

Altrusa International of Timaru

Email President: president.timaru@altrusa.org.nz

Email Editor: timarualtrusa@gmail.com

Postal Address C/- 179 Otipua Road, Timaru 7910

Meetings held at Women's Community Centre Butler Street Timaru 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 5.30pm

District Fifteen Website www.altrusa.org.nz

International Website www.altrusa.org



Contents

Page 2 – President Marilyn

Page 3 - Board Members' Dates to Diary

Page 4 & 5 - Committee Chatter

Page 6 – Altrusa Accent

Page 7 – IFF Day

Page 8 - 14– Projects & Fundraisers

Page 14– Other Activities

Page 15– Member Update

Page 16 & 17– International & District News

Page 18 – Birthdays

Page 19 – What's Coming Up?

Page 20 - Secret Buddy Thanks & Karen's Jottings

“Hands Joined – Making a Difference”



From President Marilyn



What a changeable spring season we are having. Change is often something we struggle with. Our world, country and our community are going through huge changes. There are a lot of people being blown around in their lives by tough conditions.

As we delivered cans to Family Support this week I observed the huge areas of need in our own community. As Altrusans we search for opportunities to give to others, to lighten loads and give individuals and groups a helping hand. Thank you all for giving yourselves in service to others on a regular basis.

I trust that you continue to enjoy the camaraderie of working with like-minded individuals to make a difference in our community.

Thank you to those of you who have taken up new challenges or roles this year whether it is leading a project or being willing to help with the many fundraisers and projects we have been involved with.

I trust that you will grow and change as you are blown in a different direction.

Roll on the summer and a more settled season.

Yours in Altrusa,

Marilyn Ross



2025 -2026 Board Members

President

Marilyn Ross

President Elect

—

Secretary

Donna McColl/Gaya Griffin

Treasurer

Joan Watson

Directors

Gill Barratt

Jenny Bevin

Immediate Past President

Jenette Borrell

2025 - 2026 Committee Chairs

Service

Karen Liddy

Literacy

Jenny Bevin

Membership

Robyn Brien

Communications

Gillian Allan

Dates to Diary

November

- 1 Membership Muster - Evie's 10:15am
- 4 Board Meeting
- 6 *Christmas Raffle Selling*
New World Timaru
- 11 Business Meeting WCC 5.30 pm
- 12 *Christmas Raffle Selling*
New World Temuka
- 19 *Christmas Raffle Selling*
Woolworths Browne St
- 22 *Be a Santa to a Senior*
Library 10:30am – 12:30pm
- 25 *Christmas Raffle Selling*
New World Timaru
- 25 Programme Meeting WCC 5:30pm
- 29 *Pencil Case Sewing Bee –*
WCC 10am – 12pm

December

- 2 Board Meeting
- 7 *Rose Festival Baking Stall*
- 6 Membership Muster - Evie's 10:15am
- 9 *Christmas Get Together*

February 2026

- 3 Board Meeting
- 10 Business Meeting WCC 5:30pm
- 24 Programme Meeting WCC 5:30pm



Committee Chatter

Literacy:

The focus for the Literacy Committee has been working towards 'Baby Bags' for the Jean Todd Maternity Ward to celebrate International Literacy Day on September 8th. Jenny met with Linda Merrilees from Jean Todd to discuss the contents and how many we might need. 40 to 50 babies were expected during September, so we planned to do 40 – please see 'Baby Bag' report in this newsletter.

Kasey Holt from Pleasant Point was our speaker for the Programme meeting. She has recently written and published a children's book called 'Cotton at a Campsite'. Kasey shared her story and how writing the book was part of her 'just do it' year. Members took the opportunity to purchase some early Christmas gifts which Kasey happily signed and gifted us 4 copies of her book for Children's Day. It was great to welcome a speaker to our meeting, having not had one for quite some time.

We are now focussing on International Children's Day – first Sunday in March and have a meeting arranged in early November to brainstorm ideas with Anita Dawson, Youth Services Team Leader at the Timaru Library, as to how we can work together on Children's Day.

Thank you to my Literacy Committee for being such willing helpers – Joan C, Joan W, Cushla, Heather, Nola, Gill and Raewyn P.

