

# ALTRUSAN



**Members of Membership Committee with Incoming Board.**

From left: Judy Justice, Brenda Brooke, Kath Burrows, Anne McElwain, Glenda McGowan, Ali Siphthorpe, Margaret Munro, Sue Johnstone, Clare Banks, Chris Wither, Wendy Harvey.

**TAIERI CLUB OFFICERS 2021 - 2022**  
**Board of Directors**

President ----- Anne McElwain  
Immediate Past President ----- Jill Dodd  
President Elect ----- Margaret Munro  
Vice President ----- Sue Johnstone  
Secretary ----- Glenda McGowan  
Treasurer ----- Ali Siphthorp  
Parliamentarian ----- Rosemary Watson  
Directors ----- Glenda Bryant  
Wendy Harvey  
Chris Wither

**MEETINGS** 2nd and 4th Wednesdays  
5.45pm for 6pm start

**MEETING PLACE** Nellies Function Room  
Hotel Taieri, Gordon Road  
Mosgiel

**POSTAL ADDRESS** 10 Solway Place  
Mosgiel 9024

**VISITORS AND APOLOGIES** Please telephone or text  
Jenny Quelch 021 783 524

**INTERNATIONAL BIENNUIM THEME**  
**2021 - 2022**

**"Let's Get Creative"**

**International President**  
**Kathy Folley**

**District Governor**  
**Ming-Chun Wu**

**Taieri Club President**  
**Anne McElwain**  
**215 School Road**  
**Mosgiel 9092**

**Newsletter Editor:**

**Margaret Munro please submit**  
**information and articles to**  
**[margaret.c.munro@gmail.com](mailto:margaret.c.munro@gmail.com)**

**CONTENTS**

REPORTS

CLUB EVENTS

CHANGE OVER NIGHT

UPCOMING EVENTS

BIRTHDAYS

NOTICES

**EDITORIAL**

Margaret and Claire along with the rest of the club wish the incoming board all the best for a rewarding year, including supporting worthy causes, while enjoying each others company along the way.

# PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

BY ANNE MCELWAIN

## **“CELEBRATE CHANGE”**

It gives me much pleasure to present the President’s report for 2021-2022.

I would like to welcome you all here tonight and to thank you for joining us for our AGM and Changeover. A special welcome to our guests from Oamaru, Maria Mackay as Past District Fifteen Governor and Jeanette Halcrow. And of course, we wouldn’t be here without you all, my fellow Taieri Altrusans. I want to thank you all for an amazing 12 months! Together we have demonstrated that we are flexible, we can embrace change and we can succeed.

A very special thanks goes to our Secretary, Glenda McGowan, for her hard work and dedication in keeping us on task, to our Treasurer, Ali Siphthorp, for monitoring and developing our finances and to our Past President, Jill Dodd for her advice and guidance over the past year.

I also want to acknowledge all the remaining members of the Board for their commitment, service, and advice: Brenda Brook, Sue Johnstone, Glenda Bryant, Jan Muir, and Margaret Munro. The work of the Committees would not be possible without the guidance and direction of our Chairs, and I want to thank Wendy Harvey for Community Service, Sue Johnstone for Literacy, Kath Burrows for Membership and Margaret Munro for Communications for putting our plans and vision into practice. Finally, thank you to all those who took on special roles to help make our Club work so well: Kath Burrows for taking Apologies and liaising with Nellies Restaurant for our meetings, Glennys Espie and Chris Wither for their work on the Archives, Rosemary Watson for her work on the Strategic Plan and the Study Grant as well as being our Parliamentarian, Jan Muir for her work on the Strategic Plan and the Study Grant, Glenda Bryant for recording our service hours to Altrusa and the community, and Pip Pilling for her work as our Parliamentarian and on the Study Grant. It goes without saying that we wouldn’t be here without the effort of ALL our members, but I do want to say thank you to all of you individually and together as a Club.

## **Our Committees:**

I’d like to thank you all for your enthusiasm which translated into great work over the past year. We have completed a massive number of service and Altrusa hours. The individual committee reports are attached and make great reading and I would like to mention a few highlights:

- Community Service Tamariki, Togs & Towels project, and their successful application for Foundation funding
- Literacy for their Books for Babies project
- Membership for their efforts to keep up us all engaged while developing new members
- Communications for updating and extending their resources and improving our presence in the community.

