



LEVIN LINK

PRESIDENT AIRINI'S LAST POST



As my year as your President comes to a conclusion it is time to reflect on the year past and what the future is for our Club.

The future is with our new President, Denys and her Board to plan and to action their ideas to maintain and build our Club and I'm sure you, like me, we will be there to support them in whatever way we can.

Helen in her President's Post last May following the months of disruption because of Covid said: 'But now we must rise up, out of the ashes so to speak, with renewed energy!'

As I reflect on the past year we have risen up and this was seen in the successful fundraisers that were held, the contribution of books and knitting, the Awards that were presented to successful students, service to the community and the continuation of our sewing skills for Days for Girls.

Keeping the books balanced is always a challenge and needs regular adjustments.



On a Club level we have maintained our membership, regrettably losing some members but we have also welcomed new members. The regular monthly morning teas have been well attended as was the Guess Who's coming to Dinner night. It is these little things that help to create an inclusive environment within Clubs. We can all be proud of the contribution we have each made and this is reflected by the Awards we received at Conference.

I'm looking forward to stepping back for a short time but know that planning for the 2022 Conference will start to kick in shortly and that energies will be required in a slightly different direction.

I cannot conclude 'The Antiques Roadshow' without thanking you all for your support during these past months and reminding that although Denys has a new theme you can still



'Extend yourself by reaching out'

Airini

COMMITTEE CORNER

COMMUNICATIONS

Met on Monday 19th April

- Discussed confirming the details of hosting programme meeting on 21st April.
- Conference 2022 bookmarks handed out to all members, providing information on what the Timaru conference attendees were going to be handing out to promote Conference 2022.
- Timaru Conference went well, amassing many awards

Final meeting on Thursday 13th May at Ohau Waffle House.

LITERACY

- Meeting not held in April, yet still communicating well by phone and email
- We came 2nd in the Leitha H Brown Literacy Award at conference.
- We've ordered a further 67 books for babies, using the balance of the \$500 Council grant.
- Our Books for babies has 150 books in stock, with \$234 to be carried forward for future purchases.

Final meeting on Wednesday 12th May at Speldhurst, being our last get together before changeover.

MEMBERSHIP

Met on Tuesday 13th April at Ohau Cafe

- Presented our "impressive" annual report to Airini, over our lunch.
- 12 enjoyed Masonic morning tea.
- We thanked Liz for her time in our club, wishing her well for her move to Christchurch in June.
- Two new members look to be inducted for the new year.
- Cristal has tendered her resignation.
- Denys has booked our end of May Friday gathering to be at Murrayfields - a social luncheon for members.

SERVICE

No report for April



NEW COMMITTEES FOR 2021/22

COMMUNICATIONS

Helen Clifford (Chair)
Alison Gracey
Catherine Campbell
Christine Douglas
Deirdre Burnell
Glen Hayes
Jackie Jory
Jill Graves

LITERACY

Trish Tough (Chair)
Bev Foubister
Annette Rowe
Diane Cotter
Marie Williams
Suzanne Ferrick
Tui Hunter

MEMBERSHIP

Diane Goodin (Chair)
Cherry Mathews
Jan Wikstrom
Lynette Haywood
Moira Dowman
Ruth Rawlings
Shirley Gilzean

SERVICE

Sandra Webb (Chair)
Airini Bowler
Cushla Lash
Dot Wenham
Heather Birrell
Jan Jordan
Maureen Laing



'Twas a busy year...



Guess who came to dinner?

Shuttle morning tea, twin trouble, Teen Parent Award, & HTT morning tea treat.



IFF Day Levin 30 Jan 2021

Resignation from Cristal

After many happy years serving with Altrusa I am tendering my resignation. Since Evi came along 3 years ago I have been planning on returning to Altrusa but each year different and new challenges have arisen and I really do have to accept that I can't fit Altrusa into my life as full time Mum in these early years. I have immensely enjoyed my time at Altrusa serving the community but really the best part has been the lovely women I have met at Altrusa who made me feel welcome and included. I have missed seeing you all these last three years. I hope that in the future someone will ask me back into Altrusa when I have a little more time for myself.



Update of Evi and Thank yous

Evi has come along in leaps and bounds lately. After our rocky start and some worrying delays getting to milestones in the first 2 years this past year Evi has blossomed into a talkative lively and delightful little girl. Everyday we feel blessed to have her with us. It seems like a very long time ago now that I was in hospital unexpectedly 2 months earlier than planned needing an emergency C-section to meet my tiny little baby girl. We were to spend the next 2 months in NICU until Evi was strong enough to come home.

