

ALTRUSAN

Happy 39th Birthday Altrusa Taieri.

Emeritus member Margaret C has the honour of cutting the birthday cake at our meeting on 28th February 2024



ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL OF TAIERI

president.taieri@altrusa.org.nz

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

MEETING PLACE Nellies Function Room
Hotel Taieri

Gordon Road
Mosgiel

VISITORS AND APOLOGIES Please telephone or text
Jill Dodd – 021 1007 109



For local or international Altrusan information, news and events:

Altrusa International website
www.altrusa.org

Altrusa District Fifteen website
www.altrusa.org.nz

Taieri Altrusa Facebook page
<https://www.facebook.com/AltrusaTaieri/>

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2024

'One People: Celebrating our
diversity'

International President

Linda Smith

District Co-Governors

Jenette Borrell & Leanne Milligan

Newsletter Editor:

Jenny Clarke

Please submit all articles to
clarkejennifer995@gmail.com

More 39th birthday moments.....

(From left) Foundation member Clare B (1985) Emeritus member Margaret C,
Kath B (2016) Brenda B (2016) Margaret M (2017) and Glenda M (2019)
(represents date the member joined Altrusa Taieri)



What's been happening....?

Anna, daughter of our president Margaret, addressed club members and friends at a delightful gathering of 38 to begin 2024. Anna is a talented design artist, who designs and creates costumes for the film Industry. She has been doing this inspirational work for 23 years, living in Berlin but works all over the world. Prior to a movie a huge amount of research is carried out about era, design, fabric, style & colour before quality & quantities are sourced and made within budgets ranging from a few hundred thousand to millions. Anna is often on site for weeks prior to, and even months during filming.



New Member

Anne Ward (3rd from the left) was welcomed to the Taieri Altrusa Club at our meeting on 14th February. Anne brings many ideas, skills & friendship to the group and we all look forward to getting to know her even more. From the left: Karon, Jenette, Anne, Clare, Glenys, Wendy, Judy and Glennys.



Co-governor Jenette Borrell and Anne after the formalities of her induction.



Our tribute to Ali Siphthorp



Kind, creative, caring, gracious, generous, resourceful, had an eye for detail, a sense of fun and a get-things-done attitudeare just some of the words and ways that describe Ali Siphthorp. Ali died on 26 December 2023 after a short illness. Her presence at our meetings, and the spirit of friendship and energy she brought to our group are so deeply missed.

Ali joined Altrusa Taieri in 2018 and in no time at all the talents of this lovely warm, humble woman were obvious to all around her. Ali had many ideas for community projects and also wholeheartedly supported those suggested or initiated by others.

Once she had an idea in her head or was given an idea, in no time at all it was 90% organized. Her ability to get the right people involved and on board was legendary, her know-how and the unique way (natural charm :-)) she had of successfully approaching people for sponsorship was next level. She had an amazing ability to get goods donated for projects, ultimately enabling more funds raised to be directed towards the community project in question.

For every challenge that might come our way, it was often Ali who came up with a solution. When Covid foiled an intended Christmas market, Ali turned her dining room into a 'shop' and when restrictions permitted, the items could be viewed and purchased or sold by word of mouth. When restrictions lifted even further, Ali sought out other options including the Farmer's and Wingatui markets. She was also a whizz at listing things online casting the net for selling even further – all to the advantage of the community projects Altrusa Taieri was working to support.

With determination, meticulous planning and attention to detail, Ali was one of a dedicated team of Taieri Altrusa members who prepared an incredibly stylish exhibition in 2022 *'The Stories We Wore'* held at the community gallery in Princes Street to coincide with Dunedin's infamous Fashion ID week. *'The Stories We Wore'* depicted fashion across the decades of the last century with exhibits gathered from family, friends and acquaintances - all superbly displayed for others to appreciate and enjoy.

More style and charm came to the fore when Ali hosted a special event when long service member Margaret Cotton was made an Emeritus member after 40 years of service. Ali hosted a high tea with all her best silver and fine china. Altrusa Taieri members dressed in the fashion of 40 years ago and this along with all of Ali's special treasures made the day a very memorable occasion for everyone, especially Margaret.

Ali served as treasurer for two years, a busy role on the board of directors with constant fundraising efforts to be recorded, and grant applications with their associated income and expenditure to be documented in detail. Ali kept meticulous track of all the finances and provided regular reports to the members.

Not only was Ali an outstanding Altrusan who epitomized all that Altrusa stands for, she was a very special friend to many. Altrusa friends can attest to Ali going the extra mile on many occasions putting their needs ahead of her own. Her kindness, generosity, friendship and big heart will always be remembered with affection.



