



NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER / WHIRINGA-Ā-NUKU 2026

Greetings from the President

Last month I briefly mentioned the increasingly noticeable effects of climate change; this month I feel that it could be joined by AI as a potential existential threat. Quite early on, AI has behaved in ways which were obviously unintended and unprogrammed, such as hallucinating. These random episodes have not gone away and have become more serious, so, it seems to me possible that RSI (recursive self-improvement where AI designs itself) would represent a considerable and unpredictable risk. AI might quickly move beyond human understanding, and, possibly, human control.

Remember that October and November are renewal months (simply pay your subscription, unless you were advised when joining recently that your subscription covered next year), and that our November meeting is also our Annual General Meeting, with a speaker as usual and an end of year function to follow. We also need a new Secretary (see the notice later in this newsletter).

At our monthly meeting on September 21st, the short talk was given by Jo Dick from Liveable, a company offering advice and solutions to enable older people to continue living in their own homes. You can contact Jo through the contact page on her website, liveable.co.nz, and mention that you are from U3A. Jo is happy to chat with anyone at their home or on the phone. Jo also sent information about rubbish collections, in answer to a question. She writes

"I also found a solution to the question about getting the wheelie bin up the driveway - council offer an assisted collection. Assisted services are available to customers with age-related or disability support needs who need assistance to get their household rubbish and recycling to the roadside each week.

Please call council on 09 301 0101 to discuss your support needs".

Before Jo's talk, Judi Higginson briefly introduced her new group, "Art beyond the Frame". She invited those interested to sign up at morning tea. Such was the interest that Judi reports that her new group is over-subscribed already!

After morning tea, we heard from our main speaker, singer, conductor and organiser, John Rosser, artistic director of the World Choir Games held in Auckland in 2024. We heard about John's early career, growing up in a musical family, interest in languages, music and football at school, a degree in classics, member of the first NZ Youth Choir, studying conducting with Peter Godfrey and founding Viva Voce in 1985. Viva Voce has given over 500 concerts, and is known for innovative programming.

John became one of very few in NZ earning a living as a choral conductor, on the board and later chair of the NZCF, conducting Symphony under the Stars, the Big Sing, the Rugby World Cup anthems project, and was chorus director of NZ Opera for nearly 25 years.

The first Symposium in Choral music was held in Vienna in 1987 and every three years since. After Seoul in 2014 and Barcelona in 2017, Auckland was selected to host the Symposium in 2020. John was appointed Artistic Director (2016 – 2020) leading the organising committee and was devastated when the Symposium was cancelled in 2020 due to Covid. Getting straight back on the horse, he immediately started working on bringing the World Choir Games to Auckland, which happened in 2024, with John as Artistic Director.

The World Choir Games is the World's largest choral festival and emphasises participation rather than excellence. In Auckland there were 30 venues, 490 events, and 250 choirs (including 80 from China), involving over 11,000 participants! We have a lot to thank John Rosser for, besides his talk.

Thanks to all who contributed to a well-run, interesting and enjoyable meeting, particularly our AV team, without whom our meetings would not be possible.

Our next meeting will be on Monday 19th October, featuring volcanoes and hearing aids "Wow, did you hear that?" "Eh, what was that?". I look forward to seeing you there.

John Goodman

September Meeting:



Judi Higginson introducing her new group 'Art beyond the Frame',

and right
Vivianne Child enjoying a surprise gift



Our mini-speaker Jo Dick from Liveable,

and left introducing her team



Our main speaker, John Rosser

below with Shirley Grayson and John Goodman



Who's who for Monday 19 OCTOBER 2026 meeting: 9.45 a.m. for a 10 a.m. start at St Chad's Church, 38 St Johns Road, St Johns 1072.

Greeters: NZ History

Mini Speaker: Dr Cora Swindale, Auckland University School of Population Health, Audiology Department

Topic: The period leading up to getting hearing aids, and hearing aid maintenance.

