

U3A Christchurch Central

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Newsletter 8 – November 2025

This newsletter contains:

- Information about our final session
- Advance notice of the tenth Annual General Meeting
- Current U3A Christchurch Central committee members
- 2025 course dates and topics, and other U3A information
- Message from your President

Final Session Tuesday 25 November, 10.30am – Presentation by Helen Webby – Harpist

After this final session we are planning to have a shared lunch in the Art Gallery atrium. Please bring a plate of finger food to share.



Helen Webby has been Principal Harp with Christchurch Symphony Orchestra since 2000. She loves to come out of the back of the orchestra and play her amazing Concert harp, made by her brother, Kim Webby.

Helen studied harp in Auckland, The Netherlands and Germany, and was lucky to be mentored by several top European harpists. In her presentation for U3A, Helen will share the magic, mystery and history of the harp.

Visit her website - Helen Webby – Harpist and harp teacher www.harp.co.nz

Advance Notice of Annual General Meeting

Our tenth Annual General Meeting will be held on **Tuesday 3 February, 2025 at 10.30 am.**

A formal notice will be sent to you in the January newsletter along with a copy of the Constitution. A nomination form for officers and committee members will also be emailed at this time for anyone interested in joining the committee in 2026 or nominating committee members.

Please let one of the committee know if you would be interested in being on our committee next year. We have two committee members stepping down and would like to have two new members join the committee.

Your Committee are currently organising a speaker who will present following the Annual General Meeting.

Current U3A Christchurch Central Committee:

President	Sue Allard	Secretary	Rosemary Anderson
Membership	Sally Lewis	Treasurer	Maxine Macaulay
Committee	Yvonne Ekdahl	Gay Charlotte	Marilyn Downward
	Jan Bierman	*Anne McMurtrie	*Jo Sewell

*Will not be standing in 2026

2026 Course Dates:

AGM	3 February	Speaker to be advised
Course 1	10 February – 3 March	Potpourri
Course 2	17 March – 14 April	Artificial Intelligence
Course 3	5 May – 2 June	Rewilding Canterbury
Course 4	16 June – 14 July	Electrifying New Zealand
Course 5	28 July – 25 August	Political Challenges
Course 6	8 September – 29 September	Innovative Christchurch Companies 2
Course 7	20 October – 17 November	Potpourri
Final session	24 November	Presentation to be advised

Other U3A information:

Morning tea: Many thanks to Yvonne Ekdahl for organising the morning tea/coffee table and to all those who have assisted her in 2025 – Denise Falconer, Marilyn Downard, Mary Bullock, Donna Aitkin, Kate Livingstone and Jane Ross. Even though we now have compostable cups, we encourage you to bring your own.

Walking group: This group continues to meet over the summer holidays on Wednesday mornings. Contact: Sue Allard sue.allard@xtra.co.nz

Art Interest group: The final tour for this year will be at 10:30 on Friday 21 November at College House, 100 Waimairi Road. Anne McMurtrie is resigning from the committee from the end of the first course next year. However she will continue to facilitate the Art Interest group. Contact: Anne McMurtrie annemcmurtrie@xtra.co.nz 027 537 5128.

Message from your President – Sue Allard

Our 2025 U3A programme has gone very well with an excellent range of speakers. Thanks very much to all of those members who have worked to make this year's programme so successful.

As I said at a recent session, we will have to increase our membership fee for 2026, in order to cover our costs. The amount that we propose will be sent out in the January Newsletter, and voted on by members at the AGM.

The feedback from our August member survey was of a very high quality again and, using this, we have been able to put together a comprehensive programme for 2026.

Our waiting list is currently 86. The waiting list is currently closed for the rest of this year.

We look forward to seeing you again in 2026. Wishing you a safe and enjoyable holiday season.