

Remarkables Rambler



April 2024

Next Business Meeting: May 1

Programme Meeting: May 15

Duty committee:

May: Social

Service Hours: from May 2023 YTD -

339

Breakdown this month:

Meals on Wheels: 20 hours

Altrusa Websites-click on link

[Altrusa International](#)

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[Richardson](#)

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Upcoming Events:

Annual Altrusa Conference: 3, 4th, and 5th May at Novotel, Hamilton

Changeover Night: May 15

International Day of Families: May 15

Past and Upcoming Service:

Meal on Wheels – April 8 - 12

Anzac Day - Thursday 25 April

Salvation Army Collection - May 10

From your President:

Hi ladies,

Been on holiday mode. At the moment in Brisbane. But giving thanks to our vollies for Meals on Wheels lately and reading in Schools.

Looking forward to Conference in Hamilton.

Keep on going well Altrusa ladies.

Ngaire

Notices – Birthdays

May 7: Betty

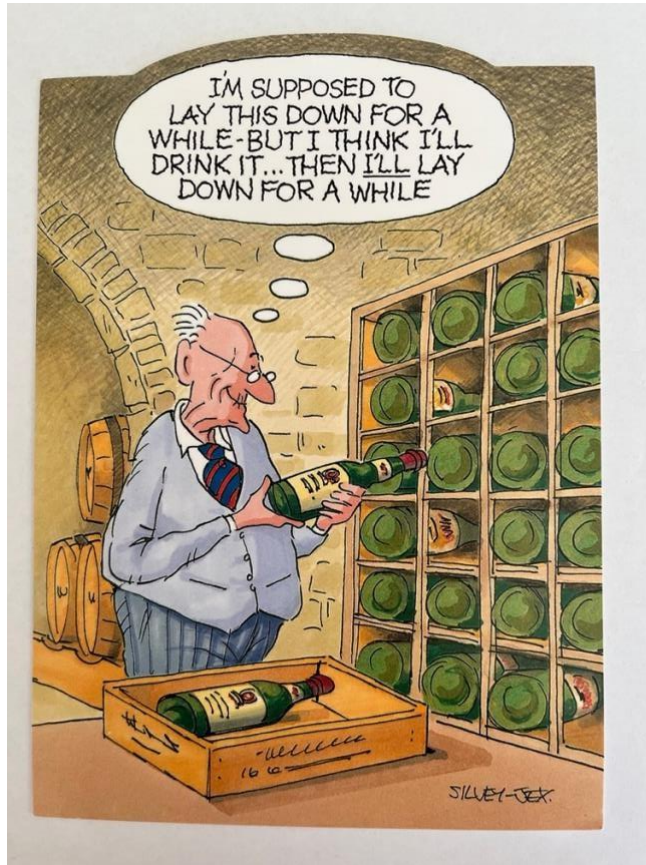


Coffee Catch Up:

Sunday 28th April. Location 11th Avenue by Franks - **10:30 am**



AMUSEMENT PAGE



HOW WE PLAYED 'ONLINE'



BACK IN THE DAY



SERVICE/FUND RAISING IN APRIL

- Altrusa catered for a Lions meeting dinner at the Bowling Club on Wednesday 10th April - Russell Nieper dug his fabulous potatoes and donated these, pumpkin from Kate. Jan made a wonderful marinade for chicken breast plus Frozen peas. Marilyn made the most delicious chocolate brownie served with a tip top French vanilla ice cream. Hopefully made over \$400 for project fund - well worth the effort.
- Altrusa delivered Meals on Wheels – April 8-12

PLANS FOR NEXT DAYS/WEEKS

- Volunteers will assist RSA at Anzac Day on April 25 – thanks to those who have agreed to assist.
- The next school term for the Queenstown Primary School starts on 29 April so we will be looking for readers for Monday mornings from the 6 to the end of May – List/dates will be put together soon.
- Our next meeting on 1 May **will be our AGM** so committee chairs should be preparing their reports.
- Annual Altrusa Conference – 3 – 5 May in Hamilton – Nagaire, Margaret, Kate, Kay and Betty will participate.
- The Salvation Army next collection day will be on Friday, 10 May. Please volunteer to help with the collection at Pak n Save on 10 May.
- Plans are under way for our Changeover Dinner on 15 May, invitations will be out soon.

TRAVEL CORNER

SOUTH KOREA AND JAPAN (Betty Hanan)



In March/April my husband and I joined seven friends in visits to South Korea and Japan.

