Second Wednesday 1:30

E: w.stanford@protonmail.com

Poetry Group **full**

Facilitator: Carole Bezett

Fourth Wednesday, 11 am

E: carolebezett@gmail.com



Gallery Group **full**

Facilitator: Tash Hurst

Second Wednesday, 10:30

E: tash.hurst@xtra.co.nz



Singing Group **in recess**

Facilitator: Claire Stevens

Weekly: Monday, 1 pm

E: cstevensnz@gmail.com



Gardens & Botanical Group

Facilitator: Patricia Irvine

Third Tuesday 1:30

E: trishjockloch@gmail.com



Walking Group

Joint Facilitators:

Averil McLean

E: averilmclean2@gmail.com

Janet Hewson

E: je.hewson@xtra.co.nz



Luncheon Group

Facilitator: Patricia Irvine

Second Friday, 12:30

E: trishjockloch@gmail.com



Tuesday Current Issues Group

full

Facilitator: Gretchen Kivell

Third Tuesday, 10 am

E: gretchen.kivell@xtra.co.nz



Walking Group 2

Facilitator: Barry Peake

Weekly: Friday 10 am

E: barrie.m.peake@gmail.com

