

There I was back at an Altrusa meeting all those years ago. How comfortable it felt. The format was the same. The programme and its presentation were superb.

A strong waiata delivered by Levin President's daughter -followed by grace set the scene. A well organised MC steered us smoothly through the afternoon proceedings. A buffet lunch with ten chances to win a raffle before we approached the dessert tables. A themed anniversary cake cut by a foundation member assisted by the newest Levin member. Times to reminisce with a backdrop power point of photos showing throughout the afternoon. Two golden membership service awards and a popular Emeritus member award



presented by District 15 Co- Governor. Then it was time to end a wonderful –“nearly four hours” of friendship, fun and fellowship.

It was a simply excellent few hours. Brief catch ups with old members and friends. Looking at power point photos and cringing at some of the clothes we wore and lamenting the change of hair colour. Playing “remember when” or “who was that?”. Being proud of past projects we had been involved in. The candle that burnt throughout the afternoon acknowledging known Altrusans who had passed.



*It was a stylish afternoon. It ran smoothly. This happens because in the background has been a hard working committee - I remember!!
(from a former Member)*



From President Deirdre - more reflection of our wonderful 50th birthday celebration.

Many thanks for a lovely 50th Anniversary luncheon. A real celebration of 50 years of Altrusa in Levin. Was wonderful to see so many past Altrusans coming to celebrate their Club, as they are still very much a part of us, and our history. I also know that it was a real hoot for them to see themselves (and ourselves) in the photos on our Slide Show! Some gorgeous get-ups and do-ups over the years, truly representative of the times. Such fun! And lovely to hear their stories of their times in Altrusa - makes you feel a part of something very special and very worthwhile!

Many thanks to our committee of Denys, Tui, Maureen and Airini – very well-organised, beautiful decorations and every detail thought of. I will be laminating my placemat as a memento! Thank you also to Chris, and other husbands, for your help with all the decorations.



Also, many thanks to our special MC, Shirley, such a natural and friendly speaker. Well done you!!! And to Leanne Milligan, Co-Governor for her words of congratulation, and to Airini and Catherine for your reminiscences of the impressive history of our Club. Thanks also go to Sue Brown, Tui's daughter, for putting together our Slide Show (brilliant!), and to Cherry Matthews for the beautiful flowers and posy for Heather. Thank you Alexandria for your welcome song. Your Dad and I are very proud of you. Thanks also, to our photographer Courtney, and her assistant Alexandria – hopefully they caught our best sides!

Congratulations to Heather for her Emeritus membership (a more deserving member, I could not think of), and to Catherine and Airini for their 50 years' service. Wow, that is commitment – that would make me about 102, maybe not!



Levin Cossie Club produced a deliciously yummy menu, and the service was great – an ideal venue for this type of event!

Again, many thanks to you all for your attendance at this special day!



Levin Link April 2024

President's Report

Hi Members,

Another month has just whizzed by – Easter came and went surrounded by friends, family and lots of chocolate! Hope you all enjoyed a delicious long Easter weekend! And it's already the end of Term One, and the start of the holidays!



Nana (President) Deirdre with precious wee Sylvia.

Wayne Bishop was inspiring at our March programme meeting. The staggering amount he has accomplished is unprecedented in our town. Life at Speldhurst has attracted many of our own members, and this is just the beginning... I admire the scale of his plans, and I am intrigued by how his thought processes come together. I wonder when the ideas strike him.

We are certainly lucky to have him, his family, and his team.



Leanne Milligan brought a fresh perspective to our Business meeting this month. She spoke of a harmonious blend of tradition and new ideas, moulding them to suit our own Club and members. New ideas bring new life and passion, while traditions keep us grounded. She also did a great job of explaining the BRR (Bylaws, Rules & Regulations) that will be considered at Conference.

Our Clubs 50th Anniversary luncheon, brought together our past and current members, some partners, and our District Fifteen representatives. What a glorious celebration of Altrusa in our area – a chance to hear many tales and exploits from past members! Great to see you there.

***“What I know for sure is this:
You are built not to shrink down to less,
but to blossom into more.
To be more splendid.
To be more extraordinary.
To use every moment to fill yourself up.”
Oprah***



April Accent from Hannah

As Altrusans we are attuned to the infinite good we provide through our service.

What we do makes a difference and through each little act of service we cause a ripple effect.

We gain personal development, leadership skills and fulfilment.

You get the most from life after you give to others – As Altrusans we know about unselfish service, doing for others and just how rewarding it is.

