

Altrusa International of Timaru

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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



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“Hands Joined – Making a Difference”



From President Marilyn



As the second half of our Altrusa year begins I am writing my final article as President.

I was reminded at our February Meeting of the numerous projects and fundraisers that our club members have been involved in and are planning over the next few months. A visitor to our February meeting said she didn't realise that Altrusa were involved in so many varied projects in our community.

I'm grateful to the members who are stepping up to fill the gaps and in particular Donna McColl who as the newly elected President Elect is going to lead the club from now and into the new Altrusa year. A big thank you to Donna and to you all for supporting Donna.

My theme for the year has been 'Hands Joined, Making a Difference.' I have been heartened to see members willing to get involved in Hands on Projects and embrace new ideas.

The number of applicants we received for our Altrusa Scholarship reflects not only the needs in our community but also the way that we are using advertising and Social Media to get our message out to the community.

Finally I would like to take the opportunity to encourage as many of you who are able, to attend the Conference in Wellington in the first weekend in May. I know you will enjoy connecting and fellowshipping with other members and clubs, as well as learning more about Altrusa. The District Fifteen Board always sources excellent speakers.

I wish you all well for the remainder of the Altrusa year. Remember to look after each other.

It is not goodbye, it is see you again in the future.

Marilyn



President Elect Donna thanks and farewells President Marilyn as she and husband David move to Christchurch at the beginning of February.

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

March

- 1 *International Children's Day*
 - 2-6 *Altrusa Awareness Week*
 - 3 Board Meeting
 - 7 Membership Muster - Evie's 10:15am
 - 8 *International Women's Day*
 - 10 Business Meeting WCC 5.30 pm
 - 24 Programme Meeting WCC 5:30pm
- Foundation Month*

April

- 4 Membership Muster - Evie's 10:15am
 - 7 Board Meeting
 - 7 *World Health Day*
 - 14 Business Meeting WCC 5:30pm
 - 28 Programme Meeting WCC 5:30pm
- Club Birthday* 🎂 🍷

May

- 1-3 *Conference in Wellington*
- 2 Membership Muster - Evie's 10:15am
- 5 Board Meeting
- 12 Business Meeting WCC 5:30pm
- 17 *Fabric & Craft Fair*
- 26 *Changeover Evening*



Committee Chatter

Literacy:

Our focus has been on our 'Rocket into Reading Challenge' to coincide with International Children's Day and the committee met in 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.

The meeting with Anita was very successful and we have been consistently keeping in touch.

Our Rocket into Reading is now happening at the Timaru, Temuka and Geraldine libraries where primary aged children can collect a card with five challenges listed, complete the challenges and bring their card to our Altrusa site on children's day to receive a reward.

Our rewards range from books, stickers and Smartybags©

During the past year club members have been purchasing and/or donating preloved books for our book give away on Children's Day – this is our 12th year of participating in this event. Our committee have sorted the books, will be arranging delivery, and we will be setting up 8.30am on Children's Day and do appreciate the support of all club members to help us on the day.

We were sorry to hear of the resignation of Heather Imlach who was a valued member of our Literacy Committee and thank Heather for her contribution.

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

Jenny Bevin

Literacy Chair 2025 - 2026



1	Read about how to make something
2	Read an animal story
3	Read a funny book
4	Read about a pet
5	Read a space story

An example of one of the challenge cards

Service:

