



Ashburton Newslink

Chartered 4 April 1974

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"Nurture and Grow"

**International
President
Leeane Milligan's
theme:
"Reaching Out"**

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ISSUE 11/17

December 2017

Mary's Musings

Dear Altrusa Friends,

The past few weeks have been a reflection of the song "Life has its Seasons" for us.

Amidst the sadness we felt at the loss of our friends Elaine and Joan there is the buzz of Christmas excitement and anticipation.

Seen through the eyes of children it is impossible to stay immune to the hope and joy of this special season.

Our Membership committee deserve a vote of thanks for organising our Christmas function.....great venue, delicious food and a visit from a delightful donkey.....who needs Father Christmas!

The theft of our tree in the Domain was disappointing, to say the least, but the space has been filled by another species of pine until a replacement becomes available. Please note the 4 signs re the history and planting of our original tree....1 at both the West St and Elizabeth St entrances and 2 in the Domain.

We chose to support the AIKYA project again and raised \$190.00 as well as 13 members enjoying a meal at Indian Minar.

The Salvation Army now have children's books to include in the parcels for families in need.

Our first Nail Clinic on November 30th proved popular with the 18 participants. The afternoon was challenging (at times), fun, social and participants donations raised \$208.00. The sessions will be held every 6 weeks with 3 cutters working next time to accommodate the original participants and people from the waiting list. Well Done Team.

As 2017 draws to a close I want to sincerely thank you all for the part you have played in making our community and beyond a better place.

Thank you for your patience, encouragement and support. I appreciate it.

Best wishes to you all for a great Christmas and a safe and happy holiday season.

Quote from Cicero "The life given to us may be short but the memory of a life well spent is eternal"

Go Well.

Warm Regards - *Mary*



NOTICE BOARD – DATES TO REMEMBER:

Sunday 21 January 2018 – Bus Trip – Departs Ashburton 11a.m (Bus cost \$10 p.p.) Lunch at Dunsandel, visiting an early settlers homestead at Whitecliffs, Terrace Downs for afternoon tea and back to Ashburton around 5pm. See Membership report.

Monday 5th February 2018- 5.00 pm – Board meeting at Janet’s home.

Wednesday 7th February - 5.30p.m. for 6 pm – Business Meeting (Hostesses – Catering Committee)

Wednesday 21st February – 5.30 p.m. for 6 p.m - Programme Meeting – Archives Committee –
(Hostesses: Colleen P, Julianna P, Isabell P, Jocelyn M)

Programme Night Meal – Apologies to Joyce Ph. 308 4152 or Anne 308 6148 by 1 p.m. on Monday. –

Put in an Apology or Pay!!!



<u>BOOKS ON WHEELS ROSTER</u>	<u>DAY CARE DRIVING ROSTER</u>
<p>December 14th – Val Prendergast 2018 - January 25th – Joan Lawn February 8th – Juliana Protheroe February 22nd – Janet Butterick</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Contact: Joyce Campbell</p> <p style="text-align: center;">◀ ☺ ▶</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Long ago, when men cursed and beat the ground with sticks, it was called witchcraft... Today, it's called golf.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Day Care staff will contact you early Monday a.m.</i></p> <p>December 18th Pam Champness 2018 January 8th - Isabell Page January 15th Joan Lawn January 22nd Jocelyn Molloy January 29th Rosemary Moore February 5th - Val Prendergast February 12th Janet Butterick</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Contact – Jocelyn Molloy</p>



ACCENT presented by Mother Christmas (aka Lorraine Tew)

Christmas

“Ask your children two questions this Christmas.

First: What do you want to give to others for Christmas?

Second: What do you want for Christmas?

The first fosters generosity of heart and an outward focus.

The second can breed selfishness if not tempered by the first.” ~ **Author Unknown**

“Christmas is forever, not for just one day,

for loving, sharing, giving, are not to put away

like bells and lights and tinsel, in some box upon a shelf.