Jenny Bevin
Committee Chair



Service:

Whether it's been sewing, baking, selling tickets, serving refreshments, collecting food donations or delivering finished project items to recipients, Service Committee Members have made themselves available to lend a hand with the variety of club projects and fundraisers whenever they've been able to. Thank you Cathie, Evelyn, Gaya, Glenda, Jan, Karen M and May for the service you provide, and your ongoing support.

Leading up to Christmas, the Service Committee is focusing on the delivery of some Christmas cheer to families being supported by Family Support. Our "Santa's Tasty Treats" project will see 30 bags decorated with Christmas designs and then filled with a selection of festive treats to be enjoyed by adults and children, delivered to Family Support in time for Christmas. With household budgets under pressure at this time of the year, we look forward to bringing a little extra happiness and joy to these families.

Karen Liddy
Service Chair



Membership:



October's Programme Meeting saw the Membership Committee treat members to a Black and White themed evening.

Delicious food and around the table discussions prompted by prepared questions, proved a successful recipe for allowing members to have fun and learn a little more about each other.

Robyn Brien
Committee Chair

Why Be a Volunteer?

It's not for the money, it's not for the fame.

It's not for any personal gain.

It's just for love of fellowman.

It's just to send a helping hand.

It's just to give a tithe of self.

That's something you can't buy with wealth.

It's not medals won with pride.

It's for that feeling deep inside.

It's that reward down in your heart.

It's that feeling that you've been a part

Of helping others far and near,

That makes you be a Volunteer!

IFF Day

Upper South Island 6th September

It was wonderful to be able to host the IFF day in Timaru this year. We were pleased to welcome Governor Elect Denys Astin to Timaru as the District 15 Board Representative.

IFF days are about Information, Fun and Fellowship and this IFF day certainly provided all of these. Denys gave us an update on District news and in particular the Active Heart Project. We welcomed four members from other clubs and there were three first timers at the day.

We enjoyed robust discussion, a game of Beetles as well as Hands on Service projects during the afternoon. We decorated bags and filled them for our Books and Beanies project, and we stitched merino hats that were put in these bags for new babies. We also decorated paper bags that will be filled with Christmas goodies and delivered to Family Support nearer Christmas. No IFF day would be complete without partaking in lovely food and the opportunity to make connections and share ideas. Thank you to our workshop organisers Jenny and Karen.

President Marilyn



Club Projects and Fundraisers

Pack a Pencil Case Project:

A student named Maddy, who appeared on 'Seven Sharp' was the catalyst for our Pack a Pencil Case Project 3 years ago! The idea was brought to a meeting for approval and so our journey making pencil cases for primary schools and social agencies began.

In July our meeting room was buzzing as we zipped, stitched and packed another 100 pencil cases and that last pencil case filled with stationery made a total of 500 since the project began, all distributed in the South Canterbury area to provide the tools to students to learn.

We are very thankful that members of our community come and assist with the sewing especially the ladies from the Geraldine Patchwork and Craft group. Their expertise with sewing machines and overlockers is very welcome on the day. Much preparation is done behind the scenes to get the pencil cases prepped for sewing day, but there is a need to come together to complete the project and at this time we learn much about each other as we trim, press and label each one.

Those receiving pencil cases at the beginning of Term 3 were a mix of schools and social agencies and all were well received and still much needed in our community.



Our next SEWING BEE is November 29th
10am – 12 noon in our meeting room – save the date!

Jenny Bevin

Women's Refuge:

With money raised from a Quiz Night, the Women's Refuge Project Committee got busy organising and implementing the second part of this project.

After discussions with staff, and as it was still winter time, it was decided that pyjamas, underwear, socks and some cosy blankets would be much appreciated by those being supported through Women's Refuge.

20 drawstring bags were sewn – 10 for boys and 10 for girls, covering ages 2 – 14, then these were filled with a pair of pyjamas, 2 pairs each of underwear and socks. A Tic-Tac-Toe game (made by one of the committee members) was added to the bags for the 7 - 14 year olds, and a soft toy was included in the bags for the younger age groups.

20 further pairs of pyjamas, additional underwear, socks and Tic-Tac-Toe games were also part of the items donated.

7 "No Sew Blankets" made by members at July's Programme Meeting not only looked beautiful, but will provide comfort and warmth to the young people receiving them.

Being able to support Women's Refuge by supplying often needed basics for children in times of crisis was our aim, so many thanks to the Committee responsible for sewing the bags,

shopping, making the games, and packing the bags. Also, thank you to the wider membership for your support with the fundraising and the making of the blankets.

