

From the President



Our Altrusa year of 2025/2026 is fast coming to an end, which means the handing on of the baton to our incoming officers and committee chairs will take place in the next few weeks. It is when we look back at what we have done that we realise how much we have achieved!

As a result of our year closing and the beginning of a new year, we need to pay our dues before the 31st May. We have some money in our kitty to bring the cost down a little. A recommendation as to what we need to pay for our dues will be presented at our business meeting on 6th May. So, in the meantime, start saving your 'pennies'. Speaking of our business meeting on the 6th of May, this is the last date for the purchase of pies, so please chase up your family, neighbours etc. to get the orders in. There has been a great response to date, and we are on track to beat last year's volume of orders.

April has been a busy month, with a number of tasks that needed to be completed for conference. A big one was running the Foundation raffle. The support shown by you all with the purchasing of tickets was fantastic - thank you! Altrusa Levin raised \$157.00 towards Foundation. Hopefully at least one our members will win one of the five prizes.

One of the guest speakers at the conference is a representative from Wellington City Mission and each club is challenged to create a table display made up of food to donate to the City Mission. The seven attendees from Levin, under the guidance of our 'Creative Director', Maureen, are working to make something that will stand out. A photo of our amazing creative works will feature in the next newsletter.

Brenda



April Programme Meeting



Our April programme meeting was held on Monday 20 April and was hosted by the Communication. 30 members and guests attended. We were seated at tables decorated for ANZAC day.

We began the evening with the induction of a new member, Clare, who was introduced to the club by Ruth. B



A warm welcome, Clare

We hope you have many happy years of friendship and service as a member of Altrusa Levin.

This was followed by a delicious dinner of hot ham, roast vegetables, peas, broccoli & cauliflower with cheese sauce and garlic bread. Dessert was apple crumble with cream.



Cherry won the raffle of a lovely throw and ANZAC biscuits.



Guest Speaker - Airini introduced our speaker for the evening - Tomina Apiti, Ngati Te Wehi and Tainui ... an inspirational woman. She is a mother of 3 and a Royal New Zealand Airforce veteran of 19 years.

Tomina's mother, Tracey, is also with the Airforce and when Tomina enlisted they were the first mother and daughter to serve together.



During her career, Tomina moved around every few years, and has been stationed at all the New Zealand airbases. Her overseas postings included the Middle East, Iraq and around the Pacific Islands. She was a logistics specialist and ran air movements with the Airforce.



Tomina's most poignant ANZAC Day was in 2010, when she attended the Gallipoli celebrations in Wellington, and was told of the helicopter crash in which of 3 colleagues lost their lives en route to the ceremony.

Her most memorable ANZAC Day was in 2020 during the Covid lock down when her whanau gathered at their gate, all in full uniform ...Tomina, her husband and baby son, her parents and her brother. This was her son's first ANZAC Day and her brothers last ANZAC Day

Tomina has now left the Airforce and is currently studying for her PhD in Health and Wellbeing at Victoria university. She is also a mentee in Te Ara Tawhaki - a 2026 not-for-profit programme which supports emerging Directors in their governance roles, and is run by the Institute of Directors NZ . She is a board member of Arohanui Hospice.

Tomina enjoyed her time with the Royal New Zealand Airforce. It provided opportunities, fellowship and the pride in being able to defend our country and way of life.

Shirley thanked Tomina and gave her a plate homemade ANZAC biscuits!

Report by Cushla



of

CELEBRATING YEARS OF SERVICE

As part of the evening, President Brenda presented a service award to Tui, who had reached a key milestone on her Altrusa journey -

Tui – 10 years

Thanks to Chris and the membership Committee for organising this presentation



We also said farewell to Lyn who has been a vibrant Altrusan, bringing us many laughs, a listening ear, a helping hand.

We wish her well as she continues her generous service to the Levin community via pastures new.

As President Brenda said there is only one fitting thing to say

"Toodle -oo"

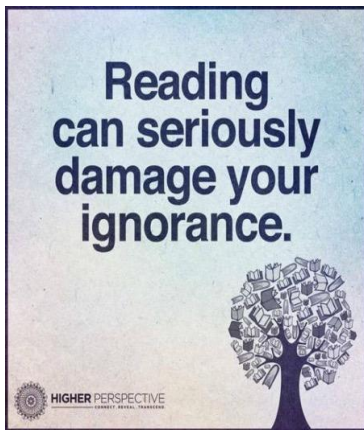




Star 4 Courtyard Project



There was a good turnout at our Horowhenua Health Centre STAR 4 gathering, with many hands making light work of tidying up and replanting. Even if it was a bit chilly! Catherine's cup and saucer got a paint job, and Tui's teapot is ready to pour a welcome to visitors!!! A fresh roster has been set up so that an Altrusan will visit the courtyard each week to weed, sweep, water and deadhead - keeping this once drab area a welcoming space for all.



Just for a laugh

Days for Girls

On Saturday 20 April, 11 Altrusans and 5 other women from Levin attended a Days for Girls workshop organised by the 2 Helens 😊 So enjoyable and satisfying to spend a few hours sewing, cutting, folding, ironing, trimming, chatting and having a yummy, shared lunch ...while at the same time achieving a worthwhile task.



CARROT SOUP with Tahini & Rosemary

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 tbsp Olive Oil (plus extra for frying)
- 1 large Onion finely chopped
- 1 tsp smoked paprika
- 2 cloves garlic roughly chopped
- 500gr sliced Carrots
- 1 x 400gr tin chopped Tomatoes
- 1 x 400gr tin chickpeas
- 1&1/2 tbsp red wine v inegar
- Zest and juice of an orange
- 1 litre vegetable stock
- 4 tbsp tahini (optional)
- Couple of sprigs f rosemary



Heat oil in saucepan – cook onions until soft. Add - garlic and paprika and cook another couple of minutes

Add carrots, tomatoes, orange zest and juice,.....cook for 5 mins

Add stock, bring to boil, reduce heat, simmer about 30 mins until soft.

Puree soup in a blender and add vinegar.

In another pan cook chick peas and rosemary leaves with oil on low heat.

Serve soup with chick peas and tahini on top.

Recipe from Jill

DID YOU KNOW

1. "underground" is the only word. that start with "und" and end with "und".
2. "Rhythms" the only word with out a vowels.
3. The past tense of the "dare" word is "durst".
4. "Bookkeeper" or "Bookkeeping". is the only word that has three consecutive double letter.
5. "Queueing" is the only word. that has five consecutive vowels.

Take it as read

one thing
I've learnt
as I've got older

is that literature
lights up life
and makes it smoulder

for beauty
is in the eye
of the book holder

Brian Bilston

COMING

01	03 May	District Fifteen Conference, Copthorne, Wellington
06	May	Business Meeting Thompson House
06	May	last day for pie orders
14	May	Apology or pay for Programme Meeting
15	May	Pies will be distributed
18	May	Changeover night hosted by Membership
20	May	Final meeting of 2025-26 Board Meeting
29	May	Coffee Morning