The good you do for others is good you do yourself.” ~ **Norman Wesley Brooks, “Let Every Day Be Christmas”**

“And the Grinch, with his Grinch-feet ice cold in the snow, stood puzzling and puzzling, how could it be so?

It came without ribbons. It came without tags. It came without packages, boxes or bags.

And he puzzled and puzzled 'till his puzzler was sore.

Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before.

What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store. What if Christmas, perhaps,

means a little bit more.” ~ **Dr Seuss**





DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

5th – Bev Gellatly
19th – Joy Duffy
22nd Annette Lane



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

6th – Viv Strong
14th – Suan Bowler
24th– Jenny Thompson (emeritus member)
24th - Fay Wilson

*Birthdays are good for you;
the more you have, the longer you live.*

Members' Snippets of News

♥ Health & cheer germs to Lynne J. following her knee operation.



COMMITTEE REPORTS (there is no "I" in the word Team)

Service – Jocelyn Molloy:

Thanks to all the members who baked for the Cancer Society. Kathy and I helped to put together the bags of baking to go out to people undergoing treatment at the moment. We made up 170 bags and several hampers will also go to families. A large proportion of this baking came from our members. The Tree of Remembrance is now happening in the Arcade. Sales have been slow so far, but hopefully this will improve as we get closer to Christmas. I would like to wish my committee a very happy Christmas.

MEMBERSHIP - Isabell Page:

Thank you all for coming along and making the Christmas Function the success it was. The meal was very enjoyable and members / partners seemed to enjoy the social time together. The proceeds from the mystery raffle boxes raised the amazing amount of \$180. The Board had agreed that we top up the amount to the Ashburton Bowling Club for the use of their rooms to \$100. The Membership Committee are planning a Bus trip on 21st January 2018 and a board is circulating tonight for those members/partners who would like to come along. Leaving Ashburton 11am, Lunch at Dunsandel, visiting an early settlers homestead at Whitecliffs, Terrace Downs for afternoon tea and back to Ashburton around 5pm. The Board have kindly agreed to subsidise the cost of the coach making the fare \$10 per person. (Lunch and afternoon tea at members cost). The Membership Committee would like to wish all members a very happy Festive Season.

Literacy – Gwen Clucas:

The Literacy Committee met at the Somerset Grocer for a social gathering on 5 December. We were pleased that President Mary was able to join us. We have delivered about 150 children's books supplied by members and some donated from Bookarama to Judith Lilley at the Salvation Army to be distributed with Christmas food parcels. Thanks to all those who donated books. We had a good range for all age groups. Thanks to Robin Corbett who printed us more Altrusa stickers to put into the books when we ran out.

International – Glenys Rickerby

Indian Meal for Aikya: 13 members enjoyed a pleasant evening at the Indian Minar Restaurant last month. Those members unable to attend also gave their donation and \$190.00 was raised. Thank you all for your generosity.

Days for Girls: Sewing bee planned for March 17th so mark this date in your diary. Thanks again to all those who sold and purchased the raffle tickets. This was drawn on Dec 10th, was anyone a prize winner?

Health Studies Bursary: There have been 8 applications. Elwyn and I have selected 4 to be interviewed, not an easy task. Interviews will take place on January 18th 2018. Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas.

Communications – Lynne Judkins:

No meetings held recently, but we are planning a pre Christmas get-together for coffee.

ARCHIVES –

On hold following Joan's death. Will hold meeting in New Year.



STILLBORN MEMORIAL ROSTER

FEBRUARY - Andrea Rushton & Colleen Prendergast



Q : What do you call an old snowman?

A: Water

Q: Who hides in the bakery at Christmas?

A: A mince spy

BITS & PIECES

Several members have recently changed their email addresses – have you amended your contact list??

♥ Mary Harrison – harrisonsby2@gmail.com

♥ Janet Butterick – jmbutterick@gmail.com

♥ Alice McLaren – alice.mcl34@gmail.com

♥ Rosemary Moore – rosemary@moorepark.net.nz

♥ Maureen Bishop – maureenbishop106@gmail.com



STROLLING THROUGH THE ARCHIVES –

Nothing this month – hopefully this will be back on track next year.



