Branching out in our Community

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Jenny’s Jottings

Be like a tree.
Stay grounded.
Connect with your roots.
Turn over a new leaf.
Bend before you break.
Enjoy your unique natural beauty.
Keep growing.

Joanne Ruplift
The Conference committee have been working diligently in the background for quite a while to plan an amazing conference experience for all and now is the time to put your names forward to help over that weekend as we cannot do it alone. There are valuable things to do to prepare beforehand that may strike your interest. Please talk to Jenette so she can match your interest and availability with the right task for you.

It will be a fun and rewarding experience being able to contribute to hosting a District Fifteen Conference, bringing people into our area, supporting local shops, cafes and restaurants and knowing many will be making a holiday of it in the South Island. We will definitely be celebrating our efforts afterwards!

Ming-chun came to visit our Club as part of her Vice Governor role. We met at Jenette’s for a pot luck dinner and had informal chats through the evening that were inspiring and reaffirming as to why we are involved in Altrusa, where we have been and where we might like to go.

We had an interesting conversation about the Elevator Chat – giving someone a quick run-down on Altrusa, what it is and what we do, in the time it might take in an elevator to tell someone. We all had something slightly different to say but they were all similar. Jenny is going to put an example in this newsletter, see if you can find it. What does your Elevator Chat sound like?

As we head towards Christmas and a break for everyone from our hard work, I want to thank each and every one of you for what you bring to Altrusa and our community. Everyone has a unique set of skills that we accept and embrace about each other as it works so well for us when combined.

Have a wonderful Christmas break. Rest up, relax, and enjoy spending time with the special people in your life even if it is by Face Time, Skype or telephone!

Looking forward to seeing you at our place on 31st January for a social lunch if you can make it, before we launch into 2021 – IFF Day, Scholarship Recipient presentation and Conference preparations at the very least.

Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year to you all.

Take care you beautiful, hardworking Altrusans.

Love always,

Donna’s Dialogue

As I glanced through Jenny’s email asking for items for the newsletter, I see just how much we have been doing, and are planning, in a short few months of this particularly strange calendar year. Breakfasts, SB4U, Fabric Bazaar, D4G, Spring and Christmas Raffles, Be a Santa to a Senior, Scholarship, Ming-chun Wu visit (Vice Governor), Life Ed dinner and more. Of course, we can’t forget planning for Conference ’21!

Donna’s Dialogue
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
Maureen Skinner

Communication
Sally Marsh/Evelyn Robinson

Dates to Diary

November
3 Board meeting at Donna’s
7 Breakfast 8.45 – 10.30 WCC rooms
Membership Muster @ Zest
8 Altrusa Bazaar 10 – 2pm
10 Business Meeting 5.30 WCC
11 Raffle @ NW
16 Raffle @ CD
Lions Toot for Tucker
19 Raffle @ NW
20 Be a Santa to a Senior – Library
Scholarship closing date
21 Days for Girls WCC 10 – 3pm
24 Programme Meeting 5:30 WCC
25 Raffle @ CD

December
1 Board Meeting @ Donna’s
5 Membership Muster @ Zest
6 Roses on the Bay Market
13 Christmas lunch at Benny’s Again
25 Happy Christmas

January
1 Happy New Year 2021!
31 Social lunch at Donna’s

February
2 Board Meeting at Donna’s
6 Membership Muster Zest
9 Business Meeting WCC 5.30
23 Programme Meeting WCC 5.30
Literacy - Raewyn

To celebrate Literacy Day, books and activity games to the value of $278.00 were purchased from Kidstuff, to donate to the Aoraki Explorers Early Learning Centre. Fiona came along to our Business meeting to accept the books and games. She was delighted with our choice and said that the children would get hours of fun, reading and playing the different games.