In July when Committee Members delivered the results of their efforts, the Women's Refuge staff were delighted to accept Altrusa's generous donation, and we were assured the items donated would make a difference to many children and families over the coming months.

Karen Liddy



Manaaki Mat Covers:

One of the workshops at Conference earlier this year was the opportunity to make Manaaki Mat Covers. Manaaki Mats are a special cooling pack used in maternity wards, which allow families who have suffered the loss of a baby to hold and keep their baby close for as long as they need.

Finding out that our local maternity ward Jean Todd didn't have anyone sewing these for them, 6 of our members got together and held a sewing afternoon.

Jan and Joan took care of the cutting out, Lorraine, Cathie and Karen completed the sewing, and Gaya turned and pressed the envelope style covers. Within a few hours 70 covers in 4 different sizes were completed.

When three of the group delivered the covers to Jean Todd a few days later, Linda Merrilees, a nurse at Jean Todd, was grateful to receive them, and we were lucky enough to be shown around the unit which brought back many memories for all of us!

Thank you ladies for giving your time and hands on service for this small but very worthwhile project to happen.

Karen Liddy



Movie Night Fundraiser – Mr Burton:



A

Anna at Movie Max Timaru is very good at suggesting movies which might suit our club and so it was with 'Mr Burton'. Our fundraiser for community projects was held on August 27th.

A huge thank to our members who marketed and sold tickets to support this fundraiser and our community who attended on the night.

Glenda assembled two very attractive raffles with tickets flying out the door on the night

We gave out a small treat at the door consisting of two star-shaped shortbread biscuits and a chocolate. Thank you, bakers, for providing delicious shortbread and to members for packing it the evening before at a programme meeting. There was much laughter as you worked together.

A lucky ticket number provided surprises on the night for some attendees – thank you to members who provided a prize.

Thank you, Jenette, for keeping track of ticket sales – no mean feat I must say!

Just as "Mr Burton" an English teacher, saw potential in the young Richie Jenkins, Altrusa sees potential in the projects we become involved with - the pencil cases providing tools for literacy, the swimming lessons providing skills and confidence in the water, the cuddly blankets and PJ's providing warmth and security.

"Mr Burton" raised \$1250 for our projects account.

Jenny Bevin
Fundraiser Organiser



Raffle prizes kindly assembled by Glenda



Our thank you gift of shortbread with business cards attached

Baby Bag Project for Newborns:

This project was undertaken by the Literacy Committee and after Jenny met with Linda Merrilees, Jean Todd Maternity Ward, as to what would be suitable for newborns arriving in September, we planned a proposal and budget which was accepted and so the project was 'born'.

Each bag would contain a knitted or sewn beanie, a book, an artisan soap, coffee sachet and chocolates, all contained in a decorated colourful bag with a welcome note attached.

We appreciated Altrusa members and our community knitting the beanies and Eugenia from 7th Cloud Soaps supplying her soaps at cost. All other items were purchased locally. An Altrusa sticker was attached to each book.

The bags were decorated at a Programme meeting in August to enable us to deliver some to Jean Todd in time for the 1st September while the remainder formed part of the 'hands on' service at the Upper South Island IFF Day.

On September 8th International Literacy Day, we presented the bags to nurses and midwives at Jean Todd and were lucky to have a tour through the maternity ward.

The bags were well received by the new parents, and we are suggesting 50 Baby Bags are made available to Jean Todd in 2026



Jenny Bevin
Literacy Chair



MS Garden Walk 11th October:

Early October saw members hunting out their favourite recipes and creating a wonderful variety of biscuits, slices and truffles in readiness for the MS Garden Walk.

It's always a pleasure for our members to be part of the Multiple Sclerosis Garden Walk Fundraiser, and being based at the Caroline Bay Hall to serve the refreshments, took away the weather worries of previous years! The variety of stalls plus the Wearable Art Shows also inside the hall, ensured there was a steady stream of folk throughout the day calling in for a refreshment break. Friendly faces, home baking alongside a hot drink, resulted in many positive compliments for our efforts.

Many thanks to the 14 bakers and 15 helpers on the day, as without your input Altrusa wouldn't be able to provide the hands on service which supports other valuable community groups.

