Branching out in our Community

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Jenny’s Jottings

Do not be afraid to go out on a limb...
That’s where the fruit is.
Many of us are private people and just box on with whatever life deals to us. However, if I have learned anything, it’s that people love each other and want to be there to support friends and family when the chips are down.

This year has been particularly challenging for everyone and it can be harder to offer that support to others when you are already struggling with your own life. That’s ok. Remember that when you can support someone, you should. When it’s your turn to be supported, accept it if you can because life is sure easier when you share the load. Sometimes helping is simply listening to another or checking up on them every now and then.

There is a lot planned this year to look forward to with some new ideas, some familiar themes and maybe some changes as we go. Conference ‘21 is starting to feel real with enquires into accommodation!

For now, I am looking forward to the Pink Ribbon Breakfast, registrations for IFF day, Days 4 Girls (which one are you going to?) Fabric Bazaar and seeing Specially Baked 4U come alive!

The members of Altrusa Timaru are wonderful women, so let’s continue to have each other’s backs as we continue to negotiate 2020.

We can do this, even if we have to stop, take a breath and carry on!

Love always,
2020 -2021 Board Members

President
Donna McColl

President Elect

Minute Secretary
Marilyn Ross

Corresponding Secretary
Karen Liddy

Treasurer
Karyn Buckman

Directors
Heather McDonald
Robyn Brien
Shelley Brewster

Immediate Past President
Raewyn Hutton

2020 -2021 Committee Chairs

Service
Robyn Brien

Literacy
Raewyn Hutton

Membership

Communication
Sally Marsh/Evelyn Robinson

Dates to Diary

August
1  Pink Ribbon Breakfast
4  Board meeting at Donna’s
5  Raffle selling at NW
11  Business meeting WCC
13  Raffle Selling at NW
15  Days for Girls 10 – 3 WCC
      IFF Day in Ashburton
23  Altrusa Bazaar
25  Programme meeting WCC

September
1  Board Meeting at Donna’s
2  Raffle Selling at New World
5  Membership Muster @ Zest
8  Business Meeting WCC
      International Literacy Day
10  Raffle Selling at New World
21  International Day of Peace
22  Programme Meeting WCC

October
3  Membership Muster @ Zest
6  Board Meeting at Donna’s
13  Business Meeting WCC
16  World Food Day
22  Make a Difference Day
27  Programme Meeting WCC
**Committee Chatter**

**Literacy - Raewyn**

At this stage there is not a lot to report from the Literacy Committee. We are thinking about how to recognise Literacy Day – donating books to the ABC Marchwiel has been proposed – we are still pondering how to do this in a more interesting way. Some ideas have been suggested. Any ideas from other Club members would be welcome.

We are still deciding on our Programme night. Members will be advised at the September Business meeting.

**Communication – Evelyn Robinson/Sally Marsh**

With a late start to the year and one of our members stranded overseas we are still trying to stand on our feet and at the moment organizing a fun night for our programme meeting.

**Service Committee – Robyn Brien**

“Be a Santa to a Senior” has been successfully undertaken by Altrusa Timaru for the past two years. This project enables residents in local rest homes to receive a Christmas gift, particularly those who may be unlikely to otherwise receive a gift.

Planning for this year’s gifting has begun and Altrusa has been fortunate to secure a booking at the Timaru District Library on Friday 20th November. On this date, our Christmas tree will be decorated with wishes from seniors. We are looking forward to receiving lots of Xmas wishes and of course lots of gifts from the public to fulfil these wishes.

**Membership Committee**

Report next issue
**Learn to Swim – Betty**

The names of the students participating in this year’s Learn to Swim Programme have been given in to CBay where they will be contacted to have a lesson and then put into their groups. The programme starts at the beginning of the third term, instead of Term two due to Covid 19. The bags have been made by Shelley and Irene, and we have purchased the towels to put in. Added to this will be the goggles and swim hats supplied by CBay. We will give the bags to the students when they begin their lessons.

**Love Letters – Jenny**

Our Love Letters finally made their way to the Children’s Ward at Timaru Hospital and were well received. Since the delivery of over 100 letters, more have been made and will be delivered in due course. Thanks Karen for delivering and keeping in touch with Mark.