For our September Programme meeting, 16 members and several husbands, joined with Rotary to hold our annual quiz. It was most enjoyable evening – lots of fun and laughter – a Rotary team won the quiz. A great selection of questions from President Donna and Cheryl, the Rotary quizmaster. This evening was particularly well supported so a big thank you to those who attended.
Communication – Evelyn Robinson/Sally Marsh

Things are still quiet since our last report – since we returned to Level 2 and then to Level 1 some things are a little easier but our community has been affected greatly. With the end of the year getting closer we are again looking at what our committee will be doing for our programme meeting in November.

Service Committee – Robyn Brien

“Be a Santa to a Senior” and the auction of a donated wooden toy engine are the two final projects for the Service Committee for this year.

Wishes for “Be a Santa to a Senior” will be offered at the Timaru Public Library on Friday 20th November. We are going to set up a Christmas tree on which we will hang the Christmas wishes from residents living in South Canterbury Rest Homes, who may not otherwise receive a gift on Christmas Day.

The wooden toy engine, which has been kindly donated by retired builder Gary Allan, is going to be auctioned on Trade Me in early November so be ready with your bids if you would like to have a toy train under your Christmas tree or under the tree of someone special.

We will let you all know when it goes on Trade Me
**Membership Committee - Maureen**

Our October Programme meeting was changed with the Business meeting to allow us to have Dr Tiffany Cone as our speaker.

Tiffany is an anthropologist and a film maker working at the Asian University for Women in Bangladesh. She told us of the Pathway Programme to support women factory workers by improving literacy and numeracy with a goal towards achieving higher education. Tiffany was a very interesting speaker who has Timaru roots.

At both of our October meetings members brought non-perishable food for World food Day to donate to a local food bank.

To my committee of Jenette, Judith, Heather, Mary and Betty, thank you for taking on the responsibilities of food, raffles, accents and altheaser for October.

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**Club Projects and Fundraisers**

**Learn to Swim lessons** completed in Term 3 with all children making great progress. Thanks to Betty for organising the schools and to Shelley and her helpers for making the bags. Each bag contains a towel, goggles and swim cap, the goggles and cap being donated by Water Safety NZ.

Tyson Malama-Tuisaula & Evie Malama-Tuisaula happily receive their swim bags.
**Specially Baked 4U – Robyn**

Our bakers, card makers and delivery people are preparing for November orders. Decorated Christmas cakes – 23cm diameter and 11cm mini cakes have been added to our order form and already there has been a lot of interest in these items. The beautiful baking of our Altrusian members will make wonderful gifts or a special treat for our own families. Please spread the word about our project which will support those who have cystic fibrosis in our community. Our bakers would also be very grateful for your donations of baking ingredients. Thank you again for supporting this project.

**Pink Ribbon Breakfast - Shelley**

The Pink Ribbon Breakfast was a great success raising $270 and being topped up to $300. It was lovely to see a family and many husbands arrive, with no one in a hurry to leave, just in time to go on to membership muster. Some stayed and had coffee while we cleaned up, a couple returned for a cup of tea and a chat after seeing the grand children play sport. My gratitude to Karen and Irene who did the taking of orders and keeping me on track (which is always needed!) and most of the clean up! I look forward to seeing more of you at the next breakfast in November.

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Check on next page for details of the upcoming breakfast
Spring Raffle – supporting our ‘Learn to Swim’ Project

After being impacted by the second wave of Covid 19 restrictions, we managed to get in 4 selling days, one being at the newly formed Farmers Market which is where our winner, Vanessa purchased her ticket!

Many thanks to all who sat and sold tickets, Jenette who assembled a magnificent basket and to Heather and Neil who helped with setting up and packing up!