In Seoul, our group had contracted with a tourism company a 9-seater van with driver to take us around various sights. One visit was to the Changing of the Guard at the Gyeongbokgung Palace (pictures 1 and 3) built in the 14th century, presenting an impressive traditional religious ceremony carried out twice a day. In picture 2, you can see some young women in traditional dress. They happened to be visiting from Taiwan and had rented their costumes locally for the occasion. Indeed, many tourists (Eastern and Western and men and women) rented these costumes to get with it for the occasion.

By any measure **South Korea is a developed country**. In one avenue in Seoul, we counted 7 vehicle lanes in each direction. The country's GDP is 14th in the world, which is remarkable for a country with a geographic area about 85% of NZ's, and which was devastated in the Korean war. They have 52 million people too, compared with only 5.12 million in NZ.

Our general impressions of Seoul were that it is extremely clean; we saw no paper, cigarette butts, or other discarded stuff on the ground anywhere. Also, no black splotches on the pavement, unlike many cities where people have discarded their chewing gum.

The large black Hyundai Genesis cars lined up for guests outside our Hotel Lotte (and black Maybach Mercedes cars at the neighboring Westin Hotel) were testament to the quality of service available for clients of the hotels. We were surprised, however, at the general lack of English, including staff at our hotel. We still wonder how South Korea has managed to be so successful with its highly productive and export-oriented economy when so many of its people have but a rudimentary grasp of English. One answer to this is the extraordinary focus the country places on education – technical education and the performing arts. Think Korean films. It ranks way up there with Singapore in educational attainment.

FUSHIMI INARI SHRINE – IMPORTANT SHINTO SHRINE IN SOUTHERN KYOTO, FAMOUS FOR 1000 TORY GATES



NIJO-JO CASTLE WORLD HERITAGE - KYOTO



YANAKA NEIGHBORHOOD, KNOWN AS THE BEST TRADITIONAL NEIGHBOURHOOD IN TOKYO



Tokyo is a huge metropolis with variously ultra-modern buildings and traditional architecture. The metropolitan area has about 37 million people. Our group's plans were to visit several Shinto shrines and Buddhist temples, in both Tokyo and Kyoto. By the end, some of our group felt thoroughly templed- and shrined-out!

We travelled to and from Kyoto on the Shinkansen bullet train, quite an experience cruising along at 200 kph. It is remarkable how Japanese trains run on time, really on time, to the minute. Like Seoul, Tokyo and Kyoto were conspicuously clean. In fact, it was hard to find a rubbish bin in the railway stations and other public places, presumably because there no rubbish, or may be the other way round.

As with South Korea we were surprised that in Japan English was not better understood. In our hotel the women servicing our rooms had no facility with English whatsoever.

We were struck by the classy dress sense of Japanese women, mostly dresses (long and short), and few jeans. My impression was, if we saw a tattoo it had to be a foreigner, and if it involved rings through the nose and face studs, it had to be a European.

An important reason for our travel at this time was to experience the cherry blossoms in Japan. It didn't disappoint. In our return visit to Tokyo the mostly white blossoms had burst out everywhere, including the areas near Mt Fuji which we visited on a one-day trip. A remarkable sight.

I could go on about the varied cuisine we enjoyed in Japan, from sophisticated restaurants serving traditional fare to bar-like street places specializing in traditional ramen (large bowls of noodles with boiled cabbage and various meats). The latter were surprisingly inexpensive.

This Month's Book Review:

Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus

I seem to be hooked into novels that are a commentary on the changing role of women, and the battles that women have fought to seek equality.

Lessons In Chemistry is another novel that addresses these issues, but this time in a thought provoking, and yet funny way. It is the story of research scientist, Elizabeth Zott, who after struggling to be taken seriously by her male colleagues, accidentally becomes a TV cook.

However, her approach is so different to the accepted norm, (she addresses her audience with respect and an acknowledgement that women can be intelligent!), she unexpectedly becomes a huge success. It is sad, it is funny, and it is life enhancing. I strongly recommend you should read. I found it on Borrowbox, as an e-book, from The Queenstown Library.

Margaret

What has our Club Sister being doing?

Altrusa International of Richardson divides service projects into several committee areas: Ability House, Community Outreach, Kindness Committee, and Scholarships. Under each committee, there are numerous smaller projects, which vary from year to year. Whenever service requests are received, we try to provide volunteers to serve the needs of the community.

Scholarships/Grants

