



# Interest Groups NEWSLETTER

May 2022

Kia ora Koutou

Greetings to all our Interest group Newsletter readers.

May has been a very active month for some of our groups who frequent the outdoors and public venues. Four of our groups are still in recess because of Covid infections which is still a safety factor when meeting in restricted space. We ask our Interest Group members to please wear a mask when seated and only attend a group if vaccinated. Please try to “socially distance” wherever possible.

May was also when U3A held the AGM. I congratulate Linda Kinniburgh who was voted Chairperson for a second term, and I look forward to working with her as Vice Chairperson in the coming year. Special congratulations to Alan Jackson on becoming a life member of U3A. He has played a vital role in the establishment of the website and ensuring good communication in our organisation which includes sending this Newsletter to all each month.

Our Interest groups are now involving around 222 members on a weekly or monthly basis. So far Nora Dowse’s Music group has not got off the ground but maybe when Covid has abated there will be more interest. We have had an offer from Annette Booth a long standing U3A member to join her and her friend’s weekly meeting where they work their way through translating various Latin and ancient Greek texts. She says neither of them are experts, but they have a reasonable level of competence and find this activity is something that is a definite challenge. So, if you want to join ‘Reading from Roman and Greek Classics’ contact me for details.

Once again, our groups have provided a beautiful record in pictures and words of what they have been doing. Thanks to our Editor Ann Wood for her work in putting this together for us all to enjoy.

Noho haumaru me te pai. Stay safe, stay strong.

Trish Irvine

Convenor Interest Groups

Ph. 027 227 2240 / [trishjockloch@gmail.com](mailto:trishjockloch@gmail.com)

## Walking Group 1 May

The walking group decided to go Urban, and we had a really enlivening stroll around all the back alleys to view the Street Art in the Exchange area. Everyone had different favourites, and the backs of the old buildings, the brick and cobbled alleys revealed their historic origins. We'll definitely repeat this tour to



view the Art in the North end of town. Other highlights for the group were a walk behind Larnach Castle which gave us magnificent views, once the fog cleared, right down the Peninsula.



Plus a walk around Orokonui Inlet.

The Exotic forest near the Taieri Lookout is our next outing.

## Walking Group 2 May

We had a lovely walk, uphill and down dale round Mornington 3 weeks ago, culminating in refreshments at Alto Cafe. Such varied architectural styles, and a surprising massive brick wall concealing a home down a narrow side street; you'd have to know it was there to discover it. The walk also serendipitously provided one walker with the opportunity to check out the tree trimming which had been requested by the church this walker attends. It's a pleasure to explore the varied neighbourhoods, taking the time to enjoy varied historical styles of building, layout, location, views - and the gardens which set so many of these dwellings off so beautifully. Ailsa



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## Luncheon Group May



Historic buildings have been the venues for this group in April and May. We travelled to the historic Careys Bay Hotel for our first oyster meal of the season in April. It is an idyllic setting and ideal for social distancing when eating, talking and enjoying the Rivera view.

*Ed: see Photography Report first page to catch the view. Thanks to Graham Corbett for the stunning pic.*

Lunch in May was at Coffee Culture in Roslyn which is in the former Roslyn Fire station. This building was restored by local Architect the late Bob Oakley and his wife. Again, the food is great, but the magnificent view of the harbour is worth calling in, even if only for a coffee.

Trish Irvine.



## Poetry Group May

Six of us met up for a lively session of poetry and a shared lunch. The topic set by the hostess was to choose works that had a connection with the theatre, stage and/or television. This was the poem that inspired her choice of topic: Thank you Joanne.



### My Shakespeare

Kate Tempest

He's in every lover who ever stood alone beneath a window,  
In every jealous whispered word,  
in every ghost that will not rest.  
He's in every father with a favourite,  
Every eye that stops to linger  
On what someone else has got and feels the tightening in their chest.

He's in every young man growing boastful,  
Every worn out elder, drunk all day;  
muttering false prophecies and squandering their lot.  
He's there - in every mix-up that spirals far out of control - and never seems to end, even when its beginnings are forgot.

He's in every girl who ever used her wits. Who ever did her best.  
In every vain admirer,  
Every passionate, ambitious social climber,  
And in every misheard word that ever led to tempers fraying,  
Every pawn that moves exactly as the player wants it to,  
And still remains convinced that it's not playing.

