

'University of the Third Age'

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Newsletter 7, 21 October – 18 November 2025

Course 7 - Potpourri

Course Organiser: Sue Allard

	21 October – Stephen Penruscoe, Head of Public Engagement, Canterbury Museum Canterbury Museum: Past, Present, and Future For over 150 years, Canterbury Museum has been a landmark on Rolleston Avenue. Join us to uncover the rich history of its buildings, explore how the site has transformed over time, and discover the vision behind the Museum's major redevelopment. Get an insight into the new design and the challenges of bringing this ambitious project to life.
	28 October – Simon Keable-Elliott, Former teacher, independent writer, researcher and lecturer Utterly Immoral, Robert Keable and his scandalous novel The focus for this presentation is the story of Robert Keable, a WW1 chaplain, and his novel <i>Simon called Peter</i> – an international bestseller, banned in Boston USA, mentioned in <i>The Great Gatsby</i>. After WW1 Keable left the church, and his wife, and ran away to live in Gauguin's house in Tahiti, marrying a Tahitian princess. Simon offered to give this talk on his visit from the UK.
	4 November – Geoff Banks, Specialist Engineer, Director of Structex (2002 – 2022). Director of Seismic Shift Seismic Shift This talk is about a start-up company that I co-founded in 2022. Our first product was Front Foot, which is designed to reduce the impact of earthquakes around the Pacific, where 90% of all major EQs occur. NZ's current building code focusses on saving lives—very important of course. Seismic Shift focusses on reducing disruption, damage and waste after an EQ, in ordinary buildings where we spend most of our time.

	11 November - Dame Sue Bagshaw, Youth Hub Trust and the Collaborative Trust How the Youth Hub is helping young people develop well 10-25 years is one of the most important times of development. It is a chance to develop attachment especially when young people have missed out in the first year of life. Youth Hub Christchurch is New Zealand's first purpose built Youth Hub for young people aged 10-25. It brings together a range of socially supportive organisations under one roof.
	18 November - Jo McCarroll, Editor, New Zealand Gardener A History of Gardening in New Zealand: as told through the NZ Gardener archive With more than 80 years in print, the archive of New Zealand's favourite gardening magazine is a snapshot of our horticultural history. The stories, the recipes, the letters to the editor, even the advertisements, offer a fascinating glimpse into how we've gardened (and lived!) over the last eight decades.

Hospitality:

Thanks to Yvonne Ekdahl for coordinating morning tea/coffee/biscuits and to the members who assist her during this course.

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

Cell phone use during presentations: Set phones to silent and no photos of presenters or slides.

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.

Art Interest Group Events – Friday 17 October 11am - meet at Te Whare Waiutuutu Kate Sheppard House, 83 Clyde Road to see '19th Century Women Confronting the Lens' – Photos of women in Wanganui 1859-1889.

Friday 21 November 10.30 am – meet at College House, 100 Waimairi Rd, to view the Alex Baird Collection of Contemporary Art with Grant Banbury. Contact Anne McMurtrie if you would like to attend.

Final session - November 25 – To be announced at the start of Course 7

Shared lunch after the final session – please bring finger food to share.