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“President Claire”

Dear Altrusan’s

Welcome to 2024 and the countdown to the changeover. It was wonderful to receive a full slate for the new Board for the 24/25 year. Thank you to the nominations committee. It has been a very busy start to 2024 what with our 49th birthday celebrations and the senior’s afternoon tea.

A big thank you to the communications team who organised a wonderful “platter and plonk” get together at Lianne’s home to get the ball rolling after the Christmas break. We were able to greet three new prospective members plus sing happy birthday to our club and blow out the candles. The big one is next year (50th) so we look forward to that. Also, I want to thank Julie and Joan and the service committee for their unwavering response to the organising of the afternoon tea. It was very successful and ran without fault. As this committee is somewhat depleted at the moment, it was a great effort and received many accolades from those who attended. The food was delicious and the idea of a pottle of ice cream to start with was a surprise. Many did not even realise that you could still purchase ice cream this way.

This past Monday we were delighted to have co-Governor Jenette Borrell at our Board and business meeting. Many already knew Jenette but it was an opportunity to meet someone face to face and not just a name or photo on the computer. The co- Governors have set up many zoom meetings to be held before conference e.g: President elect, Presidents, Secretaries and Treasurers. Zoom meetings are not scary and you are able to ask questions and hear what others do in certain situations. We also spoke about a literacy project for the coming year and many of us are keen to support something new and innovative for us. Conference is on the 3rd – 5th May and is being held in Hamilton. We will have four attending from Oamaru Club. It is still not too late to register although the early bird option has ended. See me if you have any questions.

Remember the theme of International President Linda. ALTRUSANS R.O.C.K. – REALISE OPPORTUNITY, CREATE, KINDNESS.

Regards Claire

President: Claire Jelgersma President.oamaru@altrusa.org.nz

Correspondence via email: Secretary.oamaru@altrusa.org.nz

International Website: www.altrusa@altrusa.org

2023 SANTA FOR A SENIOR

We had 36 names and the general public was so generous with the items that they brought. The presents were wrapped and a personal card from Altrusa was put with all the gifts and then delivered back to the rest homes for distribution on Christmas Day.



2023 TERTIARY AWARD WINNERS



We hosted our 2023 Tertiary Award Winners at our November meeting.

Holly Ross from Waitaki Girls was the winner of the Lynette Young Memorial Tertiary Award on the left

And

Lanna-Lousie Abuyabor from St Kelvins College was the winner of the Margaret Crombie Memorial Tertiary Award on the right.

CHRISTMAS 2023



OAMARU HOUSE

It was 25 years ago in May 1998 that Oamaru House was opened in Dunedin to provide affordable accommodation for families and friends of people who were in hospital or undergoing treatment. This was an Altrusa initiative and is still supported by Altrusans. A trust made up of 3 Altrusans and 3 community members oversee the running of Oamaru House.



Trust Member Robyn with Oamaru House member Kathryn Smith being presented with flowers by Kath, (the president of the club in 1998) and Claire our present president celebrate 25 years since Oamaru House was opened at 95 Hanover Street in Dunedin.



Money can buy a house, but not a home

Money can buy a bed, but not sleep

Money can buy a clock, but not time

Money can buy a book, but not knowledge

Money can buy food, but not appetite

Money can buy you friends, but not Love

COMMITTEES

SERVICE COMMITTEE

On Sunday 10th March we hosted our annual Celebration of Older People in Oamaru (still living independently). We catered for 60 guests but had to reduce the numbers for a variety of reasons at the last moment, due to the frailty of some of our more aged guests, several had falls or had taken ill overnight. It was a rewarding project as much for the Altrusans who helped to make this another successful event as it was for the obviously appreciative guests. The Service committee was assisted by the rest of the club to make this such a great afternoon. Even if some of our group were unable to attend because of their own ill health, their presence was felt by all our members. Our visitors were collected from their homes and brought to the venue by the same Altrusan army as those who had prepared the afternoon feast, table decorations, that wafted the scent of delicate flowers around the hall, arranged raffle prizes and packaged the delightful Easter treats. Entertainment from Colin Hay on keyboard had many of the visitors singing along to his music. They were ferried home safely again. Judging by the volume in the hall from our chatting guests, they had a great afternoon. Cleanup was swift and the Bowling Club was soon restored to its original state. We are so fortunate to be able to have such a great venue available with the access for the older people we were celebrating. As Julie said it's the fun and laughter (and I might add, the love) that makes Altrusan such a rewarding organisation to belong to. Thanks to everyone for another successful Altrusan event.

Joan and Julie.

COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE

An article on 'Santa for a Senior' was sent to the DSB at the start of the year. Thanks to Robyn and Ann Brown for helping me with this. Our duty month was March and we celebrated Oamaru Altrusa 49th Birthday at my home again this year and I made up a board of the activities that we had participated in for 2023/2024 for the new members to look at that attended the night. I later put these pages into a clear folder for the club to keep.

Our accent for the March programme meeting was on International Day and I wanted to include a quote from Margaret Thatcher in my report. "If you want something said, ask a man. If you want something done, ask a woman"

As this will be my last newsletter, I would like to thank the members of the Communication Committee especially Angela who has been a huge help to me since I took over as the committee head last year.

Lianne

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Membership committee has temporarily lost its chair. Anne left for a holiday and has broken her arm. It must be fairly bad as she is staying put in Christchurch until she is up to travelling. Fortunately, she is with family while this happens. In the mean time the committee will organise a meeting with, and the induction of, Shona and Sheryl. We Thank Lianne and Angela who brought them to our social gathering at Lianne's. I hope to have the meeting within the next ten days.

