



# Interest Groups NEWSLETTER

October 2021

## Convenor's report

Kia ora koutou

I hope you are all enjoying this great spring weather!

It has prompted some U3A members into their gardens, and I have had several requests for the formation of a "Garden and Things Botanical" Interest Group.

I am looking for a facilitator to lead this group which would visit other members' gardens and those of interest in the district, and host people who would give practical workshops on things like pruning, planting and composting.

If being a member of this group sounds like you, get in touch with me and I will get things rolling!

Also, if you would like to learn Ikebana let us know, as we have an opportunity for this to be taught in the New Year.

Other groups which could be of interest are Sewing & Craft, Historic Buildings and Sites, and Cryptic Crosswords.

We do have to report that Covid 19 restrictions curtailed the activities, and ability to meet, of many of our groups during August and September.

### Art Collections

Facilitator: Moya Smith  
Third Wednesday, 2 pm  
E: [moya.smith@xtra.co.nz](mailto:moya.smith@xtra.co.nz)

### Book Group

Facilitator: Moya Smith  
First Friday, 1.30  
E: [moya.smith@xtra.co.nz](mailto:moya.smith@xtra.co.nz)

### Dining Group

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

### Expanding Musical Horizons (full)

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

### Film Group 1 (full)

Facilitator: Bill Stanford  
Third Wednesday, 1.30  
E: [w.stanford@protonmail.com](mailto:w.stanford@protonmail.com)

### Film Group 2 (full)

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)

Groups such as Singing, Music, and Luncheon weren't able to meet in September; however Photography and Walkers (who meet outside) have continued.

Poetry, Mahjong, Current Affairs and Film are all now meeting again.

Under the current Covid conditions opportunities to meet in small groups have become very important. Please ensure you come along to all U3A groups prepared to meet the venues' and the hosts' Covid guidelines — this could include being asked if you have been double vaccinated (for instance, the Mah Jong group have agreed that any new member will be required to be vaccinated).

Bill Stanford and I are looking for a couple of volunteers to join us in a small management group to help with running the Interest Groups.

In these Covid times small Interest groups are playing a key role in ensuring members have social contact, and have an opportunity to explore an interest with fellow enthusiasts, to gain new knowledge and information, and learn new skills.

As one group member succinctly put it: "my group looks after my head and my heart".

So if you would like to help us out and have skills you can share -- please feel free to contact Bill or me.

Ngā mihi nui

**Trish Irvine**

Interest Groups Convenor

Phone: (03) 4821651

Email: trishjockloch@gmail.com

### **Luncheon Group**

Facilitator: Patricia 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 (full)**

Facilitator: Joy Hayward  
Third Monday, 1.30

E: [joyhayward@hotmail.co.nz](mailto:joyhayward@hotmail.co.nz)

### **Podcast Group**

Facilitator: Ann Broadfoot  
Third Thursday, 1.30

[annbroadfoot2012@gmail.com](mailto:annbroadfoot2012@gmail.com)

### **Photography Group**

Facilitator: Ann Wood  
First Thursday, 1.30

E: [ann.wood14blaw@gmail.com](mailto:ann.wood14blaw@gmail.com)

### **Poetry Group**

Facilitator: Carole Bezett  
Fourth Wednesday

E: [<carolebezett@gmail.com>](mailto:carolebezett@gmail.com)

### **Singing Group**

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**

Facilitator: John Hogue  
Every Thursday, 10.30

E: [hoguetimaru@xtra.co.nz](mailto:hoguetimaru@xtra.co.nz)



## Announcements



### ***Golf Croquet***

Sandy Garner is offering Golf Croquet lessons for U3A members, the week beginning November 1st. Golf Croquet is easy to learn, and can be played socially or competitively. The fun comes from developing strategies to put one of your team's balls through each hoop before either of your opponents' balls can get there. Come and give it a go. There will be five lesson sessions next week:

Monday November 1st at 10am  
Wednesday November 3rd at 1pm  
Thursday November 4th at 1pm  
Friday November 5th at at 10am  
Sunday November 7th at 1pm

Venue: Punga Croquet Club, corner of Ross St and Lawson St.

Cost: \$5 per session, payable on arrival.

All welcome. No need to book, just turn up to any session/s.

Wear flat shoes and comfortable clothing.

All croquet gear is provided.

Social distancing is easy to manage while playing and/or watching.

If you have any questions, email Sandy at [sandyritchiegarner@gmail.com](mailto:sandyritchiegarner@gmail.com)

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### ***The Book Group***

is changing venue -- it will continue in a coffee shop -- a coffee shop of group choice! And the Book Club will not have 'set books' but will consist of a sharing of the reading of each individual with the group! (Meeting First Friday, 1.30)

Do contact:

Facilitator: Moya Smith

E: [moya.smith@xtra.co.nz](mailto:moya.smith@xtra.co.nz)

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### ***Poetry Group***

We have an opening for one or two people! We meet on a Wednesday morning once a month at each other's houses with a stop for morning tea.

Facilitator: Carole Bezett

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

P: (03) 4543 493 or 021 348 128

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## Facilitators' Reports



### **Poetry Group**

Not into poetry? Why not give poetry another chance in a friendly group of poetry lovers! Memories of hard going at school with all the famous old poets, Keats, Wordsworth, Byron, and maybe Shakespeare? To be honest I think I have just described myself initially but certainly now belong to the latter group.

