Reflections from Rosemary –

Welcome to the month of March. Already the year is galloping by even with an extra day in February, and those mornings are a lot darker.

It was wonderful to welcome Governor Maria and Jeanette Halcrow to our Business meeting. We have not heard a lot from Maria over this past year but District 15 has been busy working for all the members.

It was pleasing to see both Nicola & Pauline along again at our meeting and willing to take part in things being arranged.

Thank you to the Committees who have been busy preparing for the annual awards. I am aware that the awards do take quite a lot of preparation but I’m sure all the members do appreciate this effort you have put into them. We have entered in all the categories we are eligible.

The Still Born Memorial is looking splendid. It has taken a long time to finally get the improvements made. Grateful thanks must go to Dell Phillips for completing the work. Once the seat is back this area will be great for those requiring a quiet time. It was a fun evening helping remove the pavers. Thank you to those that came along. We advertised the pavers and these were sold and delivered by early the following morning. We must also thank the men that came to help and Murray Page for being our delivery man.

We had another successful and happy foot clinic this week. The clients do appreciate the effort put into this day. Thank you to all that help with this.

Final preparations are taking place for Magic Mums. It is shaping up to be a fun day with the 12 mums on Saturday 28th March. You are welcome to come out to the Airport and spent time with the mums whilst they are there.

Days for Girls is being held on the following Saturday. I wonder how many shields we can complete this time.

Warm regards - Rosemary
NOTICE BOARD – DATES TO REMEMBER:

Wednesday - 18th March 2020 – 5.30 p.m. for 6 p.m. - Programme Meeting. (Hostesses: Isabell Page, Lynne Judkins, Eleanor Marr, Fay Wilson)

Thursday 26th March – Please could all the members who said they would make biscuits and truffles for the MMs baskets, drop them off at Suan’s, between 5pm – 6.30pm.

Monday 30th March 2020 - 5.15 p.m. - Board Meeting – at Glenys’s home.

Wednesday 1st April – 2020 5.30pm for 6pm - Business Meeting. (Hostesses: Elwyn Lynn, Alice McLaren, Glenys Rickerby)

Saturday 4th April – Days For Girls working Bee at Community House – 9.30a.m. start.

Saturday 4th April – Altrusa Ashburton Charter Birthday!!!! (46 years old -Happy Birthday, us!!!!!)

Apologies to or by 1 p.m. on Monday. Put in an Apology or Pay!!!
From District Fifteen - ☺ - ALTRUSA VIDEO CHALLENGE

Studies show that social media posts with photos get more engagements than posts with just words, so just imagine the impact of video. The International Service and Development Committee would love to see videos of Altrusa clubs actively serving their communities. Many Altrusans carry smart phones with the ability to record video and post to social media at their fingertips. A simple 30-45 second video showing Altrusans hard at work and having fun, in the name of community service, could aid your club with name recognition, brand awareness, and member recruitment. Whether posted on Facebook, Instagram, or Youtube, we’ll be looking out for these hashtags: #altrusavideochallenge#altrusaservice#altrusadfg#altrusasos

So please be sure to tag your videos accordingly and don’t forget to wear your Altrusa t-shirts, hats, or aprons! Should your video include members of the public, secure a signed photo release before publishing your video (photo release forms are available at altrusa.org). Selected videos will be featured in a compilation video that will be shown at the 2021 International Convention and featured on the International website. If video isn’t your thing- please tag your posts with photos with the hashtags listed above

MEMBERS WERE ENTHRALLED BY GUEST SPEAKERS SCOTT AND TRACEY BOWMAN AT OUR FEBRUARY MEETING.

COMMITTEE REPORTS (there is no “I” in the word Team)

MEMBERSHIP - Jocelyn Molloy
The Membership committee met at Nosh on Saturday the 22nd February 2020. Our next social evening will be held on April 29th. Different options were discussed and details of this will be available at the next meeting when final arrangements have been made. Change over will be held on May 20th. We decided to once again have this at the Ashburton Bowling Club and to engage Sandy Smith to cater the meal. Both have been confirmed. A board will be available at the April meeting along with further details. The committee will meet again later in March.

