



# Interest Groups NEWSLETTER

September 2022

Kia ora koutou,

Welcome to our September Pānui (Newsletter). This month our Interest Group Facilitators met to reflect on how we had all fared during the recent wave of Covid and to share ways of keeping our members involved in times of meeting restrictions.

Groups that met outdoors have flourished. We have two walking groups — Group 2 has chosen a new name, the Wanderers. The Garden Group is also popular and is full, with 34 members and a programme of visits for the next six months. Facilitators decided to form a new group for 10 to 12 members — visiting group members' gardens only — the Home Garden Group. The first visit will be in October so come along if you would like to share your garden; the host for the October garden is ready and waiting.

Paul Wheeler shared his experience in keeping Expanding Musical Horizons going over the last few months and from his experiences we learnt there are pluses and minuses. The answers to Paul's quiz from last month's newsletter are in this edition for you to check. Thank you to Bill Stanford for also showing us in his report this month that you can communicate without meeting in person. The Singing Group is still in recess, but Claire Stevens will be in touch to let members know when it is back in action.

## Things to do over the coming weeks are:

Consider joining the **Book Share Group** — first meeting Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October at 1.30pm — contact Trish for venue details.

**Home Garden group** — first meeting in October TBA- limited number 10-12, so if you are keen contact Trish soon.

**International Day of the Older Person**- Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October, celebration Dunedin Public Art Gallery — entry and catering are free, but you need to register for this event.

Currently we are seeking the following talented people to:

- Lead a **creative writing group**: If you followed Stephanie Johnson's story *The Writing Class* which has recently been serialised on RNZ you will know what I mean.
- Many people in our age group are writing **memoirs**. I have heard an example used in a eulogy at a recent funeral and it was lovely. Can you assist with how people want to be remembered or if they have other stories to tell?
- The **Home Garden group** will need a facilitator in the near future once it is up and running.
- **Genealogy**: do you experience tracing your family history, and can you help newcomers with how to tackle this, e.g. what are the key areas for gaining information, and sharing others progress and useful tips.
- **Current Affairs**: Our two groups meeting currently are full. If you would like to lead and host a group discussing current affairs there are people who are interested in joining.

Once again thank you to Facilitators for your contributions, for the great photos and welcome to Carole Bezett who has joined our IG committee.

Finally this month has seen the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the recognition of Te Reo Māori as an official language of Aotearoa and Māori Language Week Te Wiki o te Reo. I hope you have given te reo a go this month. Currently we are working on setting up a group for people at the beginning of this journey so you are more comfortable when the occasion comes up with greeting and waiata. If you are interested please contact me.

*Nāu te rourou, nāku te rourou, ka ora ai te iwi*  
*With your food basket and my food basket the people will thrive*

This whakataukī (proverb) talks to community, to collaboration and a strengths-based approach. It acknowledges everyone has something to offer, and by working together we will flourish. This is our Interest Groups!

Ngā mihi nui

Trish Irvine: trishjockloch@gmail.com

Convenor

### **Art Collections Group**

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 / online**

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



### **Film Group 1** **online**

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



### **Film Group 2** **online**

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**

Second Wednesday, 1:30  
Facilitator: Robyne Selbie  
E: [robyneselbie1945@gmail.com](mailto:robyneselbie1945@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** **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)



### **Wanderers Group**

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



## Monday Current Affairs September

We met at Graham Batt's house on the day of the Queen's funeral and, in honour of the occasion, Kris and Graham had created a beautiful high tea. This comprised of penny jam sandwiches (the size and shape of a penny and filled with strawberry jam) which the Queen ate every day for afternoon tea, cucumber and salmon sandwiches and scones with jam and cream. The Queen, (with the assistance of a Women's Weekly cover) presided over the table.



Chris Burton along with other children who lived in England at the time, was given, a jubilee copy of the bible on the occasion of the Queen's coronation. Although acknowledging it has not had significant use since then, Chris had kept it and brought it to the meeting.

Our topic was The Rise of Subversion of Government and Threats to Democracy. Most of us had watched the Fire and Fury podcast in Stuff and some of us watched The Edge of Democracy on Netflix which documents the breakdown in democracy and the forces which enabled Bolsonaro to get into power.

