



PRESIDENT:	Colleen Strahan
PRESIDENT Elect:	Caroline Davidson
LITERACY:	Colleen Strahan
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 Woolly Waffler for April.

At our last meeting we welcomed a visit from Jenny Wright-Gardner, a member of the District 15 Board from Hamilton. She spoke about how important it is for us to attend Altrusa conferences as it means we get to meet a lot of people and share ideas. She also encouraged us to apply for grants which are available each year. We shared what we do in projects as well.

Jenny also shared with us her experience of walking the Camino de Santiago Trail with her sister Jo in 2019. They started with the St Jacques de Compostelle section, beginning in France at Le Puy-en-Velay, Route GR65. Then across northern Spain.

It was a challenging walk, some parts very steep, up and down, as they crossed the Massif Central. The terrain in Spain was less hilly and easier. They walked 7-9 hours a day at around 4km/hr. It took them 58 days to cover 1000 kms following paths with markers on posts or on the ground. They stayed in a variety of Gîtes along the way, some challenging, ranging from Convents to hotels to a chicken coop! Any accommodation was welcome at the end of each day.

They found the locals very friendly and helpful as were their fellow walking pilgrims along the way. Jenny and her sister Jo (at 70 and 71) were thrilled with how well they had done and her message was that anyone can do what you want to do, age is no barrier.

Thank you Jenny, we enjoyed your talk and the accompanying slide show.



Jenny accepting a gift from Colleen after her presentation.



It is time to pay our Dues.

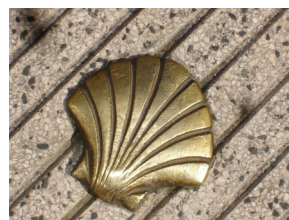
Please pay \$125.00 to our account as soon as possible.

Altrusa International of Te Kūiti Inc
06-0441-0895575-00

Thank you.



The route was marked with signs, sometimes just red and white painted stripes, and the symbol of a scallop shell.



The shell symbol was usually set into the pavements in the towns.

CHATTER FOR APRIL '26



Greetings Ladies,

April and ANZAC DAY results in many amazing stories from all the wars New Zealand has been involved in. Many of us have relations who left New Zealand for foreign shores and didn't come back. Many came back with memories that stayed in their heads all their lives. Bruce's father was in Egypt with the cavalry in World War One. My brother-in-law's father was a Desert Rat – did you see the article in the Herald about those men last week? Each man spoke rarely of their experiences. After my father died, we found amongst his papers, two applications for training as a fighter pilot, in 1943 & 1944. (He was just back in 1942, from the USA with a new PhD). Both times he was refused as he was needed as a scientist. I'm sure there are many stories similar to these.

It was a privilege to be at the BP Station recently with the poppies. The people passing by were very generous – quite humbling really. A few were surprised they were not for sale, but for a donation. It remains a puzzle to me that the new poppies have an oak leaf background! Many thanks to the ladies who helped, and Mary A. for the table & chairs.

This week Dianne and I delivered the hospital packs. They were well received by the four nurses in the station. We also delivered the Refuge children's packs. The Refuge has a super new room on the back lawn in which the new Child Advocate works with the children. Nicole Hurley is the new Advocate. She was delighted with the packs.

There are no children reading to Ruby this week so the books about Dog Safety "Keep Me Safe" which we are to donate, Janey and I will hopefully give out next week.

Gaylene is one of four nominations for a committee of three! There is to be a vote at conference, which rather alarmed me as Gaylene is the only person going from TK & won't have any vote from us! I suggested that Margaret, the Governor, put 23 votes from us for Gaylene – but that's illegal of course! Margaret said she would do some campaigning for us. Good Luck, Gaylene.

Don't forget money for the Food Bank, any old reading glasses or bras - last time of asking!

Colleen

" They went with songs to the battle, they were young, straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow. They were staunch to the end against odds uncouthed. They fell with their faces to the foe"

From "For the Fallen" by Laurence Binyon (part of the They shall not grow old, poem)



Colleen and Dianne delivering the Emergency bags to the Hospital and the Children's packs to the Refuge.