Guest Speaker: Professor Jan Lindsay, University of Auckland

Topic: Preparing for a future eruption in the Auckland Volcanic Field



Professor Jan Lindsay, University of Auckland

Professor Jan Lindsay, Professor, Faculty of Science, Environment, University of Auckland will be talking to U3A Meadowbank on: "Preparing for a Future Eruption in the Auckland Volcanic Field"

After growing up in Rotorua, Samoa and Auckland, places known for volcanoes, Jan Lindsay developed a serious interest in geology and volcanoes, which developed into an academic study of volcanoes here and around the World.

This developed into research on volcanic hazard assessment, volcanic hazard maps, and volcanic risk communication.

Who's Who for Monday 16 NOVEMBER 2026 meeting: 9.45 a.m. for a 10 a.m. start at St Chad's Church, 38 St Johns Road, St Johns 1072.

Greeters: Saints & Sinners

Guest Speaker: John Reynolds, Documentary Maker.

Topic: A Writer's Journey

Committee Notices

U3A Meadowbank Incorporated Notice of Annual Membership Renewal

Please note that annual membership subscriptions are payable from October 1st, 2026 and should be paid before the date of the AGM, viz November 16th, 2026.

By resolution of the committee, the annual subscription remains at \$40, and members will not be required to complete membership renewal forms.

Internet banking to U3A Meadowbank bank account please, with name as reference.

If you have not saved this account in your payees list, please contact the Treasurer at

u3ameadtrea@gmail.com

Please remember to send any changes of address or contact details to the Membership Coordinator at

u3amememb@gmail.com

U3A Meadowbank Incorporated, Notice of Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the 26th Annual General Meeting of the Society is to be held on Monday, 16th November 2026, at St Chad's, Meadowbank, at 10am.

Order of Business

- To approve the minutes of the 25th Annual General Meeting, held on 17th November 2025 at St Chad's, Meadowbank.
- To receive and approve the President's Annual Report.
- To receive and approve the Treasurer's Report and reviewed annual accounts for the year ending 30th September 2026.
- To approve a reviewer for the 2027 annual accounts.
- To elect the Officers and Committee for 2027.
- General Business.

The official Agenda, Minutes, and Reports to follow.

We need a new Secretary!

We require a new secretary for next year, to replace Vivianne Child, who is resigning at the AGM.

We need a volunteer for next year. That volunteer could be YOU.

The job mostly involves taking the minutes of the committee meetings and sending out the meeting agenda. Support and training will be available. This is a great way to get involved and to join a friendly, welcoming committee.

Our organisation cannot function without a secretary.

If you think you could do the job, please contact Vivianne to ask about the role. Nomination forms also available from

u3ameadowbank@gmail.com.



Name Badges

Please make a point of wearing these to our meetings. It's a great help in communicating and starting up conversations if we have help in remembering names!

New members have a green dot on their badges.
Please take note and help to make them welcome.

New Members

**A big welcome to our new member, Michele Chapman.
Best wishes for many enjoyable experiences at U3A Meadowbank meetings
and group activities!**

Group News

Save the date

Art History

Tuesday 13 October, 2026, 1.30-2.30pm.

The Art History group invites everyone in Meadowbank u3a to join us to enjoy the Lindauer Centenary lecture at Auckland Art Gallery. This is a special re-presentation of the Centenary Lindauer lecture given in June of this year, by Dr Jane Davidson-Ladd, Curator, Historical New Zealand Art.

***You are welcome to join us for
lunch any time after 12.30 in the
Gallery Café.***

For further information contact
Vivianne Child, Convenor or Margaret
Davidson, Co-Convenor.

u3ameadowbank@gmail.com or 3ameadconv@gmail.com



Classic Films 1	Last Wednesday	2:00 pm	Members' homes
Classic Films 2	Last Friday	2:00 pm	Members' homes
Current Events	1st Wednesday	10:00 am	Lady Fatima Church
Dollars and Sense	2nd Thursday	10:00 am	Members' homes
French	1st & 3rd Tuesday	9:45 am	Members' homes
History	2nd Wednesday	10:30 am	Meadowbank retirement Village
Introduction to Bridge	2nd & 4th Thursday	1:30 pm	1/7 The Parade, St Heliers
Jazz	1st Friday	10:00 am	St Andrews, Keeling Room
New Zealand History	2nd Monday	10:00 am	St Andrews, Keeling Room
Poetry	3rd Thursday	10:00 am	Members' homes
Ramblers	Each Thursday	10:00 am	Various
Saints and Sinners	3rd Wednesday	10:00 am	St Andrews, Keeling room
Science & Technology	2nd Monday	10:15 am	7 St Vincent, lounge
Short Walks	3rd Thursday	9:30 am	Meadowbank Mall carpark
Ted talks & beyond	3rd Friday	10:00 am	Remuera Gardens Pavilion
Time Poor Walkers	Each Wednesday	9:00 am	St Heliers Bay Playground
Wine Studies	Last Tuesday	2:00 pm	Members' homes

