ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL
CLUB OF TE KŪITI INC

NEWSLETTER

"THE WOOLLY WAFFLER": OCTOBER 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 all to the October issue of the Woolly Waffler.
I'm pleased to see there are still some cherry trees in blossom, I was afraid I had missed them all. The weather does seem a lot warmer too.

Last meeting we welcomed the District Governor, Margaret Melhop to our club. It is always good to hear from the officers for our District.

Colleen and Gaylene reported on the IFF day, bringing suggestions for our club to embrace including providing 2nd hand books in public places and Reader/Writers for College students.
We discussed sponsoring Swimming lessons for Make a Difference Day, Jane is to liaise with swimming pool staff to nominate worthy recipients of the sponsorship.

The local Council have a Proposal to move the Library from it's current stand-alone building to the Cultural centre which would mean it would compete with the other events held there.
After considerable discussion in the last 2 meetings, our members decided to write to the local Mayor and Council expressing our concerns. The following is the letter sent.

"Dear Mayor, Councillors and Chief Executive

I am writing to you on behalf of Altrusa International Te Kuiti. As you may know, Altrusa is a global volunteer organisation dedicated to improving communities, with a primary focus on promoting literacy. Following a recent meeting, our members were unanimous in their wish to express their concerns over the proposed amalgamation of the library and the Les Munro Centre.

We understand the council's need to optimise council owned spaces. The proposal to introduce rolling library shelves, pushing books aside to accommodate events in the same space, is deeply concerning to us. A library is not merely a warehouse for books that can be cleared away. It is a community sanctuary and hub. It provides a quiet, stable environment for study, research, digital access, and the cultivation of reading. Constantly disrupting this space for events will compromise its core function, creating an environment that is counterproductive to literacy development and quiet enjoyment.

Our members strongly believe that a far better, less disruptive solution exists within the library's current footprint. The existing library building can be effectively utilised and modernised by expanding its operation into the upstairs area

To facilitate this expansion and resolve current space constraints, we propose that the existing community support centre, currently operating within the building be relocated to the events centre, or another building. A community support centre is highly compatible with the social environment of the Les Munro Centre. This swap would allow the community support centre to thrive, while preserving the library as a dedicated, uninterrupted space for literacy and education.

We urge the council to reconsider the amalgamation model and instead investigate the expanding of the library upward.

We trust you will take our views into consideration.

Yours sincerely"

Altrusa International Club of Te Kūiti Inc

Chatter



Hello Ladies

The end of the year is approaching fast. Spring has sprung and the frosts are hopefully done and dusted. I am sure most of you will be out in the garden enjoying some sun, dealing to the winter weeds and getting the veggies in for the summer. A mother blackbird is nesting just out from my kitchen window. I watched her for a few days last week making a nest with great urgency. Father (I presume) was supervising from a high point but not offering any help at all! I was surprised how she was using her feet to form the nest. Beak pushing the pieces into place, feet stomping to form the shape. Something I haven't observed previously. I am hopeful there will be chicks to see when my Danish grandson arrives at the end of the week to visit.

I have received a follow up letter from Margaret Melhop, the District Governor. She enjoyed her visit to our club. She has however reminded us that we do not have a President elect, and that clubs cannot operate without club officers. If no one puts their hand up, then we could be in danger of folding! My goal is to finish the year with someone to take this position.

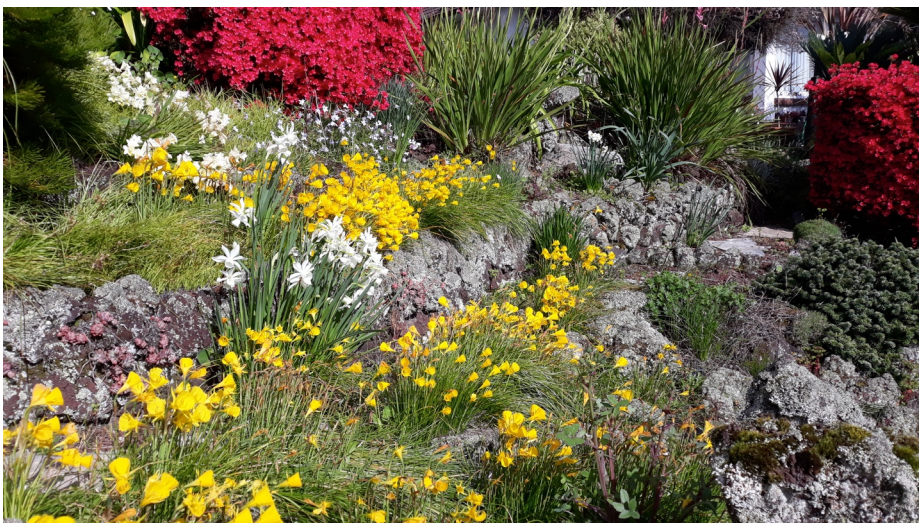
November is usually our last meeting of the year, assuming we skip the December one to enjoy the end of year Christmas dinner. We have had a busy year and should be well satisfied with our achievements.

There are still a few things still to do on our calendar for the year. The final Rocket into Reading packs to be made up and delivered, plus our main fund raiser, the street stall. Please bring items to our meeting for the hamper raffle, this will help streamline the process. Also have a think about baking, preserves etc for the stall. Don't forget a cash donation for the foodbank.

Thinking ahead to next year and our first meeting in February, do we return to the band rotunda or elsewhere? Bright ideas please.

In the meantime, will see you on November 3rd. Apologies to Jane by 31st October.

Caroline



My Rockery garden in Spring, the only time it looks this good!

ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT FIFTEEN

2027 CONFERENCE • OAMARU, NEW ZEALAND
30 April – 2 May 2027

Inspired by the Past, Leading the Future

The Conference has some interesting speakers lined up.
Bevan Newlands speaking about a bike trip in Nepal.
Kirsten Taylor speaking about Safeguarding Children
Lisa Boyd, the International Treasurer for Altrusa Inc

Conference details were in an email sent on 22nd September.



Garden Ramble this weekend, could be a great day out.



Margaret Melhop, the District Governor attended our last meeting. It was a pleasure to have her, here with Caroline.

Ruby presented to 3 classes of 5-6 year olds at the invitation of Pukenui School in September. No photos of her in the classroom, but following our decompression walk afterwards she stopped at the school gate asking to be let back in! A very good sign that she enjoys her job bringing enrichment to the children.



Remember a $ donation for our foodbank collection.
Nga mihi nui.



Photo Gallery



Robyn has been nurturing and training these 8 cute heading puppies for the last 8 weeks, look how they all obeyed her call! They are quite placid, calm and affectionate. Robyn will find it hard to part with them, they all have homes to go to.



Jenni's Grandson, Robbie at his first Pet day at Rangitoto. I'm not sure who is more cute!





Views from the 14 km bike ride along the Tongariro River that Colleen and Bruce rode recently.



Lisa on their Shark Bay Western Australia trip





Monkey Mia, Shark Bay







Mary with her Mum, in London, who is 100 years old and the house her Mum has lived in for 75 years.
The blossom trees greeted Mary down their drive as they came home.









Ros and Owen had a wonderful 6 week Mediterranean holiday with visits to Burano in Venice, Dubrovnik in Croatia and to Taormina in Sicily.

Coming up: Next meeting 3rd November, apologies to Jane please. Bring items for the Hamper raffle.
Market day 3rd December



In November:
Gaylene Cumpston
Jane Murray