

NEWSLETTER

“THE WOOLLY WAFFLER”: JUNE 2026



PRESIDENT:	Caroline Davidson
PRESIDENT Elect:	
LITERACY:	Colleen Strahan Janey Martin
SERVICE:	Marg Johnstone
MEMBERSHIP:	
SECRETARY:	Minutes - Helen Verry Correspondence - Trish Neal
TREASURER:	Mary Scobie
SUNSHINE LADY:	Raewyn Flexman
SPEAKERS:	Mary Anderson
NEWSLETTER:	Ros Snow

Several members have donated warm pyjamas to the Maru Energy Trust to be distributed to needy families.
Ngā mihi nui.



Coming up:

Next meeting: 7th July at Panorama
Apologies to Jane Murray: jane.murray@hotmail.com
10th July: Matariki
5th September: Stall at St Lukes market
10th September: Literacy evening at Centennial Park, 5pm

Kia ora koutau, welcome members to the June issue of the Woolly Waffler.

We have had some wintery weather since the last spell of fine days. At least it was fine for Field Days this year.

At our last meeting, three of our members received badges for their membership. Gwenda received her 15 year badge, Jackie and Elaine received their 20 year badges. Congratulations to you all.

I can't believe that I didn't get photos of the presentation, I was obviously admiring them and not thinking of my job! Apologies to you all. Sometimes I need a nudge!!

We now have 25 active members which is excellent but there is still room for more.

We held our AGM before our regular meeting last month which was well attended.

Next meeting we will install the new Board and yes, there will be photos! You will note there are 2 gaps so I hope you have given these positions extra thought.



FIFA World Cup fever is capturing the world right now and we are following our National team with interest. As I write this they still have one game to play in their group. Good luck to the All Whites.



Big welcome to our new President, Caroline



Hello All

For my first 'chatter' contribution, I would like to introduce myself to those who don't already know me.

I was disappointed to be unable to attend our last meeting and AGM, but am happy to report I am feeling much better now. Thank you Colleen for keeping the wheels turning. I have big shoes to fill!

About 5 years ago after being a guest speaker at an Altrusa meeting, I was asked if I would like to join the group. At the time I had just completed 10 years on the St Andrew's Housing Trust Board as Treasurer, and this seemed an ideal way to continue contributing the community.

Until now I have been happy to be one of the worker bees, and have enjoyed contributing to making a difference in our community through the various projects we undertake.

I have lived in the King Country for almost 30 years, after moving here from Auckland. I worked for FMG as Rural Business Manager for some years and in 2008 I was looking for a change. My son Neal was a glazier at Te Kuiti Glass, when the opportunity to buy the business came up. We decided to join forces and have enjoyed a number of years working together. I have now retired from the day to day demands, but am still involved when needed.

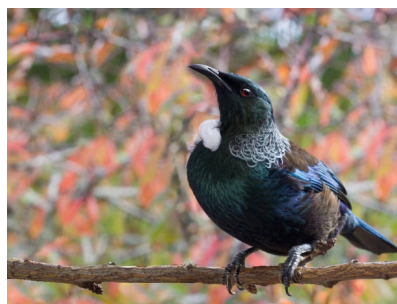
I'm a keen traveller and have enjoyed many overseas adventures over the years. My son Ben married a Dane, so Denmark is a repeat destination for me. On home soil I enjoy heading off in my motorhome with my co pilot, Lottie the dog.

See you all at the next meeting.

Caroline



Now that it is winter our native birds find it more difficult to find food. A dish or plate of sugar water will be appreciated. Dissolving 2/3 cup of sugar in a litre of water will be similar to flower nectar. Happy bird watching.



On July 10th, many in the country will be celebrating Matariki, a public holiday.



Matariki is the star cluster most commonly known across the world as Pleiades.

This cluster is part of a larger constellation of stars called Taurus. It is one of the earliest recorded groups of stars in human history, with a record that dates back some 17,000 years.

Around the world there are many names for this group of stars. In Japan, it is called Subaru, which means 'to come together'. (You will recognise the group of stars as the logo on Subaru vehicles) In China it is Mao, the hairy head of the white tiger, and in India it is known as Krittika. In Greek mythology they are known as the Seven Sisters, and in Norse mythology the Vikings knew them as Freyja's hens. (from Museum of New Zealand, Te Papa Tongarewa)

I am sure that many of you will have read the series The Seven Sisters by Lucinda Riley. If you haven't, I have the full set I can lend! A great read.



In many cultures, these stars are connected to celebration, planting, harvesting, weather, and life. For Māori, the rising of Matariki signals te Mātahi o te Tau, the Māori New Year. The appearance of Matariki in the morning sky is a sign for people to gather, to honour the dead, celebrate the present, and plan for the future.

In 2022, Matariki became an official public holiday in Aotearoa New Zealand, the first public holiday in Aotearoa to recognise te ao Māori.

It is a great time to embrace our community and join in the celebrations. Mānawatia a Matariki. "May all the blessings and goodness of Matariki be bestowed upon you"



This last month, members put together the Rocket into Reading packs at Colleen's place. Many thanks to the workers and Marg, Mary, Janey, Elaine and Colleen who delivered the packs to the local schools.



Putting the packs together.



Colleen at Centennial Park, wonderful Matariki stars on the wall.



Mary at St Josephs School



Marg and Colleen at Te Kūiti Primary School

Photo Gallery



Robyn is feeling very pleased with her young dog, Libby who is proving to be a consistent performer. Libby had a fantastic hill trial season ending with a great run in the North Island short head. She also placed 3rd at the Bayley's indoor sheep dog trial in a very tight open final. Well done Robyn, this lovely dog doesn't achieve this all by herself!



From the District 15 Newsletter:

Share the Journey - Weaving Threads Through our Community

Every Altrusa journey begins with a single thread - a first meeting, a first conversation, or the first moment of feeling welcome. Belonging is the foundation of membership and each of us plays a role.



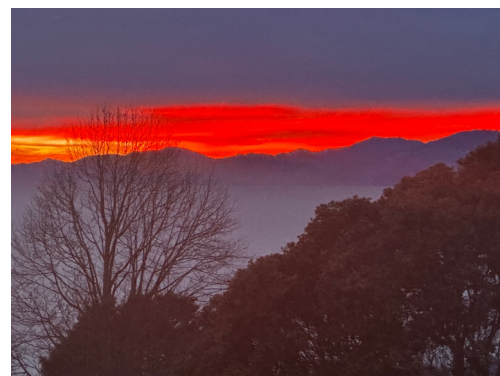
Sadly, the All Whites lost their 3rd game to Belgium, a higher ranked side. They did well however on the world stage and they scored goals! So now we await the All Blacks game!



Gwenda made Empanadas, the South American equivalent of the kiwi mince pie, for Bailey Ingham shared lunch on the day of the All Whites first game.



Gwenda's grandsons in New Plymouth.... ready for the football wearing Messi shirts that Gwenda brought back from Argentina.



Jenni has spent a week visiting family in Ruby Bay where she captured this stunning sunrise. The massive Gum tree is at the entrance to Nelson Girls College where her Grand daughter Zoe goes.

Please remember to bring a \$ donation for Foodbank Ngā mihi nui



Karen Benefield