BOOK OF THE MONTH:

“This book made me think of you” (2026) by Libby Page

Anyone who loves reading will find this book fascinating. I picked it up from our U3A book table (thank you to the contributor) and couldn't put it down until I had

finished it. I also added titles mentioned in the book to my already ENORMOUS list of books I have yet to read.

The first line of the book reads *“The right book in the hands of the right person, at exactly the right moment, can change their life forever”*

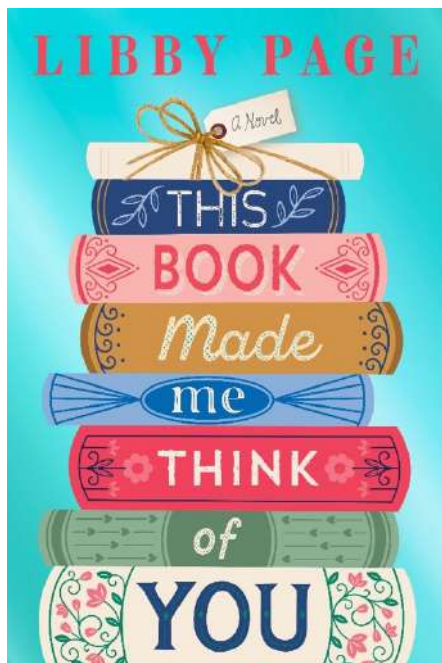
The story is about the interaction between Alfie, a passionate book shop owner, and a widow Tilly who loved books and reading.

Tilly's husband Joe knew he was dying, how important books were to Tilly, and he planned with Alfie to give his wife Tilly a book a month for a year.

Each month had a theme which helped Tilly overcome her grief as she read the appropriate book e.g 'Books to read when you don't feel like reading' – “Books for when life feels like a mess” – “Books that take you on an adventure

(without leaving home)” etc.

Highly recommended
Gay Williams



Something of Interest?

Participants Wanted

Invitation to take part in research on charitable giving

Master's research at Victoria University of Wellington is exploring how people think about leaving a charitable gift in their will, and what this decision means to them.

-  **One-on-one interview**
(about 60 minutes)
-  **Face-to-face at a convenient location**
-  **Participation is voluntary and confidential**
You will not be asked to disclose specific financial details.
-  **\$20 voucher**
provided as a thank you

 For more information or to express interest, please contact:

Maria Wesson
Master of Commerce (Marketing)
 wessonmari@myvuw.ac.nz

 This research has been approved by the Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington Human Ethics Committee.
Ethics approval number: 2026/HE040314



Events in Auckland October 2026



Highwic Plant Fair. 2026
Saturday 31 October
10am–2pm
Plants For Sale. Activities
Food & Coffee
Highwic House & Shop Open
Vintage Garden Tools &
Embroidery Displays

Highwic, cnr Gillies Ave and Mortimer Pass,
Newmarket

No parking on site. Parking available at Westfield
Newmarket 309 Building, L3 GREEN car park.
Footbridge link to Highwic.

Auckland Art Gallery

Current Exhibitions

- **et al. | the fundamental practice:** A major immersive installation running through November 15, 2026.
- **Ngā Taonga Tūturu: Treasured Māori Portraits:** A rotating selection of historic and cultural portraits.
- **Taimoana | Coastlines: Art in Aotearoa:** Works exploring New Zealand's coastal connection.
- **Ammon Ngakuru: Three Scenes 2025:** Contemporary moving-image and sculptural work.
- **In Trust for Tomorrow: The Greg J Moyle Foundation Bequest:** Showcasing significant New Zealand artworks.
- **Giacometti without End:** Featuring iconic modernist sculptures and prints.