Thank you to all the committees and the Board for your part in taking on the Duty Committee role each month. Your efforts for the Business and Programme meetings have been much appreciated.

One of my aims for the year was that we would work in flexible committees based on our talents, time, and commitment to a project. Several members organised an ‘Add an Altrusan’ event with a trip to Carey’s Bay Hotel in July. Public transport proved to be quite an experience for many of us! We also worked together for “Make a Difference” Day, with a morning tea prepared by members and successfully served to the Taieri Blokes Shed under Covid restrictions. The men were very pleased to be recognised for their efforts and work in the community. Members contributed to our various group projects including collecting aluminum bottle tops, batteries, bras, cell phones, clothing/linen/carry bags, knitting/burp cloths, and toiletries.

In a further demonstration of working flexibly, I would like to acknowledge the Craft Stalls and Christmas Market fund-raiser which was the highlight of the year. With Ali Siphthorp and her team providing the direction, everyone worked together to produce and sell an amazing array of recycled and up-cycled goods. Our work in the community would not be possible without raising funds to support our projects. Thank you also to Sue Johnstone and Chris Wither for their

ongoing work with Mosgiel Rotary Club and the sales of Salmon and Venison which provide a welcome boost to our Club funds.

I would also like to acknowledge the individual efforts of our Altrusa members in the community helping in their own way to make a difference – they are the ‘unsung’ heroes of Taieri!

### **Social Events:**

Our Directors, Glenda Bryant, Jan Muir, and Margaret Munro were the highlight of our Christmas party with their unusual take on the ‘Twelve Days of Christmas’ using a Covid theme. Their creativity was (almost) topped at the Birthday celebration with members wearing something starting with the first letter of their name. Clare Banks’ outfit promoting condom use had to be seen to be believed!

### **Conference**

While our annual conference was transformed from being in-person event to a Zoom meeting, Taieri held its own mini-conference with half our Club getting together at Nellie’s Function Room to celebrate the occasion. We welcomed five First-Timers to conference.

While we undertake our projects and fundraisers with the interests of our community at heart, we were also pleased to gain recognition for the following awards:

First place: Helen Bartlett Award for Communication and Marketing.

Second place: Margaret Maylor Award for Newsletters.

Third place: Nina Fay Calhoun Award for "Uplifting Women" -bras and nightwear to Rarotonga.

Certificate: Fundraising Certificate for Craft Stalls and Christmas Markets project.

A big thank you to Claire Paterson, Margaret Munro, and Glenda McGowan for their efforts in preparing these awards.

I would like to acknowledge that we were also recognised on the Altrusa International website as a Distinguished Club for our efforts under Jill Dodd as President during the 2020/2021 year and I believe we have retained it again for the 2021/2022 year.

Our Emeritus Member, Gay Clark, who passed away in February, was acknowledged by Clare Banks during the Memorial Service.

### **District**

We welcomed our District Fifteen Governor, Ming-chun Wu, to meet Taieri members with a social evening on Friday 13 August. This was followed on the Saturday by the IFF day, attended by 11 of our members. It was hosted by Oamaru with a focus on membership retention and recruitment. We shared updates on the activities of the four Clubs in Area 4: Invercargill, Oamaru, Queenstown, Taieri, and joined together making scrapbooks for Alzheimer’s patients to use as communication aids when visited by family and friends. It was a great day for the 11 members to socialise with other Club members.

We also enjoyed a visit from our District Director, Margaret Melhop, from Queenstown on 10 November 2021 at our Board and Business meetings. She observed our processes and offered her assistance and support for our Club.

### **International**

We have observed Altrusa’s nominated international days throughout the year covering children, youth, women, families, literacy, and the environment. Items for the Days for Girls project have been made by several members and our gently-loved bra collection for Rarotonga has continued.

Finally, I hope you each take my thanks personally as without each and every one of you we could not have achieved such amazing results for our community. I am looking forward to leading you into the next year with the support of the Board.

# LITERACY ANNUAL REPORT

BY SUE JOHNSTONE

## LITERACY COMMITTEE – SUE JOHNSTONE

The Literacy Committee hosted two programme meetings during the year. During literacy month we welcomed Nic Brown the Deputy Principal from Macandrew Bay School. She discussed a new spelling, reading, and writing programme they have decided to implement throughout the school. It is a Structured Literacy programme which is particularly useful for children who take time to develop reading and writing skills such as children with dyslexia. Nic detailed the progress made using this programme and showed us examples of the types of readers used to support the programme.

