

“THE WOOLLY WAFFLER”: February 2026

**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 February Woolly Waffler, the first for 2026.

Nga mihi o te tau hou, Happy New Year to all.

May this year be filled with generosity and kindness in the true spirit of Altrusa.

Let's continue to R.O.C.K - Realise Opportunities, Create Kindness!

Any kindness act, no matter how large or small, will make a difference for someone.



As a result of our club becoming an Incorporated society our new name is Altrusa International Club of Te Kūiti Inc.

I will get our header changed as soon as I work out how to do it!

On December 2nd we had our Christmas dinner at Panorama together with partners. It was a well attended event with a lot of happy chatter.



Colleen welcomed us all there and then we proceeded to devour the beautiful meal.



## CHATTER FOR FEBRUARY-MARCH 2026



Greetings & Happy New Year!

Suddenly it's nearly March.

I was in Cromwell when some of you were able to get to the Berry Orchard for the February Meeting. By all accounts, it was a good evening with Angela & Mike joining in, & speaking about their orchard. The weather wasn't too bad, thankfully.

There has been a six-week stint of most inclement weather for many. It seems we should be prepared to experience these days in the future, so get those packs together – just in case.

Our visit to Cromwell was great. Our Great granddaughter turned One adorned with a crown – really looking the part. Sadly, Ivy had woken at 3am with earache so all the little invited guests were advised to stay home. However, after a discussion with a nurse, Ivy was dosed with pain relief, and was able to enjoy the company of seven adults singing Happy Birthday, eating the icing from a three layered chocolate covered in sweets, and helping to blow out her candle. We visited and lunched at Tarras, Wanaka, Clyde and enjoyed the “old Town” of Cromwell's shops and cafes. School was back so traffic was not a problem. It is a very pleasant place to visit and dine!

Although the Incorporation of our club has been done, Mary is coping with the addition of “Inc.” in our name in the bank account. Signatories have had to be changed to the executives named in the Constitution – President, Secretary & Treasurer – These can be adjusted at the AGM, then must be adjusted at the bank and with the Incorporated Societies register. A financial statement has to be sent to the register each year also. Mary is on to it! Go Mary!

We have a German medical student staying with us for three weeks. He is experiencing life in the Medical Centre in Te Kuiti. He is biking to & from the centre, and in this heat is quite hot after biking up Gadsby Road! It is most interesting hearing his take on the situation in Europe.

I have reluctantly accepted Kim's resignation but wish her well in the coming years. She will continue to live in Te Kuiti so we will see her about.

We are back to the Panorama on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. See you all there.

Colleen



Here are 4 generations of Colleen's family.

From the back, Colleen, her daughter Helen, her granddaughter Emma and great granddaughter Ivy.

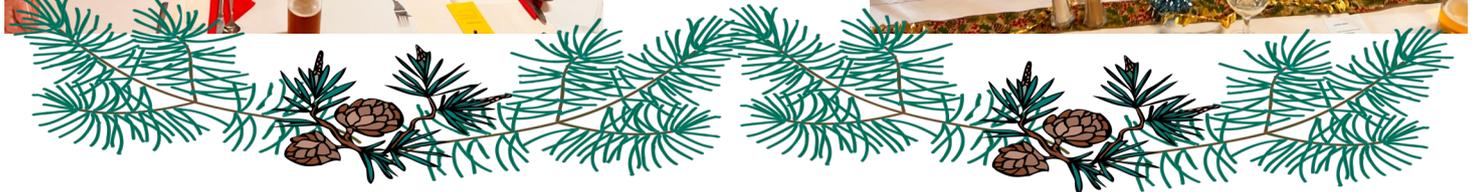
A wonderful line up of girls.

Ivy on her bike at the orchard.





Lots of happy faces at the Christmas dinner in December.



We held our Te Kūiti fundraising stall on 4th December. We had a great array of goods to sell but it was a chilly day and there were not so many people on the street. We did manage to make \$1188 though so it was a good effort.



The Raffle

A snippet from Christine DeVlieger, our International President, in the first Altrusa International Compass newsletter for 2026:

“We are launching our first membership challenge entitled: ‘Be a Friend -Bring a Friend’. It’s the perfect time to put two words of the biennium theme to life....LOVE and LEGACY. You are invited to ask someone to attend a meeting with you, participate in a service project, or, best of all - become an Altrusan. Show them the love that comes from being a part of our organisation and the legacy we can build by expanding the service we provide in our communities.

- \* Recruit at least one new active member before March 14th.
- \* Ensure the new member is entered in Group Tally during this period, and that their dues are paid.
- \* Before April 1st, Altrusa International will draw five winning clubs, each receiving \$100 to use for a membership event, a service project or where it is needed most.”

We might miss that deadline but we can still invite new members.



Our first outing for 2026 was a casual gathering at the Piopio Berry Orchard. Angela and Mike spoke about their berry business which was interesting. Our members took finger food to share and really enjoyed the evening.

*Photo Gallery*



Jenni's grandson Robbie's first birthday, Stalactites in Jewel caves near Perth, her very skilled surfer granddaughter, Pippa. Great photo



Lisa's family fishing success



Several of our members singing in the Silver Belles choir at the Lyceum Club Christmas lunch in December. From left: Jane, Ros, Marg (behind, obscured), Helen, Colleen (at back) and Kim



Mary and Colin visited the Ashburton Aviation Museum. They flew to Zanzibar from Dar es Salam in a DC3 like this, in 1975



Mary's photo of Bridal Veil Falls, Waireinga



Hilary's 5 Grandsons on the farm during the holidays.



Reading to Ruby

Sponsored by  
Canine Friends  
& Te Kūiti Library

This is Ruby. When our guest Janey came to our meeting in November, she was inspired by our guest speaker, Claire Mead from the Waipa Community Library. Her passion was Books and Paws. Janey has taken Ruby to join Canine Friends and she is now a qualified listener in the Books and Paws group.



### Call to Conference

The District Conference will be held in Wellington on 1 - 3 May 2026 at the Copthorne Oriental Bay.

You can register for 3 days or just one day.



In February:  
Barbara Anselmi  
Robyn Stephens

In March:  
Helen Verry



### Coming up:

Next meeting 3rd March, apologies to Caroline please.

Conference registrations: Early bird closes 15 March  
All registrations close 15 April