**Specially Baked 4U – Robyn**

Altrusan bakers are getting ready to provide a kitchen to doorstep service. Advertising, costs and packaging are being fine-tuned in preparation for the order deadlines of the first days in September, October and November. We aim to provide a service for those requiring support, gifts and a special treat with all proceeds being donated to Cystic Fibrosis.

Specially Baked 4U is coming to Timaru soon.
Days for Girls Sewing Bee!

15th August from 10am until 3pm approx.
Women’s Community Centre 14 Butler Street
Bring own lunch – tea, coffee, milk supplied
Sewing machines and/or over lockers needed
There are plenty of non-sewing tasks to be done during the course of the day!
Please come and help stitch smiles on the faces of women and girls in all corners of the globe

A big thank you to all who contributed packs of knickers to DfG Christchurch’s call for their 150 kits destined to the outer islands of Vanuatu..........100 pairs reached and climbing!

Spring Raffle – supporting our ‘Learn to Swim’ Project

We have four selling days booked which are 5th and 13th August and then again 2nd and 10th September all at New World.
The roster is filled for August but there are 3x one hour slots on each of the September days if someone can help out. The times are 1pm – 4pm both days. Thank you Jenette for assembling our Spring basket which will wow the shoppers when they pass us at the supermarket!
Catching up with our Scholarship Winners - Jackie and Caeley

From Jackie
I felt very fortunate to be one of the recipients of the 2020 Olwen Norton scholarship and throughout my studies I've had a sense of accountability to Altrusa to do well. Semester One results are just in and I'm proud to report my results to you:

Psychology as a Natural Science 84% (A-)
Knowledge & Reality (Philosophy) 82% (A-)
Rehabilitation Studies 80% (A-)

It's funny how the minus has the connotation of being negative, but I was pleased with being consistent and happy to achieve at this level.

It has been a tough six months with Covid-19 uncertainty and during the last two months I unfortunately had three bereavements to cope with. Massey was very good about allowing extensions when I needed extra time. Post-Covid, Massey changed the structure of exams so they were all online from home and open book. I was very grateful for this as I felt like I wasn't able to concentrate fully at the time. I'm really looking forward to semester two which started on Monday and hopefully there won't be as many disruptions. This semester I'm studying Ecology, Evolution & Behaviour, Fundamental Information Technologies and Psychology as a Social Science. In Social Psychology we're going to be studying the effects that social media has on the psychological aspects of social comparison, so I'm going to find this particularly interesting. To make up my courses to full-time student status, I will also complete a Summer School paper of Sustainability for Science.

Hoping that the lovely Altrusa ladies and your families all weathered Covid as well as could be expected and that the winter hasn't been too harsh for you all.

I look forward to staying in touch with Altrusa throughout my degree.

From Caeley
A wee update for all you lovely ladies on how I am getting on with my Level 4 Business Administration course. I have completed my third paper – Financial and Data Management with a pass of 90% which I am very pleased with. This paper involved us learning more skills on Microsoft Excel [spreadsheets] and dipping our toes into the online accounting software Xero. Xero was particularly interesting as it would allow a small business to manage everything from the inventory to GST paid to the IRD. My next paper begins on the 3rd August and will be working on Executive Administration functions. Three down – one to go!

Well done ladies – Best Wishes for the next stage of your study!

You're off to Great Places!
Today is your day!
Your mountain is waiting,
so...get on your way!

-Dr. Seuss
A Virtual Changeover!

A virtual Changeover via Zoom! Twenty smiling faces spread across our screens as we delighted in ‘seeing’ each other again.

The theme for this coming year is Trees - Branching out in the Community. Altrusa already has roots in Timaru and the surrounding community and we seek to grow and strengthen our ties. It is our mission to promote literacy as well as to comfort, encourage, shelter, support, protect and grow the community and our members with strength, dignity, flexibility and belonging.

There is wisdom, strength and knowledge in a tree that knows how to put roots down for a solid foundation to help it grow to its full potential. It must be somewhat flexible to ride the seasonal and climatic changes, bending and shaping over time.