He's in every star crossed lover, in every thought that ever set your teeth on edge, in every breathless hero, stepping closer to the ledge, his is the method in our madness, as pure as the driven snow - his is the hair standing on end, he saw that all that glittered was not gold. He knew we hadn't slept a wink, and that our hearts were upon our sleeves, and that the beast with two backs had us all upon our knees as we fought fire with fire, he knew that too much of a good thing, can leave you up in arms, the pen is mightier than the sword, still his words seem to sing our names as they strike, and his is the milk of human kindness, warm enough to break the ice - his, the green eyed monster, in a pickle, still, discretion is the better part of valour, his letters with their arms around each others shoulders, swagger towards the ends of their sentences, pleased with what they've done, his words are the setting for our stories - he has become a poet whose poetics have embedded themselves deep within the fabric of our language, he's in our mouths, his words have tangled round our own and given rise to expressions so effective in expressing how we feel, we can't imagine how we'd feel without them.

See - he's less the tights and garters - more the sons demanding answers from the absence of their fathers.

The hot darkness of your last embrace.

He's in the laughter of the night before, the tightened jaw of the morning after,

He's in us. Part and parcel of our Royals and our rascals.

He's more than something taught in classrooms, in language that's hard to understand,

he's more than a feeling of inadequacy when we sit for our exams,

He's in every wise woman, every pitiful villain,

Every great king, every sore loser, every fake tear,

His legacy exists in the life that lives in everything he's written,

And me, I see him everywhere, he's my Shakespeare.

*Commissioned by the Royal Shakespeare Company's myShakespeareProject, this spoken word piece brings out the pervasive influence of Shakespeare and underlines his continuing cultural relevance.*

[From Wikipedia](#)

**Kae Tempest** (formerly **Kate Tempest**; born 22 December 1985) is an English spoken word performer, poet, recording artist, novelist and playwright.



At the age of 16, Tempest was accepted into the BRIT School for Performing Arts and Technology. In 2013, they won the Ted Hughes Award for their work *Brand New Ancients*. They were named a *Next Generation Poet* by the Poetry Book Society, a once-a-decade accolade. Tempest's albums *Everybody Down* and *Let Them Eat Chaos* have been nominated for the Mercury Music Prize. The latter's accompanying poetry book (also titled *Let Them Eat Chaos*) was nominated for the Costa Book of the Year in the Poetry Category. Their debut novel *The Bricks That Built the Houses* was a Sunday Times bestseller and won the 2017 Books Are My Bag Readers Award for Breakthrough Author. They were nominated assets Female Solo Performer at the 2018 Brit Awards. Tempest came out as non-binary in 2020, using pronouns they/them.

## Gallery Group Visit to the Currie's Art Collection, May 2022.

You never know what is on the other side of a front door but today we went through the front door of Ross and Susan Currie's house into a world of art...Every room of the house had amazing art on the walls, many from the different countries that they had worked and lived in. We were welcomed with a delicious morning tea and talked about how such an eclectic collection of paintings and other works had been acquired.

**This photograph has an amazing frame made from rubber tyres.**

Ross preferred abstract art as this allowed the viewer to make their own interpretation of the work, leaving plenty of room for contemplation, and allowing hidden depths to emerge.



**This painting by Zuna Wright, a Dunedin artist, has pride of place in the main bedroom.**



As we moved through the house Ross explained the background to the works of art and reasons for their inclusion in their collection. Susan and Ross are usually attracted to the same paintings so that did not cause any problems. However, shipping some of the larger pieces of work back to Dunedin from the other side of the world had proved more problematic.



**Ross and Susan Currie with a painting of a cornfield behind them.**

A big THANK YOU to Ross and Susan and also to Jill for arranging such an enjoyable and worthwhile visit.

Our next visit is to Toitu for a power point presentation with Peter Read, and then a visit to the picture stack. When that is complete, we travel on to Debbie Abbott's house to see the art of Motoko Watanabe, accompanied by drinks and nibbles.

Cheers for now Tash

## Art Collections Group May

Our May visit was to the Hope and Son's Art Awards at the Otago art Society. The theme for this year was "Heading Home". This was interpreted in a plethora of ways by the 172 entries in the competition.



We were guided through the exhibition by Art Society Committee member Jenny Longstaff. She gave an interesting background to the exhibition: the trials of deciding what to hang where throughout the four galleries, problems with still wet artworks, and details about some of the artists.

Our group were of varied artistic preferences and our favourite works were all different. They were also different to the winner of the \$5 000 award as judged by Dee Copland.

**Left: The winner: Gathering of Nature by Jenny Chisholm.**

The works ranged in price from a reasonable \$200 to a jaw dropping \$44,000 for

a work on glass, by a Queenstown artist, Eric Nauta, and titled The Last Haast Eagle. **(Right)**



Our individual favourites.