For the April programme meeting we had two speakers, Catherine Caley the Community Services Manager for Plunket in Otago, and Rob Atkinson from Prime Nurses.

Catherine Caley spoke on the challenges Plunket face to remain relevant in the community today, and the services provided by them. This includes antenatal classes, parenting group support and health checks for the under-fives.

Rob described his nursing experience in remote areas of Australia and with PRIME (Prime Response in Medical Emergencies) in Otago. Prime doctors and nurses in rural areas cover weekend and night callouts for trauma and life-threatening situations. This service results in much better patient outcomes in rural communities. Prime nurses have donated 70 bags for our Books for Babies project which will be very useful as we can include our larger knitted items in the book packs.

Our Christmas donation to the Hawkesbury Trust Care Homes of magazines, books and basic games for men and women was well received. The Christmas baking was supplied was enjoyed by all.

The Books for Babies Project in conjunction with Plunket kicked off at the end March with our first delivery of 30 packs of beautifully illustrated books and quality hand-made items. An excellent article in The Star newspaper showed a great photo of our delivery of the packs to Plunket, and the article was good publicity for our Altrusa club. Members of the Literacy Committee have really enjoyed making up the packs, and our local Plunket Nurse, Kelly Morrissey, has had some very positive feedback from the new mothers receiving the packs. The new mothers were already sharing the books with their babies and love the knitted items. Kelly also had stories of burp cloths put into immediate use!

The Otago Community Trust Grant of \$2,700 awarded at the end of April will allow us to purchase the 150-200 books required for the next year of the project. Further funding will need to be found to make this a three-year project.

Many thanks to my co-chair Karon and the Literacy Committee for their help with the book packs, hosting meetings and sharing their ideas for future literacy projects. A special thanks also to all club members who have made the burp cloths and the beautiful knitted items for the baby packs. Another thank-you to Sue Murray who has offered advice on applying for grants and meeting their conditions.

**Rosemary Watson,**

**Catherine Caley (Plunket Nurse),**

**Pip Pilling &**

**Rob Atkinson (Prime Nurse).**



# COMMUNITY SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT

BY WENDY HARVEY

Community Service had a productive year with lots happening. The Tamariki Swimming Project was our main project and Tuesday 28th September was a very special day for our club when swim gear for 120 children plus sets for juniors, middle and senior syndicates was donated to Learning Sports Coordinators at Elmgrove School. Five schools requested assistance on the Taieri. These sets were made up of towels, swimsuits, goggles, and waterproof bags as well as spare towels and goggles for children that may miss out on School swimming lessons. Our Altrusa International Foundation, Inc, Grant Application was accepted with \$4,000US going into our account.

We held a Swaparama of scarves where members exchanged scarves on the table with the excesses being donated to the Women's Refuge.

On Make a Difference Day members kindly provided morning tea to the local Blokes Shed.

Our Programme Meeting Guest Speaker was Juanita Willems Otago Southland Foster Hope Trust Co-Ordinator. Juanita believes that every child in foster care deserves to know that their community cares about them. This is demonstrated by providing a backpack of essential items for each child which also provides practical help to the carer. Members kindly donated pyjamas and \$150 was donated by our club to purchase pyjamas for this worthy cause. Volunteers from our club also helped with Christmas gift wrapping, sorting, and making up packs for Foster Hope.

Dunedin Night Shelter were overwhelmed with the generous amount of linen, clothes, toiletries, and food donated by our members.

A big Thank You to my Committee and Club for what we have achieved this year.



Sorting canned food at Foodbank



Children with Swimming gear and Books

## MEMBERSHIP'S ANNUAL REPORT

BY KATH BURROWS

The membership committee had a few ideas this year to support different community needs.

Knitting was requested by our local maternity unit and resulted in several boxes of hats etc being delivered to a local midwife who could then take them into Queen Mary as we weren't allowed to visit in person due to Covid.

In October we had two speakers from Anglican family care who work hard in the community supporting young families. We were able to give them money to spend on books and toys which their workers distributed when they visited the families. We also donated a large box of sanitary and toilet items as these families sometimes have to decide food or sanitary items.