Karen Liddy



World Food Day: Can Collection Day 16th October 2025

This year a group of Altrusans set up a table outside New World Supermarket in Timaru to collect cans from members of the public to be passed on to those in need. The 16th of October was World Food Day. A number of cans and other non-perishable goods were collected over a four-hour period and these have now been delivered to Family Support in Timaru. They will distribute these to families in need. Family Support were delighted to receive the cans.

Thank you to all those Altrusans who helped on the day.

President Marilyn



Other Activities

Membership Muster:



Many members enjoy a catch up over a coffee at the beginning of each month.

You'll always find a warm welcome, good coffee and chat at Evie's Bar & Grill (formerly Zest) each time Membership Muster rolls around.



Member Update

A chance to learn a little more about three of our newest members



Joan Constable: *Growing up in the 60's I learnt how to vege garden from my father and cook from my mother who is now 92. This was great when we moved to our lifestyle block 35 years ago. I put all those skills together and enjoyed having family gatherings, cooking up a storm and feeding everyone. I loved giving excess eggs, veges and meat to family and friends and saving seeds from my garden for next years crop. Becoming a school teacher at 50 I loved working with the students to grow vegetables and teach them how to cook with them and save their seeds for next year. My motto feed yourself for free! I am now semi retired and joined Altrusa to make new friends in a new town for us and to help in the community.*

Carol Wilson: *I was fortunate to be invited to join the Timaru Altrusa club after Ross and I moved from North Otago To Timaru. Members have always made me welcome and including me and explained the rather involved workings of the club. As I enjoy sewing and crafting it was great to find a lot of club activities involve these things. I enjoyed everyone involved on a club night making no sew blankets that we gave to Women's Refuge. Cutting, sewing and filling over 100 pencil cases was another good club activity. I find the helping, giving and outreach from the club sit's well with my Christian belief. The club is a great mixture of socialising, caring for each other and helping and supporting in our community.*



Karen McClintock: *I've had the privilege of helping many organisations over the years, mainly with fundraising efforts, for which I was awarded a QSM. Giving my time to projects that support and uplift our community is something I find deeply rewarding.*

International & District Fifteen News

International:



Altrusa International's President for the 2025 – 2027 biennium
Christine “Chris” DeVlieger.

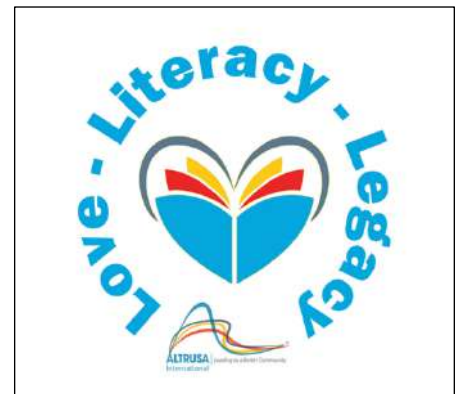
From the President

As we embark together on this new biennium, it is under the theme of “Love, Literacy & Legacy”. The word “love” was chosen because it embodies several things. First, let’s make sure we are doing some thing that we love. Many of us joined and remain in Altrusa because of the service we are privileged to be part of. Spreading kindness and enriching the lives of others fills our hearts and brings joy to others. Love is the outcome from serving others.

The second word “literacy” was easy for me. I love books, and I love to read. Reading has played a significant role throughout my life for a variety of reasons. Literacy was one of the primary reasons I joined Altrusa. I know I am not alone in this. Did you know that the literacy program “Action for Literacy” was voted upon by the Convention Body in 1977? Then during the 2001 International Convention, literacy was adopted as our international focus, to be promoted throughout our association. In other words, we serve our communities through our literacy projects. Therefore, **our literacy challenge this biennium will be to get 1,000,001 books distributed throughout the world.** We can do it! Of course, this is addition to another international project the Convention Body adopted back in 2019 – Days for Girls. We will continue to support Days for Girls as well this biennium.

The last word “legacy” simply stated means lasting impact. One may say that legacy encompasses the memories, teachings and experiences one leaves behind. But what is missing in that thought is that your legacy is actually built in the now. Your legacy is created in the way you show up in each minute of the day. It comes through in every interaction you have, and it is built with every action you take. The more focused you are on what matters and the kind of change you want to make in the world, the more likely you will be able to create a legacy that has a positive impact. That’s what our founding leaders did, and what we need to do now. Let’s focus on an exciting future for Altrusa!