Some trees are more adaptable and move easily in the breeze. Others are strong and sturdy no matter what nature throws at them. Trees can offer protection for other plants, birds, animals and insects. Some will provide fruit or nuts for nourishment to support life. Trees can be evergreen or be stripped bare through the winter and these may be the very ones to provide lessons for us, because to everything there is a season. Things will get better. Sometimes you just have to wait a little longer, which is a lesson we have all been learning these last couple of months, I think. By the same token, those trees that keep their leaves may be the ones supporting us when we are at our most vulnerable.

As Altrusa continues to branch out into the community, we seek to comfort, encourage, shelter, support, protect and grow the community, including our members, with strength, dignity, flexibility and belonging. At the end of the day, we all have the same goal, even if some of us are nuts! (Me. Definitely me)

And then along came being able to meet ‘face to face’
How good was it that at our June business meeting we could meet ‘face to face’ where President Donna farewelled her outgoing Board & Chairs, welcoming her new Board & Chairs for 2020 – 2021 and to once again begin looking forward.

A very special presentation was made to 4 members receiving their Service badges representing 100 years of Altrusa Service between them!

Well done!

Judith Purvis 35 years
Lois Kirkwood 30 years
Betty Weavers 25 years
Marilyn Ross 10 years

But wait there’s more.........

At our Programme meeting in June we were back ‘home’ in our meeting room which had completed its stint as the Covid – 19 testing station for Timaru.

To celebrate our return Mary brought along a decadent ‘Welcome Home’ cake to our meeting which also doubled as a Birthday cake which we were unable to celebrate this year due to lockdown. Our longest serving member Judith Purvis and President Donna cut the cake and then we all indulged in a little bit of sweetness as we appreciated being back ‘home’
An Altrusa Accent

The Letha H Brown Literacy Award was established by the International Board of Directors in 1993 to honour Past International President, Letha H Brown, who in 1977 introduced literacy as a major emphasis of the Altrusa organisation.

“You're never too old, too wacky, too wild, to pick up a book and read to a child.”
~ Dr. Seuss

International News

Beverly Hardy – International President 2019 – 2021

Convention Next Year in Quebec City!

2021 International Convention is July 21-24

Biennium Theme
‘Team work makes the dream work’

QUEBEC CITY
Governor Maria’s theme for this biennium is “Embrace the Journey”

**Altrusa District 3 IFF Day**
**Information, Fun & Friendship**
A chance to talk & share
Please bring any recyclable necklaces, beads or bracelets for our CANBEADS PROJECT

**Date:** Saturday August 15th
**Venue:** St Stephen’s Parish Hall
1 Tancred St, Ashburton.
**Time:** 10.00am

**Theme:** ‘Embrace the Journey’
*Please save the date!!!*
Cost $25 per person for the day including morning / afternoon tea & lunch, only $15 for First Timers!

**Register by Friday August 1st.**
Please register and pay through your club.

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**ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL**
**DISTRICT FIFTEEN**
**CONFERENCE ‘21**
April 30th, May 1st & 2nd, 2021

[Image: Creating waves in our Communities]

**WANTED!**
Brown paper bags in good condition for Welcome Bags and to hold packed lunches at Conference.
In 2 sizes - 26 x 34 cm
and about 20 x 30cm for the lunches -
or a little smaller
*Bring bags to our meetings during 2020*

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Remember to keep bag hunting in the sizes given!
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**Our Best Wishes to**

Helen - you are always in our thoughts.

Betty – sending all our love and prayers

Maureen – for continued strength after surgery

May – always in our thoughts

Jan – after your recent surgery
A big thank you to my secret buddy for my very generous birthday gift. I enjoyed lunch with a dear friend at Zest. Many thanks Jan ❤️

Dear Everyone,

As I have put this newsletter together I have been reminded of how fragile life is and that each day is a blessing which we should be thankful for.

There are some fundraisers coming up which will support those in our community who, for no reason, may be struggling with an illness or just need a boost in confidence.

I think of the children who are currently learning to swim and what a difference it will make to their lives if not right now but into the future; the members of our community struggling with Parkinson’s or Cystic Fibrosis – our fundraising might not be much, but small things count.

Hopefully our Specially Baked 4U will fill a need for people time poor but wish to do something special for a friend, a neighbour, a family member or a work colleague.

Enjoy those little moments that make your heart sing as we move towards spring with the trees bursting into blossom.

Warmest Wishes

Jenny