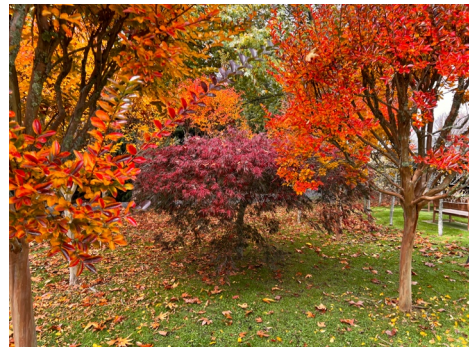


## NEWSLETTER

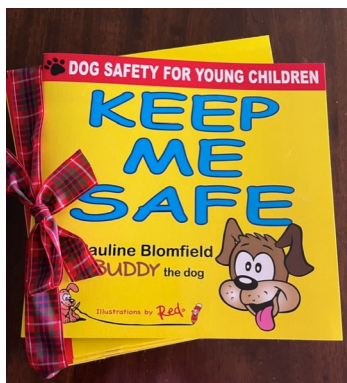
"THE WOOLLY WAFFLER": May 2026

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 May. The Autumn colours have been shining in the sun during a great spell of fine weather.



These Crepe Myrtle trees with the Maple were photographed at the Church Tree Garden in Ohaupo.



These are the books our Altrusa Club have purchased to give away to the children who come to the Reading with Ruby programme at the Library. We have also donated one to each of the school libraries in our area. Julie at the Te Kūiti library accepted the books on a day when Home schooled children were visiting. Ruby loved all the attention.



Our guest speaker this month was Joel Bradley who runs the Services Academy at Te Kūiti High School.

Joel had grown up with stories of the Army from his father so his goal was to join the Army. On his second attempt he was accepted in 2010 and then served 11 years. He found the SAS was difficult as they were expected to be away from family for long periods of time. He then joined the sniper division and became supervisor in 2014. He transferred to Whenuapai but realised he really wanted to help youth to succeed. He left the Army and came home to Te Kūiti working for the Youth Hub. Meanwhile the Services Academy at Te Kūiti High School had folded and the school was now keen to re establish it. It took a few years but now it is up and running again with Joel as the leader, his best job.

Students apply to be part of the Academy, which is part of the curriculum and this year he has 20 students, 50-50 male/female. They work closely with the Defence Force with Physical training, Leadership, Navigation and team building. At the end of the year they have an Army Challenge with other Academies, this year in Whangarei. When not in the Services class the students attend their normal classes. The success of the Academy is reflected in the achievements of the students.



Joel and Deeana Bradley with Colleen. Both Joel and Deeana are former Te Kūiti High School Students.

## CHATTER FOR MAY/JUNE 2026

Greetings Ladies,

“Take time to think, it is the source of power” THINK being the operative word!

We have, once again, had two weeks in Taupo looking after Izzy, (the cat, remember?) while our daughter swanned around Egypt & Jordan. She had a great time, exploring pyramids, riding a camel, visiting a fabulous new museum, dipping her fingers in the Jordan river (with Israel 3 meters away on the opposite bank, & a Jordanian soldier standing 1 meter away, fully armed.), staying in lovely hotels, (from which she could see the lights of Jerusalem), floating in the Red Sea, creating colourful combinations of food on beautiful plates, and talking to friendly Jordanian women. The Jordanians are well aware Israel could eye Jordan at any time.



Meanwhile, I slaved away in her garden – my own choice of course! Bruce & I went out for lunch each day. There are so many nice places to go in Taupo! We had three rides on our bikes – the ride across Huka Falls, down river to the Aratiatia Rapids, and upriver back to Helen’s house above the Falls, probably for the last time. The track is not well maintained; part was through bush, usually enjoyable, but we chose the wrong time to go – too early in the morning - as the sun was filtering through the branches creating a speckled effect on the track. In parts we had to hope we were still on the track as it disappeared into the shadow!

In the sporting arena the yachties are not flying fast enough – out foiled by our previous captain, the Auckland football team thrilled their fans by winning their competition, the Moana Pacifica rugby team is struggling for backers, the NZ racing drivers are not driving fast enough, the White Ferns were run out for less than 100 runs, and the All Blacks? We’ll see how they pan out, and there is tennis to watch. The Black Caps play Ireland next – but with the name Strahan, who do I cheer for?! Oh Dear!

And the Budget? I won’t go there!

Let’s just continue supporting our local Food Bank. We presented Mihi & The Journey Church Food Banks with \$616.30 over the last twelve months. It’s a great way to help our local community.

This is my last Chatter for the Woolly Waffler, now over to you, Caroline.

See you next Tuesday.

Colleen.

“Take time to be Friendly, it is the road to happiness. Take time to laugh, it is the music of the soul.”

From an Irish Tea towel, author unknown.



Colleen and Bruce after riding into Taupo and then back up to Huka Falls, seen here in full flow



Colleen with her daughter Jane at Mother Grandmother High tea at St Peter’s School

A MARU ENERGY TRUST INITIATIVE

## Kahumoe Kaupapa

The PJ Project

Our PJ Project gifts new winter pyjamas to those in need in our local communities.