Hannah and Dee joined Waiopahu College's Teen Parent Unit, He Whare Manaaki Tāngata, at their beautiful High Tea celebration last weekend. Ten years of successfully turning around the lives of many teen parents, especially mums, whose lives were severely disrupted at an early age because of a pregnancy. How inspirational these young ladies are. They have taken up the challenge of having the opportunity to have a career of their choice, the skills and resources to finish their education, be good mums, and have a career.

The unit has a lot of support from the local community and is a firm part of Waiopahu College, which broke all the rules 10 years ago by building a splendid facility for the unit close to the school. Our club continues to annually offer a monetary Literacy Prize to a student, and age appropriate books for all the children of the students.

Woman have a most unique character.
Like salt, her presence is never
remembered but her absence makes
all the things tasteless.

Membership Minute read by Sandra

***The line of the female body
is something like the trunk
of a tree, birch, or poplar
or weeping willow;
And it is sometimes like a
flower stem, petite and compact,
without length but still strong.
There is no IDEAL form
And the size or shape of the body
does not matter.
It is what lies beneath the skin
that makes you unique,
that makes you a woman.***





**WORKSHOP
– Saturday 6th**



**Busy Busy Busy.
Work for all,
sewers, ironers,
folders, unpickers,
trimmers. etc etc**

**Club members, and many from our
Community, shared the productive day.**

Thank You!

A very special thank you to you all for the honour you awarded to me at the Anniversary luncheon. I feel very humble that a group of you wonderful ladies chose me for Emeritus status.

Altrusa has given so much to me with the fun and fellowship of working together on projects and the forever friendships made. Whenever over the last 35 years life has given me something to cope with you have always been there like a cloak around my shoulders and I am not sure that you all realise how much that means in enabling me to be stronger.

Emeritus status means I can keep in touch with you all and when I am well enough do what I can to help Altrusa Levin continue to be the strong club it is.

Love and best wishes to you all. Heather

Programme Dinner Meeting hosted by Communication Committee



The theme was health to acknowledge World Health Day this month. Tables were decorated with various health related equipment and information.

The raffle was drawn after main meal, won by Helen Clifford, it was a wooden and tile cheese board, tools and yummy crackers.



Hannah introduced our guest speaker, Ali Russell. She lives in Levin but works at Foxton Aquatic Centre teaching aquatic exercises and their benefits.

Ali started swimming when she was 8 years old and hasn't stopped for past 45 years. She explained the benefits of aquatic work outs , an all over body work out which improves cardiac, muscular, weight, fitness, stress, and aids rehab recovery after injury. She recommended Aqua walking if you can't swim or float. Working in water is warm, and pressure free. She recommends 150 minutes exercise per week. Ali was thanked by Jan W and present with a thank you voucher.

26 April
13 May
15 May
22 May
27 May

Heather
Shirley
Sherry
Jill
Helen



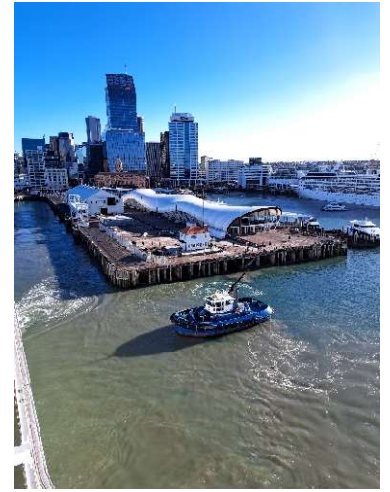
Seeing New Zealand from another angle from Diane G

David and I took a cruise around our own country seeing views one doesn't see when driving.

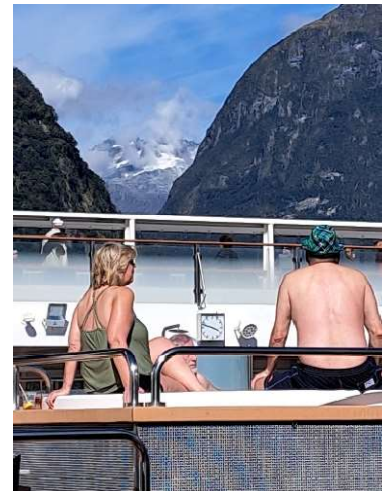
After going through all the booking we went up on deck to see Auckland as we sailed out of a stunning harbour. First Day in Tauranga, Then Napier, Wellington, Lyttelton, Dunedin, all ports had some massive piles of logs waiting to be shipped overseas.



As these are working ports, we had to be bussed off for safety purposes. But just sailing in and out of each harbour seeing the country from the water was amazing. All apart from Napier had bays that took quite some time to get out of thus giving everyone a great view. We missed the yacht race in Lyttelton by 2 days, much to David's disgust. We sailed very close to the Albatross colony at the heads in Dunedin.



