



## September 2024 Newsletter

### From the President

#### **Our meeting format (is this a “storm in a teacup”?)**

After our September meeting, the committee received comments that our current meeting format seems to be inhibiting everyone’s opportunity to “mingle”. At this meeting, many people were seated well before the notice time. A key objective of our U3A is to provide opportunities for members to enjoy fellowship, and make new friends.

Therefore, the committee has decided to review our current practice. There are pros and cons for the two formats:

Option 1 – Currently, we have morning tea at 10am and at around 10.15 we move on to the meeting with the notices, followed by the speaker. Members can arrive before 10am, have morning tea while they mingle, and the kitchen helpers can be in the meeting when the speaker starts at 10.30am.

Option 2 – With the previous format, the meeting began at 10am with the notices, and then we had a 15-minute morning tea break until 10.30am. Members could mingle and chat prior to the speaker beginning commencing their presentation at 10.30am. With this option people would have already found their preferred seating arrangement, so they are willing to leave their seats and, hopefully, mingle. But this means that our morning tea servers may miss out on the start of the speaker’s presentation.

**The key question is which option do you think provides the best opportunity for people to mix and mingle?**

At this month’s meeting I will ask for a show of hands for the option you prefer. The option that has majority support will be implemented at the start of 2025.

#### **Our end-of-year function**

Planning is underway for our end-of-year function, which will follow our final meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> November. This year it will take the form of finger-food lunch. As in the past, there will be no charge, but members must register their intention to attend by email to [u3aellesmere@gmail.com](mailto:u3aellesmere@gmail.com) OR on the sheet at the rear end of the Baylis Room at the October meeting. For catering purposes, we must have final numbers by 11 November. Last year, around 30 members indicated that they would be attending the lunch, but didn’t turn up. This was disappointing as we had catered for the number of registrations received. A considerable amount of food was left over - a cost of around \$450! **So if you sign up for the lunch, please come.**

## Our August speaker

**Professor David Simmons**, Department of Tourism, Sport and Society, Lincoln University – *“Re-thinking Tourism”*

David highlighted several critical tourism issues for New Zealand, and the rest of the world. In particular, he focused on overtourism in major tourist centres, and the negative impacts of long-distance travel, whether by air or sea. David spoke enthusiastically about “regenerative tourism”, which is the practice of sustainable travelling and discovering new destinations. It provides tangible and long-lasting benefits for the host population, with minimum impact on the environment. Regenerative tourism has three foci:

- Local community involvement
- Environmental restoration
- Cultural preservation

This diagram summarises what regenerative tourism is about, in the New Zealand context.



David is also deputy chair of the Himalayan Trust, which has been responsible for establishing many schools and hospitals, carrying on the legacy of Sir Edmund Hillary. He outlined the great work of the Trust in supporting the Nepalese people in the Solukhumbu district, and there is more information on their web site <https://himalayantrust.org/about-htnz> (and Wikipedia). There are opportunities for you to participate in the ongoing work of the Himalayan Trust through donations (via the HTNZ web site). David has asked that his speaker’s fee go to the Trust.

## Upcoming speakers

### Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October

**Fiona Brooker**, Chief Memory Officer and Genealogist at Memories in Time – *“The Magic of DNA”*

Fiona writes: “My passion is to help people trace their family history, and then to discover ways to share the stories and memories with their families. I’m based in New Zealand but researching all over the world.

Memories in Time grew from my research, and helping other people with their research.

Now I'm lucky to be able to do what I love as my full-time career. The involves a combination of researching, mentoring, DNA analysis, teaching family history and publishing which I love. There is nothing better than getting someone addicted to the hunt for their ancestors.”

Fiona has appeared as a genealogy consultant on the recent TV1 series, “My Family Mystery”

### Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November

**Nic Low** (Ngai Tahu), author and historian – *“Exploring the Maori history of the Southern Alps on foot”*

Nic is a contributing editor at New Zealand Geographic and a former programme director of WORD Christchurch Festival. He is currently the Ursula Bethell Writer in Residence at the University of Canterbury, and is working on his fourth book.

Nic spent years researching Ngai Tahu’s history in the Southern Alps, then walked the old Maori alpine trails to bring these histories to light. Join him for an account of his expeditions, and learn why it’s possible to see history rather than just wilderness when looking up at the peaks.

### Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January (there will be no meeting in December)

To start the New Year, we are arranging a surprise meeting with a difference. More details next month.

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## Your 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](mailto:u3aellesmere@gmail.com)