

Altrusa International of Timaru  
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 District Fifteen Website [www.altrusa.org.nz](http://www.altrusa.org.nz)  
 International Website [www.altrusa.org](http://www.altrusa.org)



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## Robyn's Reflection ....



Recently I was very interested to read about the meaning of the Altrusan logo. This neatly describes the essence of what it is to be an Altrusan.

Our organisation is based on three key principles: clarity, flexibility and inclusion. Clarity is shown by the clean lines of the ribbons; flexibility by the streams which take their own paths; inclusion by lines which begin and end together though we differ along the way in many different ways. The letter A for Altrusa is apparent with the blue ribbon forming the top of the letter and the other three ribbons forming the cross bars.

The blue line refers to our International base which links our districts across the oceans; the dark blue/grey line signifies the many different clubs across the world and yellow indicates the important role that young people hold in Altrusa as they are the future of our organization. The brilliant red line is a very special one; it is the color of the heart and the strength of Altrusans.

In our club, I see many examples of the red line: the generous donation of time and effort to support needs within our community; mentoring new members to find their way; supporting one another when a member or their partner is unwell; helping our own families with the challenges that they face along the way. Thank you to my fellow Altrusans for your generous hearts as well as your strength to sustain the caring work which you undertake for the benefit of a better community.

Yours in Altrusa,

Robyn Brien



## 2023 -2024 Board Members

### President

Robyn Brien

### President Elect

Jenette Borrell

### Minute Secretary

Marie Hendry

### Corresponding Secretary

Gillian Allan

### Treasurer

Raewyn Hutton

Joan Watson

### Directors

Jan Bolton

Evelyn Robinson

Cathie Weith

### Immediate Past President

Karen Liddy

## 2023 -2024 Committee Chairs

### Service

Lorraine Watkins

### Literacy

Maureen Skinner

### Membership

Donna McColl

### Communications

Marilyn Ross

## Dates to Diary

### April

- 2 Board Meeting at Robyn's 5:30pm
- 6 Membership Muster Zest 10:15am
- 9 Business Meeting at the Holy Family Parish Centre 5:30pm
- 23 Programme Meeting at the Holy Family Parish Centre 5:30pm



**Happy Birthday!**

### May

- 1 Board Meeting at Robyn's 5:00pm - Food and drinks
- 2 Positive Ageing Expo – Caroline Bay Hall
- 4 Membership Muster Zest 10:15am
- 3-5 District Fifteen Conference in Hamilton
- 14 Business Meeting WCC 5:30pm
- 22 Pink Ribbon Breakfast
- 26 Fabric & Craft Fair
- 28 **Change Over**

build safety give learn trust  
togetherness responsibility support  
goals connected trust  
creating needs open  
community  
shared giving positive  
dedicated awareness  
listening helpful inclusion  
membership acceptance  
belonging satisfaction

# Donation Presentations



Towards the end of last year, President Robyn welcomed representatives from Learning For You South Canterbury, and Look Good, Feel Better and presented them with funds raised from last year's successful Fabric Bazaar. Learning For You received \$1500 to help families with children needing specialised literacy support, and Look Good, Feel Better received \$500 to support their programme with cancer patients when they are receiving treatment.

Altrusa members always feel privileged to be able to make a difference in their community.



# Committee Chatter

## Membership:

We held an Orientation at the Programme meeting last month and included a lot of information via a slide show and talking through it all. Admittedly it was a lot of information and it is tricky to get the right balance, so we followed it up with a game of Altrusa Bingo for a bit more fun and test the knowledge we had just given you 😄 If anyone wanted any of the information to sift through to double check it, or to gain knowledge to share with others and a potential new Altrusan, please ask Jenny to send it to you via email.

(Save the trees 🌲 🌳 🌴)

We are going to get together with President Elect Jenette to talk about how to support her for Changeover. Lovely for those who continue to support Membership Muster when they can. Feel free to invite friends along to this casual get together or any meetings as well, in order to see what we are all about.

**Donna McColl**  
**Membership Chair**

## Literacy:

The beginning of the year saw the Literacy Committee planning for Children's Day - checking books in storage, accessing more books and boxing them age appropriately. We got together on several occasions to facilitate these jobs.

Since then, we have been planning for the April Meetings. It is our Birthday month so be prepared for a celebration at our Programme Meeting.

**Maureen Skinner**  
**Literacy Chair**

## Service:

As a committee we have worked very well together. Hard to believe our year is nearly up. When we have worked together everyone has helped in any way they can. (I'm thinking about the afternoon teas we did) Thank you Jenette for taking over the programme meeting in February while I was away.