The outstanding question for a number of us, was ' why are people so angry? ' This led on to talking about the racial and wealth inequalities in NZ and the extent to which they fuelled people's anger.



Joy H

## Walking Group      September

Our group continues to meet up with an average of 10 per walk. Slightly damp weather does not deter us however if there is a cancellation, we all get an email at 0900 hours.

We now start at 1000 hours for spring and summer walks. We have also developed a roster to ensure one person is responsible for a walk, communication and doing a swap if the date does not suit.

As well as [Ferntree Reserve](#), our walks included those pictured.



Above: Port Chalmers  
Observation Point

Left: Kettle Park Barnes overlook  
to Forbury Park



R: Tomahawk Beach



Both Left and Below :  
Joe Brown Reserve/Mosgiel Quarry



Inner  
City  
Street  
Art –  
part 2

Ending the walk at someone's home, or a reserved café table, is always popular to continue conversation and vote on the best cheese rolls in Dunedin.

We regretfully farewell Stephen and wish him good walking in Christchurch.

Cheers, Janet

## Poetry Group    September



Five of us met up in late August to share our works of choice from the two poets, Fleur Adcock and Philip Larkin, who had been selected by the hostess of the day. Somewhat of a change from the usual set theme, and we may do this again. We welcomed Sheila to our group, enjoyed a shared lunch, and had a fascinating discussion on the love lives of the two poets. September's featured poem is Joanne's. And a very poignant choice given the death, this month, of our Queen.

### **The prize-winning poem**    Fleur Adcock

It will be typed, of course, and not all in capitals: it will use upper and lower case in the normal way; and where a space is usual it will have a space.

It will probably be on white paper, or possibly blue, but almost certainly not pink.

It will not be decorated with ornamental scroll-work in coloured ink,

nor will a photograph of the poet be glued above his or her name

and still less a snap of the poet's children frolicking in a jolly game.

The poem will not be about feeling lonely and being fifteen

and unless the occasion of the competition is a royal jubilee

it will not be about the queen.

It will not be the first poem the author has written in his life

and will probably not be about the death of his daughter, son or wife

because although to write such elegies fulfils a therapeutic need

in large numbers they are deeply depressing for the judges to read.

The title will not be 'Thoughts 'or 'Life 'or 'I Wonder Why'

or 'The Bunny-rabbit's Birthday Party 'or 'In Days of Long Gone By'.

'Tis and 'twas, o'er and e'er, and such poetical contractions will not be found

in the chosen poem. Similarly, clichés will not abound:

dawn will not herald another bright new day, nor dew sparkle like diamonds in a dell,

nor trees their arms upstretch. Also the poet will be able to spell.

Large meaningless concepts will not be viewed with favour: myriad is out;

infinity is becoming suspect; aeons and galaxies are in some doubt.

Archaisms and inversions will not occur; nymphs will not their fate bemoan.

Apart from this there will be no restrictions upon the style or tone.

What is required is simply the masterpiece we'd all write if we could.

There is only one prescription for it: it's got to be good.

## Film Groups September

It seems that the number of community infections of Covid 19 have fallen for a bit – the trouble is, this year is easily the record year for fatalities in our age-groups – and this is why Film has not been meeting. I believe the outcome of this for the two Film groups is that they'll become one group again... we'll see...

Meanwhile as facilitator I've suggested on-line viewing from YouTube for the past three months. In July we watched Yasujiro Ozu's *Late Spring* again, with the suggestion to consider whether its tendency is toward shot sequence (montage) or shot setting (mise-en-scène).

In August I suggested we might view the final, *The World of Apu*, in Satyajit Ray's wonderful *Apu Trilogy* – and watch for Ray's use of the filmic 'rules' such as eye level maintenance and the 180° shooting rule.

This month, September, I recommended the charming *Tampopo*, by Juzo Itami. Here's part of the notes on this;

In Auckland near the University there's a restaurant named Tampopo; and there are others of that name in other cities across the world. The name is Japanese, and means 'Dandelion' — it's the name of a ramen bar, and the name of its proprietress, in a famous film by director Juzo Itami, and thereby the name of his film in which they feature. And while it's not on our list, [Tampopo](#) is a delight!