Picasso

Picasso like you've never seen him before. Encounter the Blue and Rose periods, Cubism, portraits and more in the first solo exhibition of Picasso's work in Aotearoa New Zealand in more than 30 years. Bringing together outstanding works from the Musée national Picasso–Paris in a special collaboration with legendary British fashion designer Sir Paul Smith, the exhibition unfolds across atmospheric rooms that draw on the colours, shapes, patterns and textures of Picasso's artworks. Sir Paul's experiments with light, colour, shape, feeling and his Signature Stripe reimagine how we experience the artworks.

10 Oct 2026 - 1 Feb 2027

Curated by Joanne Snrech (Musée national Picasso–Paris), Virginie Perdrisot-Cassan (Musée national Picasso–Paris), François Dareau (Musée national Picasso–Paris), Sophie Matthiesson

Diwali in Auckland



The BNZ Auckland Diwali Festival returns, lighting up Aotea Square, Queen Street and Rutland Street with vibrant colour and joyful celebration on 31 October and 1 November 2026.

Dive into a lively celebration of culture and creativity at this family-friendly festival, where traditional and contemporary performances light up stages alongside art installations, markets, themed photo spots and relaxing yoga sessions. With delicious vegetarian food, hands-on workshops for all ages, and a spectacular Sunday night fireworks finale, the event proudly remains smoke-free, alcohol free, and entirely vegetarian.

Titanic: The Human Story

- **Dates:** August 28 – October 25, 2026 [\[1\]](#)
- **Location:** Smith & Caughey's Building, 253–261 Queen Street, Auckland CBD [\[1\]](#), [\[2\]](#)
- **Duration:** About 80 to 90 minutes [\[1\]](#)
- **Tickets:** Priced from \$30 to \$67, available via [Auckland Live](#) [\[1\]](#)



U3A Meadowbank meetings October 2026

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1				1	2
10.00 am				Ramblers	Jazz
2.00 pm					
Week 2	5	6	7	8	9
9.00 am			Time Poor Walkers		
9.45 am		French			
10.00 am			Current events	Dollars & Sense Ramblers	
1.30 pm	Our SE Asian Neighbours			Introduction to Bridge	
2.00 pm			Memoir writing		
Week 3	12	13	14	15	16
9.00 am			Time Poor Walkers		
9.30 am				Short Walks	
10.00 am	NZ History Science & Technology	Shared Reading1	500 Group Literature History	Ramblers Poetry	Ted Talks & Beyond
10.30 am					
1.30 pm		Art History			
2.00 pm		Book Club		Modern American Literature	
Week 4	19	20	21	22	23
9.00 am			Time Poor Walkers		
10.00 am	MONTHLY MEETING	French	Saints & Sinners	Ramblers	
1.30 pm			Shared Reading 2	Introduction to Bridge Books & Authors	
2.00 pm			Music		
Week 5	26	27	28	29	30
9.00 am	LABOUR DAY		Time Poor Walkers		
10.00 am		Money Matters	Foodie	Ramblers	
2.00 pm		Wine Studies	Classic Films 1		Classic Films 2

If you change your personal details, OR LEARN OF THE BEREAVEMENT OF A U3A MEMBER, please email the change to u3ameadmemb@gmail.com. Please include YOUR full name, physical address, phone number and email address.

If a member you know is having trouble with transport to U3A meetings, please let a member of the committee know. We may be able to help.

TO CONTACT COMMITTEE MEMBERS please use the gmail addresses below

Secretary: u3ameadowbank@gmail.com	Membership Coordinator: u3ameadmemb@gmail.com
Treasurer: u3ameadtrea@gmail.com	Newsletter Coordinator: u3ameadnews@gmail.com
President: u3ameadpres@gmail.com	Groups Coordinator: u3ameadconv@gmail.com

Next Monthly Meeting: Monday 19 October: 10 am at St Chad's

Please remember to send in your U3A news to include in the next newsletter.

We rely on your contributions.

Deadline for the NOVEMBER newsletter items is Thursday 29 OCTOBER 2026.

Expect receipt confirmation.