Just over $1000 should be in our bank account soon!
**The Olwen Norton Altrusa Scholarship**

![Altrusa International Logo]

**The Olwen Norton Altrusa SCHOLARSHIP**

Funding available for training or retraining

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**Satin Pillows and Emergency Bags**

Our theme for this year is ‘Branching out in our Community’ so upon the invitation from Inner Wheel Waimate, Karen, Donna and Jenny headed south to help these lovely ladies with some ‘hands on service’ because they generously give of their time to help us with our Days for Girls project. It was a great few hours as we filled bags with essential toiletries, for the Timaru Hospital and St John Ambulance which are given to patients rushed to hospital in an emergency situation. We also honed in on our stuffing skills [each amount of Dacron© was weighed] to fill the satin pillows and then our hand sewing skills were put to the test. The pillows are given to breast cancer patients after surgery to ease discomfort.

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**Days for Girls Sewing Bee**

Our next DfG sewing bee is scheduled for **Saturday 21st November from 10am – 3pm** in the Women’s Community Centre 14 Butler Street.

Please bring your own lunch however tea, coffee, milk and lollies will be provided during the day!!

We need a good mixture of skills so don’t worry if you can’t drive a sewing machine or over locker, there will be plenty of tasks for you!

An urgent plea was received from Days for Girls Christchurch for knickers and you ladies, your friends and rellies did us proud as we sent over 150 pairs through to Christchurch and I have some more here for Carol when she comes on 21st.

Quite often DfG Christchurch receives notice that a ship is sailing for the Pacific Islands and the kits need to be ready in a short time frame and this is what happened when the request came for the knickers.
Make a Difference Day Challenge

Already this month we have had Dr Tiffany Cone talk to us about her work in Bangladesh and the impact it has on the lives of many women from around the world, thanks to the Membership Committee.

My challenge to you for Make a Difference Day is to make a conscious effort to Pay it Forward. I believe we are already the type of people to do this, but let’s try with more awareness and perhaps report back if something extraordinary happens because of it.

What does this mean? It can be as simple as letting someone go ahead of you at the supermarket if they only have a few items, visiting an elderly person, checking on someone who has been ill, paying forward a coffee, telling someone you care, supporting someone struggling with a toddler tantrum, picking up litter on your daily walk, smiling to people as you pass them. Perhaps you go one step further and offer to babysit for someone you know, donate old towels to the SPCA, or teach someone to knit or sew.

There are no limitations so if you want to practice this once a day, once a week, or once a month, don’t hold back!

We are a ‘hands on’ service club, so let’s serve our community with mindfulness and joy.

How will you make a difference?

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The Power of One

One song can spark a moment,
One flower can wake the dream.
One tree can start a forest,
One bird can herald spring.
One smile begins a friendship,
One handicap lifts a soul.
One star can guide a ship at sea,
One word can frame the goal.
One vote can change a nation,
One sunbeam lights a room.
One candle wipes out darkness,
One laugh will conquer gloom.
One step must start each journey,
One word must start each prayer.
One hope will raise our spirits,
One touch can show you care.
One voice can speak with wisdom,
One heart can know what’s true.
One life can make the difference,
You see, it’s up to You!

www.LearningStationMusic.com
Yes! Finally it can go ahead with being in Level 1 and Hall renovations complete!
The garage is bulging with boxes of fabric, wool and haberdashery just wanting to find a new home!
Share the date with all your friends, family, work colleagues, crafts people etc!

All proceeds will be donated to Parkinson’s South Canterbury

Remember last year?

And after all the busyness of November, let’s celebrate together at our

**Christmas Lunch**

**Benny’s Again**

December 13th from 11.30am

Donna will inform us of more details re costs, Secret Santa gifts etc in due course!
An Altrusa Accent

Smiling – Spike Milligan

Smiling is infectious
You can catch it like the flu

When someone smiled at me today
I started smiling too

I walked around the corner
And someone saw me grin

When he smiled I realized
I had passed it on to him

I thought about the smile
And then realized its worth

A single smile like mine
Could travel round the earth

So if you feel a smile begin
Don’t leave it undetected

Start an epidemic
And get the world infected

Be the reason someone smiles today.

International News

Beverly Hardy – International President 2019 – 2021

This article in the latest Compass newsletter continues to remind us how lucky we are here in New Zealand.