**Left: Summer Paddocks**  
Marc Hamilton

**Below: Lilies**  
Lynlee Heenan

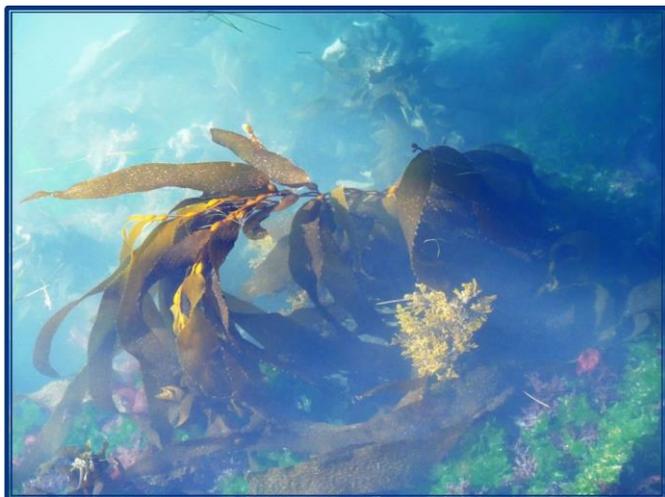


**Below: Stone Ripples**  
Tania Bostock



We all agreed that 'World on Fire' by Dana Christensen **(Above)** was beautifully painted and full of passion, and one we would all love to possess. After a lengthy look at the works and much discussion on their individual merits and our preferences, we crossed the road to Ironica for coffee and a further chat.

## Photography Group May



Pics contributed this month by Hildegard Lubcke, Caz Brigham, Laurie White, Howard Randal, Graham Corbett, Dot Mowat, Ann Wood, Chris Watson and Wyn Barbezat

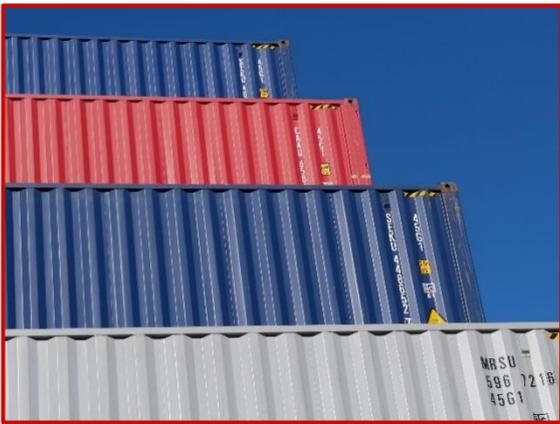
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Our first trip this month was to Port Chalmers, with the brief 'to capture what appeals to your interests'. Ten of us went off, either alone, or in small groups, our different ways. And we have pics of every aspect, from the art of the Hotere Garden Oputae on Observation Point to fungi from the Lady Thorn Rhododendron Dell. We planned a 3 pm-ish coffee catch up at Careys Bay

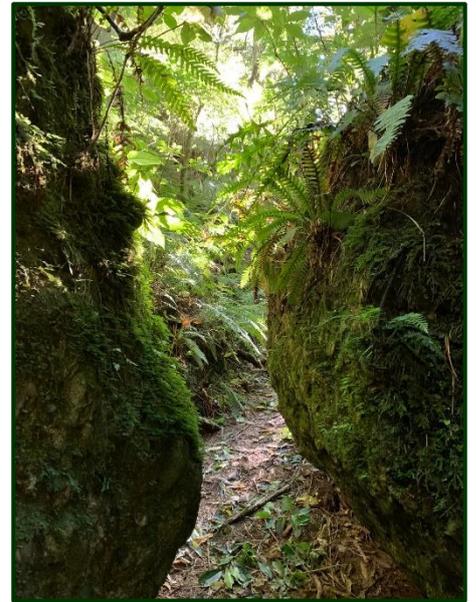
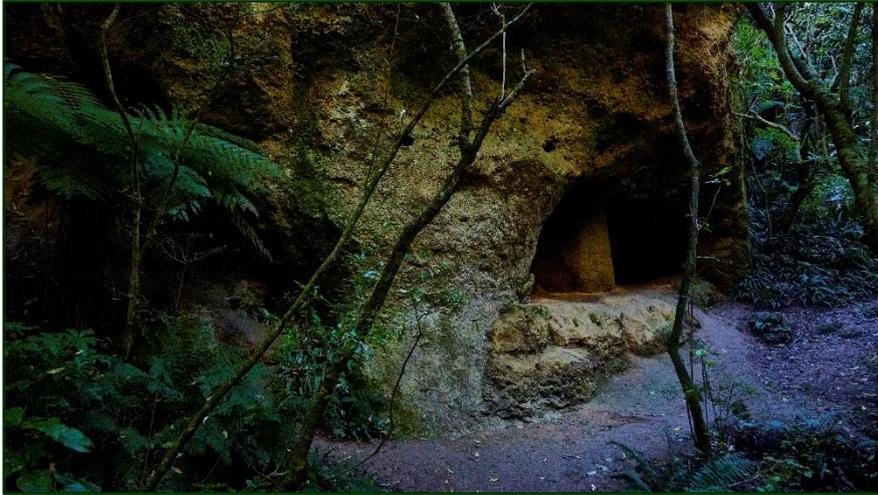


Hotel. But fate, in the form of a blazing chimney fire intervened: three appliances came to check out the wellbeing of the beautiful old pub. And it was a case of three early birds who caught the afternoon tea, and the rest of us, thirsty, and looking hopeful, were politely ushered away from any danger by the on-duty fire warden.