In the mid-60's a number of European-produced 'Westerns' emerged, the most acknowledged of which were directed by Sergio Leone; and which became known as 'Spaghetti Westerns'. The best way to think of *Tampopo* is that it is a 'Ramen Western'. (This is the fundamental joke — and it turns out that the film is much about food!)

But *Tampopo* is also about films themselves. Thus it opens in a movie theatre, prior to a screening; into which enter a young, white be-suited gangster and his girlfriend, who seat themselves in the front row; and are served an elaborate meal there by three waiters! Then their movie begins, a monochrome black & white film which opens with two men in a large freight truck; who are talking about ramen. From which we cut to the younger of these men in a

ramen bar, in full colour, with a 'ramen master' who instructs him how to approach a bowl of ramen, with suitable reverence!.... From which we cut back to the truck, now also in full colour.

The 'narrative' as such seems to centre on actor Tsutomu Yamazaki's 'gunslinger' older truck driver Goro — ride into town, fix things, ride off into the sunset. (Alan Ladd in *Shane*.) But then there is the world of the gangster, which, because it opens with him talking of one's 'final film', cannot end well. Then, along with these are six or seven separate vignettes, many concerning characters not in the two principal strands...

Do screen the film, keep an eye on its montage, its mise-en-scène, and use or variation of those cinematographic 'rules', especially the 180°. But also as you watch, follow how you'd conceive of its narrative!

Bill Stanford

## Gardens and Botanical Group    September

The Garden group met at the Dunedin Chinese Gardens for their September outing. It was



interesting to visit the gardens and see the spring plantings set in such a significant cultural setting.



The construction of the gardens was of interest too as all the rocks and fittings were transported here from China. Water and rocks



are important elements in the Scholars Garden.



We clambered around the walkway to its highest point to the lookout admiring the cherry blossom, magnolias and conifers shaped in traditional manner. Scented plantings added to the walkway.

We gathered to watch a video on the gardens, markets and laundry owners of early Chinese settlers and finished our afternoon with green tea in the dining room.

We all agreed it was a special garden in the heart of the city which offered tranquillity and beauty to the visitors. If you have not visited this jewel, it comes highly recommended.    Robyne    (the Photography Group thanks this group for the visit inspiration. Ani)

## Gallery Group September

An extremely enjoyable day out on a beautiful Spring Day where lambs were frolicking in the spring green meadows with daffodils and blossom trees all around....Crossing over Millers Flat bridge we turned right and headed up the road until we came to the home of Marion and Kyle Mewburn tucked in amid idyllic scenery.



On arrival Marion ushered us into her pottery where she escapes the troubles of the world and finds her "Happy Place" making extraordinary teapots. Despite

the designs being flights of fancy they are all functional teapots and Marion loves people to buy them to use rather than just for ornamentation.



The teapots ready for the kiln after they

have dried. Notice the goat in the decorations. There are more flowers to be added.

Goats are a new acquisition to their property and have won over their hearts even though new higher fences have had to be erected to protect the vegetables and other areas that are out of bounds for the goats. The goats have now appeared on the decorations on the teapots, but unfortunately, it takes Marion longer than moulding sheep, as their faces are harder to get right.

There has been great demand for the teapots, and they have become much more elaborate as time has gone on. Marion used to supply them to gift shops in both Wanaka and Queenstown, but now

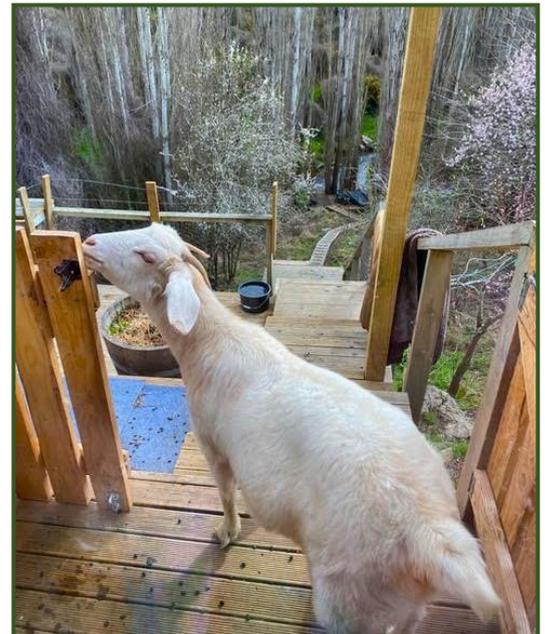
concentrates more on the art galleries such as the Eade Gallery in Clyde and the Moray Gallery in Dunedin. There are several examples of the teapots in the Moray Gallery for sale at the moment. Each teapot is wrapped in its own box when being sent to exhibitions as the handles need good protection.