Ali's generous spirit lives on with the donation to Otago Girls High School of numerous boxes of fabrics from Ali's collection. The textiles will be put to good use by girls when they will..... *"weave creativity into every stitch"*, and their appreciation of the gesture from Altrusa International of Taieri was communicated to their community through their newsletter and recent Facebook post.



An appreciative 'grant' recipient....



STUDY GRANT 2023

1. The grants are open to women who are Otago Residents, undertaking a course of training for either re-entry into the workforce, or for a change of employment with improved prospects.
2. The grants will have a value of up to \$500 for the purchase of books or materials.
3. Applicants may be required to attend an interview.
4. Application forms can be obtained by emailing: rosemary.watson178@gmail.com



I was fortunate to be the recipient of an Altrusa Study Award in 2023 and I wanted to provide an update with how my studies and new career are going. I am delighted to update that I completed my Master in Teaching and Learning (primary) with distinction in Dec 2023. I am now employed as a provisionally registered teacher, teaching at a Dunedin childcare centre. I am thoroughly enjoying my new career and am finding it very rewarding. It was hard to return to study as a mature student with 3 children, but it has proven so worth a difficult year to now be able to obtain gainful employment and provide financial stability for my family. The Altrusa Study Award had a significant impact on my ability to obtain course related books. I was able to get some books second hand, so the grant went even further. Although many course books could be borrowed from the library, the Altrusa grant removed the financial stress of purchasing my own copy. Now that I am working as a teacher, it is fabulous to have these books on hand for lesson planning, so the grant not only helped me to be successful in my studies, it continues to help me plan better lessons and be a better teacher for our youngest students.

Thank you so much for the award and the opportunity to update. Your support made such a difference to myself and my family. Best wishes to the Altrusa organisation and other Altrusa award recipients.

Kind regards
Appreciative recipient

Orientation Evening

Learning a little more about the history of International Altrusa, Altrusa clubs across Aotearoa NZ, Altrusa Taieri and the finer nuances of organisation, guidelines, roles and responsibilities was the aim of an evening on 6th March with long serving member Clare B and other experienced members Glenys R, Wendy H and Margaret M. Newer members, Anne, Rosie, Jackie and Jenny appreciated the opportunity to learn more, ask questions and generally hear from Clare and a number of other longer serving members.

Glenys provided a summary of the clubs in the world and New Zealand, and reiterated the structure of boards, committees and different types of meetings. She included information about national office bearer positions and annual conference.... and added a few anecdotes about her involvement in Altrusa along the way.

Wendy highlighted a summary of the main projects that the club has undertaken over the years and the list of major projects completed over time is an impressive record of service to the Taieri community.

Clare outlined the structure of Altrusa International, Foundation grants and the benefits a club gains from its close association with the international organisation. She encouraged new members to appreciate the work of our club archivist, Glennys Espie (member since 1986). Glennys keeps meticulous records about the work of Altrusa International of Taieri and the scrapbooks are a wonderful record of every facet of 'things-Altrusa Taieri' for others to enjoy and appreciate.

Margaret (President) shared some information about the project Altrusa International, Inc. and Days for Girls are undertaking in partnership to improve the lives of women and girls internationally by providing sustainable menstrual care solutions and health education. Clubs across the world are contributing to this project and are motivated by how life-changing it is for so many young women. While we can read about this project by visiting <https://www.altrusa.org/> it was soul-stirring to hear about this amazing project in detail, and in person from those who have practically contributed so much to date.



A reminder:
Our year book is a great source of information and has many key guidelines.

Child Cancer Street Appeal

A number of members (including those below...Pip & Kath; Anne & Alison; Jenny & Jenny) offered their time on the 8th March to support the Cancer Society at its regular street appeal to raise money for Child Cancer Research. Our members were located outside PaperPlus in Mosgiel and at the Countdown/Woolworths Supermarket on Gordon Road. Different club members took their turn at other times while others provided support by calling by with offers of coffee, encouragement and conversation.



Not only does the Child Cancer Foundation provide support for children and families facing the cancer journey, it also supports the health professionals in paediatric oncology who provide medical care to those in *their care*.

Just imagine.....In 2022/2023, 52% of new referrals had to travel over 100km to their nearest specialist treatment centre.

The Foundation also provides grants to health professionals to support their professional development and funds projects and equipment that will help advance improvements to childhood cancer care.

Unless we have been directly connected with a family that finds itself in the 'horror space' of a child getting a diagnosis of cancer and the subsequent treatment, it is almost beyond imagining how it must be.

To read some inspiring, heartbreaking and heartwarming stories go to the [2022/2023 Annual Report](#) of the Child Cancer Foundation.