We were pleased to witness the induction of two new members this month. Marg did a great job of inducting two new members, Carol Buist and Janey Martin, into our group drawing on the analogy of the food pyramid. The virtues of each of the food groups were explained with emphasis on the importance of a balanced intake. Marg stated that just like the various aspects of Altrusa, it is important to maintain a healthy balance between Altrusa and work and family life. Carol and Janey were presented with their Membership pins, their Certificates of Induction and a club directory booklet.

Both Carol and Janey have written a brief profile so that we may know them better.



I was born in Masterton New Zealand in 1945 & grew up on "Puketawa" the family farm at Tiraumea. I attended primary school at St Patricks in Masterton & St Joseph's in Pahiatua. Secondary at St Mary's in Wellington. Trained as a Registered Nurse in Palmerston North graduated in 1967 the year I married Paul. Paul & I have six children, two teachers, two nurses, an army man & a lawyer. We moved to Te Kuiti in 1973 where we bought a life style block on the edge of town. My career as a registered nurse spanned 46yrs, spending time at Mater Hospital Palmerston North, Te Kuiti Hospital, Plunket Nursing & 23yrs as a District Nurse in Hamilton specialising in Palliative care, wound care & IV therapy. It was a profound privilege to walk along side people through their most difficult health journeys. I retired at 64 but the instinct to care for others is something that never really leaves you.

Paul and I are now happily retired on the same life style block we bought back in 1973. These days you will find me playing golf croquet, tending to the garden or helping out on the farm whenever needed.

Originally from the Midwest of the US and 25 years in San Francisco, Janey relocated to Te Kūiti after 7 years in Wellington. She is a registered architect, landscape designer, and artist. She has held teaching and administration positions in architecture, art and design at the California College of the Arts and the University of California, Berkeley. She has served as a San Francisco Commissioner of the Environment, has participated in a number of civic organizations, and researches the relationship between people and their built and natural environments. Janey earned a Bachelor of Science in Architectural Studies from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign (and Université d'illinois à Versailles, France) and a Master of Architecture from Cranbrook Academy of Art, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. Most recently she conducted PhD research in Human Geography at Te Herenga Waka Victoria University of Wellington in New Zealand. Her current project is researching and renovating the building on the corner of Sheridan and Taupiri Streets across from Mitre 10.



Marg and Mary were collecting for Child Cancer at the BP Station last month. The collection totalled \$1097.80, an excellent result. Thankyou to all the members who volunteered their time.



Marg and Colleen were collecting on Poppy Day for the RSA. Thank you to all the collectors for your time.



For Service this month Colleen and Marg have put together Emergency packs for the Hospital for both men and women. Also childrens packs for the Women's Refuge and St Johns Ambulance. The bags were made by Gwenda, and Helen helped with the purchasing of goods. A great team effort and a fabulous outcome for the Hospital and St Johns. Nga mihi nui



An excerpt taken from the District 15 Newsletter:

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.

Photo Gallery



From Mary - "Who says Linedancing isn't a risky sport?"
Best wishes for your recovery Mary.



Jane has had a special weekend at Westhaven Retreat with 9 friends since first year boarding school aged 14. Friends 50 years later.



Marg is in Wanaka enjoying the amazing Autumn colours.



Lisa's Grandchildren having a great time on the farm at Easter.



Trish has knitted 10 Baby Blankets, 100% wool, for the Maternity Resource Centre in Te Kūiti since the beginning of the year.
That is an incredible feat
Trish, Thank you.

International Days

- 15 May International Day of Families
- 16 May International Day of Living together in Peace.
- 21 May International Tea Day
- 29 May International Day of UN Peacekeepers



8th May Sir David Attenborough's 100th birthday. What an amazing man.

We wish Robyn all the very best for her journey to Te Anau to compete in the South Island Dog Trials. Then later to Hawkes Bay for the North Island Trials and then the Nationals.
Legend!



Coming up:

Next meeting Tuesday 5th May, apologies to Caroline please.

District 15 Conference 1st to 3rd May
All the best to Gaylene who is attending on our behalf. We look forward to hearing how it goes.



Jude Carter
Mary Scobie



Hari Rā Māmā