



Interest Groups NEWSLETTER

September 2021

Convenor's report

Kia ora koutou,

Well September has given us all a sense of déjà vu, with another lockdown and many plans being deferred for a future time!

Some of our groups have been able to continue under the lockdown restrictions and others, particularly those that use public spaces, have not.

The level requirements have changed since last year and if you are unsure please check on the Ministry of Health website for guidance.

Five of our groups are already full, and perhaps we need to consider monitoring our numbers to ensure we meet guidelines.

Please note that signing in at locations and registering attendance at group events are now mandatory. Perhaps in this new environment we need to explore innovative ways to meet and stay connected.

Well done the to the Photography group for their new Facebook page featuring their stunning work from recent field trips.

The use of technology has become a must in these lockdown times, and Zoom and FaceTime could be used for group discussions if this is our new reality.

Art Collections

Facilitator: Moya Smith
Third Wednesday, 2 pm
E: moya.smith@xtra.co.nz

Book Group

Facilitator: Moya Smith
First Friday, 1.30
E: moya.smith@xtra.co.nz

Dining Group

Facilitator: Karen Wards
Third Friday, 7 pm
E: karendwards@gmail.com

Expanding Musical Horizons (full)

Facilitator: Paul Wheeler
Second Monday, 10 am
E: wheeler@outlook.co.nz

Film Group 1 (full)

Facilitator: Bill Stanford
Third Wednesday, 1.30
E: w.stanford@protonmail.com

Film Group 2 (full)

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

I have found the Wellington lectures a welcome feature each week and being able to hear speakers from another region on such diverse topics a great treat.

September also featured Māori Language week, Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori, so I hope you gave it a go — using Te Reo for greetings and farewells is a good start.

If you have an area you think would be a great focus for an interest group please get in touch with me, and if you want to join an existing group we would love to hear from you.

Ngā mihi nui

Trish

Email: trishjockloch@gmail.com



Facilitators' Reports



Gallery Group

8th September

What a lucky break that we were able to meet today, despite having to mask up, sign the roll and keep our distance... Not as relaxing but wonderful to see each other on another visit.

Today we visited the studio and kitchen bench workshop of Brenda Nyhof who specialises in making amazing creatures of all sorts, both big and small.

We were able to follow their construction through all the stages to the very end embellishments that add a unique character to each 4 legged animal, 2 legged bird or dragon.

Luncheon Group

Facilitator: Patricia 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 (full)

Facilitator: Joy Hayward
Third Monday, 1.30

E: joyhayward@hotmail.co.nz

Podcast Group

Facilitator: Ann Broadfoot
Third Thursday, 1.30

annbroadfoot2012@gmail.com

Photography Group

Facilitator: Ann Wood
First Thursday, 1.30

E: 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

Tuesday Current Issues Group

(full)

Facilitator: Gretchen Kivell
Third Tuesday, 10 am

E: gretchen.kivell@xtra.co.nz

Walking Group

Facilitator: John Hogue
Every Thursday, 10.30

E: hoguetimaru@xtra.co.nz



The studio was full as was the rest of the house with monsters of every type... an amazing eyeful for any visitor who did not know of Brenda's passion!

Brenda's enthusiasm and love of her work shone through enabling her to apply her widest possible imaginative ideas to each creature, who has their own name under their see-through eye.



Paintings were also on display mainly of rather angry looking women. Brenda thought maybe one might just turn out happy.

Thank you so much to Brenda for welcoming us into your happy place and giving us an insight into a fabulous world of imaginary creatures.

The planned visit for October is to Cambrians to the studio of Graham Sydney... Lets hope all the dots slip into place!!!

Cheers for now

Tash

Tuesday Current Issues Group

The Current Issues Group met in Lockdown 2 as we did last year, at Claire & Ted's with lots of spacing between us. We chose not to wear masks because we knew one another well (one of the allowable criteria).



We discussed a lead article in *The Mix*: 'A Wonderful Challenge', that

of meeting the aims of the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples – specifically, in New Zealand, for Māori. The challenge is set out in a report available on line 'He Pua Pua' ('break'). The interview with Jacinta Ruru, one of the authors of He Pua Pua, is a very good introduction to reading the report itself, and realizing the depth and breadth of the changes envisaged – they hope by 2040, 200 years since the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi.



Two other items were discussed. First, the planting of New Zealand's land in (radiata or other) trees by overseas owners of the land. It seems we could be moving from 'the farm of the world' to the 'carbon sink' of the world. Both the ethics and the practicalities are dodgy. Then we discussed the newly-announced AUKUS pact, wondering why it seems important to threaten another war when one is barely over. Where will the 'boots on the ground' be this time?

Bill J / Gretchen

The time to be happy is now, the place to be happy is here.
Robert G Ingersoll

Monday Current Affairs Group

The Monday current affairs group met this month to discuss 'He Puapua', a report commissioned in 2019 by the Government to inquire into and report on appropriate measures to achieve the goals set out by the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Though it is shrouded in controversy, the report is now available.



Though the leader of the National party has indicated that the 123-page report 'is being implemented', this does not appear to be the case.



While one commentator has described it as 'a radical plan for two governments in New Zealand, one for Māori and one for everyone else, both under a tribal monitoring group, to be up and running within the next 19 years', the group was more inclined to accept the views of Minister Willie Jackson who says "The Declaration was never meant to divide us. It is not a tool for separatism. It is not something to be afraid of."

And one of the authors of the report, Jacinta Ruru, said in the *ODT*, "We knew that what we were designing was not going to be the policy of the Government." Time will tell what effect He Puapua will have on the lives of future New Zealanders.



Notice Board

Hi Facilitators! October group reports:

Luncheon, Art, German Language, Poetry.

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

Photography Group Gallery

This month the Group visited Weatherston's Brewery Heritage site and Daffodils near Lawrence! Once again we have some rather outstanding photographs!

Graham locates us, showing the ruin of the malt treatment ovens.



And Ann Wood, shooting from the far right here, gives us a view of the outside of the ruin...



Ann takes us above the ovens to the dwelling:



And shows us a piece of the original wrought iron work:



Along with the prosaic brewery, the site has a Wordsworthian aspect! At the close of the 1890's a million (yes, that's right!) a million daffodil bulbs were planted. Graham gives us a great shot of some of the spring flowers:



And he also discovers a tiny waterfall:



Ann gives us another glimpse of the ruined maltworks:



While Bill grabs a shot of one of the site's storehouses:

