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### LINES FROM LYNETTE

My last Lines as President.

These are written with sadness, as last week we gathered to farewell Helen, our valued member of 38 years. As we come to terms with the gap she will leave in our Altrusa family, we must realise her wish would be for us to be happy and move on with what we do well.

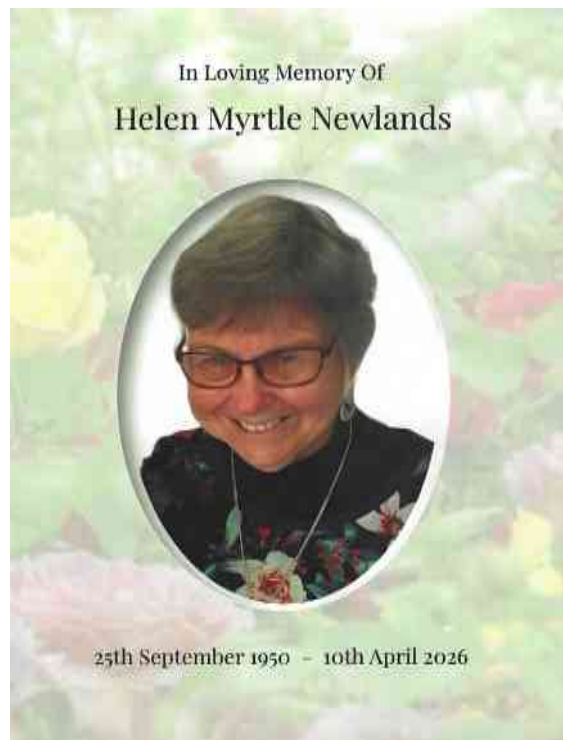
Service to our community.

Two weeks until Conference in Wellington. I urge you all to consider attending Conference in Oamaru next year. Apart from needing all hands on deck, it is a great way to learn about our International organisation, meet up with some wonderful women and be proud of what Altrusa stands for.

Thank you all for your support over the last year. Together we have lived up to the theme

**EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES**

**TOGETHER WE SERVE TOGETHER WE SHINE**



**In loving memory of Helen**

**A valued member for 38 years**

**She will be missed by us and her wider Altrusa family**

Altrusa International of Oamaru, Inc

President: Lynette Budge  
[president.oamaru@altrusa.org.nz](mailto:president.oamaru@altrusa.org.nz)

Meetings: The Star & Garter  
(upstairs)  
2nd & 4th Mondays at 5:45pm

District Fifteen Website:  
[www.altrusa.org.nz](http://www.altrusa.org.nz)

Altrusa International Website  
[www.altrusa.org](http://www.altrusa.org)

**THE BOARD:**

**President:** Lynette Budge

**President Elect:** Jeanette Halcrow

**Vice President:** Liz Ballantyne

**Corresponding Secretary:** Angela Blackie

**Minute Secretary:** Claire Jelgersma

**Treasurer:** Voreen Julius

**DIRECTORS:** Lyn Cartwright  
Shona McMillan

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

**Liaison:** Maria Mackay

**Service:** Marie McLay

**Communication:** Sue Preston

**Literacy:** Margaret Ward

**Vocational:** Jeanette Halcrow

**Membership:** Jenny Cleland

**ASTRA:** Liz Ballantyne



Birthday Girls; April/May/June

Liz McIntyre- 1<sup>st</sup> April

Lynne Isbister- 8<sup>th</sup> April

Marie McLay- 21<sup>st</sup> April

Anne Brown- 11<sup>th</sup> May

Angela Blaikie- 15<sup>th</sup> May

Kath Mercer- 27<sup>th</sup> May

Lynne Sparks- 21<sup>st</sup> June



**SUNDAY 10<sup>th</sup> MAY**

# RECIPES

## Best Ever Banana Cake with Cream Cheese Icing

*This beautifully moist banana cake is a true crowd-pleaser. Finished with a rich cream cheese icing and a sprinkle of walnuts, it's perfect for gatherings, afternoon tea, or special occasions.*

Time: 1 hour 15 minutes

Serves: 16

Tin: 23 x 33 cm slice tin

### Ingredients

- Cake
  - 1½ cups mashed ripe bananas
  - 2 teaspoons lemon juice
  - 3 cups standard flour
  - 1½ teaspoons baking soda
  - ¼ teaspoon salt
  - 170g butter, softened
  - 2 cups caster sugar
  - 3 large eggs
  - 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
  - 1½ cups buttermilk
- Cream Cheese Icing
  - 125g butter, softened
  - 250g cream cheese, softened
  - 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
  - 3–3½ cups icing sugar
- Optional
  - Chopped walnuts

### Method

1. Preheat oven to 135°C (fan bake). Grease and line a 23 x 33 cm slice tin.
2. In a small bowl, combine mashed bananas with lemon juice. Set aside.
3. In another bowl, sift together flour, baking soda and salt.
4. In a large bowl, beat butter and sugar until pale and fluffy.
5. Add eggs one at a time, beating well after each addition. Stir in vanilla.
6. Add the dry ingredients alternately with the buttermilk, mixing gently.
7. Fold in the banana mixture.
8. Pour into the prepared tin and smooth the surface.
9. Bake for approximately 1 hour, or until a skewer inserted in the centre comes out clean.
10. Place the hot cake (in the tin) into the freezer for 45 minutes to enhance moisture.

### Icing

11. Beat butter and cream cheese until smooth and creamy.
12. Add vanilla extract.
13. Gradually add icing sugar, beating until light and fluffy.
14. Spread over completely cooled cake.
15. Sprinkle with chopped walnuts if desired.

# Feijoa Icecream

250g feijoas (washed, trimmed and preferably unpeeled for better flavour)  
1 cup sugar  
1 tbsp lemon juice  
1 egg white  
250ml cream, whipped

Blitz fruit, sugar, juice and egg white in a food processor for 4 minutes (it should resemble firm uncooked meringue with specks of fruit). Fold into cream and freeze in a 2-litre container.

## Altrusa Logo



The new logo symbolizes movement into our fluid future.

Clean lines & open space represent CLARITY

Flowing lines of different heights that rise and fall demonstrate FLEXIBILITY

Lines start & finish together symbolizing INCLUSION

The overall design represents the letter "A" for ALTRUSA

Tallest line in light [teal] blue = oceans linking the lands and WORLDWIDE ALTRUSA

Dark [teal] blue line is symbolic of Altrusa's depth and foundation: OUR CLUBS & DISTRICTS

Gold line represents ASTRA – our treasure and our future

Red line shows the HEART & STRENGTH OF ALTRUSANS



## CLUB PAST EVENTS

### LOVE GRACE HANDBAG APPEAL

As we re-convened at our February business meeting after our Christmas break, it was suggested by Sharon that she would like to see us support The Love Grace Handbag Appeal. Members decided to personally donate handbags and essential items to fill them. 25+ bags were able to be delivered, to be passed onto the Mid South Island Women's Refuge and Family Safety Services in Timaru.

The appeal is a collection of handbags filled with essentials and luxuries for women affected by domestic violence and was established in memory of Grace Millane, a British tourist murdered in New Zealand in 2018.

Well done Sharon & Altrusa members



## 51<sup>st</sup> BIRTHDAY PARTY AT RIVERSTONE KITCHEN SUNDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> FEBRUARY



Our birthday was celebrated by joining together for a Sunday lunch on our actual birthday, 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

A beautiful day and a lovely meal with good company & chatter.

Members also wore our Altrusa colours.

After our lunch many members were then seen finishing off the day with a little wander through the shops filled with dried flowers, china & gifts.



## FRIENDLY BAY FAMILY FUN DAY

The Family fun day event is held annually, organised and hosted by the Waitaki District Council.

Over the year Altrusa members have bought new or collected second-hand childrens books to donate to families at this event. Distraction packs were also handed out.



## ALTRUSA CHRISTMAS PARTY

Our Christmas meeting was held on the Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December at The Galley Cafe. The evening started with the installation of our newest member, Jeanne Brown by the Membership Committee. Jeanne received her Altrusa Pin from her sponsor, Helen Newlands.

A beautiful meal of hot ham, Chicken wrapped in bacon, crumbed fish bites, new potatoes & salads, followed by cheesecake, pavlova & fruit salad.

Secret santa gifts were found by finding the matching piece of the card at our place setting, concluding another wonderful Christmas party with members & partners.

Pictured: Helen presenting Jeanne Brown with her Altrusa Pin



## CAR BOOT SALE - WESTON



On Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March we held a successful Car-boot sale. 14 Stall-holders settled in at the Weston Hall Carpark for our Carboot sale on a beautiful Saturday morning, including our own members stall with plenty of donated goods. This was a new event for us and we have lots of ideas to make it even more successful next year and hope to run it annually.



**ANZAC DAY**  
*Lest We Forget*

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# Committee Reports

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## **Literacy Committee-Margaret**

Work for this committee is really ongoing - Books for Babies project always needs attention, whether it's sourcing books which Sharon orders through her school; tracking down copies of informative leaflets which come from many organisations and sorting through donations of knitwear from St John to find gender-neutral toys or garments to include with books.

Collecting books for Family Fun Day is something that is always ongoing. Many thanks to Jocelyn for managing Family Fun Day this year. At this point, I'd like to pay tribute to Helen, who was always a tower of strength on the committee - full of ideas and always willing to help with any venture.

This year I have also learned that delegation is the key to success for any committee.

## **Membership Committee- Jenny**

Our Changeover will be held on the 25th May at the Star and Garter. We will begin the meeting at 6pm as we will hopefully have visitors from out of town. Looking forward to seeing you there.

I have sent away for new name badges you ordered so they will be here very soon.

## **Communications Committee- Sue**

Our 51st Birthday was celebrated on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February at Riverstone Kitchen. We all enjoyed a lovely lunch and good company.

We have been working on the next newsletter to be distributed in April. Thanks to those who have forwarded items and photos.

## **Service Committee- Marie**

The Seniors Afternoon Tea was a great success again this year held on the 29<sup>th</sup> March, we had 58 guests who all enjoyed a great afternoon chatting, eating and being entertained once again by the lovely Ukulele Ladies. The guests started the afternoon with homemade strawberry ice cream and lemonade followed by club sandwiches, slices and cream cakes. Some went home with a raffle prize and they all left with an Easter gift.

## **ASTRA Club**

23 ASTRA members baked biscuits for local seniors recently. ASTRA is off to a great start for the year.



This is Sana, Aviana, Shire (our co president) and Ellie delivering biscuits to St Mary's flats. They delivered 41 packs around the area

Abby (right) Co-President ASTRA with some freshly baked biscuits

# Member Spotlight

## Audrey Dieppa-Finol

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I met up for a lovely chat with Audrey at the Mitre 10 Café to find out all about her and how she came to be an Altrusa member.

Audrey was born and raised in Caracas, the vibrant capital of Venezuela, set in a beautiful mountain valley near the Caribbean coast. The city is the cultural and economic heart of the country and is known for its rich history and energetic lifestyle.

Audrey and her husband Gregor made the decision to change their lives, as Venezuela was not an easy place to live at the time. They moved to New Zealand, with Auckland being Audrey's first home for just over three years. They then moved to Oamaru, where they have happily lived for the past five-plus years.

Audrey has a daughter and a son, as well as five grandchildren, all of whom still live in Venezuela.

### **Hobbies & Passions**

Audrey enjoys classical ballet, which she studied for two years, and she also enjoys going to the gym.

### **Music & Interests**

She has a love of classical music and would like to learn to play different instruments herself.

### **First Job**

Audrey worked as a secretary for 15 years.

### **Guilty Pleasure**

Dark chocolate!

### **Why Altrusa?**

Audrey finds it rewarding to help people in need and enjoys working alongside others. She also shared that being part of Altrusa helps her improve her English—although she laughs that we all speak very fast and often at once!

## **COMING UP - DATES TO REMEMBER;**

\* 30<sup>th</sup> April- 2<sup>nd</sup> May District Fifteen Conference will be held at the Copthorne Hotel in Wellington.

\*AGM 11<sup>th</sup> May

\*Changeover 25<sup>th</sup> May

## **SAVE THE DATE;**

**MAY 2027- ALTRUSA DISTRICT FIFTEEN 2027 CONFERENCE,  
OAMARU**



### **Altrusa Communications Committee Meeting!!**

From the Editors-

We hope you enjoy this last issue of the Whitestone Chatter for the year 2025-26.  
Thank you to everyone who has contributed in some way.