Robyn

VOCATIONAL COMMITTEE

The Vocational group has been very quiet since the beginning of the New Year. April is our membership month at the present time we have not met to discuss a speaker as we will be having the A.G.M during the month of April. We participated in the Afternoon tea treats for the elderly of Oamaru.

Pam

LITERACY COMMITTEE

Oamaru's population is not in danger of decreasing! 20 packs of Books for Babies have been delivered to the Maternity Annexe every month and they have all been distributed. Staff say the packs are very popular, as are the added booties or hats we include when available.

We are still waiting for supplies of some booklets and information sheets to arrive, so that packs for March babies can be delivered.

Our annual March birthday gift to the library has been organized. Two large print books, either about, or written by, New Zealand authors, will be purchased by library staff. An acknowledgement of our donation will be displayed inside the front cover of each book.

Lyn, Ainslie, Margaret and Liz M

RECIPE

Oakhill Potatoes

2 large potatoes	2 eggs
1 slice of bacon or ham	2 Tablespoons butter
1 onion, finely chopped	2 Tablespoons flour
½ teaspoon mustard	½ teaspoon salt
1 cup milk	½ cup grated cheese
2 Tablespoons breadcrumbs	

Scrub potatoes and pierce skin. Microwave until cooked, slice when cool.

Hard boil the eggs, slice when cool.

Saute onions and bacon in microwave for 2 minutes

Melt butter and add flour, mustard and salt. Cook gently until the edges are bubbling, remove from heat and add milk, stir carefully until boiling. Simmer 1-2 minutes. Add cheese, keep 2 tablespoons for the topping

In an oven proof dish layer the potatoes, eggs and onion/bacon mixture

Pour sauce over the top and sprinkle with the breadcrumbs and remaining cheese.

Cook in a moderate oven

By Lianne

(An old school recipe from my daughter)

“What goes around comes around”

One day a man saw an old lady, stranded on the side of the road, but even in the dim light of day, he could see she needed help so he pulled up in front of her Mercedes and got out. His Pontiac was still sputtering when he approached her.

Even with the smile on his face, she was worried. No one had stopped to help for the last hour or so. Was he going to hurt her? He didn't look safe; he looked poor and hungry. He could see that she was frightened, standing out there in the cold. He knew how she felt. It was those chills which only fear can put in you. He said “I'm here to help you, ma'am. Why don't you wait in the car where its warm? By the way my name is Bryan Anderson.” Well, all she had was a flat tire, but for an old lady, that was bad enough. Bryan crawled under the car looking for a place to put the jack, skinning his knuckles a time or two. Soon he was able to change the tire. But he had to get dirty and his hands hurt.

As he was tightening up the lug nuts, she rolled down the window and began to talk to him. She told him she was from St. Louis and was only passing through. She couldn't thank him enough for coming to her aid. Bryan just smiled as he closed the trunk. The lady asked how much she owed him. Any amount would have been ok with her. She already imagined all the awful things that could have happened had he not stopped. Bryan never thought twice about getting paid. This was not a job to him. This was helping someone in need, and God knows there were plenty, who had given him a hand in the past. He had lived his whole life that way. He told her that if she really wanted to pay him back, the next time she saw someone that needed help, she could give that person the assistance they needed and Bryan added “And think of me.” He waited until she started her car and drove off. It had been a cold and depressing day, but he felt good as he headed home, disappearing into the twilight. A few miles down the road the lady saw a small café. She went into grab a bite to eat, and take the chill off before she made the last leg of her trip home. It was a dingy looking restaurant. Outside were two old gas pumps. The whole scene was unfamiliar to her. The waitress came over and brought a clean towel to wipe her wet hair. She had a sweet smile, one that even being on her feet for the whole day couldn't erase. The lady noticed the waitress was nearly eight months pregnant, but she never let the strain and arches change her attitude. The old lady wondered how someone who had so little could be so giving to a stranger. Then she remembered Bryan. After the lady finished her meal, she paid with a \$100 bill. The waitress quickly went to get her change for her \$100 bill, but the old lady had slipped right out the door. She was gone by the time the waitress came back. The waitress wondered where the lady could be. Then she noticed something written on the napkin. There were tears in her eyes when she read what the old lady wrote: “You don't owe me anything. I have been there too. Somebody once helped me out, the way I'm helping you. If you really want to pay me back, here is what you do: Do not let this chain of love end with you.” Under the napkin were four more \$100 bills.

Well, there were tables to clear, sugar bowls to fill, and people to serve, but the waitress made it through another day. That night when she got home from work and climbed into bed she was thinking about the money and what the lady had written. How could the lady have known how much she and her husband needed it? With the baby due next month, it was going to be hard... She knew how worried her husband was, and as he lay sleeping next to her, she gave him a soft kiss and whispered soft and low, “Everything's going to be alright. I love you, Bryan Anderson.”

There is an old saying “What goes around comes around”

SENIORS AFTERNOON TEA



The Seniors Afternoon tea was held on Sunday 10th March at the Meadowbank Bowling Club. Well done to the Service Committee for their organisation (particularly Julie and Joan) and to Claire for the beautiful floral displays and of course to the rest of the members of the Oamaru club who all contributed to make this afternoon a success. Music was provided by Colin Hay on the keyboard.





UPCOMING EVENTS

Birthdays

Lynne Isbister	8th April
Liz McIntyre	15th April
Marie	21st April
Anne Brown	11th May
Angela	13th May
Kath	27th May
Ann Stewart	11th June