Right: One of the goats by the doors which lead down to the river at the bottom of the steps.

Marion is widening her pottery skills to include clay from her own garden which makes the pottery much more rustic.

Puppet making is an awakening interest and the first puppets are on the production line.



Above: Marion showing a teapot with a drawer of eggs.

We wandered down to the house and had a chat to Kyle who kindly showed us the range of children's books that she has written. I was excited to learn that there is a new book in the pipeline and due out before too long involving the history of their area.

We returned to Millers Flat for lunch, and then headed back to Lawrence where we stopped on the way home to see an exhibition of paintings by Nicky Critchley.

Chris was keen to stop in Milton to visit an antique shop and exactly beside where we stopped was an artist's brand-new studio. Always looking for opportunities for our group, I spoke with the artist, who was painting a landscape of Te Anau, and we chatted about his art and a possible future visit!!

Thank you so much to the Mewburns for sharing so much with us, and also to Nicky for opening up her gallery especially for us. A BIG thank you to Paula for organising the whole day. There is a lot of work involved in the planning of an outing like this, and we are very appreciative of the effort you made.

Our next visit is to Alex. on Wednesday October 12th. This is being organised by Morag so more details will be given nearer the time.

Tash Hurst

## Expanding Musical Horizons      September

Solution to Ian Winter's Challenge in the August newsletter: they were all performances in front of American Presidents. Clip 3 featured a woman in the audience who was particularly moved by Aretha Franklin's performance. She was Carole King who wrote the music (lyrics by Gerry Goffin) in 1967 specially for Aretha Franklin. She later recorded the song herself on her 1971 album *Tapestry*.

While the **Expanding Musical Horizons** group was keeping away from the group situation until the majority of members felt safe enough to get together again, we kept in touch by email. One of the email topics was "The Sound of Protest", which sandwiched the first and third sessions covered in our normal sessions.

Music has increasingly become part of protest movements for centuries. Protests about the environment, war, civil rights, police brutality, women's rights, the poverty gap, nuclear testing, treatment of veterans, and the reunification of Ireland are some of the many twentieth century topics that we covered in the series. We listened to a small amount of protest music from the 1700s onwards, but most pieces were based on events that happened in our own lifetime.

Environmental issues have been a feature of protest songs throughout much of our lifetime. Many songs have been performed by singers who belong in the rock and folk genres. We listened to a small amount of protest music that belongs in the classical genre. You might like to listen to a gentler instrumental offering in the form of *Farewell to Stromness* by Peter Maxwell Davies (1980).

### Background

- Peter Maxwell Davies (who died in 2016), lived on Stromness which is on one of the Orkney Islands (north of Scotland).
- He wrote this as a protest against a proposed uranium mine on the main island, and only two miles away from his home in Stromness. This was a big issue in 1980, and the notion will bring to mind our own Save Aramoana" campaigns from the mid-1970s onwards.