Newborn to adult sizes  
Appeal closes 30 June 2026

How you can help:  
 DROP pyjamas to The Lines Company's Te Kaitiaki office at King St East or the King Country REAP office in Taumarunui (130 Newlands St)  
 DONATE to Maru Energy Trust: 0204445021 1800 000 Reference: Your name, Code: PJ Project

Help us gift a good night's sleep to local whānau today

Thank you for your kindness

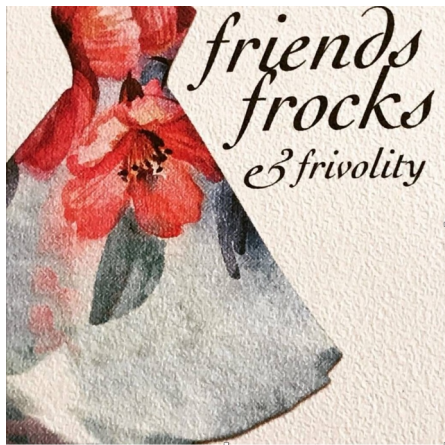


For more info email [hello@maru.org.nz](mailto:hello@maru.org.nz) Follow us on Facebook



We have had a letter from Jo Meads about their appeal from the Maru Energy Trust which is a Charitable Trust established by The Lines Company in 2018 to support vulnerable home owners. They are again appealing for donations for pyjamas for adults and children. If you can help, please bring donations to our next meeting in June. Nga mihi nui.

Last month our speaker was Jenny Wright-Gardner. She sent this photo of the lovely pottery dish she received as a gift from us. It now is the special place for her Altrusa Ribbon.



FASHION EVENT at Waipa Womens Hub, - 321 Bank Street, Te Awamutu

FRIDAY JUNE 5<sup>th</sup> 7.00pm – 10.00pm

TICKETS \$25 Available At:

[WWW.ALTRUSATEAWAMUTU.CO.NZ](http://WWW.ALTRUSATEAWAMUTU.CO.NZ)

Friends Frocks & Frivolity is the place to buy pre-loved, high end quality clothing, shoes & accessories in a beautiful, relaxed environment.

Enjoy an evening with your friends, grab a bargain and feel good about doing your bit for the environment by recycling clothes and donating to charity. Proceeds from this year's event will go to Operation Christmas Hamper.

Your TICKET INCLUDES - a glass of bubbles, canapes on arrival and a hot drink and sweet treat to finish.

# Photo Gallery

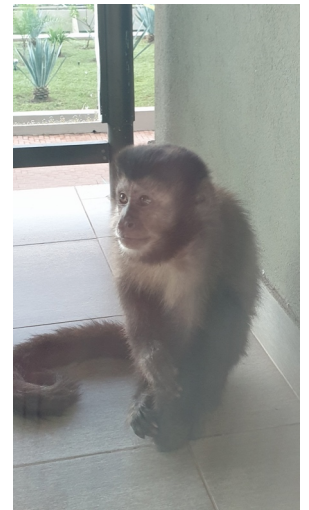


Gwenda and David are in South America, pictured here at Iguazu Falls on the border of Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay.



Then I said; "the hell with it & dug out my old bikini!....."

Then to Rio de Janeiro to a hotel opposite Copacabana beach so Gwenda sent this to entertain us. She says 'You'll be pleased to know I didn't pack my bikini!!'



An early morning visitor on the third floor deck. Doors can't be left unlocked as the monkeys can open the door and steal food.



Lisa with her daughter Natalie and the eldest granddaughters attending Mama Mia in Te Awamutu



A successful last pony club rally for Lisa's granddaughter, Chloe

## Coming up

Next meeting: AGM Tuesday 2nd June followed by our regular meeting. Apologies to Caroline please.

June 11th - 14th Field Days, Hamilton

June 24th-28th Te Kuiti On Stage production



Birthdays in May: Jackie Boulton, Colleen Strahan

Birthdays in June: Ros Snow



Marilyn with friends at a windmill in Groningen, Netherlands



Marilyn on the hotel steps, Grand Place in Brussels, 30 degrees C



The famous Mannequin Pis, in Brussels, a remarkably small statue, here dressed up in some kind of uniform!

## International Days :

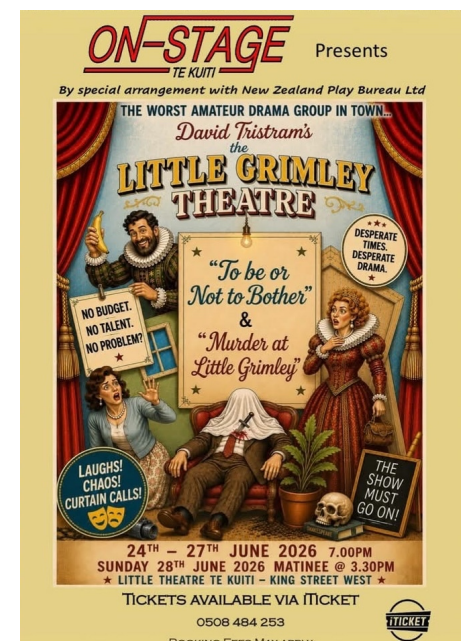
- 5th June: World Environment day
- 20th June: World Refugee day
- 23rd June: UN public service day



Mary was able to swim, moon boot removed, at Seabreeze Resort in Samoa.



Fuipisia Falls on a wet day, challenging access with moon boot but worth it.



Do support our local 'On Stage', guaranteed great entertainment and lots of laughs.