**Lorraine Watkins**  
**Service Chair**

## Communications:

We had a busy end of last year with our Be a Santa to A Senior project. This year our committee was responsible for setting up a display in the library for Altrusa Awareness Week. Unfortunately we didn't have quite the space as we have had in the past, however the ladies created an interesting and informative display highlighting some of our projects. We have recently printed more copies of our Altrusa brochures and business cards. We are going to give some business cards to each member to keep in their wallet. They are a valuable and easy tool to hand out to friends, colleagues and acquaintances to give them an idea of what Altrusa is all about. The cards and brochures provide a link to our Facebook page. We hope members will use these to spread the word about Altrusa. A great big thank you to the Communications Committee ladies for their willingness to get involved and support our organization.

**Marilyn Ross**  
**Communication Chair**



*Eye catching Library display.*

# An Altrusa Accent

## What Is an Altrusa Member?

The Altrusa member today is the only one who says it CAN be done. She has suffered losses and defeats - yet she tries again.

She is the one who is so bold to make a past to remember and a future to mould.

So here's to Altrusa and all her members who continue to say "I CAN."

*The Altrusan today is:*

*A—Active and alert*

*L—Learned and loyal*

*T—Thinking and thorough*

*R—Receptive and responsive*

*U—Unassuming and unbeatable*

*S—Scintillating and selective*

*A— Accepted and accomplished*

The Altrusan today is true to herself, to her fellow man, to her community, and to her country.

She is the one who will continue to say "I CAN AND I WILL."

*Reprinted from District Eleven.*

## Club Projects and Fundraisers

### Christmas Raffle

Once again the annual Christmas Raffle in support of the Literacy Scholarship was well patronised by the public, and raised the \$1500 needed for the successful Scholarship recipient.

Jenette produced a magnificent basket of Christmas fare for the winner, and Mary baked and decorated a delicious fruit cake as second prize. The quality and appearance of the prizes definitely attracted the ticket buyers.

Members willingly added their names to the roster for the selling days at the New World Supermarket, Artisan Farmer's Market and Rose Festival stall.

Many thanks to all who helped.

**T**ogether **E**veryone **A**chieves **M**ore!

**Karen Liddy**



*May in selling mode at New World.*

## Literacy Scholarship

A lovely group of 5 ladies organised forms and regulations. Advertising by posters, radio and social media (Thanks Jenny) and emails got the information out to the public.

We received requests from 18 people. We then sent out application forms and a few extra reminders to get 10 completed applications with applicants starting at age 16 thru to 64 years old.

The amazing Scholarship Committee chatted and discussed the options. Our numbers came down to 4 applicants. For the first time this year we did an interview via Zoom. We had a very difficult decision this year but with the help of Les Jones we were able to make a great choice.

Our Scholarship winner is Liz Huddleston a 30-year-old woman, residing in South Canterbury and studying from Timaru Ara as a satellite student in the Bachelor of Midwifery programme. Liz has been an Ambulance Officer for the last 12 years in Canterbury and Hawke's Bay. For the last two years, she has been employed as a casual covering shifts on the Ambulance in South Canterbury when her study allows and in the summer break. She enjoys the lifestyle South Canterbury provides and wishes to be a community self-employed midwife in South Canterbury when she graduates at the end of 2024.

Liz says "I am at the end of my second year studying for a Bachelor of Midwifery. It is a four-year degree condensed into three years with 45 study weeks per year and five weeks of leave between the second and third years. The on-call nature of Midwifery, even during the student phase, adds an extra layer of complexity to the academic journey. Balancing coursework with unpredictable on-call responsibilities requires a commitment beyond the typical demands of a university programme. This reality is further intensified by the restriction on working a job while pursuing the degree, amplifying financial strain for students. Another cost is needing to do my practical sessions in the North Island."

**Gillian Allan**  
Scholarship Chair

**Know**  
your passion.  
**Follow it.**  
Dream it. Live it.



*Scholarship Chair Gillian, recipient Liz and President Robyn after the presentation.*

## Pack a Pencil Case

Early November saw a great turnout of members plus our lovely friends Kathleen, Isobel and Denise from the Geraldine Patchwork group which meant we reached our target ahead of schedule! We had a very efficient assembly line which resulted in 85 Pencil Cases being completed, with 15 more to be finished thus not needing our second day of sewing!! These pencil cases were filled with essential stationery items ready for the 2024 school year in late January and given to 9 schools and the Refugee Resettlement Service. Our hope was to alleviate some of the stress families face when providing their children with their "Back to School" stationery needs.

