



July 2024 Newsletter

From the President

This newsletter has been delayed because Ruth and I only recently returned from a 32-day Australian cruise. Amongst the various events that the ship's company provided for our entertainment or education on the "sea days" was a series of lectures on cyber security. These lectures, presented by a Canadian expert Logan Daley, covered the serious problems that may arise if you inadvertently click on the link in an email or web site, access an unsecured WiFi network, or you are invited online to invest in something that seems too good to be true. Daley has made his one-hour presentations available on YouTube – search "Cyber Uncensored." His message for when you receive a questionable email is simple: 1. Stop, 2. Think, 3. Verify, 4. Be Suspicious.

On a similar topic, Lincoln Community Care is providing a workshop "Better Banking Frauds and Scams" on 25th July at 1pm. The presenter is Carolyn Prebble from ASB.

Ocean cruising provides plenty of time to chat with fellow passengers. I had an interesting talk with a member of the Bribie Island U3A. This town of just 16,000 residents is off the coast of Queensland, about 60 km north of Brisbane. Bribie Island U3A started in a small way in 1992 and in its first year there were just 32 students and 7 subjects. It grew rapidly and currently there are over 300 "students" attending 30 classes over a very wide range of topics, all conducted by volunteers. Bribie Island U3A operates from its own purpose-built facilities in the town comprising four classrooms, computer room, office space and a recreation hall for special classes, performances, and events. Obviously, this U3A is the heart of an active community, which has a high proportion of retirees.

Our June speaker

Obviously, I missed our June meeting, but our vice-president John has provided the following report:

Why changing the way, we "do" politics can help our climate

Presentation from Professor Bronwyn Hayward of the University of Canterbury, 19th June 2024.

"Climate issues have risen rapidly in public understanding, and even though the cost of living and clickbait issues dominate public debate, the decisions we make now will impact communities for thousands of years," Bronwyn says.

"A 100-year time horizon, let alone a 1000-year one, is not something we often think about. However, children born this year will experience three to four times as many extreme climate events in their lifetime than those of us aged 60 or older. In our lifestyle decisions we should think of our children and grandchildren – their lives may depend on this."

Bronwyn gave several examples from overseas where climate change is already impacting on peoples' daily lives. She also highlighted concerns of younger people in New Zealand. The single most important thing we can do, she says, is minimise the use of cars (petrol), as they are the largest contributor to green-house gases in New Zealand.

Upcoming speakers

Wednesday 24th July

Peter Howorth – *“WW2, prison escape, books, monks, maps and NO women’ - 1939 to 2024”*

A highly entertaining talk is assured. Peter writes – “A relative of my wife Gina, Sandy Thomas, was the start of the whole thing. During World War 2 he was wounded in the Battle for Crete, captured, and sent to a German prison hospital in Thessaloniki. He escaped from there, and walked across the top of Greece and arrived at Mount Athos, a closed enclave containing 20 monasteries. Although some monasteries were 'German', Sandy was sheltered there until three of them stole a boat and reached Turkey, and then to Syria where one of the first people Sandy saw was his brother. Sandy was made a full Colonel when he was 23. I will talk about his career - he retired from the British army in the 1970's with the rank of Brigadier General as the final commander of the Far Eastern Forces. After the war he wrote a book called 'Dare to be Free' about his Greek adventures. This was a best-seller, and became a prescribed school text in the UK.

Sandy retired to Brisbane, but we saw quite a bit of him here, as Gina's family came from Hororata. Sandy was always on the lookout for more cash, and as the family here had published some books, he wanted to re-issue 'Dare to be Free', and I was asked to provide some maps. Although I had some CAD skills as an engineer, I had never produced any maps. However, I agreed to assist. I became fascinated with Mount Athos, and found an English society that sent volunteers in annually to clean the pilgrim paths between monasteries. I volunteered and was accepted in 2010.

Off I went to Mount Athos. (I have now been there 14 times). During the first trip, one of the team members (an analyst from GCHQ) asked me why I had come. I said that I had done some maps for a book. 'Ooh good', he said, we need a new map'; and he gave me a CD of GPS tracks. I knew nothing about the cartographic process, but said I'd do it, and that it would take about 6 weeks.

I came home, rang the NZ Cartographic Society for advice and was told about a Mountain Cartography Conference in Turangi in a few weeks' time. I was asked to present a paper - and away the whole thing went, including meeting HRH Prince Charles (now King Charles III) at Highgrove. All shall be revealed!”

Wednesday 28th August

Barry Maister – *“Behind the Rings – an insider’s view of the Olympic Movement”*

After 20 years of engagement with the Olympic Movement, and 10 years as an IOC member, Barry has the experience to address some of the myths and misconceptions about the Movement, and explain his concerns for the future. He is an Olympic Gold Medallist (Hockey, Montreal, 1976), and a former Rector of St Andrews College.

Wednesday 25th September

David Simmons, Emeritus Professor, Department of Tourism, Sport and Society, Lincoln University – *“Rethinking tourism”*

David’s bio reads: “I work globally on tourism policy and planning and am a Fellow of the International Academy for the Study of Tourism. My research focuses on managing tourism at the destination area. It is informed by human geography, resource economics and the social sciences but increasingly adopts a multi or interdisciplinary epistemology. I examine broader questions of tourism governance and evolution and public participation in tourism planning. I also focus on economic and sustainable tourism ‘yields’ to direct positive outcomes at the local level. My work significantly informs the development and implementation of the New Zealand Tourism Strategy. Elsewhere I have worked on tourism planning issues in Cambodia, Mauritius, Niue, Vanuatu Nepal, India, Sarawak and North Korea for organisations including WWF, the UN and WTO, and regularly give keynote addresses at international conferences. I was one of only two academic members of the core writing group for

Tourism2025. With funding from the National Science Challenge, I am now working on two risk management projects for New Zealand tourism: social resilience building through the lens of transient populations (including tourists and sector employees) and longer-term risks around tourists such as biosecurity and bio-health disease vectors.”

Overdue subscriptions

Neal reports that there has been no response from the request in the previous newsletter for unfinancial members to pay their 2024 subscription. Therefore, in fairness to people who wish to join U3A Ellesmere, the committee will now decide what action to take.

The committee for 2023/24 is:

President – Errol Wood, **Vice-President** – John Prendergast, **Secretary** – Nancy Borrie,

Treasurer – Neal Borrie, **Interest Groups Coordinator** - Lyn Minchington

Tea Team coordinator – Warren Greenwood, **Membership Coordinator** – Dorothy Jordan

Our email address is u3aellesmere@gmail.com .