

“THE WOOLLY WAFFLER”: October 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

Kia ora Koutau, hello to all and welcome to the October Woolly Waffler.
Not so many events on this month but still some important projects to be aware of.
October is time to Make a Difference and our project is the No Sew blankets we have created for the Women's Refuge.
Two king single blankets and two cot blankets were completed.



Our speaker for our October meeting was one of our own, Elaine Duder.

Elaine kept us entertained with tales of her 35 day trip through Central Asia in May and June, accompanied with amazing photos.

They visited 5 of the “Stan” countries starting in Turkmenistan then Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan and Krygyzstan. It was interesting to hear about the geography, including mountains and steppes, the very old history and the very restricted lifestyles of the people. Despite this, the people were very friendly and regularly still wore their national costume.

Interestingly, Elaine also experienced how corruption works in countries like these. They are rich countries with abundant reserves of oil.

The architecture was amazing with highly decorated buildings and mosques with incredible mosaics and tiling. Also many monuments everywhere they went.

She shared her experiences with the local foods, horse meat and a local dish called Plov which was a very strong mutton stew, not to Elaine's taste!

The local craft was beautiful, silk production and woven silk carpets, pottery and hand painted plates, and wool felting. Thank you Elaine.



Mary thanking Elaine, holding one of the art works she brought back.





CHATTER FOR OCTOBER 2025 WOOLLY WAFFLER

Greetings Ladies on a very windy day in southern parts of the country. We are fortunate to live in an area that doesn't have the extremes that some of our compatriots have.

Marg, Bruce & I are off to Havelock North to cycle some of the trails round there. We're hoping the weather will be kind!

It was good to see Helen & Caroline are back safely from their travels but commiserate with Caroline on her days of unwellness in Copenhagen. Pleasing to know she managed to meet the others and journey north up the Norwegian coast then on to England.

I have organised the Constitution, Agenda & Minute notes for the special meeting we will have at the beginning at the next meeting. I'll attach the twenty-eight pages with the Agenda next week. If you get a minute, read all the words as you have to vote on them! I have had help from John Whyte at Macaw Lewis and Leanne so we have everything correct. Be good to have it all sorted before Christmas.

Marg has suggested we take some goodies to the three medical centres for Make a Difference Day – I'd like to add John Whyte & the team, including Dianne Forgeson, to that suggestion. What do you think?

I am enjoying the rhododendrons beginning to flower in the garden this week. Next week Lisa & I, with friends, are attending the Rhododendron Conference, where we will visit gardens around Cambridge, including the Hamilton Gardens. We will see some amazing plantings & will hear how to create such places. All I need is a fadge full of energy!

Take care out there over Labour Weekend.

Colleen

"Colour can speak to the soul in a thousand different ways"Oscar Wilde



Mary and Colin in Bangkok on their way back from the UK. They met up with Peachy, their exchange student from a few years ago.



Jenni and Elaine on the Toru track.



Trish conducted the Induction ceremony for our new member Mary-Anne Goddard. She used a theme of the Altrusa attributes being likened to fruit so Mary-Anne collected a basket of fruit along with her Certificate and other gifts.



Jenni received her 20 year badge from Colleen, Congratulations Jenni.



Our Altrusa members at the monthly Saturday market again, this time helping to raise funds for the local Lyceum Club.



In October to:

Gwenda Bryant
Raewyn Flexman
Trish Neal
Lisa Watkins



International Days for November

- 9th International Tongue Twister Day
- 13th World Kindness Day
- 16th International Day for Tolerance
- 19th International Men's Day
- 21st World Hello Day
- 25th International Day of Elimination of Violence Against Women

Photo Gallery



Marilyn had the honour of cutting the cake at the 30 year anniversary of the Tatsuno Sister City celebration, along with the youngest school pupil who went on exchange this year. She escaped the picture!



Lisa's son with a very good catch at Exmouth, Western Australia.



Lisa's granddaughters Chloe and Ella with award winning lambs.



Flooding over Piopio viewed from the air by Gwenda.



The Mangaokewa River flooding in the town recently, taken by Jane.



Marg's driveway, she wasn't going out that day!



Helen and friends in Cornwall with Rosie Richardson.



Helen and Caroline at the Arctic circle monument in Norway. It is looking a bit cold!

Coming up:

2nd November Te Awamutu Garden Ramble, let Trish know if you want to go.

Next meeting: Tuesday 4th November
Wear a fancy hat (Melbourne Cup day)
Apolgies to Caroline please.

Food Bank donation please

**DISTRICT FIFTEEN CONFERENCE 42
in 2026 WELLINGTON**

**Date: 1st – 3rd May
Venue: Copthorne Hotel
Oriental Bay**