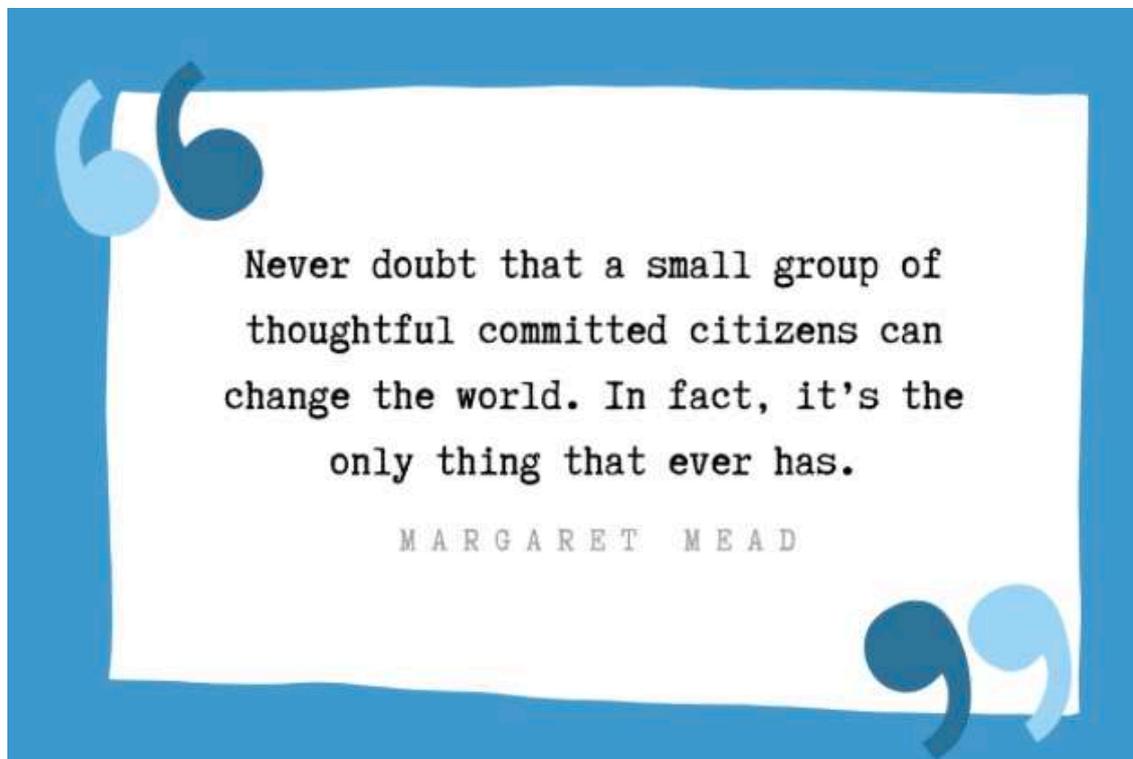
Leading up to Christmas, the Service Committee concentrated on organizing and delivering their project “Santa’s Tasty Treats” to Family Support. The aim of the goody bags full of treats, was to bring smiles and happiness to those who often find that providing their families with those little extras at Christmas time challenging.

The start of 2026 saw our Committee feeling refreshed after the holiday break, and keen to start the year off well with our duty month being February. Thank you ladies for working together so well and making sure the meetings ran smoothly. Cathie got our Programme Meeting off to a great start with information and balance exercises recommended for us all as we age, to reduce the risk of falls. Was lovely to see everyone participating. This was followed by an informative talk by Alice Sollis from Age Concern, outlining her role around support and services available in the community for older people. I think we all learnt something new and gained a clearer understanding of how Age Concern operate.

Karen Liddy
Service Chair



An Altrusa Accent



Club Projects and Fundraisers

Pencil Cases:

Our pencil cases sewn late last year were recently packed with 10 items of essential stationery in each, and as the school year began, they found their way into schools in our area, both town and country.

Literacy is important for learning and achieving, and no child should be without the basic tools to enable them to learn. Literacy continues to be a key focus for Altrusa International of Timaru.

During the past 3 years we have placed 600 filled pencil cases into schools and service agencies hoping they will make a difference. Feedback from members delivering the pencil cases was again positive, with schools being very grateful and appreciative of the donation.

Many thanks to members and the Geraldine ladies who continue to support this project.