This project was helped by the generosity of the Timaru Sewing Centre and Coin Max who discounted zips and contents respectively. We made use of Back-to-School stationery sales as well to keep our costs down.



*Thank you so much. We have received the pencil cases, and they are beautiful. What a caring and kind donation.*

*We have children who would not otherwise have had a pencil case, and these are so special.*



You ladies are absolute gems, thank you all so much 😊

We need to plan a sewing day very soon so that another 100 pencil cases can find happy homes here in South Canterbury at the beginning of Term 3 – hope you will be free to help when a date is set?



## Cuddle Hearts

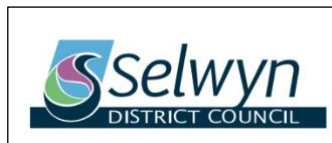
Alongside our pencil case sewing, another batch of 86 Cuddle Hearts were also sewn. These have made their way to NICU at Christchurch hospital, where they will be used to enhance bonding between mums and their babies where physical cuddles are initially not possible. Sets of 3 cuddle hearts which have been sanitised are given to each baby on arrival, by Lisa Paget, who began this project seeing a need in our NICU.

Lisa's thank you.

*"Thank you so much Altrusa International of Timaru, Geraldine Patchwork and Craft Group and friends for your wonderful hearts. I appreciate it so much".*

There is always a need for cuddle hearts with 1000 babies passing through the Christchurch NICU each year and while this isn't a major project for our Club, I do have fabric ready for cutting into hearts using the official pattern if anyone wants a wee task over winter 😊

Jenny Bevin



**Selwyn Awards 2023**  
**Community Volunteering**  
**Winner: Lisa Paget**

## Bags of Love to Timaru E D and Children's Ward

During the year, Glenda and May amassed approximately 16 to 20 gift bags for both the E.D. and Children's Ward at our local hospital. The gifts were sourced from members, friends and/or purchased at local Op Shops and Coin Max.

A variety of items were contained in each bag. e.g. small knitted dolls, finger puppets, small cars, a variety of small toys, puzzles, pencils, paper and always a book or books.

These have been gratefully received in both areas but certainly a 'quieting' gift in E.D. where waiting can be tedious for toddlers!

Staff in both areas expressed pleasure and maybe some surprise to receive these from Glenda, Gaya and May during November 2023.

This small Project has now been completed over a series of years and is a pleasure to accomplish.

**Glenda Galletly & May Mason**



*Gaya delivering the Bags of Love.*

## Rose Festival Stall

As usual, we had our stall down at Caroline Bay at the Rose Festival, which was, once again, very successful. The final amount after expenses was \$558.00. Although I wasn't there in the afternoon, I believe the nor'wester arrived and damaged our gazebo beyond repair! Money was evidently flying around, which bystanders helped gather up for those who were there. Fortunately, our baking had all sold when this happened, so it was an early finish to the afternoon.

A huge thank you to those who provided the lovely baking and helped packaging on the Saturday. Thanks to those who helped set up and those who were rostered on to help. It is always very much appreciated.

**Raewyn Hutton  
& Glenda Galletly**



*Glenda and Jenette arranging the Christmas treats for sale.*

## Be a Santa to a Senior

This year we were privileged as a club to run this worthwhile project again. This year we received requests from 8 Care Facilities with a total of 36 gifts requested for their residents.

The Christmas tree was set up in the local library and over a two-hour period members of the public came into the foyer and selected their wish. This year publicity on our Face Book page as well as the Community Notice Board attracted many positive affirming comments for the project.

The Communications Committee then wrapped all the gifts and attached cards which had kindly been made by the Mountain View High School's Junior students and teachers. These were delivered to the Elderly Care facilities by members of our committee. You can see by the photos that residents were thrilled to receive their special gift. A big Thank You to Lois, Gillian and other members of the committee for all their hard work.

Altrusa is getting a positive response as well as exposure in the community from their involvement in this very worthwhile project.

**Marilyn Ross**



## Children's Day



*Maureen, Gill, Karen and Glenda set up and ready for the children to come and choose some books.*

On Saturday 2nd March, Literacy Committee members met at Karen's house to transport all the children's books to the Caroline Bay Hall. Then on the Sunday we met again at 8.30 to put up the new gazebo, erect tables and display the books in appropriate age groups. We then watched the stall, topping up the books as necessary. Rostered Altrusans helped. Families were slow coming at first but after lunch we were very busy. Thank you to the Literacy Committee and Altrusans who gave time to support us.

**Maureen Skinner**

## International Women's Day: March 8th

Timaru Altrusans marked this very special day by giving away 150 home baked biscuits.

Anzac biscuits, afghans, shortbread and chocolate chip cookies which had been individually wrapped, were offered to members of the public as they entered CBay and the District Library. There were many happy customers particularly the library staff who said that the gift had lifted their spirits. Overseas travellers who were on a day visit from their tourist ship in port were delighted by the gesture.

It was lots of fun talking to members of the public as well as having the opportunity to bring a little joy into someone's day.

### President Robyn



President Robyn at the library.

Raewyn at CBay with almost empty baskets!



## Movie Fundraiser for Pack a Pencil Case Project

Michael Caine and Glenda Jackson starring as Bernie and Rene Jordan kept us captivated telling their story of how Bernie became known as "the great escaper". Both these actors were brilliant in their roles with the movie having a mix of sadness and humour.

I am sure, like me, you all enjoyed 'The Great Escaper'.

Thank you to all members who sold tickets so we could have a full theatre on the night and to my 'Pack a Pencil Case' team who worked hard on all the finer details of the fundraiser, especially Glenda who organised the raffle which I believe brought in \$400 – awesome effort.

Thank you, Zest Restaurant, and CBay Cafe for the donation of vouchers as prizes for lucky ticket numbers, Glenda for the raffle first prize, Cheryl Blanchard for raffle prizes and all members who donated generously to lucky ticket prizes.

We live in a generous community, and it is always nice to show appreciation of their support by having Goody Bags as a thank you and Lucky Ticket prizes at the conclusion.

Many have asked when our next movie night is on, so watch this space!

Jenny Bevin



# Social Occasions

## Christmas Lunch '23



Mid-way through November, Altrusans alongside some of their husbands, gathered at the Holy Family Parish Centre to celebrate a Christmas lunch together.

Caterers supplied a delicious selection of Christmas favourites which were enjoyed by those present. Thanks to Glenda and Maureen, the tables looked beautiful with an array of Christmas themed decorations, plus a decorated Christmas tree for Secret Buddy gifts to be put under, added to the festive feel.

The warm and friendly atmosphere, entertaining company and tasty food, made for a great beginning to everyone's festive season.

Secret Buddy Christmas gifts were distributed - but not all of them made it home unopened!

A pleasant occasion to finish off a busy year - thank you organisers.

**Karen Liddy**

## Kickstarting 2024



Our Altrusa year began on the 29 January with a very pleasant picnic at the Scenic Reserve. A dozen or more Altrusans including spouses, enjoyed the opportunity to catch up with each other after the summer break while we ate and drank from our picnic baskets. Lots of laughs, lots of chatter on a lazy Sunday afternoon.

**President Robyn**

## District Fifteen News

### Notes from District.....

With Conference only 4 weeks away the focus now is completing all the little details to ensure the weekend runs smoothly. It's hoped that attendees will return to their clubs with some fresh ideas about service and a renewed enthusiasm for all the things we do in our communities and in our clubs.

There will be the usual pre and post conference in person Board meetings. Zoom meetings are great for updates on what's happening in the District and for keeping the business of District ticking along but we do look forward to being together with a chance to talk, brainstorm, discuss options... and of course in Hamilton we will also have the International Visitor, Chris de Vleiger attend the meetings.

The dates for the four Area IFF Days will also be confirmed at that time so look out for these being sent to clubs after conference.

Remember the Foundation Auction at Conference - perhaps there may be members not attending, but who would like some tickets in the auction purchased on their behalf?

Remember also to note your Intentional Acts of Kindness and pass them on to President Robyn for recording on the International Website.

**Jenette Borrell**  
Co Governor

## International News

At the beginning of her biennium, Altrusa International President Linda Smith introduced this idea to encourage Altrusans worldwide to really **R.O.C.K.**

Each club report completed by Club Presidents at the end of the year will include the number of Intentional Acts of Kindness members have carried out.



President Linda said ....

A new initiative is **Intentional Acts of Kindness**.

Motivated by Wyatt, who gave us kindness stars at the Charlotte Convention, I am asking each Altrusan to commit one **intentional** act of kindness each week of the biennium.

The acts can be simple or complicated – you choose. Meeting this challenge will result in over 300,000 intentional acts of kindness each year of the biennium.

Please report your progress on the service page on the Altrusa International website.

## BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

### March

18 Helen Henderson

### April

1 Donna McColl

24 Sally Marsh

28 Marilyn Ross

### May

18 Maureen Skinner



## Our Best Wishes and Love to ...

Helen – we enjoy catching up with you  
for a coffee

Susan – thinking of you and sending  
positive wishes

Jan – keeping you in our thoughts







# What's On?

## Membership Muster

1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month

Zest Restaurant - 10:15 am

## Happy Birthday Timaru Altrusa!

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April

*Come and celebrate at the  
Programme Meeting*



## District Fifteen Conference

3rd -5th May

Hamilton

*Support Foundation by buying  
raffle tickets*

## Pink Ribbon Breakfast

22nd May from 8am

*Hosted by Raewyn & Glenda at  
Raewyn's house*

## Changeover

28<sup>th</sup> May

*Details to come*

## Fabric & Craft Fair

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May

Westend Hall

10am – 12pm

*Are you able to help?*

## Pencil Case Sewing Days

8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> June

*Save the dates and watch for  
more info!*

# Thank You Secret Buddy!

Thank you to my Secret Buddy for my Christmas and Easter gifts, both were gratefully received and put to very good use. Thanks for thinking of me on both occasions.

**Jenny**

A big thank you to my secret buddy for the card when I was sick.

**Irene**

Thank you to my secret buddy for my lovely Christmas present, also baking when we had Covid, my birthday present which was very appreciated, and lastly my Easter gift which arrived in the post.

**Nola**

A big thank you very much to my Secret Buddy for my lovely Easter treats and beautiful card full of lovely wishes. Shared with my husband 🍷🐰

**Jan**

I would just like to thank my Secret Buddy for the lovely cupcakes from Millie Rose that were delivered to me. They were yummy, I did share them with my two grandies who were here for afternoon tea. I have recovered well from my recent surgery.

Many thanks for the lovely Easter goodies and soap I found in my box this morning. Thank you for your persistence in delivering my goodies as I was away and I believe a return trip was made. Thank you for your dedication.

**Marilyn**

To the Altrusa Birthday angel, thank you for my beautiful birthday card I received for my birthday. It was such a lovely surprise to get this. As for my secret buddy, you are so wonderful and generous. Thank you so much. I got home last night from the Fairlie show to find that that the Easter Bunny had been to visit. Thank you so much to my generous buddy.

**Gillian**

Thank you to my Secret Buddy for the lovely Easter treat.

**Raewyn**

Thank you, Secret Buddy, for the cute and delicious Easter treats! The beautiful card accompanying the treats was very much appreciated as well. Thank you for your kindness.

**Karen**

Thank you very much for my Christmas present of a photo frame. I now have a lovely photo of my granddaughter and myself on her graduation day displayed in it.

On reading Karen's thank you I optimistically went and looked in my letter box. I was not disappointed. Thank you to my Altrusa Buddy for the lovely card and yummy Whethers original. Someone knows I don't eat chocolate.

**Many thanks, Maureen**

Dear ladies, thank you very much for my birthday card from Altrusa and delivered in person by May ♥ which was very special. Love and thanks to you all.

**Love Donna ♥**

Thank you for the gorgeous gift of special 'spoiling products' which secretly got into my mail box.

There is not much I miss from my window but a very professional sleuth managed to put the gift in the box secretly. THANK YOU BUDDY!

**May**

Thank you very much to my Secret Buddy for her kind Easter card and gift left in my letterbox over the Easter weekend.

The kindness shown was very much appreciated, thank you again.

**Gill**

Thank you so much for my Easter gift. I've hidden it so others don't get into it.

**Lorraine**



*Our Secret Buddy organiser Judith would like you to please get in touch with her if you would like to opt out of being a Secret Buddy for the next Altrusan year.*

## Karen's Jottings as Editor

It's great to see a number of members submitting items to be included in this edition of our newsletter. Thank you sincerely, as I know it all takes time away from your other activities. Grateful thanks also to Raewyn for collating the articles, and following up on any that may have been overlooked. You all make my job easier!

Apologies for the quality of the Christmas lunch photos and also one or two others – I'm not sure what was going on with my photography skills on those occasions!

I enjoy reading through the submissions and smiling as I look at the photos, when I'm putting the newsletter together. It's a great chance to reflect on our club's activities and especially our commitment to continuing to make a difference in our community. Well done to each and everyone of you for the contribution you've made with your time, energy and skills to serve in true Altrusan style.

Remember to check out the "Save the Date" page of the newsletter and make a mental or diary note of things you may be able to get involved with.

Until the next edition, continue to make the most of the last of the Autumn days before Winter sets in.

Take care,  
Karen

