“President Lyn’s Letters”

Who would have thought that so much could happen within our small club in the short time since our last newsletter?

We have had burglaries and home intruders; illnesses to our members or family members; house buying and selling and even a serious car accident. Some of our members are struggling physically or mentally with aspects of daily life and it also seems as if summer has not yet arrived in Oamaru and probably won’t now when Autumn crocuses are in full bloom and trees are starting to lose their leaves!!

Of course these are the times when Altrusans are seen at their best. The priority with which we hold each other’s welfare has meant that our members have once again risen to the challenges. There have been gift packs, home visits, phone calls and baking, gardening and even chauffeuring! All delivered with a smile and offers of further help!

During this busy time we have again organised the “Be a Santa to a Senior” and Christmas tree at a local chemist, enjoyed an amazing Christmas Dinner with hosts Don and Helen (last time at this great venue) and have just completed Meals On Wheels. Committees are meeting to organise this year’s activities; reports and submissions for the annual awards at Conference are being completed and posted and early planning for annual fund-raising events is underway. We were delighted to welcome four potential members at an evening get-together organised by the Membership committee. We look forward to their input, fresh ideas and friendship.

Our Nominations committee has presented the SLATE for 2020/2021. Many thanks to them for their hard work.

AND YES, WE HAVE A PRESIDENT-ELECT!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Lyn
Accent from International President

Beverley Hardy

By working together and embracing change, we will achieve our monumental goal of growing our membership.

To be able to continue to benefit from change, we need to always remember that it is change – not chance – that will get us there!!
Christmas brings out the good in people and 2019 was no exception. Oamaru Altrusans were on the job and Santa’s little helpers at the ready to wrap and deliver gifts to local Rest homes. The recipe was simple:–

Ingredients: -
Organiser – Altrusa International of Oamaru Inc.
Participants – Local Rest homes.
Recipients – Residents who don’t have family or friends to think of them at Christmas.

Method: -
• In November Rest homes approached and staff undertake to supply lists of appropriate gifts for residents without family support.
• Christmas tree situated in the Oamaru Pharmacy decorated with Tags itemising goods that would be appreciated.
• Random members of public remove a tag from tree and return, in due course, with appropriate gifts which are placed in boxes provided.
• Santa’s helpers wrap gifts and distribute to Rest homes.
• Rest home staff deliver gifts at Christmas.

“Be a Santa to a senior!”

Sandringham House staff members.
Iona Events Co-ordinator Bev Nuttall with Altrusan Helen.
Santa’s little helpers Bev, Helen and Jan. This photo appeared in the Oamaru Mail on 22.11.2019

Well done to all involved another great service in the community!!

Quote of the day – Otago Daily Times 14.1.2020
“The same boiling water that softens the potato hardens the egg. It’s about what you’re made of, not the circumstances!” (Unknown)
Recipes from our Christmas Celebration at Helen & Don’s

**Corn & Avocado Salad**

½ cup Basil Pesto mixed with 2 Tablespoons Olive Oil  
2 cups cooked Corn Kernels  
3 tablespoons finely chopped Red Onion (or green chives)  
24 Cherry Tomatoes  
1 large Avocado  
½ tsp Salt  
Mix all together, adding the avocado just before serving!!

**Asparagus Salad (from “Cooking Classy”)**

6 tablespoons Balsamic Vinegar  
2 tps. Dijon Mustard  
1 clove Minced Garlic  
2lbs fresh Asparagus (preferably medium thickness) trimmed and cut into 2 inch pieces  
350g Grape Tomatoes (halved)  
4oz Feta Cheese (crumbled)  

- While bringing a large pot of water to the boil prepare the vinaigrette. Add vinegar to a small saucepan, bring to boil over medium heat and allow to boil until reduced by half (about 3 minutes)  
- Pour vinegar into a jar or bowl, add olive oil, Dijon mustard, honey and garlic. Whisk to blend while seasoning with salt and pepper to taste. Set aside.  
- Add Asparagus to boiling water and allow to boil until tender/crisp (about 4-5 minutes)  
- Drain immediately  
- Fill medium bowl with iced water, add drained asparagus to iced water for about 10 seconds before draining.  
- Put Walnuts and Tomatoes in a bowl then add Asparagus. Drizzle with the cooled vinaigrette and toss lightly  
- Sprinkle with crumbled Feta just before serving to avoid the Feta browning.

**Beetroot Salad**

1 cup raisins  
2 medium beetroot (Grated)  
2 large carrots (Grated)  
½ cup Sunflower seeds (or ¼ cup sunflower & ¼ cup pumpkin seeds)  
Plump the raisins in warm water, dry thoroughly.