In those stressful and emotionally unsettling days I got a visit from the lovely Jan Jordan bearing a beautiful basket of treats and goodies and the most gorgeous knitting. It was like receiving a big warm hug and was very comforting. There were so many lovely things in that basket and I have wanted to thank everyone who contributed for a long time. Some things were labelled but many were not.

This is a list of the items that had labels attached....

Dot thank you for the bag of preemie woolens, Jan thank you for the photo frame, **Bev** thank you for the posie and book, Thank you **Sandra** for the onsies and red jumper, **Alison** thank you for the voucher, Thank you to **Heather** for the Lilac vest, booties and hat, **Margaret** thank you for the voucher, **Lynette** for thank you for the cardis, Thank you **Dot** for the pearl cardi, vests and pink jersey, **Christine** thank you for the blanket booties and hat, Thank you **Diane** for the preemie cardi booties and hat and of course the gorgeous baby blanket from **the whole club**. There were many other lovely gifts goodies and treats that came with no label so thank you so much to everyone who contributed. It was truly appreciated.

Conference Timaru 30 April 2021

Jan Wikstrom, being a first timer, shares her account of a wonderful weekend...

"I flew to Timaru Airport on Thursday 29th April and was met by Gillian, a Timaru Altrusan and driven to the motel which was a house big enough for six Levin Altrusans, it was warm and comfortable. It had a big enough lounge to accommodate all ten ladies and four Altrousers for socialising, great fun.

Waiting at Wellington airport



Up early Friday morning to register, the three venues used were in Caroline Bay a five minute walk from our motel. I was warmly greeted, given a bag of goodies, a large name and club tag and a bright red and white rosette to wear at all times to distinguish me as 'new'. Horrors I would stick out like a sore thumb.

Later in morning I attended a session for first timers, there were thirty of us, the largest number ever recorded attending a conference. We were given lunch then the fun and games began and the ice was quickly broken and learning began.

The Official Opening was at 2 pm, starting with the flag ceremony and National Anthems of NZ and USA, very moving.



We were then welcomed by Timaru deputy mayor.



The guest speaker was Lisa Lawrence, 'Healthy Communities Start with Ourselves'. She spoke about overcoming her own family violence and her belief that others can help themselves in similar situations and so create healthier communities. An inspiring young woman.

Business sessions then began for the rest of the afternoon.



The evening programme was a 'Beach Picnic', luckily inside as it was very cold. Thank goodness for thermal layers under my shorts and tee shirt. We were given a picnic hamper platter food for dinner, then **a dessert dash**, a novel way to raise \$2700 for days for girls. Music and dancing on a sprung floor, a new experience.

Saturday morning was of business matters - elections, reports, accounts,, open forum for questions. A brown bag lunch was provided, we sat outside in glorious sunshine. Coffee or tea was available for sale from a cart.



Afternoon guest speaker was Tai Hartley- Parsons who spoke about his transgender journey. I admired Tai's courage to speak about his experiences and I learned a lot. The rest of the afternoon we attended workshops that were informative and fun. We were bussed to the Governor's Banquet, wonderful venue, superb three course meal, mixed club seating, another chance to meet new people.



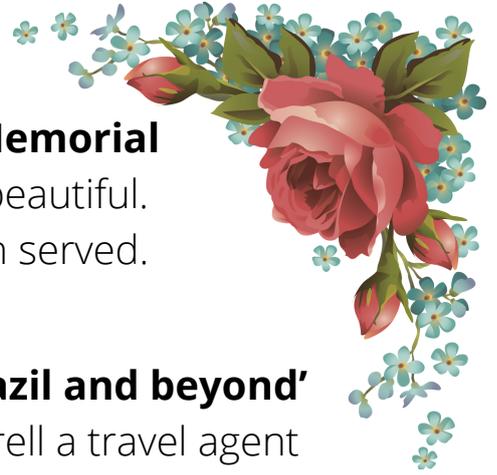
Awards were presented, Levin receiving quite a few. raffles were drawn and I was thrilled to win a gardeners pamper pack.

Peace Quilt was auctioned,

Timaru paid \$850 and were donating it to local hospice.