The Fiords: We were so very lucky to get the best weather of the last two cruises through there. It was clear right up to the top of the mountains and the sea was like glass. A shame about the sandflies. They didn't worry us but had a good chew on the Americans.



Two days going across the Tasman Sea was not smooth sailing and it took us a few hours on land to feel like we were walking right again. Melbourne: We got onto the tram and went out and about.

Burnie Tasmania: The mayor welcomed each bus full and pointed out places to see. It had lots of interesting history and some good shops.

Eden: we took a bus trip to Wheelers Oysters grown in a Lake The young lady talking to us was from Tokoroa

During our cruise we sailed from port to port each night and spent each day on land.

Sydney: we got off and went to visit family for five days., having two busy days at the Royal Sydney Easter show during that time.



Before



After

COMMITTEE CORNER



Literacy

The Literacy Committee has contributed \$200 towards the Adult Literacy project, facilitated by the Board.

Horowhenua District Council (HDC) Grant of \$500 for books for babies/young children is now all spent.

Sixteen bags of books (48 books in total)

were packed for the Police Family Liaison Team to distribute to families who might be challenged to obtain books and foster reading in their homes.

Books and Knitting for Babies Thirteen bags of knitting and books were made up to cover the transition period of June and the following couple of months for the new Literacy Committee.

Levin has distributed a total of 312 books and 12 magazines July – June 2023/24. Due to some IT risks, these totals have not been logged online with Altrusa International. Help requested with this.

Membership

Morning Tea being organised for our very new Emeritus member, Heather
Guess Who's Coming to Dinner – in May.

Service

Proceeds from the very successful Movie night have boosted funds to meet the club's coming year obligations.

Collectors called for St Johns street appeal in June.

Communications

Hosts for next Programme meeting

Theme "World Health Day" with a suitable speaker.



2024-25 In-coming Chairs

Literacy – Diane Goodin

Membership – Cushla Lash

Service – Ruth Rawlings

Communication – Brenda Rea

Chairs' changeover meeting will take place at Tui's on Tuesday 21st May at 5.15pm.

LITERACY FOCUS

This month –

Increased Literacy exposure for our own members.

We are so fortunate each month, at club Programme meetings, to have a table displaying a wide range of shared great titles and authors. These are for borrowing for our own personal home reading. Many come with high recommendations, and even some extend to a waiting list to be next to get a popular choice.

The old proverb “Charity begins at Home”.

So be “Literacy” – Reading starts in the Home



My leisure time from last month – Thanks Ruth B for passing on these ones- - enjoyed. Editor Jan J



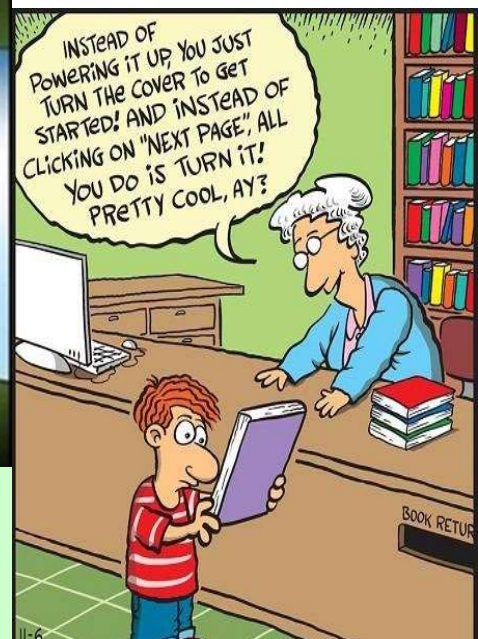
Congratulations to the “chocolate fish” winners Tui & Jackie. They scored 100% on the March DSB questions

This month's Recipe.

No instructions needed!!!
Healthy, colourful plate to take to the next function.



Our precious Tamariki



Coming soon

- 24 April Communication Committee's M/Tea honouring Heather
at Dot's 10.30am
- 26 April Social morning tea at Masonic 10.30am
- 1 May AGM & Business Meeting 5.30pm Thompson House
- 3/5 May District Fifteen Conference, Hamilton
- 8 May Literacy Committee 10.30am @ Moira's
- 21 May Chairs meeting @ Tui's 5.15pm
- 22 May Change Over Dinner. Hosts Service Committee
- 25 May Guess Who's Coming to Dinner (Membership)



Hamilton

– here we come
to paint your town red.

Safe travel to our 10 members
heading North.

Enjoy this Altrusa conference
and the comradeship of
all other Kiwi Altrusans.

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Life is about balance.

*You don't always need to be
getting stuff done. Sometimes
it's perfectly okay, and
absolutely necessary, to shut
down, kick back, and do
nothing.*

~Lori Deschene

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