We have held several coffee mornings where members can get together for a chat and bring along any prospective new members.

A visit to the cinema to see The Duke was very successful, as was Paasha for dinner after.

We supported the Foodbank with donations and service hours sorting food donations into boxes. Thank you to the other Altrusans who supported this.

We had one new member to welcome in the year and held Sue Murray's initiation in 2021.

Brenda and Chris sent out birthday greetings to our members.

Change over this year is slightly different as our President, Secretary and Treasurer are returning for another year. We will celebrate with a fun evening.

Many thanks to Glenda, Brenda, Judy, Clare, and Chris for their work and support this year.



New member Sue Murray



Breakfast Get Together at Wooden Table

## COMMUNICATION'S ANNUAL REPORT

BY MARGARET MUNRO

The Communication Committee spent time communicating with District re their website, the DSB with articles, the club with newsletters, the club, and friends via Facebook. Ali is continuing to communicate with our sister club in New York, but without a lot of success.

The Club won the Helen Bartlett Award for Communications for the second year in a row. For this award all our promotional material is displayed, and ways of communication detailed. Our new Teardrop Flag looks good and is relatively easy to put up, so I am sure it will get a lot of use.

At our programme meeting in May, Jane Ludemann spoke on Ovarian Cancer. Jane gave a very emotional and informative insight into this illness. Thanks to Sue Murray for organising this. It would be nice if we can do some fundraising for this organisation.

New business cards have been printed so feel free to hand these out to anyone who may be interested in Altrusa. Please continue to spread the word that our club has a great group of women, who enjoy helping others, whilst also enjoying each other's company.



Members attending computer instruction from Jacqui (Otago Polytechnic). Note the concentration.

## PINK RIBBON AFTERNOON TEA

On Saturday 28th May, Taieri Altrusa's first Pink Breakfast was ably organised by Ali Siphthorp, with help on the day from several members. Starting with the pink balloons at the gateway to the pretty decorations on the inside of the East Taieri Church hall the scene was set for a successful afternoon tea. The Mosgiel businesses of Harraways, Plain Health, Greenhouse Florist, Mosgiel Garden Place, Countdown Flowers, Paper Plus, Twisted Citrus, Rosies were very generous supplying goodies for raffles. Also thanks to Beanos Bakery Chris Wither Glenda McGowan and Sandra Bathgate. Members supplied a selection of muffins and cakes which looked wonderful displayed on Ali's tiered cake stands.

A provisional total of \$1365 was raised.



## FOSTERHOPE



On 18th May a group of members met at Fosterhope's coordinator Jaunita,s home to sort clothing into age groups. A huge collection of winter PJs has been received which required sorting.

### THAT'S NOT MY JOB!

This is a story about four people named: **Everybody**, **Somebody**, **Anybody** and **Nobody**. There was an important job to be done and **Everybody** was sure that **Somebody** would do it. **Anybody** could have done it, but **Nobody** did it. **Somebody** got angry about that, because it was **Everybody's** job. **Everybody** thought **Anybody** could do it, but **Nobody** realised that **Everybody** wouldn't do it. It ended up that **Everybody** blamed **Somebody** when **Nobody** did what

## SERVICE BADGES

At the AGM two members received long service pins from Immediate Past Governor, Maria McKay.



Glennys Espie received a 35 year badge. Her contribution to the club has been enormous, which included amongst other things being President three times.

Kath Burrows, ( Membership Chair)  
Maria McKay,  
Glennys Espie,  
Anne McElwain (President)

Claire Paterson received a 15 year badge. Claire has an impressive list of achievements within the club and is currently Vice Governor of District15.

Kath Burrows (Membership Chair),  
Maria McKay (Immediate Past Governor  
Claire Paterson)



## CHANGEOVER NIGHT

The Membership Committee requested that we all dress in green and red. We arrived to find the room brightly decorated in a Xmas theme, which set the "feel good" atmosphere for the night.

We welcomed two guests from the Oamaru Club, Maria McHay and Jeanette Horrell.

The following poem was acted out much to the delight of members.

