

From the President



The get together on the 31st January was a lovely start to our Altrusa year, thanks to our membership committee and what a lovely spot it was for the event. Although I have enjoyed the break from the usual Altrusa life as well as other demands on one's time, I have missed my Altrusan friends. Now that we are into February, I am sure that the year is starting to ramp up for all of us. A good friend of mine has said to me that if my life is what retirement looks like, she does not want to retire. Hmmm - but as we all know, 'if you want something done, ask a busy person'.

Summer passed by but it seems it is coming back, for how long and whether it is going to be consistent, is anyone's guess. Summer brought us our sixth grandchild, Sophie Adele, born on 27th December and it is with some relief that this happened outside of the Christmas and Boxing Day period. It is funny to think that at one stage with us having older children, we were wondering if we were even going to have grandchildren.

I am aware that our Altrusa Levin committees are already underway with meetings and planning which is great. We are also entering the period of planning for 2026/27 and nominations are being sought for the new board / positions. In addition to these opportunities, there are other roles to be considered as well. We have a great group of women in Altrusa Levin with everyone doing their bit and I am sure you are all considering what you can contribute to another successful year. To quote Pat Summit, "teamwork is a lot like being part of a family. It comes with obligations, entanglements, headaches, and quarrels. But the rewards are worth the cost." I trust that 2026 will be a great year for all of us, working together to make a difference in our community.

Warm regards - Brenda





Picnic Under the Vines

Altrusa Levin 2026 year began with a social get together of members and partners at "Under the Vines", Speldhurst, on Saturday 30th January from 4.00pm to 7.00pm. It was very pleasing to have 38 members and partners present.

After time spent catching up, we all took part in

some fun

games. The first game was throwing the weights on to a scoreboard laid on the ground. The members were divided into teams of 6 people at a time and then the scores of each person were recorded. After everyone had a turn, the top six scorers from all the teams had a play off, with Moira being the



overall champion.

Our finger food picnic had arrived by then, so we took a break and enjoyed a lovely meal, with dessert supplied by the Membership team.

After our meal, we all took part in a drawing game, which emphasised communication and teamwork. This game showed we did not have much drawing talent within our group



..... and we probably all need to practise clearer communication.

The best of the drawings from each group were awarded a chocolate bar.

The third and last game was about team work. Five players were handed a plastic half tube and one player a cup. The team had to work out how to get 4 balls down all the tubes and into the cup at the end without letting any of the balls drop. Most people were able to figure this out very quickly, so our teamwork seems to be pretty good.

The evening concluded with some more socialising, ending a very pleasant and fun time.



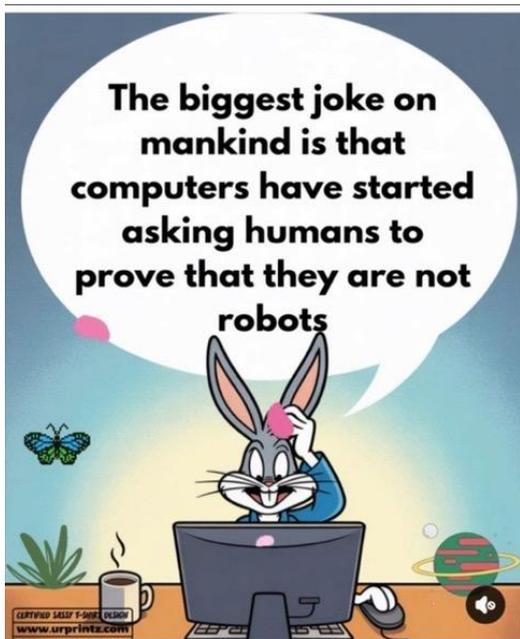
Happily mingling under the vines.

Committee Corner -

Committees are all having their first meeting for 2026 during the current week. Those reports will be in the March edition2 committees were active over the summer break 😊

- LITERACY**
- Set us all a reading challenge which runs until beginning of March
 - Helped with the Thompson House Christmas event

- MEMBERSHIP**
- Was busy organising our very successful Picnic under the Vines social event and membership development event, held in late January.



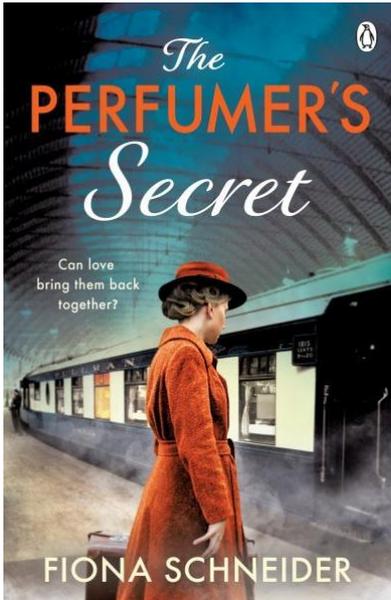
How many books have you ticked off on the reading challenge?



“The Perfumer’s Secret”

...World War 2 historical romance by Fiona Schneider reviewed by Jan J

With her family’s perfumery in dire straits, Stella Penhallam needs a miracle. Her great-aunt’s journal from 1940s Paris lands on her desk and Stella realises that the missing pages could hold the answers she seeks.



As war breaks out across Europe, Iris Penhallam is forced into an impossible situation, one that will cause her world to come crashing down. Paris is no longer safe, and with her mentor’s family in Italy at risk, Iris must find a way to save them. Using her role as a perfumer, she travels to Venice on the Orient Express under the guise of creating five intoxicating scents with her fellow apprentice, Alessandro.

As Stella delves deeper into the past, the lives of these women intertwine - five scents that are lost to the war along with the man she loves

One of my Christmas presents I am happy to share with you all.

Tui is reading it now. Will add it to our Altrusa table soon. Jan J

COMING

12	February	Payment or apology for Programme Meeting
12	February	Working Bee @ Brenda’s 1-4 – Girl Guide prep
16	February	Programme meeting hosted by the Board
24	February	Board Meeting
27	February	Coffee Morning 10.30am
28	February	Nominations close for 2026-27 Board
15	March	Early Bird conference registrations close
15	April	All Conference registrations close
18	April	Days for Girls workshop
1-3	May	District Fifteen Conference in Wellington