### The music

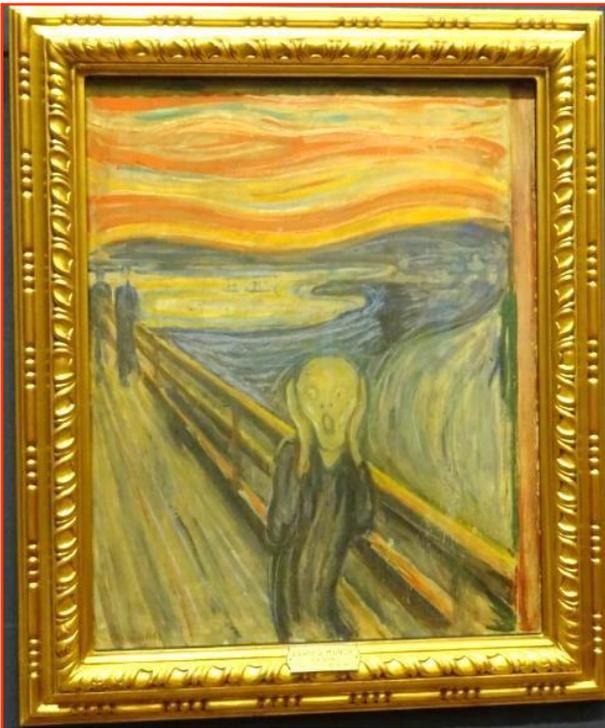
- Peter Maxwell Davies often wrote rather inaccessible music, described as avant-garde and a visceral sound world. This piece is unusually simple and melodic for him.
  - Many people were introduced to the piece when it was performed in a string arrangement by members of the Philharmonia Orchestra at the blessing of the marriage of the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall at St George's Chapel, Windsor, in 2005
- The Los Angeles Guitar Quartet has also recorded an arrangement of it, but for some, nothing really beats the simple, quietly stated solo piano original, performed by the composer himself. You can check these two versions out yourself, but I chose the following clip so that you can see what it's like on Stromness.

Have a listen: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SuWk\\_3DIfig](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SuWk_3DIfig)

Paul



We decided to cancel the outings for September and October and instead attend the talks by Doug Hart, (*he was very agreeable for us to report*) entitled Gosh! Another 12 Artists. Doug's talks are well researched, informative and entertaining. He not only enlightens us with details about the artist's works and life, but also about the world they lived in. At the first session he kindly gave each of us a postcard; his whimsical drawing of the Dunedin Railway Station.



**Session 1 (Part 1) Edvard Munch (1863-1944):**

This Norwegian expressionist painter is, of course famous for "The Scream" but he created many more paintings and prints. His paintings often reflect his rather unhappy life. Pic on the right is his sister, Inger. *I was in Oslo in 2017 and saw 'The Scream' in the flesh, so to speak, plus so many of his other works. A lucky free Thursday at the National Gallery.*



**(Part 2) Tamara de Lempicka (1898-1980):**

I had never heard of this artist. Doug wants to bring unknown but worthy artists, especially talented woman artists, to our attention. Tamara was a Polish painter who lived an interesting life, mainly in France and the U.S.A. She is best known for her nudes and Art Deco portraits.



Young Lady with Gloves, 1930

## Session Two (Part 1)

**Elisabeth Frink (1930-1993):** Again, this was an artist I



had not previously encountered. Elisabeth was a British Neo-Impressionist sculptor. She is particularly noted for her sculptures of birds, horses and dogs. The Bird sculptures seem particularly menacing. My favourite piece is the "Walking Madonna", She is positioned with her back to the Salisbury Cathedral.



Horse in the Rain, 1984



Bird, 1952

**(Part 2) Canaletto (1697-1768):** In contrast to Frink,

Canaletto is a very well-known artist. He was a Renaissance artist known for his detailed paintings of Venetian life, and that of other European cities, including London. Many of his works were bought by young Englishmen on their "grand tour" and a large number of his works, bought by George III, are held, to this day, in the Royal Collection.



The Entrance to the Grand Canal, 1730



Westminster Bridge Under Construction, 1747



The Stonemason's Yard, 1725

*In 2013, I was in Warsaw, which was almost totally destroyed as an act of war revenge, by Hitler's men in the two months after the actual conflict had ended. On a city walking tour, we were told that pre-war, fearing what might happen, the city fathers had sent designs of the buildings to London for safekeeping, but the colours were only able to be accurately replicated by referring to Canaletto's paintings of Warsaw.*



Session 3: Postponed for a week because of snow, but I took this photo of the Otago Golf Club grounds.

**Session 3: (Part A)**

**Amrita Sher-Gil: (1913-1941).** This artist dubbed



the Indian Frida Kahlo was born in Hungary of Indian-Hungarian parentage. She had a very short life dying tragically at 28 and perhaps because of this, she sold only one painting in her lifetime. Her art education was largely in Paris. She lived her adult life between Hungary and India.