Sunday was an early start with **The Memorial Service** which was very emotional and beautiful.
A delicious breakfast was then served.



'Up the Amazon with several paddles, **Brazil and beyond**' was the title of the guest speaker, Jill Borrell a travel agent who takes tours all over the world, the effect of COVID on her business and her hope of a return to her tours.



Next was our Call to Conference item, dressed in overalls, checked shirts, gum boots and sun hats singing 'hi ho hi ho it's off to conference we go while delivering book marks with information on them about next years conference.

The flags were then retired and conference closed at midday.

I had set off to conference with some trepidation but after two and a half days of fun, fellowship, information, wonderful food and wine, sharing other clubs experiences,

I'm really looking forward to our club hosting 2022 conference"

Changeover Programme Meeting 19 May 2021



New Board for 2021/22

(from left)

Ruth - Treasurer

Jan W - 2nd Director

Denys - President

Airini - Imm Past President

Jackie - Secretary

Trish - Vice President

Deirdre - President Elect

Maureen (absent) - 1st Director





Helen scooped the pools by achieving both the Margaret Inch Award and the Lamplighter Award.



Departing President Airini introduces daughter Deirdre as our new Editor

Editor's cheerio

With this being my final newsletter, before handing over to our lovely Deirdre, I dedicate my page to my special Levin Altrusa ladies.

The past 10 weeks have been harrowing for me, then losing my dear Hubby. My clever engineer loved helping people make things out of copper, brass, fibreglass, he even scrolled our wrought iron gates.

Fittingly, it was a humorous touch one colleague posted on Iain's final Facebook page -

"Iain, when you get to those pearly gates, don't modify them!"

My family and I are overwhelmed with the love, hugs, and unwavering support you dear ladies have given us.

Now I know what Altrusa really stands for -

Always out there for me and you when times are tough

Letting a meeting be postponed so I could later attend

Turning up out of the blue, rightly predicting a hug is needed

Resurrecting my meagre garden givings into a stunning casket bouquet when florists are bare

Understanding the needs and wants during and after the loss

Supporting with space when quietly needed

Appreciating and accepting my blubbering!



A very special thank you to Cherry for creating Iain's bouquet when florists were bare

WHAT'S ON IN JUNE

- June 2nd - Business meeting
- June 16th - Dinner programme meeting
- June 30th - Board meeting

Happy Birthday



What else happened on June 10th?

1886 - Mount Tarawera, 24km from Rotorua, erupted between midnight and 6am. An early report described it as a "fireball" and such was the sound of the continued rumbling, people in Wellington and Auckland feared it was ship gunfire.



1906 - Premier Richard John Seddon, aged 60, died on board a ship to Wellington from Australia. He spent 13 years and 44 days in office as head of the Liberal Party. He legislated social security in the 1890's



*And God promised men
that good and obedient wives
would be found in all corners of the world.
Then he made the world round . .
and laughed and laughed*

THANKS TO THE OUTGOING BOARD OF 2020-21



Our current Board (above from left to right):

- Denys Astin - President Elect
- Ruth Rawlings - Treasurer
- Shirley Gilzean - Secretary
- Cherry Mathews - Second Director
- Glen Hayes - First Director
- Airini Bowler - President
- Diane Goodin - Vice President
- Helen Clifford - Immediate Past President (front)

Contacts:

- President Airini
president.levin@altrusa.org.nz
- Secretary Shirley
secretary.levin@altrusa.org.nz



THANKS TO THE OUTGOING COMMITTEES OF 2020-21

COMMUNICATIONS

- Tui Hunter (Chair)
- Shirley Gilzean
- Alison Gracey
- Catherine Campbell
- Glen Hayes
- Jill Graves
- Sandra Webb
- Cristal Thredgold

LITERACY

- Christine Douglas (Chair)
- Cherry Mathews
- Suzanne Ferrick
- Deirdre Burnell
- Bev Foubister
- Marie Williams
- Trish Tough
- Annette Rowe

MEMBERSHIP

- Jan Jordan (Chair)
- Denys Astin
- Jan Wikstrom
- Dot Wenham
- Jackie Jory
- Lynette Haywood
- Ruth Rawlings
- Diane Cotter
- Moira Dowman

SERVICE

- Diane Goodin (Chair)
- Liz Delamere
- Heather Birrell
- Cushla Lash
- Helen Clifford
- Maureen Laing
- Shona Little

We all did extend ourselves by reaching out