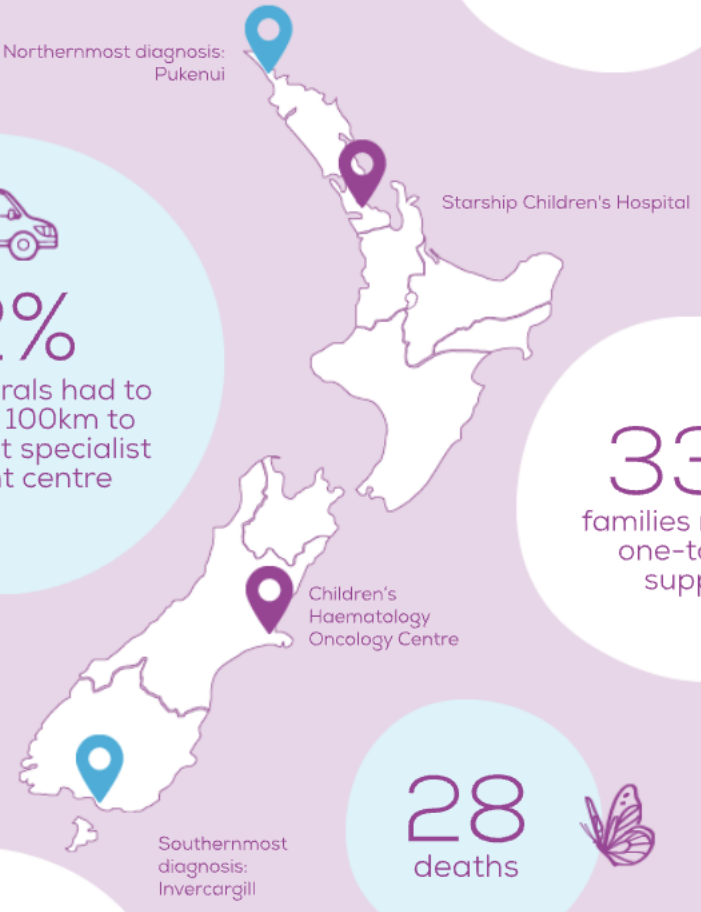
Year in review

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Key childhood cancer numbers from 2022/23

187
new referrals
nationwide


52%
of new referrals had to travel over 100km to their nearest specialist treatment centre



335
families received
one-to-one
support

28
deaths



1,124
families received social
connection through
our Whānau Connect
Groups nationwide

Definitions

New referrals: All families who receive a childhood cancer diagnosis are referred to Child Cancer Foundation for support.

Specialist treatment centre: There are only two specialist treatment centres for childhood cancer in New Zealand – Starship Children’s Hospital in Auckland and the Children’s Haematology and Oncology Centre in Christchurch.

Happy New Year to our Altrusa sisters in Taieri, New Zealand!!!

Winter is here in Meredith. Our temperatures are in the teens and lower this week but will go up to the thirties next week. Winter is always a time for reflection and the new year brings new enthusiasm to our Altrusa projects.

We recently filled "Birthday Bags" for the local food pantry. The bags will be offered to families who may have a child who is having a birthday to help ease the cost of party items.



We supplied cake mix, foil pans, candles (that spelled out Happy Birthday) napkins, plates, birthday headbands/hats, tablecloth, and plastic utensils. The food pantry was happy to be able to offer these items to the families.

Altrusa offering Free Books at the Humble Grunt "Cookie Walk" fundraiser.



In Altrusa Friendship and Service, the Meredith NH Altrusa Club

Upcoming Events

March 13	Board & Business Meeting 🧑🏫
March 25	Otago Anniversary Day
March 27	Programme Meeting. 🗣️
March 29	Good Friday
April 1	Easter Monday
April 10	Board & Business Meeting 🧑🏫
April 24	Programme Meeting. 🗣️
April 25	ANZAC Day (Altrusa distributing biscuits at local service)
May 8	Board & Business Meeting 🧑🏫
May 22	Programme Meeting. 🗣️
12 June	Board & Business Meeting 🧑🏫

Birthdays

March 13	Rosemary Watson
March 17	Karon Read
2 May	Judy Justice
4 May	Jenny Quelch
5 May	Margaret Munro
1 June	Jackie Stevely



May your year be filled with love, laughter, friendship and good health.

Looking Ahead...

3-5th May National Conference in Hamilton

16th October – BINGO Night with Two Fat Ladies at the Green Island Football Club.
Save the date and invite your friends.

Editorial

The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the
service of others.

Mahatma Gandhi

