

NEWSLETTER

“THE WOOLLY WAFFLER”: AUGUST 2026



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

Kia ora koutau,
Welcome to the Woolly Waffler for August.

The year is flying by and we are fast heading for Spring. The worst of the frosts seem to be over but we need a bit more warm weather so that the blossoms break out.

Our very important fundraising day for Cancer Society New Zealand, Daffodil Day is on Friday 28th August so I hope you are able to support them on that day. I am sure we have all been touched by someone who has battled Cancer. Thank you to any of our members who are involved in collecting on the day.



Our speaker at the meeting last month was Janey Martin, one of our more recent members. She spoke about her life in Illinois, a farming area in the Corn belt, close to Chicago, where she was born and grew up. She went to a large Univeresity there, 40,000 students and studied Architecture. She followed that with a graduate degree near Detroit and spent the next 25 years working in Architecture in New York, Tokyo and San Francisco.

Janey then came to Victoria University in Wellington to undertake PhD study in sustainability and disabled access in Architecture and landscape.

The opportunity to purchase and renovate an old 1908 building brought her to Te Kuiti, an on-going project.

Painting is another interest that keeps her busy as well as taking her little dog, Ruby, to schools for the Read to Ruby programme.

Thank you Janey for sharing your interesting journey with us.



Janey with her art.

Janey also brought a guest with her, Mihirawhiti Searanke, who introduced herself as a local returning to the area to take care of relatives.

A massive Thank You to the Turbott Oakley Family Trust for the generous donation of \$5000. The trust was set up to support small Community groups and is administered by one of our members, Maryanne.

Thank you

Thank you

Another thank you to the Te Kūiti Rotary Club for their donation of \$500 to go towards buying books for our Rocket into Reading programme. Colleen reported that 83 packs of stationery and books were delivered to our local Primary Schools tn the first half of the year. That is a massive effort.

August 2026 Chatter

The days are certainly getting longer, with a hint of spring not too far away. I much prefer the cold crisp days following a hearty frost, to the dull days like today with a smoky haze.

I've been pondering what to write about this month as I've barely been anywhere! A night at the movies a few weeks ago and a trip to the Lions Club shop one Saturday to stock up on some more books. I do have something to show for the time at home though, having had a good tidy up in the garden.



In the absence of tripping around this year, I have been following my Danish family on their annual summer holiday to the north of Sweden. This is a 1200 km road trip from Copenhagen. The younger members of the family do it in a long day, the others over a couple of days, with a night halfway. I've joined the family a couple of times, on both occasions by rail, with a stop in Stockholm overnight. The summer house is a 250 year old Swedish farmhouse and assorted outbuildings, on a few acres next to a river. There is a flurry of activity for the first couple of days, cutting grass, pushing out the jetty, dragging the dingy and kayaks to river, gathering firewood for the hot tub and sauna, assembling the trampoline for the kids and putting up the badminton net. The sauna and hot tub are very much needed, as the river is absolutely freezing. Too cold for me! In true Scandi style, the swimmers all skinny dip with a daily plunge every morning. Everything gets put away at the end of the holiday season. The river freezes over and I'm told there is usually several feet of snow most of the winter. Not quite 24 hours daylight, but close. The evenings are spent outside on the deck playing cards and no one goes to bed until well after midnight. With 12 or 14 people staying, the facilities are a bit challenging. There's no running water in the kitchen, dishes are done at an outside sink. No oven, just a 2 burner hotplate and a bbq. Oh, and only one toilet! There are 2 showers though. Rural northern Sweden is like stepping back 20 years or so.

\$67.00 collected for foodbank at last meeting.

Caroline.

Coming up:

St Lukes stall 5th September

Area 1 IFF Day at Cambridge 26th September - see poster



The Summer house in Sweden.





At our last meeting Trish presented Colleen with her Presidential gavel pin.



Trish also presented Colleen and Janey with their goodie bags as they take office for the coming year.