Developing online community for our members has enabled us to become more inclusive with our members, helping them feel more a part of their clubs and our care. We must continue to be there for each other, especially when we can’t be with each other physically. No one can predict today what the world will be like one month from now, let alone one year from now. We need to adopt a flexible mind set to be prepared to deal with whatever comes our way.

Biennium Theme
‘Team work makes the dream work’

Thank you to the Communications Committee for providing the Accent and International News
Governor Maria’s theme for this biennium is “Embrace the Journey”

We are hoping many Altrusans from all Clubs will journey to Timaru!

The reason why an elevator speech is so named is because it should be delivered in an elevator ride and we all know how short an elevator ride is!

An elevator speech is a 30 second response given to the usual question “What do you do?” The ideal response to any elevator speech is “Please tell me more”
BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

**November**
23 Jenny Bevin

**December**
28 Jenette Borrell

**January**
1 Mary Stringer
12 Raewyn Hutton

**February**
4 Nola Searle
21 May Mason
25 Gillian Allan

Our Best Wishes to
Helen - you are always in our thoughts.
Betty – Best Wishes for your continued recovery back to health
May – you are always in our thoughts
Nola – sending good wishes for your upcoming ankle surgery
What’s on?

7 November 2020
8.45 – 10.30
A Breakfast supporting Arthritis
14 Butler Street
$15 pp

The Altrusa Bazaar
Sunday 8 November
10 – 2pm
Celtic Sports Centre
Set up Saturday 4 – 5pm

Be a Santa to a Senior
Friday November 20th
Timaru Public Library Foyer

Days for Girls
21 November 10 am – 3pm
Women’s Community Centre
14 Butler Street

Christmas Raffle
11th November New World
16th November Countdown
19th November New World
25th November Countdown

Roses on the Bay Market Day
Caroline Bay - Site 14
December 6th
Set up 8.30
Market opens at 10am

Altrusa Christmas Lunch
December 13th
11.30am for lunch at 12 noon
Benny’s Again
Wai iti Road
Many thanks to my Secret Buddy for the very handy birthday gift which arrived in my letterbox. Your thoughtfulness was much appreciated.
And a further thank you to all Altrusans for your kind wishes found in the beautiful handmade card that was also delivered on my birthday.
Karen Liddy

Many thanks for the lovely card I received from my Secret Buddy
Nola Searle

Many other Altrusans who have received messages/gifts from their Secret Buddies have sent emails or verbally thanked them at a meeting

A special thank you from Helen
Special thanks to Robyn and her Specially Baked 4U team. We were the recipients of a large tray of apricot square, which was specially delivered by Lois, prepared by another Altrusa with ingredients donated by other Altrusans. An example of real team work. Visitors and others, who have seen the Square, just cannot believe that the club would do that sort of thing!! Thank you so much and a wonderful "in action project idea" Robyn

Dear Everyone,
I see the signs of Christmas sneaking into our shops already and I think of all I want to do before December 25th!
What a year 2020 has been as Covid-19 impacted greatly on our lives, however being the adaptable and flexible creatures that we are, we supported our community and learnt new skills ourselves.

It was exciting to have a new project born as a result of ‘lockdown’ and all kudos must go to Robyn whose idea it was to have a contactless project. Robyn has worked very hard and while the concept of ‘Specially Baked 4U’ is still growing many ‘givers’ and ‘receivers’ have been brought a lot of happiness.

November is going to be a busy month as many of our postponed events are now scheduled for this month – there is going to be a real buzz as we work through all these events in the lead up to a well-earned rest!

While it seems far too early for Christmas wishes, this is the last newsletter this year. I thank all contributors – maybe you can be a contributor next year, with a little snippet saved from somewhere, which would be good for our newsletter.

Wishing you all a very Happy Festive season, enjoy time with friends and family and take time to recharge your batteries for 2021

Jenny’s Jottings as Editor

Jenny