Firstly, I want to start with some **Big News**.

I had to do some research in Group Tally the other day and discovered that our own Isabell Linton is now the longest serving Altrusan in all of District Fifteen. Joining Pegasus Bay Club in January 1983 she just edges out two members who joined the Ashburton Club in April the same year.

So, huge congratulations to Isabell for all her contributions to Altrusa and the community over all the intervening years. I think that deserves cake at the next meeting, if someone could organise it please.

As I said at our meeting, thanks to those who attended and helped out at the Area Three I.F.F. Day at the Templeton RSA. I was pleased with the venue which I felt worked well.

So here we are, enjoying the changeable Spring weather (what’s with that?) and just over 8 weeks out from Christmas. So that means working on the Christmas-based projects. We will be packaging the hotel amenities for the Christmas Boxes, and sourcing gift items to put into the bags. We will have a working bee or two to prepare the Christmas Stall items for Burwood in December.

A huge thanks for the team who braved the elements and outdoor conditions for our food collection for World Food Day. The Belfast community was very generous and we collected 410 items, over half of which will be delivered to the Salvation Army Belfast Food Bank, about a quarter will go to Te Whare Roimata and the Kaiapoi Community Food Banks respectively. We were fortunate that there had been media attention regarding the need for items for the Food Banks, and our wee shopping list that we handed out had many items that were on special at New World at the time. Serendipity.

We will be welcoming Gina as a new member, so we have an installation to organise. An Orientation meeting will be in order as hopefully we have another new member in the wings too. Remember they pay half dues from December through to April, when they then pay for 12 months and get 13.

Through the ‘Calls for Volunteers’ we have some extra hands we can call on to help us with our projects and fundraisers but we must continue to look for new full members. Remember we need Board members for next year as well as willing hands for projects and fundraisers. We have tried a few different things in the past few months, and I thank you all for getting on board with these initiatives. There has been some lively chatter as we worked on our projects and it has been good to be contributing to our community.

I am sure there are other opportunities we haven’t yet explored. Please put forward your ideas for the future health of our Club.

As always, thanks for your support.

Danae

*Danae, President 2019-20*
NOTICEBOARD

NEXT MEETING
Business/Programme Meeting
**November 4th**
Board Meeting

**19th November**
Business/Programme Meeting

**25th November**
International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

BIRTHDAYS
November 26th Cecilia Conway
November 26th Isabell Linton

DATES TO REMEMBER

**DISTRICT FIFTEEN CONFERENCE**
1st-3rd May 2020
Ridges Hotel
Wellington

**INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION**
21-24th July 2021
Quebec
Canada

Reminders

**Christmas Lunch**
Sunday December 15th at the Chateu

Help with Dementia Canterbury Appeal 22nd and 23rd November

Hi Members, I am unable to help with this Appeal as usual this year because I will be in Melbourne on Grandma duty. Is anyone able to assist for some service hours? Margaret has done it before too, perhaps you could team up?

thanks, Danae

Hi - this year our Annual Appeal is set down for Friday 22nd and Saturday 23rd November 2019.

As you have kindly collected for us in the past we are wondering if you will be available to help us out again this year?

If you are able to help us can you please let us know your preferred area, which day and times that would suit you best and we will slot you in as best as we can.

Nearer the time we will be in touch with the allocated details for you. Please also let us have a contact phone number for you.

Karen Bell Dementia Canterbury

Books for Newborn Babies- World Literacy Day 8th September

Some comments for Staff

*From Jen* I was on one of the shifts they were really well received by the mums I gave them to, people thought it was a really cool idea

*From Kate* Was on that day and everyone who received one was really pleased. Seemed to go over really well.
The theme this year was 'Embrace the Journey.' Members of Altrusa clubs from Timaru, Ashburton and Christchurch met at the Templeton RSA Rooms. We began with introductions, morning tea and a catchup with familiar faces from other clubs.

Three first-timers who came to enjoy the day and learn more about Altrusa were welcomed, then Maria Mackay District Fifteen Governor gave the address. She included news from the International Convention held in Reno, Nevada.

Group workshops proved an excellent time for sharing ideas and knowledge from the clubs. In mixed groups we were challenged to visually represent and explain the Altrusa organisation using coloured shapes, not an easy task! All groups agreed that members are the crux of the organisation as they link each section together. A second workshop on leadership and mentoring led to in-depth discussions and produced some valuable ideas for members to take back to their clubs.

The morning concluded with feedback on happenings from each club. It was gratifying to hear that so many worthwhile projects and fundraisers are being carried out in Canterbury.

After an enjoyable finger food lunch and another chance to mingle with others, we began the afternoon session. The Guest Speaker was Natalie Brough who spoke on the importance of Advance Care Plans and explained the ways in which individuals can plan, document and share their wishes for the future.

The final session led by members of the Timaru Club was a hands-on workshop to demonstrate the preparation and making of Memory/Reminiscence Books for Dementia patients. This was a relaxed opportunity for fellowship with members from other clubs while working on a fun service project.

The day ended with the Benediction followed by afternoon tea and farewells. A very big thankyou was given to Danae for organising all of the events for the day, and to Maria and other members who travelled up to Christchurch.
Photos for the Christchurch IFF Day
At our November Programme meeting five volunteers joined us to prepare Reminiscence Books for Dementia patients. Pictures were carefully chosen, each on a theme, and made into flip-leaf books. These will be distributed to selected Christchurch rest homes.
World Food Day

Last Wednesday several Altrusa members braved the elements to collect items for local food banks at New World Northwood Supermarket. Shoppers throughout the day were very generous with their food donations, 410 items in total. An excellent effort from all involved.
I learnt about the following workshop through work. It is being supported by a number of community organisations. Perhaps we could have someone attend as a leader of our community organisation and see what ideas we can glean from this workshop. Danae

“Here is information about Neighbours Day, which is held in the last week of March 2020. The organisers are holding a workshop to inform people/groups about Neighbours Day and to help you plan for events that you want to put on in your neighbourhood. The workshop is being held in the Shirley area, so come along and find out more about Neighbours Day. **Workshop is on Wednesday 13th November. See attached poster for more info.**"