Robyn is keen to get a group together to enjoy this Garden Ramble. Please let her know if you would like to join the group.

The next Altrusa Home & Garden Ramble takes place on **Sunday, November 1, 2026, from 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM**. This annual charity event features an unguided tour of 11 homes and gardens across Te Awamutu, Kihikihi, and surrounding districts to raise funds for local community projects. [Altrusa Te Awamutu +1](#)

Event Details

- **Date:** Sunday, November 1, 2026
- **Time:** 9:30 AM – 4:00 PM
- **Location:** Te Awamutu, Kihikihi, and surrounding areas
- **Admission:** Wristband/ticket required (available via the [Altrusa Club of Te Awamutu](#))

What's Included

- **11 Properties:** Unguided access to an eclectic mix of local residential homes and established country or town gardens.
- **On-site Stalls:** Pop-up stalls offering crafts, artwork, and diverse products.
- **Refreshments:** Morning tea available during the day.
- **Raffles:** Charity raffles supporting community causes. [Altrusa Te Awamutu +2](#)

Also:

Robyn is rejuvenating the walking group with a proposal to visit the Ruakuri walk at Waitomo on Wednesday 2nd September, meeting at the statue at 10am to car pool. Please let her know at the next meeting or by text: 0272444045 if you want to join.



To Spring babies in September:
Elaine Duder
Marg Johnstone
Hilary Lynch
Jenni Templeton

Margaret Melhop will be visiting our meeting in October. We are looking forward to hearing from her.



AREA 1 IFF Day

26th September 2026

9.30am - 3pm

HYGIENE KITS FOR YOUTH

34cm



25cm
Sew a drawstring toilet bag
(drawstrings provided by
Cambridge) and bring it along

Bring gold coins
for the Active
Hearts coin
trail.

Bring toiletries for Hygiene Kits
for 15–24 year olds to donate
to Ko Wai Au Trust.

Morning tea and lunch
provided.

Cambridge

Location: Taylor Made
Community Space
22a Taylor Street
Cambridge

www.altrusa.org/cambridge Leading to a Better Comm.

Our region's IFF day is in Cambridge on
26th September.
We will discuss who is able to go at our
next meeting.

Photo Gallery



Marg's granddaughter Lily and
the shepherd on the farm,
Teagan O'Shea, winning at
hockey



Jenni saying Aloha
from Honolulu



Mary on Whitly Bay beach,
Northumberland, with her
granddaughter



The village pub, Burton-in-Lonsdale, West
Yorkshire where Mary's parents had a
'bach'

Laziness kills ambition
Anger kills wisdom
Fear kills dreams
Ego kills growth
Jealousy kills peace
Doubt kills confidence
←
Now read that right to left.



Lisa's grand children picking the
daffodils.
Lisa at Disney on Ice with the dressed
up grand children.



Jane has sent some great photos of her recent trip to Scotland.



Castle where an episode of Black Adder was filmed.



Castle where McLean Clan originated.



A 'Heeland Coo' !



A Piper in Edinburgh



GlenFinnan Viaduct and the steam train Jane rode over the viaduct.



Leakey's Bookshop, a reader's dream



Market day

at St Lukes Church on Saturday 5th September.

Funds raised are for our administration costs.

Please support the stall with baking, sweets, jams, pickles, fruit, veges, plants, books, toys, and bric a brac. Anything you think might sell!

Thank you, in advance



Food Bank
Please remember a \$ donation at the meeting.
Ngā mihi nui.

Thank you for your photos for this month, they are always interesting.
See you next Tuesday and please remember, you must send an apology if you are not able to be there.

Coming up:

Next meeting: 1st September
Apologies please to Jane.

28th August: Daffodil Day

2nd September: Ruakuri Walk outing.

5th September: Market at St Lukes, 8am

10th September: Literacy evening at Centennial Park School

26th September: IFF day at Cambridge

1st November: Garden Ramble

10th December: Christmas Market Stall