While we do share some of the classic poets, much of the time we are looking at current poets and while we discuss why we do or don't like the poems brought to share with the group we are not into dissecting and analysing poetry. Academic exercises are not for us!

To tempt you, I am offering a poem by the very loved American poet Billy Collins. If you like it, why not contact me (at [carolebezett@gmail.com](mailto:carolebezett@gmail.com), 4543 493 or 021 348 128, come to a meeting with us, and see if it is for you.

#### Forgetfulness

The name of the author is the first to go followed obediently by the title, the plot, the heartbreaking conclusion, the entire novel which suddenly becomes one you have never read, never even heard of,

as if, one by one, the memories you used to harbor decided to retire to the southern hemisphere of the brain, to a little fishing village where there are no phones.

Long ago you kissed the names of the nine muses goodbye and watched the quadratic equation pack its bag, and even now as you memorize the order of the planets, something else is slipping away, a state flower perhaps, the address of an uncle, the capital of Paraguay.

Whatever it is you are struggling to remember, it is not poised on the tip of your tongue or even lurking in some obscure corner of your spleen.

It has floated away down a dark mythological river whose name begins with an L as far as you can recall well on your own way to oblivion where you will join those who have even forgotten how to swim and how to ride a bicycle.

No wonder you rise in the middle of the night to look up the date of a famous battle in a book on war. No wonder the moon in the window seems to have drifted out of a love poem that you used to know by heart.

## Walkers' Group



We have had some glorious weather, especially the last one before this report, when we walked A H Reed's track to Mt. Cargill, Buttars Peak and the Organ Pipes.

The views were spectacular and a reward for a track better suited to goats.



We weren't so lucky the previous week and the drizzly weather forced a change of plan to exploring Woodhaugh, the lower Botanic Garden and warmth of the Winter Garden.

The size of our group waxes and wanes depending on people's availability and other commitments, but we always enjoy meeting up and the talking can take really interesting twists and turns while walking and at the selected coffee shop stop at the end.



Lockdown forced a temporary halt but some of our recent walks have been:

The Pyramids, Okia Flats and Victory Beach

'Future Forest Walk' (this is sort of a branch of the Hereweka-Harbour Cone Track).

Tunnel Beach.

Waldronville and the Kaikorai Lagoon.

Outram Glen.

Historic and hidden trails of Port Chalmers.

## Gallery Group

How can i do justice to such an event on paper..I can't, but here goes.

A full muster (plus) met outside the old schoolhouse in the picturesque Cambrian Valley on a lovely sunny day In Spring. There was a tangible excitement in the air as under the guidance of the indomitable Don Mackenzie we ascended the drive in convoy leading to the house and studio of Sir Grahame and Fiona Sydney.

A warm welcome and a morning tea, resplendent with homemade chocolate cake was served on the terrace overlooking the valley below. Here Grahame gave an absorbing and inspiring talk about his lifelong interest and full-time career in art and an outline of the art scene both locally -- and nation wide.... much food for thought.



Moving into the resplendent art filled living area, Grahame demonstrated techniques he had used to improve some of his famous paintings, mulling over their composition for several days before producing the finished work he was happy with. Nothing is rushed..good things take time and each painting, especially those using egg tempera, were months in the making.

And on to the sacrocant studio.. the place where this wonderful work happens...no interruptions please...a quiet and peaceful area with light primarily from the South to avoid interference from the sun. We were so privileged to see it.



A self portrait in the making using egg tempera.



Grahame has made a name for himself by painting local landscapes and he still produces a few each year. However his true love is figure painting and where he puts his full-time thoughts and effort, as he finds it a much more demanding... to capture the model as a beautiful element of life is his aim, and what he is currently most proud of, and hopes will be a lasting legacy.

Many many thanks to Grahame for giving us such an insight into the life of an influential, lifetime artist and making our trip so memorable and enjoyable.

And just a bit further down the road to the sod cottage of Don, where we were able to enjoy our picnic lunch.



We then wandered down to the beautiful bluebell woods at the end of the road which were planted by Bob Berry a long time permanent resident of the area.

Jan and Paula in the recreation area near the end of the valley:

Our next visit on Wed. Nov. 10th. is to Anne Baldock on the peninsular. Chris will let us know all the details nearer the time.

Many thanks to Don..

Cheers

Tash



## Notice Board

Hi Facilitators! November group reports:

Podcast, Mahjong, Film 1, Expanding Musical Horizons.

But if you want to send an unscheduled report, please do! Thanks!

## Photography Group Gallery

We currently have fifteen active members and have been meeting twice a month on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays. We don't all get to each outing so, to keep everyone in the loop, we started a private Face Book page in early September. A cunning play on U3A, Beautiful Dunedin. It has been a pleasure to see, not only the shared photos of our outings, but also some other great snaps members have taken.

Last week we visited the Pyramids on the Okia reserve. Bill is approaching the entrance stile:



The small pyramid is visible in the distance!

Even the small pyramid is rather impressive!



Though the local farm-life seems oblivious of these rather remarkable volcanic remnants:



**Closer up, Graham shows us the large pyramid's beautiful patterning:**



**A couple of weeks earlier, there was also a visit to view spring flowers in the Botanical Gardens. Ann leads with a glorious panoramic shot:**



And gives us this splendid closeup:



To which Graham adds another:

