

ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL  
CLUB OF TE KUITI  
**NEWSLETTER**



"THE WOOLLY WAFFLER": September 2025

PRESIDENT:	Colleen Strahan
PRESIDENT Elect:	Caroline Davidson
LITERACY:	Colleen Strahan Kim Henderson-Pyne
SERVICE:	Marg Johnstone
MEMBERSHIP:	Trish Neal
SECRETARY:	Minutes - Robyn Stephens Correspondence - Helen Verry
TREASURER:	Mary Scobie
SUNSHINE LADY:	Raewyn Flexman
SPEAKERS:	Mary Anderson
NEWSLETTER:	Ros Snow



Our celebration cake, made by Jenni Templeton, delicious, and beautifully iced by Maureen Fitzgerald.



Leeane Milligan from Te Awamutu, a former International President, with former members Raewyn Constable, Colleen Strahan, Dianne Forgeson, Gaylene Cumpston and Lorraine Brough

Kia ora koutou, Hello everyone and welcome to the September issue of the Woolly Waffler.

It has been a very busy month beginning with our 25th Anniversary of the Te Kuiti Club being formed, celebrated with a Buffet Dinner at the Panorama Restaurant on 2nd September. This event was well attended and was a great evening of lively chatter.

Our next event was the Market stall on Saturday 6th September. We had lots of lovely baking and preserves to sell as well as plants and all sorts of Bric-a-brac. Despite it being a very rainy day with not so many shoppers around we made a total of \$768.00 which was an outstanding effort by all. Thanks to all the helpers who braved the weather. No photo, sorry, I forgot, blame the weather!

Then we held our September Book Awards for Primary students at Centennial Park School on 11th September. The guest speaker was Liz Roberts, the resource teacher for Literacy from our area.

The IFF Day was on 20th September.

### Coming up:

Next meeting, Tuesday 7th October  
Apologies for October meeting to Gaylene please

Remember a donation for the Food Bank please



Leeane with current foundation members, Colleen and Gaylene



Greetings Ladies,

Talking about birds – we have a bird table on which Bruce places (twice a day) a nectar jar for the Tuis. We are watching the Tuis having to battle with Greenfinches, & all the other finches, and now sparrows for a place on the table, and wonder if we are changing the eating habits of some birds. Even a Korero had a taste. Also, over the winter we have found bees drowned – or nearly – in the nectar dish. Bird watching (not forgetting the 50 quail on the lawn) is a great way to spend some time!

Our two weeks in Taupo resulted in a revamp of our daughter's garden and some exhaustion. However, the end result is satisfying. Izzy was a happy cat until a cousin dog came to stay – Belle. Izzy tolerated Belle until her space was invaded, then there was a short spat which Izzy won, of course! Bruce had to act as referee while I spent a Saturday in Morrinsville at the IFF Day.

That day was full of ideas on how to raise money – not really helpful for Te Kuiti – and activities to help in the community. Of some interest was coping with members who were not happy with the club, and leave. I would hope if one of us was unhappy there would be some communication to another member, and the situation discussed to resolve the problem – so do let me know. I assured the lady sitting next to me that we were a very happy lot, enjoyed each other's company, and worked well together.

Quite a few of the ideas we already do, or have done - Literacy programmes, Refuge support, knitting for babies, support for overseas projects. One I thought worth local enquiry, (for the knitters), was scarves for RSA members. We tied up 75 scarves for the Morrinsville RSA which were to be distributed on ANZAC Day next year.

A Zoom meeting with Beth in USA and Dan in NZ was informative – concerning Active Hearts, a newly set up foundation to assist with building libraries in Nepal - concentrating on reference type books for students at schools & Universities, rather than “reading for pleasure” books. They also help build schools and orphanages. Altrusa NZ is supporting this as an overseas project & suggest clubs pick it up.

Our dinner to celebrate 25 years of meeting was deemed an happy time. We had several visitors from Hamilton & Te Awamutu, and it was great to welcome back Sandra, Dianne, Raewyn and Lorraine for the evening. The cake Jenni made was beautifully decorated with the Altrusa logo, by Maureen, an earlier member. Ros & Owen put together a super PowerPoint of members & activities, which played all evening. Amazing to see how we all look and looked over the last 25 years!!

Leanne presented Gaylene & me with 25yr badges and Jude with her 20yr badge. Jenni is to receive her 20yr badge this month. Well Done Us!

See you all on the 7<sup>th</sup> Oct. 5.30pm ish.....Colleen.



“Kindness is like snow. It beautifies everything it covers”. - Kahlil Gibran





Jude received her 20 year pin from Leanne at our 25th celebration dinner.



Gaelene received her 25 year pin from Leanne.



Colleen, our current President received her 25 year pin as well.



Colleen welcoming everyone.



The delicious spread we had to choose from.



After the meal and now the cake.



The September Book Awards were held at Centennial Park School.

Our guest speaker, Liz Roberts explained about the two types of magic that reading gives, one for the magic of being able to go about our everyday lives and the other for the magic of seeing into and knowing about the future. The evening was well attended and most of the recipients were there to collect their books. Each student recieved a



Liz, Colleen, Kim and Gwenda





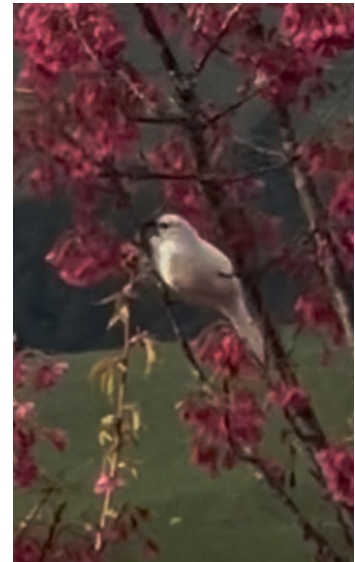
# Photo Gallery



Two of our members, Helen and Caroline, on tour with a group of past and present Piopio/Te Kuiti 'girls' travelling up the coast of Norway from Bergen to Kirkenes and back.



Mary Anderson's grandsons, Roman, above, MVP under 15 rugby at te Awamutu College and Jesse, left, receiving his tie for playing his 10th game for Te Awamutu College 1st 15 and proud Mum, Sarah, Mary's daughter.

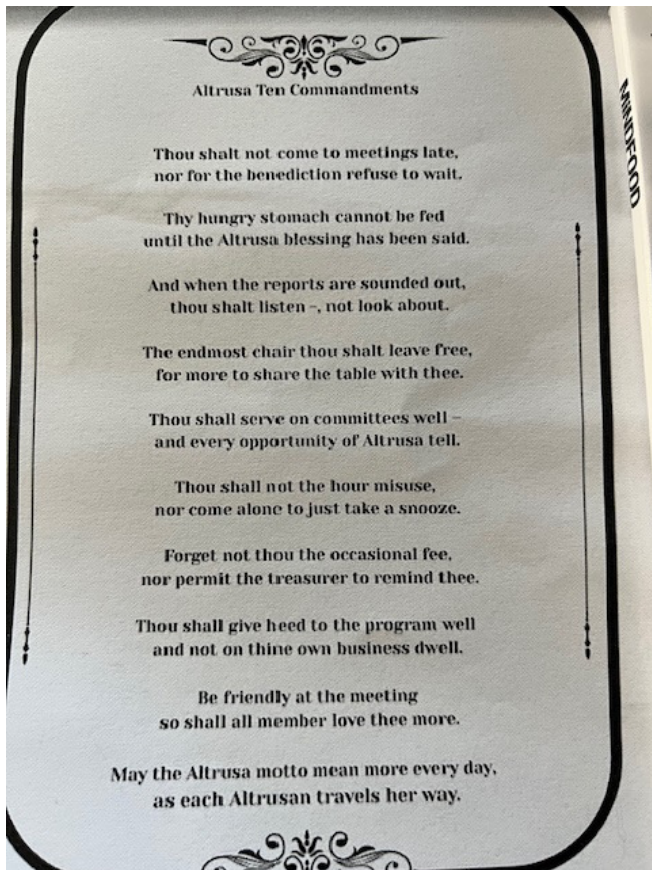


A white Tui in the Cherry tree in Jenni's garden. A very rare sight.



Mary in Bruges, Belgium, and out at a Persian Restaurant in Harrow, England with her Mum who is now 99!





Colleen and Gaelene attended the IFF day, Information, Fun and Friendship, in Morrinsville on 20th September. These Ten Commandments were read out on the day.



A Snippet from the current District 15 newsletter

### Governor's Message from Margaret Melhop

We are now 2 months into the new year. I hope all of the new Presidents are finding their feet, and our Clubs have some great plans for upcoming projects and fundraisers. Presidents, please remember, there is a team of people available to help with any questions you may have. Check the District Directory for people to contact. In July, I was part of a team of 5 Altrusans from District Fifteen who attended the Altrusa International Convention in Quebec, Canada. As expected, it was educational, informative, rewarding and fun. I believe we can look forward to a great future, with a very strong team leading the International arm of our organisation. Chris DeVlieger, has some great ideas to expand on the achievements of our past President, Linda. Watch out for news from International, and please take the time to read. On that subject, your Kiwi Altrusan DSB team, put in a lot to ensure we can share news from around the District. Your DSB comes to you via an email from International. If you know of members who think these emails are not for them, please remind them not to delete, but open and read. Sharing our ideas, our projects and our successes is how we can all help each other to learn and grow, and stay motivated. The DSB is an important tool to bring us all together. Your District Board members are busy planning this years IFF Days. I do hope you can think seriously about attending them. They are another way we can connect with our wider membership, learn and soak up the benefits of belonging to Altrusa. Get together as a Club and plan a day/night away with your Altrusa friends. Let's all 'Share the Journey'.

Margaret Melhop  
Governor Altrusa District Fifteen



Colleen has enjoyed her time 'cat sitting' Izzy in Taupo, who wouldn't enjoy looking after this Princess!



A new garden Colleen created while she was there. I wonder if Izzy helped!



## Happy Birthday

In September to:  
Marg Johnston  
Elaine Duder  
Hilary Lynch  
Jenni Templeton