**Orange Dressing**

¼ cup Orange Juice  
1 Tablespoon Lemon Juice  
2 Tablespoons Liquid Honey  
Pepper & Salt  
Mix salad ingredients together gently then add the dressing which has been whisked together thoroughly.
As attributed to Lynnette Young & other Altrusans
(This recipe comes with a multitude of recommendations!!)

500 grams Butter
500 grams Sugar
500 grams Flour
2 Tablespoons Golden Syrup
12 Eggs
1 teaspoon Nutmeg
1 teaspoon each of Vanilla, Almond and Rose Essences
2 Kg mixed Fruit

- Cream butter and sugar, beat separately egg yolks and add to creamed mixture. Add dry ingredients then 12 stiffly beaten egg whites.
- Line a 25cm square tin and cook at 125 – 130° for 5 hours.
- Pour Brandy over when cooked.

Coffee Morning held at “The Galley” on Saturday, 1st February 2020. Attended by 11 Altrusans and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Quote of the Day – Otago Daily Times 22 January 2020
“Formal education will make you a living – self education will make you a fortune!”
Jim Rohn, US entrepreneur 1930 – 2009
“END OF YEAR CHRISTMAS GET TOGETHER”

Contributed by Pam

There is something so different about the air around Christmas when we all gather together. Our Christmas ‘do’ was held at Helen & Don’s home (for the last time – they are moving into town in the New Year). The Liaison committee undertook the catering and as usual the meal was superb, succulent meats and salmon, new potatoes, and the variety of salads (we need the recipes) followed by luscious desserts, and of course the Christmas cake which was made by Julie Speer.

Fortunately Helen and Don’s home was able to cater comfortably for the Altrusans and their husband’s or partners (approximately 45+). The men folk gathered together (as usual) at one end, and we mingled catching up with each other’s news and activities for the Christmas period in a lovely relaxed atmosphere, no business, debates, or committee reports – just a group of likeminded people enjoying each other’s company - and in some ways really touching base with each other as friends do. Only one hiccup when someone took the wrong bag home with the car keys inside, consequently cars could not be moved without a lot toing and froing of vehicles – a story which will be remembered and recounted for years to come.

This type of gathering, to me, sums up the spirit of Christmas and why we are Altrusans. Let us carry this spirit forward into 2020 and beyond, being there in the “good” and “not so good” for our community, each other and Altrusa.

On the Upper left we have Jan, Maria & Lynette having a ‘good old natter’ while Helen slaves in the Kitchen!

Upper right shows Jean, Jeanette & Norma ‘chewing the fat’ as well!

Lower left and a happy quartet of Lynne, Lynette, Jenny and Cara pose for the camera!

Lower right and its ‘cuppa time’ for Claire and Pam.

Altrusa Ladies one and all enjoying the festive celebration!!
At the February Business Meeting (Monday, 10\textsuperscript{th} Feb) the Nominating Committee presented the nominations for the Oamaru Board and Club. The following are to be the Office Bearers for the Oamaru Club for the 2020/2021 year.

- **President**: Jeanette Halcrow
- **President Elect**: Anne Brown
- **1\textsuperscript{st} Vice President**: Bev Manson
- **Recording Secretary**: Claire Jelgersma
- **Corresponding Secretary**: Sharon Walsh-Grieve
- **Treasurer**: Jean Palmer/Kath Mercer
- **Senior Director**: Ainslie Mitchell
- **Junior Director**: Margaret Ward
- **Immediate Past President**: Lyn Cartwright

**Meals on Wheels**
Club members delivered Meals on Wheels throughout the month of February.

**Cancer Society Appeal**
Club members manned the collection table at Northside NewWorld on Saturday February 29\textsuperscript{th}.

**Visit of previous member**
At our February Business meeting is was very pleasing to be able to welcome and renew the acquaintance of Shona Sterritt who was a very active member of our club for many, many years. Shona is now a valued member of the Tauranga Club.

**Orientation Night**
The membership committee have held an Orientation Night for four prospective members. We look forward to their participation in our club activities.

**Visit to the Orokonui Sanctuary and Oamaru House**
A visit to these two venues is being planned for late April.

**Senior’s Afternoon Tea**
This will be held on Sunday, 5\textsuperscript{th} April 2020 at the Meadowbank Bowling Club. All committees have been allocated with their duties and the Service Committee requires numbers to be reported back to them by 20\textsuperscript{th} March.