Jenny Bevin



Be a Santa to a Senior:

Gillian did a wonderful job distributing the information, and then collecting the wishes from those who responded. Because public support is always so positive with this project, this year the net was cast wider to increase the number of wishes, Alongside the resthomes plus some care facility cottages, Enliven and Age Concern were also approached. This resulted in 49 wishes to hang on our Christmas Tree which was once again at the library. This number fitted the demand nicely.

After a couple of hours of the tree of wishes being at the library, the amazing local community and Altrusa members had left the tree bare of wishes!

Thank you Lois for once again making your home the delivery depot and keeping track of the gifts as they arrived. Lois, Nola, Jan, Gillian and Karen enjoyed wrapping, writing and attaching the cards, then delivering them to their destinations. Wrapping paper was kindly donated by a friend of Altrusa, and some handmade cards were made thanks to several members.

Through social media and messages, “Be a Santa to a Senior” always creates positive feedback from the community as well as the facilities and residents receiving the gifts. This is always heart warming and reinforces our desire to continue giving the community opportunities to make meaningful connections with others by sharing some Christmas magic.

Karen Liddy on behalf of the Committee – Gillian, May, Lois, Karen M plus Nola and Jan who assisted with wrapping and delivering.



Santa's Tasty Treats:

The Service Committee were keen to support a local agency with a Christmas Project, and when Family Support were asked if goody bags for the families they work with would be helpful, they were very grateful Altrusa had thought of them. "Santa's Tasty Treats" was underway!

Providing a range of Christmas treats that families may not be able to purchase on tight budgets was the aim of this project.

An IFF Day activity had seen some bags decorated, but 30 were needed, so May gathered up some members at her house, and finished off the job.

A list of treats was compiled to the value of \$50 per bag, and over two shopping trips plus an online order and pick up, the goodies were ready to pack. Karen's living area resembled a food warehouse as committee members arrived to make up the goody bags! A handwritten card wishing families a happy Christmas was included in each bag.

The bags were delivered to Family Support in time for Christmas, and we were assured by staff that they would bring lots of smiles, and make Christmas so much more special for their families.

Many thanks to the Service Committee for organising and making this project happen, you definitely made a difference to 30 families' festive season. Also, thank you to the Board and members for the financial support from club funds.

Karen Liddy
Service Chair



Festival of Roses:

With great support from members – 16 bakers and 18 helpers on the day - our annual Christmas baking stall in December at the Rose Festival was again a successful fundraiser.

The delicious assortment of home baked Christmas goodies saw approximately \$700 being raised in support of the Scholarship.

It was great to have a beautiful sunny day and a good site for our sales, but it did play havoc with the chocolate goods and trying to display them but keep them from becoming melty messes!

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of the day – the way members worked together and willingly shared the jobs to be done, is what created the success.

Karen Liddy



Christmas Raffle:

A very successful Christmas raffle in 2025 with around \$2300.00 raised for our community projects. A large ***Thank You!*** again, firstly to Raewyn P for the excellent and beautifully presented Christmas Cake, and of course to all the Altrusans who helped on the selling days. About 18 members were involved, some multiple times over the 6 days.

After the success of the day in Temuka in 2024 we booked 2 days out there at New World with both resulting in strong ticket sales. However our other more usual venues also saw better than normal ticket sales so we truly appreciated the support received from our community.

Jenette Borrell

Organiser 2025



Christmas Get Together:

Our end of year Christmas celebration was hosted by Cathie and David. Relaxing in their beautiful Christmas themed home was just what everyone needed after some very busy days finishing off the final projects and fundraisers for 2025.





LEADING TO A BETTER COMMUNITY

We believe that everyone is able to make a positive difference to the world around them. We can each volunteer our time, or donate our money, towards worthy causes. Our individual efforts are small, but they matter:

We can achieve even more when we bring people together. For over 100 years Altrusa clubs have collected members from varying occupations and lifestyles, all sharing an interest in community service.

We enjoy the friendship, fun and satisfaction that comes from working together for the benefit of others. Each club develops a program that is tailored to local needs, undertaking a variety of hands-on service and fundraising projects each year. One of our shared goals as an organization is to improve literacy, which we believe is the key to opportunity.

