



## APRIL 2024 Newsletter

### Greetings from the new committee

From the March AGM, our committee for 2024/2025 is:

Errol Wood (President)  
John Prendergast (Vice-President)  
Neal Borrie (Treasurer)  
Nancy Borrie (Incorporated Societies re-registration project)  
Lyn Minchington (Interest Groups coordinator)  
Warren Greenwood (Tea Team coordinator)  
Dorothy Jordan (Membership coordinator)

At the AGM we could not secure a replacement for our secretary, Jane Brunton. However, since then, Nancy has agreed to become our secretary for 2024/2025, and Jane has kindly offered to assist Nancy to step into this role. Dorothy has assumed the membership role, formerly in Jane's portfolio of tasks. Many thanks to Jane, Nancy and Dorothy.

Grateful thanks are also due to our retiring president John Smith for his sterling work over the past three years. Being president does not just involve chairing our monthly meetings, and behind the scenes John has worked tirelessly and effectively for the good of U3A Ellesmere. We will miss your quirky anecdotes, John.

### Meeting of 28th February

**Dr Susan Bagshaw** spoke to us about one of her pet projects "*Meeting the needs of Young People and the Youth Hub*". This was a very interesting presentation, especially her explanation of changes in young people's brains that affect their behaviour. Sue outlined the development of the Youth Hub, which is currently under construction in central Christchurch. This initiative is the first of its kind in New Zealand – a one-stop-shop that will also provide supported housing for up to 40 young people.

Sue has provided brochures about The Youth Hub, inviting donations to contribute to the long-term wellbeing of the The Youth Hub Trust, and its young clients. These will be available at our next meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> April.

## Our Interest Groups – from Lyn Minchington

The **Movie Group** is looking for new members. They meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month. If you are interested, please contact Karen Ayton, [u3aellesmere@gmail.com](mailto:u3aellesmere@gmail.com) or fill out the form on the website.

There will also be a new group **starting in May**, discussing **TED talks**. This group (limited initially to six members) will meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month, from 2pm - 3.45pm, and will explore the huge pool of lectures offered by the TED organisation (TED stands for 'Technology, Entertainment, Design'). Each meeting will explore up to four talks, plus discussion. For more information or to register your interest, please contact Chris McCabe, [u3aellesmere@gmail.com](mailto:u3aellesmere@gmail.com)

## Tea first, business after

A reminder that we now have a different format for our monthly meetings. We start with a cuppa. The shutters will be open 5 minutes or so before 10.00am so you can pick up your cup and greet fellow members. Then at around 10.15 we take our seats for notices, before the speaker commences their presentation at 10.35am.

## Forthcoming meetings

### Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April

Our April speaker is **Doug Wingfield**, a Vietnam War veteran who embarked on a decade long battle to find and gain recognition for 100 missing airmen of No. 41 Squadron NZRAF. The detail of his battle is stark and personal. As we members of U3A lived through the Vietnam War times, we will all relate to his quest. Doug may bring with him copies of his book "*More Than Just A Number 80344*" for sale.

### Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> May

**Major Graham Hickman DSD, FTCL, LTCL(T) Dip Man, Dip Applied Man, AIRMTNZ** is a busy man. He is Director of Music of the New Zealand Army Band. He was a Territorial Force member of the Royal New Zealand Air Force Base Ohakea Band as a 14 year old! We are really lucky that people such as Graham give their time to educate us. [DSD New Zealand Distinguished Service Decoration.]

**NOTE: This meeting will on the fifth Wednesday of May to accommodate our speaker.**

### Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June

**Professor Bronwyn Haywood**, University of Canterbury (topic to be confirmed)

**NOTE: This meeting will be on the third Wednesday in June because a venue at the Lincoln Events Centre was not available on the fourth Wednesday.**

## Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July

**Peter Howorth** - *"WW2, prison escape, books, monks, maps and NO women - 1939 to 2024"*

Peter Howorth is a retired engineer who lives in Lincoln. Since his retirement, he has developed cartographic skills and has been engaged in making a detailed pilgrim map of part of Greece where a famous monastery is located. Peter is also the editor and a contributor to a book recently published on the Holy Mountain, Mount Athos. King Charles III wrote the foreword to this book. For his cartographic work he was elected a fellow of the Royal Geographical Society in London.

Peter's interest in this historical area was stimulated by the wartime experiences of a close relative, Sandy Thomas. This intrepid World War 2 soldier was given refuge from the German army by the monks of the Mount Athos monastery, hence the title of Peter's talk.

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## From the Speakers Subcommittee

We are very fortunate to attract speakers of consistently high quality at our meetings, using personal contacts, and referrals from other U3A groups. We will continue to strive to attract interesting and diverse speakers.

If you know of someone who may be able to inform us about an interesting topic, please contact a member of the speakers' subcommittee (Errol, John or Dorothy) via [u3aellesmere@gmail.com](mailto:u3aellesmere@gmail.com)

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## 2024/2025 subscriptions

Subscriptions were due to be paid prior to the AGM on 27<sup>th</sup> March. [\$35 for email advices or \$60 for postal advices; new members \$40].

Any member who is yet to pay their 2024/2025 subscription should make an internet banking transaction without delay:

- U3A Ellesmere Westpac Account **03-0767-0001025-000**.
- For "Details on their statement" Please enter **Family Name** in the "Particulars" box and **Given Name** in the "Code" Box. Enter **U3A sub24** in the "Reference" box. If your names are more than the available characters, enter just those that fit. This will be enough for the Treasurer to identify your payment.