Bride's Toilet, 1937

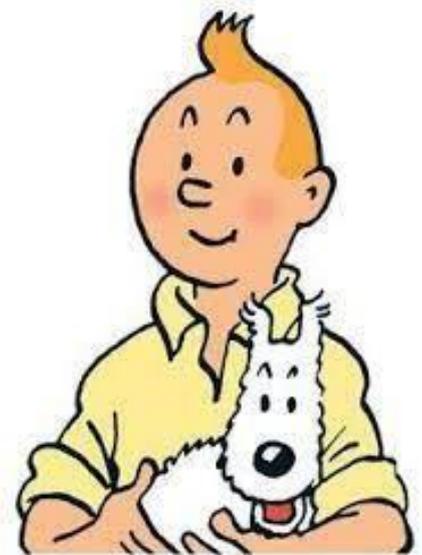


**(Part B)**

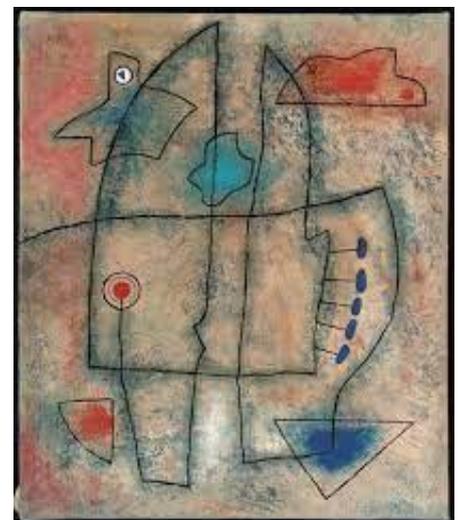
**George Remi:**

(1907-1983)

Better known to most of us as Hergé, the creator of Tintin was a Belgian cartoonist. He sold 280 million books in 110



languages and his comics regularly sold 600 000 copies. A lesser-known fact, is that he produced abstract art in his later years, but it was his comic books and colourful cartoons, for which he was most popular.



## Wanderers Group September

The Wanderer Group has enjoyed several outings, mostly in Dunedin, though one Friday the weather cooperated for us to head out to Port Chalmers for a brisk stroll in glorious sunshine. We enjoyed exploring South Dunedin, admiring the smaller, historic cottages, many of which are undergoing upgrades while preserving their original character.

Back Beach at Port Chalmers was new to some of our small group, and a pleasant discovery of quirky boat sheds, magnificent views across to the Peninsula, and historic plaques of shipping tragedies.



Locally again, we were back to admiring views above the Northern Cemetery, enjoying the vibe of Opoho, noting a particularly well painted picket fence,

(one could say that the artist was at the absolute 'Peake' of his



proWess), plus appreciating the magnolias early rhododendrons & native flora.

Second Beach beckoned, with hopes of spotting fur seals before



heading up the hill of Bedford Street, on to Cliffs Road, wandering down while appreciating the views which are stunning, even when it's cloudy. We took the time, again, to look closely at house renovations, dramatic landscaping, even discovering a tiny Lilliput Library. Ailsa



## Photography Group September

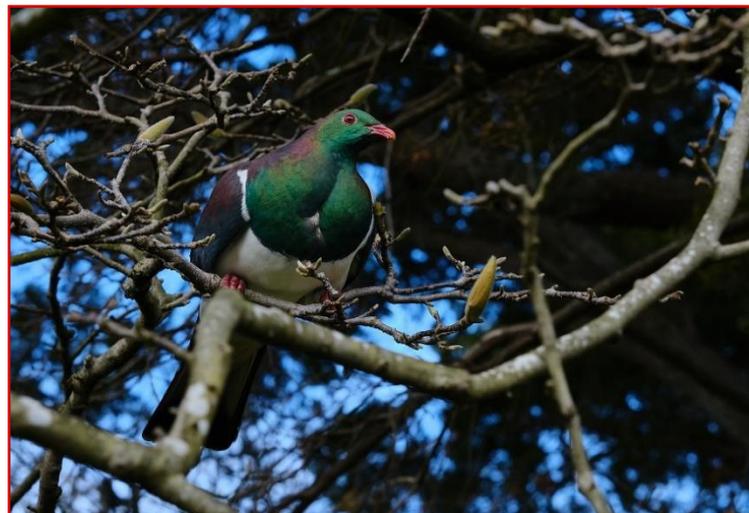


A good number headed to the Upper Gardens on the morning of the first official day of Spring. Several of the group are attending a Thursday afternoon U3A series at the moment, so we worked around that. We have welcomed an array of new members to this group over the past month or three, including a fabric artist who sees through her lens, shapes and textures she will incorporate into her artwork.