INTERNATIONAL - Joan Lawn:
The International Committee met last week and have planned the programme meeting for 18th March. As we are unable to send the monies designated for Laos through to the school over there, we considered giving the $200.00 allocated to the new refugee intake committee. We could present this at the Programme meeting as the guest speaker will be either someone from that committee or Kevin Clifford himself.
Tonight’s raffle is an array of Mystery Bottles. You won’t know what you are winning!! Remember that Days for Girls is all booked for the 4th April at Community House. The Nina Fay Calhoun Award entry has been completed and forwarded on to the Judge so that is out of the way. The title for this project was “Enabling Education Everywhere”.
ARCHIVES – Ros Stewart:

The members are happy with the success of our Programme meeting. We are hopeful that the Club will approve a donation towards the Oxford Bird Sanctuary to continue the work of the Bowmans.

Joyce Campbell gets up close and personal with Oscar!!!
Scott (Kathleen’s son) and Tracey Bowman from the Oxford Bird Sanctuary were Guest Speakers at our February Programme meeting. They were accompanied by Oscar, a Barn Owl who is blind.

SERVICE – Isabell Page:

The Service Committee haven’t had a meeting yet this year but have kept in touch with emails and active in other ways. Several of our committee along with a few Altrusa members and husbands helped lift the pavers at the Still Born Memorial in preparation for Dell Philips to level and ground and give a general tidy up around the garden and spread gravel where the pavers were. This has made a tremendous difference to the area creating a safe and relaxing place to visit. Thanks also to Dave Strong who is in the process of restoring the seat. The Mamie L Bass Service award has been completed and sent for Judging. When members are delivering Meals on Wheels in a few weeks there are small leaflets available to place on the meals acknowledging that Ashburton Altrusa are delivering the meals that week. The leaflets are just a trial to see if this is worthwhile.

LITERACY - Val Prendergast:

Meeting held at Helen’s home on 25th February to discuss what we were meant to do for the year, and thought that we had achieved all our commitments for the year. We also talked about the Letha H Brown Literacy Award which Helen and Maureen have been working on, and everything seemed to be up to speed. I would like to thank the two women for the time they have put in to this Award “Literacy For Life.” We also discussed the problem we have with Books on Wheels as there doesn’t appear to be many clients. We thought it was a good idea to go to the Library first and see if they had any suggestions on ways to increase the numbers. I went along and had a chat with Celeste. She wasn’t sure and said they do advertise it on the radio and at the Library. We also wondered if the criteria was too high, and whether we should approach the Rest Homes to see if they might have clients who would like this service. I also suggested that we might do an article for the paper. Perhaps the Club might like to have a discussion on the best way forward.
COMMUNICATIONS – Lynne Judkins

We have met at The Phat Duck for lunch. We discussed the report about Altrusa that was placed in The Courier and The Guardian. Alice told us about the changes to the requirements for the awards for each Club’s newsletters which she will be able to implement. Two newsletters for the Award have been sent – this year they are to be sent via email, plus hard copies of both newsletters to be taken to Conference.

FOOT CLINIC - Mary Harrtson

Our March Clinic is to be held tomorrow (5th) and we have 31 clients booked in. We are starting at 10.30a.m. this time but unfortunately, due to several of our cutters having other commitments, two of the cutters will be with us for the full day helping 9 clients each. We break about noon for an hour and share lunch together.

I would like to thank the members of our team for the food they provide, their time and their cheerful attitude which makes Foot Clinic a great place to visit every 6 weeks.

ACCENT - by Lynne Judkins

It is health that is real wealth and not pieces of gold and silver. Mahatma Gandhi

The root of all health is in the brain. The trunk of it is in emotion. The branches and leaves are the body. The flower of health blooms when all parts work together. Kurdish Saying

And so it is with Altrusa. If we are a healthy caring community with all of us working together, using our individual strengths at different times, we are a mighty tree, wealthy in shared experiences and outreach.

FROM THE EDITOR:

Just how worried should we all be about the Covid-19 business???? It seems as though it is now quite a concern for New Zealanders (aka Kiwis), with several cases now confirmed in NZ. It was brought home quite sharply to me on Sunday at the service at St Stephen’s, with the Vicar announcing changes to the method of serving Communion. This has stirred up my long-standing distaste for the way so many people, when on “cup of tea” duty, handle cups by grasping them with their hands on the rim of the cup where we sip our chosen beverage. Have they washed their hands prior to commencing duty?? What sort of germs are they transferring to my cup???? Ugh!!! We will all need to be extra vigilant with our hygiene practices from now on. (I did wash my hands thoroughly before doing the newsletter, so there shouldn’t be any germs attached when you receive it!!!)