**Fabric Bazaar 6\textsuperscript{th} & 7\textsuperscript{th} June**

**Floral Art Catering 11\textsuperscript{th} October**

“Don’t judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant!”
(Robert Louis Stevenson 1850-1894)
A Sapphire Anniversary!

“Time and tide waits for no man” they say and this is certainly true for the Oamaru Club. Forty-five years have passed since our Club was chartered on 22nd February 1975. Forty-five years of giving service to our community was celebrated at the Star & Garter with our Sapphire Birthday Party on Monday 24th February 2020.

Twenty-six Altrusans and two prospective members joined together in the celebration. Table and room decorations in blue, a Birthday (carrot) Cake with blue icing, a “Pass the Parcel” with blue themed wrapping and prize, a bag of blue sweets for each person and an active Alteaser creating lots of laughter all contributed to a very happy celebration. Background music (when required) had a ‘blue’ theme and this too added to the ambience.

A good time was had by all with all agreeing that turning forty-five was indeed a milestone for our Club!!”
A little bit of Nostalgia!!

Two Governor’s in waiting and a Jenny!! (Lynnette Young, Maria Mackay and Jenny Cleland - Oamaru Mail, October 2003).

“Oh dear, have we lost someone?” – (heading to Invercargill Conference 3.5.2000)
Oamaru House – A Fundraising Project from the past!

The Oamaru Mail, Thursday, May 14, 1998 — 5

Oamaru House to open on Monday

By Staff Reporter

Oamaru House will open in Dunedin on Monday with a new manager Sheila Mannix.

Oamaru House Trust member Isabelle Custer said yesterday bookings were already being received for the accommodation for friends and family of Dunedin hospital patients.

“It is just like a home. It has been tough going, but it is worth it to hear people’s responses,” Mrs Custer said.

Mrs Mannix will move into Oamaru house this weekend and the first two guests would walk through the doors on Sunday night, Mrs Custer said.

Four more guests had booked for rooms ranging in price from $40 to $55 a night yesterday, she said.

Oamaru house manager Mrs Mannix, formerly of Christchurch, replaces Katherine and Barry Hunter, who successfully applied for the position of managers last year but did not take up the appointment.

Mr Hunter said yesterday the management contract turned out to be different to that advertised and, after discussions with the trust, the couple decided to stay in Oamaru.

Mrs Custer said Mrs Mannix had some nursing experience and was a “young grandmother, a delightful homely person.”

Although about $130,000 funding has already been raised for the facility, Mrs Custer said more money was needed to complete alterations to half of the house.

In the meantime, Oamaru House would operate with six redecorated rooms.

Oamaru house will be manned 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and is easily accessible to catch a Bus and close to town amenities, Mrs Custer said.

It is my pleasure on behalf of the Altrusa Club of Oamaru to welcome you to this function.

We, like you, are very grateful to the Oamaru Licensing Trust for providing the venue and the food that you are about to indulge in.

The Altrusa Club like all other Service Clubs is always looking for ways to raise money for their various projects. We regularly raise money for Tertiary Education, Literacy, other ongoing Annual Projects and of course many other things that crop up along the way.

Recently a couple of us went to see Mr Tony Alden With a view to organising something to raise money for a project that we are very closely aligned with and that is the Oamaru House Project.

I think by now most of you will know about Oamaru House. Just this week, on the 1 October, the Oamaru House Charitable Trust took over the lease of the upper floor of Hanover House in Dunedin. This facility is to be completely refurbished and will provide affordable and very accessible accommodation for North Otago people who are now forced to travel to and from Dunedin for medical treatments and consultations.

Tony had had an idea that he had had in the too full basket that was to have a luncheon such as this. He suggested that if Altrusa was prepared to co-ordinate and organise this luncheon the Brydone would provide the food and Altrusa would receive a donation for Oamaru House.

Well we certainly accepted the challenges and now here we are today partaking of fellowship and good food. We are also very grateful to the Oamaru Police who provided transport for those who required it.

Please enjoy your lunch and the entertainment provided.

Thank you.

Entertainment by the 3 M’s (Maconlay, Martin & Mercer)

To attend a Luncheon at the Manukau Room, Brydone Hotel – (Floor Street Entrance)

On Sunday 4 October 1997 at 12 noon

The above organisations have joined together to arrange this function as a means of recognising some of our more Senior Citizens and the contributions they make in our society.

Transport to and from the function (if required) will be provided by the Oamaru Police. An Altrusan will contact you on or before 29 September regarding your acceptance.

We hope you can join us for this occasion. Be prepared to come and enjoy good food and entertainment. Music – Neville Martin.
From the Editors:
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We hope you enjoy this issue of the Whitestone Chatter for the 2019/2020 year.

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