

U3A Christchurch Central

'University of the Third Age'

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Newsletter 4, 16 June - 14 July 2026

Electrifying New Zealand

Course Organiser: Sally Lewis



16 June, Rod Carr, Climate Trust Aotearoa NZ

Climate Change Coming Ready or Not

The climate is changing. The energy transition is underway. Land use is transforming. Insurers are in retreat. What does all this mean for Canterbury households, businesses, and local government?



23 June, Larry Blair, LBC Consultancy & Project Management, NZ Energy

New Zealand Energy Stocktake

Why are our power bills going up, will they get cheaper in the future, how does our energy security stack up, what are our vulnerabilities?

A system by system walk through of New Zealand's energy mix together with some insights into the importance of energy in our lives.



30 June, Dave Kelly, Emeritus Professor, Biological Sciences, University of Canterbury

Think global, act local: how EVs and rooftop solar can help save money and the planet

In the face of inaction on climate change, what people need is some positive action they can take. Luckily some issues have relatively easy solutions which save money and make your life better. This talk will review the pros and cons of EVs and solar, including environmental and economic aspects. Better information can encourage uptake of these low-carbon technologies. The Iran war has only made the case for electrification even stronger.

	7 July, Sam Elder, Climate Navigator Place-based energy transitions - putting power back in the hands of people and communities. Sam will share a bold vision for more local and democratised energy systems which puts power back in the hands of people and communities. She will outline why this is a critical opportunity for Aotearoa, explore some of the barriers holding us back, work underway, learnings from here and overseas, and potential next steps towards a better energy future, together.
	14 July, Ian McChesney, Co-Founder of Community Energy Action, policy researcher and associate of Community Energy Network Energy Hardship – the progress and challenges in Aotearoa New Zealand Energy hardship has been recognised for over 3 decades in NZ. While NGOs and energy researchers have largely led the way, a large ‘ecosystem’ of support and funding from government agencies, local government, electricity entities and others has developed. This talk will focus on the programmes, people and policies that have made a difference, and the challenges ahead.

Hospitality: Thanks to Yvonne Ekdahl for coordinating morning tea/coffee/biscuits and to Jan Veronese, Donna Aitkin, John Riley and Jane Ross for their assistance.

Waitlist: The committee has reviewed the waitlist and decided it will remain closed for the rest of 2026; review at the end of the year.

Visitors are welcome: \$5 per session in cash. Please 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.

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.

U3A Art Group: Next meeting: **Friday 19 June 10.30 am - Christchurch Art Gallery - “Edith Collier: Early New Zealand Modernist”** This survey exhibition takes a fresh look at Collier’s achievements, at a time of growing international interest in the work of women modernists.

Text Anne McMurtrie 027 5375128 to register.

Course Dates 2026:

Course 5: 28 July – 25 August, **Political Challenges**

Course 6: 8 September – 29 September, **Innovative Companies (ChCh)**

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

Final session: 24 November