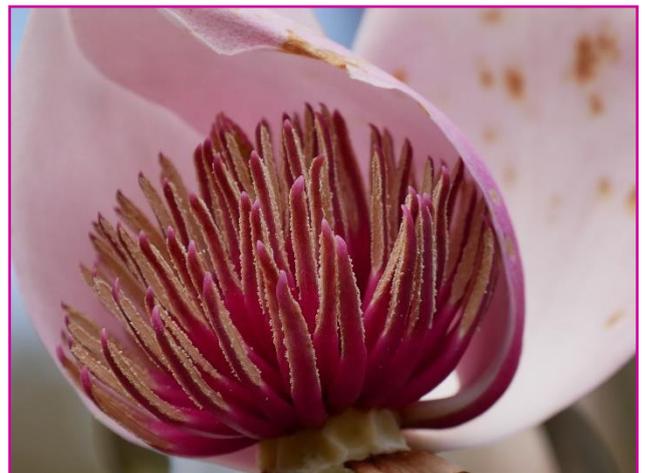
**To the left is an interestingly sharp, cell phone shot taken with extended zoom.**

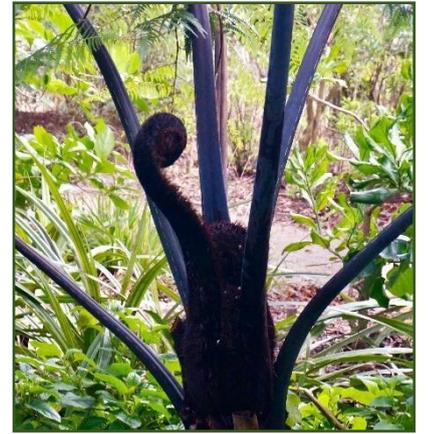
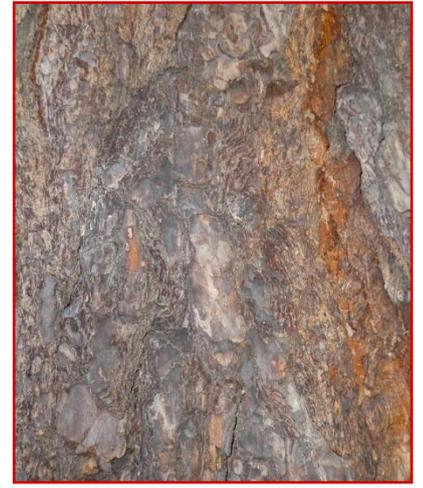
We set out to look at the daffodil lawn, but soon veered off to see the magnificent magnolias and enjoy the resonant birdsong. The tuis were darting, chasing, swooping from tree to tree, and were very vocal. The wonderful thing about

this group is members who don't let age defeat them. I looked around to see an older man kneeling by the daffodils to try for a good angle on his pic. Next minute, he was lying prone!!, a heart-stopping moment for this onlooker, but, shot captured, up he hopped. Well done indeed, John!!



Ani





**Pic credits for this month:**

Robyne Selbie, Graham Corbett,  
John Burton, Ann Wood, Linda Forbes,  
Howard Randal, Ross Mclvor,  
Mary-Jane Sneyd,  
and Hildegarde Lubcke





One plant: Two photographers:

One, me, takes photos, the other is an artist

Below: Well caught



Below: A courting couple. A lot of long loud loving!!



Our second outing in September carried on the garden theme, but with a difference. Eight of us went on a sunny morning to Lan Yuan, the Chinese Gardens, followed by a coffee catch up at the café at Toitu. Ani