Through Altrusa activities we develop our leadership skills in a supportive environment. We welcome new ideas and aim to provide enough flexibility so that our members can give their time in a way that works for them.



Conference Programme Outline

Friday 1 May 2026 12.30 – 2pm 1pm – 4pm 4pm 5.30pm	Past Governors Lunch President Elect Training First Timers Session Optional Event: Embassy Theatre Movie Night
Saturday 2 May 2026 7am - 8.30am 9am Noon 2pm 3.30pm 6pm	Leadership Breakfast (invitation only) Opening Ceremony, Keynote Speaker Business Session Luncheon (Presentation by Wellington City Mission) & Interclub Challenge All of Conference Workshop Share the Journey workshop Governors Banquet & District Awards
Sunday 3rd May 8am 9am 9.45 10.30 12pm	Memorial Service Breakfast Guest Speaker Final Business Session Benediction



Our Keynote Speakers at Conference 2026

Bev Lawton ONZM



Professor Bev Lawton ONZM (Ngāti Porou), is the founder/director of Te Tātai Hauora o Hine (the National Centre for Women's Health Research Aotearoa, Te Herenga Waka Victoria University of Wellington) and a pioneering force in women's health in Aotearoa. Bev was named Kiwibank New Zealander of the Year (2025)

Dr Claire Robinson

You'll never know until you try



Claire Robinson is an award-winning designer, a painter, author, playwright, political scientist, political commentator, former professor of Communication Design and Pro Vice-Chancellor of Massey University's College of Creative Arts. Currently Te Tumu o Toi CEO of Toi Mai, the workforce development council for New Zealand's creative, cultural, recreation and technology sectors.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

March

18 Helen Henderson

April

24 Sally Marsh

28 Marilyn Ross

May

13 Carol Wilson

18 Maureen Skinner

26 Joan Constable



Thinking of you ...

Helen – sending lots of warm wishes your way

Marilyn – thinking of you as you settle into life in Christchurch

Evelyn & Donna – hoping your moonboots are now a thing of the past, and you've recovered well

Cushla – best wishes as you heal from your eye surgery



What's Coming Up?

Children's Day

Sunday 1st March - Caroline Bay

Giving out free pre-loved books to children and checking the Rocket into Reading Challenge

Membership Muster

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

See you there!

Club Birthday

April Programme Meeting

Come and celebrate our 54th!

Altrusa Awareness Week

2nd -6th March

Call into the Library and see the display

District Fifteen Conference

Wellington
Friday 1st May – Sunday 3rd May

Check out the Programme!

Positive Aging Expo 2026 – Thursday
7th May 10:00am-3:00pm



Look out for the roster to man our site.

Fabric & Craft Fair

Sunday 17th May,
10am – 2pm - Westend Hall

Sorting, measuring and pricing starting soon!

Secret Buddy thank you!

Many members acknowledged their buddies for Christmas gifts by email before and after Christmas – here are one or two more

Thank you to my Secret Buddy for my Christmas present. It was very thoughtful and I have enjoyed the nut mix. Also the soap and relish looked great and will be used.

Maureen

A huge thank you for the wonderful Secret Santa gift! It's exactly what I needed to add a little bit of holiday luxury without taking up too much space. You nailed it!

Joan C

Thank you Secret Buddy – I enjoy having my living area looking festive, so your lovely gift added an extra touch of Christmas.

Karen L

To my Secret Buddy, thanks so much for my Christmas candle in my favourite perfume, ginger.
From Carol



Karen's Jottings as Editor

Hope you have time to put your feet up and reflect on the end of 2025 and the difference you helped bring about in the community.

Thank you for your contributions for this newsletter – there won't be a very large gap until the next one, so if you are leading a project presently, start making notes and snapping photos so the task isn't too onerous when you're called upon for the next issue.

Until then, take care.

Karen