I ask you to remember the words of our founder, Mamie Luella Bass, in the Principles of Altrusa in which she wrote “Altrusa believes it is not enough to be good; Altrusans must be good for some thing”. So, what is your some thing? Together, let’s make every moment of this biennium truly magical and do something meaningful by leading to a better community.



With Altrusa Love,
Christine “Chris” DeVlieger



District Fiteen:



Now is a good time to start checking out those Timaru – Wellington flight schedules and prices.

Keep an eye out for any good ticket deals you come across and let your fellow Altrusans know.

District Conference 2026

Held annually in Autumn, our District Conference is an opportunity for fun, educational workshops, networking, sharing, skill building, electing leadership, and celebrating our accomplishments.

The next District Fifteen Conference will be held Friday 1 – Sunday 3 May 2026 at the Copthorne Hotel in Wellington.

Programme Overview

- Friday afternoon President Elect Training
- Friday evening optional event at **Embassy Theatre**
- Saturday business session, keynote speaker, workshops
- Saturday evening Governors Banquet at **Grand Century Restaurant**
- Sunday memorial service, keynote speaker and business session
- Conference will conclude early afternoon (approx 1pm)



BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

November

23 Jenny Bevin

December

9 Gaya Griffin

12 Karena Butler

25 Heather Imlach

28 Jenette Borrell

January

1 Mary Stringer

12 Raewyn Hutton

February

4 Nola Searle

17 Karen Mc

21 May Mason

25 Gillian Allan



Thinking of you ...

Helen – sending lots of warm
wishes your way



What's Coming Up?



Membership Muster

1st Saturday of each month
Evie's Bar & Grill Restaurant
– 10:15am

See you there!

Pack a Pencil Case
Sewing Bee
November 29th 10am - 12pm
*Many hands needed to help on
this day*

Rose Festival Stall
Sunday 7th December

Be a Santa to a Senior

Christmas tree with wishes will
be in the Timaru Library
Saturday 22nd November
10:30am – 12:30pm



Our club Christmas Function

December 9th

Look out for the details to come



Scholarship
Postponed until early 2026
Details in the New Year

Secret Buddy thank you!

Thank you to my Secret Buddy for the card delivered to me on the death of my sister - in - law.
Maureen

Thanks to my Secret Buddy for the lovely card and gift for my birthday in September.
Irene

A big thank you to my Secret Buddy for the care package she delivered when I had a virus back in July. It was packed with treasures and made my day. Thank you for thinking of me, Secret Buddy.
Jenny

Thank you so much Secret Buddy. Your gift is greatly appreciated. It's special receiving your gift. Thank you, Altrusa, for the perfect birthday card.
Thank you and take care everyone.
Lorraine.

A big thank you for my lovely card from the lovely Altrusa Ladies, very much appreciated. A big thank you to my Secret Buddy for the beautiful sparkle you bought into my day 🕯️. I had a wonderful time with my family and friends celebrating 🥳.

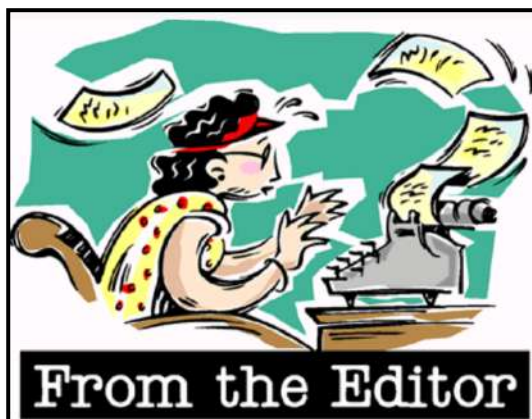
Kindest regards
Jan 😊

I need to say Thank You for the birthday card from Altrusa members hand delivered by May! 🍰🌻
Cathie

THANK YOU Secret Buddy, such delicious soup! Yes, makes an easy and tasty lunch!!!
Big Thanks, May

Karen's Jottings as Editor

Firstly apologies for the rather long timeline since the last newsletter. Just one of those things that happens when life's events sometimes have to take precedence.



Thank you Raewyn for gathering the submissions, and to those who have written pieces for this issue, many thanks, as I know time is precious and days are busy, and it does take thought and effort to gather the information, and then get it down on paper.

Once again our Timaru club continues to seek out new initiatives and ways to help in the community, but also doesn't neglect the projects we know are valued and supported by those who benefit from them. Well done, and enjoy having a read of the things we achieved over the winter months.

Karen