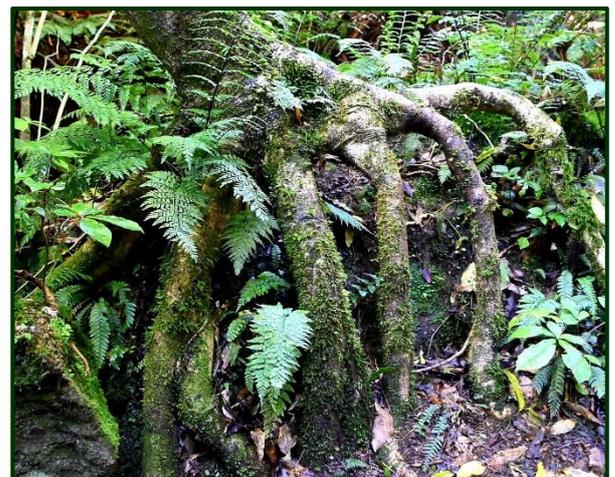
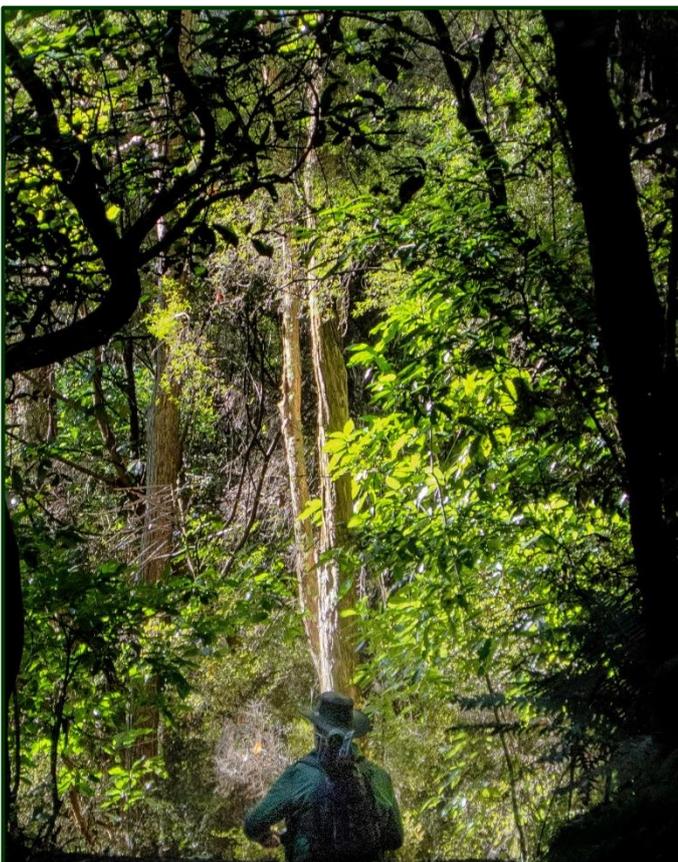




Our second shoot for the month was a 'Big Day Out'. We met up at the Scenic Reserve at Trotters Gorge circa 10:30 am and walked as far as the cave. Was very low light, and the track a little challenging in places.



At left: A 'petrified wolf' in the cave



This was autumn's last fling at granting us a marvellous sunny day: shirtsleeves were the dress code. Some then had a look at the Kaika at Moeraki, before we all met up for a delicious lunch at the Tavern.



A detour to Shag Point on the way home was a delight as the fur seals were out and about. We had to give wide berth to one on the walkway. Never a good plan to get between them and the sea. Ann



At left: "Ein Auge kann ich ja riskieren?"  
"Shall I risk an eye?"

And, just when I thought that was a wrap, one of our new members, Howard, sent through these good pics



**Trotters Gorge  
...looking down on**

**Te Karita Beach  
foreshore minus gull**

after Robin Morrison!



Robin Morrison (1944-1993) was a New Zealand documentary photographer, best known for his unpretentious portrayal of New Zealand countryside, everyday life and quirky architecture. His photos can be described as unearthing memories of his childhood in the process of exploring the place as it is now.

### 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 May**

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

Facilitator: Trish Irvine  
Third Tuesday 1:30  
E: [trishjockloch@gmail.com](mailto:trishjockloch@gmail.com)



### Luncheon Group

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

### Mahjong Group

Facilitator: Hilary Allison  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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

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)



Every Thursday, 10:30

### Walking Group 2

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