Let’s get on to a more pleasant subject!!

Our committees have all been really busy preparing and sending the various Awards entries. So much work has gone into most of the projects which are featured in the entries. I guess that is the important thing to remember – our projects help so many people in the community, so if our Club is lucky enough to be the winner of an Award, that is just the icing on the cake. Another heart-warming thought connected to our various projects is the assistance we receive from spouses/partners etc of our members. One in that category who springs to mind is Joan Corbett's husband Robin, who prints and delivers Joyce’s newsletter each month, PLUS - guess who is piloting the plane to take our magic Mums for their flights at the end of the month???? Thanks, Robin – you are an unsung hero!!!

Go well! - and keep well - Care for each other, and yourself (and keep washing your hands!!)

-Alice.

The following questions were set in the GCSE examination in Swindon, UK (these are genuine answers from 16 year olds)

Q. - Explain the processes by which water may be made safe to drink. A. Flirtation makes water safe to drink because it removes large pollutants like grit, sand, dead sheep and canoeists.
Q. - What is a terminal illness? A. - When you are sick at the airport.
Q. - What is a turbine? A.- Something an Arab or Shreik wears on his head.
MAGIC MUMS REPORT – Committee Leader Suan Bowlser

The committee met on 3rd March 2020. Preparation plans are going well for 28th March. All bookings have been confirmed and items for the baskets are coming in. There have been twelve Mums nominated, and letters of acceptance are going out this week. Thank you to all who have volunteered to make biscuits and truffles. These will be required for Thursday 26th March, and can be delivered to Suan’s at 8 Hanrahan Street between 5pm and 6.30pm. The baskets will be packed on the 27th March. The dinner venue holds thirty. There will be six places available for club members, other than those on the Magic Mums committee and guests, to join the mums for the meal at the Lakehouse. The meal costs $50 per head and starts at 17 45pm. A board is going around tonight if you would like to come. Thank you again to all members for your support.

MEMBER’S PROFILE: Jeanette Sinclair

I was born in Kaitangata and lived above the Post Office as my father was the Postmaster and I attended Kaitangata Primary school and South Otago High School in Balclutha until the end of the 5th form. We moved to Rakaia to another Post Office house and I went to Ashburton High School for my 6th form year where I made a number of great friends.

Unfortunately I was too young to go off to Teachers College in Dunedin with them and I worked in the BNZ in Rakaia for a year.

The following year (1958) my family all moved to Anderson’s Bay in Dunedin where I went to Teachers College for two years and taught at Anderson’s Bay school and at Maori Hill School.

I met Neil very soon after arriving in Dunedin as he lived in the Bay and was working at an Accounting firm and attending lectures at University. We married 4 years later and moved to Timaru. Nikki was born there and 2 years later (1964) we moved to Ashburton where Neil joined Ron Gabites and the accounting firm which later became Gabites Sinclair.

I thought I had left the dreadful Nor Westers well behind but here I was 7 years later! However we settled in well and added two Sons Garth and Craig to our family and it was great to catch up with old friends. During the early years here I was involved in Jaycee Wives, Church Committees, Telephone Counselling as well as Relief Teacher at various primary schools.

I was an Adult Literacy teacher for many years and served two years as the NZ Treasurer for NZ Adult Literacy. I joined Altrusa in 1986 and was Treasurer for a few years and President in 1998-1999 when we celebrated our 25th Anniversary. I have thoroughly enjoyed the many projects, activities and great friendships over the years.

Sadly Neil passed away four years ago but I am very fortunate to have a really supportive family who were all a wonderful team helping me during the build of my new house in Filey place. They are all married with three “children”. The nine grandchildren (5 boys and 4 girls) are aged 20—27!

I am looking forward to the first wedding on Saturday 21 March in Christchurch

♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥

A LITTLE BIT OF CLUB HISTORY

LITERACY – KIDS AND BOOKS!! (When was this photo taken???)