

U3A Christchurch Central

'University of the Third Age'

u3achchcentral@gmail.com u3achchcentral.org.nz

Newsletter 6: 8 September – 29 September 2026

Course 6 – Innovative Companies

Course Organiser: Sue Allard

	8 September, Christopher Boyle, Co-founder and Chair of Fabrum From Canterbury to the Cosmos: How Cryogenics is Powering Clean Energy and Saving Lives Discover how Fabrum is helping shape the future of clean energy through world-leading innovation in cryogenics, composites, and advanced engineering. This presentation explores Fabrum's purpose, the solutions we deliver, and the real-world impact our technologies are making for customers, industries, and a more sustainable future.
	15 September, Ben Fahy, Rewiring Aotearoa, Head of Communications Electrify everything - and everyone Everyone wins when we go electric. Homes save thousands, communities save millions and the country saves billions, while also improving energy security and reducing emissions. So how do we make the electric boat go faster? And how can you help?

	22 September, Eric UfiPoa, Swaltech – Patient Engagement Specialist Patient Driven Innovation Eric was a firefighter for 12 years until a stroke at 32 forced him to rebuild everything, including his swallow. He now lives with a disability and speaks differently, and he draws on that lived experience in his work in patient-driven innovation at Swallowing Technologies. His talk explores how lived experience can change the way we create rehab tools that actually work in real life.
	29 September, Martin Cudd, ChristchurchNZ Innovation and Business Growth Christchurch's Growth Sector Approach ChristchurchNZ's Growth Sector Strategy is a deliberate approach to growing a more productive and regenerative economy by focusing on industries where Canterbury has a genuine competitive advantage, the ability to solve significant global challenges, and existing momentum that can be accelerated. We concentrate our efforts on five priority sectors: Aerospace & Future Transport, Healthtech, Cleantech, Bioeconomy and Regenerative Biomanufacturing, and the Antarctic Gateway. Our role is to convene businesses, researchers, investors and government partners, helping unlock talent, investment, innovation and market opportunities.

Hospitality:

Thanks to Yvonne Ekdahl for coordinating morning tea/coffee/biscuits and to Kate Livingston and Bella Boyd for their assistance.

Visitors are welcome: \$5 per session in cash. Visitors must sign the visitors' register at the membership desk.

Cell phone use during presentations: Members are reminded that, while they may use their cell phones to take notes during presentations, they should not take photos of the presenter or any of the slides presented as the distribution of this material requires the consent of presenters. All phones set to silent.

Member survey: The Committee would like to get your suggestions for courses and speakers for 2027. We would also like feedback on this year's programme – aspects that worked well and aspects where we could improve. You can complete and return the feedback form electronically using the link below, or by picking up a paper copy at the membership desk at U3A sessions. Please complete or return it by Wednesday 30 September 2026. Here is the link to the feedback form: <https://forms.gle/ouvSAXXxZLxtbHGg7>

Interest groups: U3A Christchurch Central has two interest groups - the **Walking Group** and the **Art Interest Group**

For the Walking group contact Sue Allard sue.allard@xtra.co.nz, and for the Art Interest Group contact Anne McMurtrie, annemcmurtrie@xtra.co.nz, 027 537 5128.

The U3A Art Group: The next U3A Art Group visit is at **10:20 am, on Friday, 25 September 2016 - Bird Land: Te Kāhui Manu**, a guided tour at the Christchurch Art Gallery. (Please be on time) This exhibition, taking inspiration from Margaret Orbell's 2003 book *Birds of Aotearoa*, spans generations of artists — among them Ralph Hotere, Colin McCahon, Fiona Pardington, Robin White and Michael Parekōwhai — across painting, sculpture, photography and customary practice. Contact Anne McMurtrie by text or email if you would like to join the group visit.

Course Dates 2026

Course 7: 20 October – 17 November, **Potpourri**

Final session: 24 November