Changeover Christmas poem with a twist of Pam Ayres:

*Twas the night before Christmas, when all through; Nellies house,  
Not an Altrusan was stirring, not even a mouse;  
The stockings were hung by the private bar with care,  
In hope that George Clooney would soon would be there;  
The ladies were nestled all snug in their chairs  
, While visions of fallen angels danced in their beers,  
Anne and Glenda in their kerchiefs, and Ali in her cap,  
Had just settled their brains for a long winter & nap -  
When out on the deck, there arose such a clatter,  
We sprang from our seats to see what was the matter.  
Away to the windows we flew like a flash,  
Tore open the curtains and threw down the (renewed  
Membership) cash.  
The moon lit up on the haloes of the newly fallen Board  
That gave the lustre of glimmer to many an Altrusan award;  
When, what to my wondering eyes should appear on the bar  
shelf,  
But a miniature sleigh, and eight middle aged elf,  
With a little old Aunt Daisy driver, so lively and quick,  
I knew in a moment it must be a female St. Nick.  
More rapid than eagles her curses they came,  
And she whistled, and shouted, and called them by name:  
Now Anne! now Glenda M! and now Ali, once more  
So now let's repeat the chair with Sue, include Clare, then  
add Marg to the score,  
To the top of the bar! to the top of the Altrusa ladder!  
Now dash away! dash away! To empty your bladder!;  
...And then after a tinkle, I heard on the roof  
The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.*

*As I drew in my head, and was turning around,  
Down the back of the public bar - St. Nicholas came with a bound.  
She was dressed all in fur, from her head to her toe,  
And her clothes were created from scraps of fabric that she  
could sew;  
A bundle of children's books were flung on her back,  
And she looked like an Altrusan just opening her pack:  
Her eyes - how they twinkled! Her dimples how merry,  
Her cheeks were like roses, her lips tasted of sweet sherry;  
Her cute little mouth was drawn up like a bow,  
And the whiskers on her chin, well, they needed to go;  
She had a broad smile, that could fit inside the telly,  
And her laughter was raucous, after drinking too much at the  
Nelly:  
She was pretty and plump, a right jolly old elf,  
And I laughed when I saw her in spite of myself;  
A wink of her eye and a twist of her head  
Soon gave me the clue I had nothing to dread.  
She spoke not a word, but went straight to her work,  
And filled all the stockings; then turned with a jerk,  
And laying her finger aside of her nose  
And giving a nod, up the bar stool she rose  
She sprung to her sleigh, to her new team gave a whistle,  
And away they all flew, like the down of a thistle:  
But I heard her exclaim, ere she drove out of sight-  
Happy mid-winter Christmas to all,  
and to all Altrusans GOODNIGHT*



## UPCOMING EVENTS

|      |        |                                  |
|------|--------|----------------------------------|
| 22nd | June   | Planning meeting                 |
| 24th | June   | Matariki Day                     |
| 13th | July   | Board & Business Meeting         |
| 27th | July   | Program Meeting (Board Officers) |
| 30th | July   | International Day of Friendship  |
| 10th | August | Board & Business Meeting         |
| 12th | August | International Youth Day          |
| 24th | August | Program Meeting (Community)      |



17th SEPTEMBER CAR BOOT SALE



|          |              |
|----------|--------------|
| 20 June  | Clare Banks  |
| 15 July  | Wendy Harvey |
| 3 August | Chris Wither |



We have been extremely fortunate to get the cost of the Yearbook sponsored by New World Mosgiel. A big thank-you goes to Jan Muir for the initial approach to New World.

# Altrusa is a Box of Chocolate



## SAVE THE DATE SEPT 24 & 25 OAMARU

**Cost:** \$50 per person (first timers \$40)

**Includes:** Sat lunch, afternoon tea and Sat dinner  
Sunday morning tea.

**Time:** Sat from 12.30 for lunch. Finish 4.30pm  
Dinner: 7.00 – 9.00  
Sunday 9.00am – 12.00noon.

South Island Mega IFF Day

Information, Fun and Friendship

Activities, sharing with fellow Altrusans,  
and learning together

**One Night Only!**

**Join us for a fun weekend away.**

Your Board recognises the importance of getting together as Altrusans, so we are planning this IFF Day as a one off trial this year. With Conference being shifted to an online event, we feel this is a good substitute, where we can gather in larger numbers but at an affordable cost.

**Mark this date in your calendars, and organise your road**

Insert names here