AT OUR CHRISTMAS PARTY!

President Mary needed a little help from this charming donkey to guide winners of the various raffle prizes to make their selection.

Most animals are led by a halter around their heads – this donkey is a little different! He/she has a lead attached to his/her thigh.

We were all impressed with the good behaviour of the donkey – very well trained!

The evening, held in the Ashburton Bowling Club's rooms in the domain, was a happy, fun-filled night!

Well done, Membership Committee!



JUDGE: What were you charged with?

PRISONER: Doing my Christmas shopping early.

JUDGE: Tht's not an offence. How early were you doing this shopping?

PRISONER: Before the store opened.



What has four legs but can't walk? A table .

**PRESIDENT MARY'S TRIBUTE
TO OUR FELLOW ALTRUSAN
JOAN CUNNINGHAM
WHO DIED ON 23 NOVEMBER 2017.**

I am sharing today on behalf of Altrusa International of Ashburton but I first met Joan as a fellow parishioner here at St. Paul's. Death weaves its way into life's patterned cloth but memories are the golden threads that give us the strength to move forward again.

Joan was a delightful lady who was rarely seen without a smile, who LOVED to chat, was encouraging and hospitable and saw the positives in life.

Some people come into our lives for a reason, some for a season and some for the rest of our lives. Joan was one of the latter.....a true friend for life.

I would like to share an illustration of Joan's friendship.

Some years ago Altrusa was able to help a young woman in our community.

Joan kept contact with her regularly often speaking about the work Altrusa carries out both here and overseas. What a great tribute to Joan that this young woman now wishes to join our Group so she can give back to the community.

Joan gave of her best to whatever committee or cause she was involved with.

She was devoted to her family and friends and often spoke of them with pleasure and pride.

With Joan's passing we have lost a loyal, valued member of our Altrusa group. Joan was a member for 38 years during which time she held the position of Treasurer as well as being Chairperson or member of the following Committees.....Finance, Service, Membership, International, Literacy and Communications. She has been Chair of the Archives Committee for 13 years in succession and has displayed great enthusiasm and passion for this role.

Her tireless work will be honoured when the Archives team take their turn to share a presentation at our programme meeting in February next year.

The grief and heartache we feel today is a reflection of the love and affection we felt for Joan. As the days ahead unfold lets share our memories and comfort one another.

R.I.P. Joan.



From The Editor

I guess at this time of the year, as we go about our preparations for Christmas, we tend to look back on the year that seems to have sped by – each one a little faster than the previous one - and reflect upon our friends and family. We will all have experienced both sad and happy occasions – losing two members within our Altrusa family last month was a sobering experience, and they will both be sorely missed. On the happy side, this year I have gained two new great grandchildren – Thomas in February and Freya in August.

While Bev G & I were on duty at “The Tree” on Saturday morning we decided to treat ourselves to a cup of coffee from the cafe next door. I went in and placed the order, and he told me the price. While I was sorting out the money, I mentioned that we were “on the Tree” (Christmas fairies??). His reply: “You ladies do a great job, so you get a discount” and he promptly knocked a few cents off!! I was amazed at his gesture – it wasn't the saving, but the thought behind it, and I wonder if he realised just how kind he had been. I felt good all day! Another life lesson!

I hope you all have a very happy Christmas and New Year and enjoy!
(just remember my father's wise words “Moderation in all things”!!!!)



See you in the New Year! - *Alice.*

President Mary also wrote the following:

Tribute to Elaine

A chapter is completed

A new page is turned

A life well lived

Now a rest well earned

If there was a book which described people in the same way as a dictionary describes words, beside Elaine's name would be written.....generous, courageous, gracious, serene, encouraging, accepting and in possession of a wonderful sense of humour.

Music was an important part of Elaine's life and she shared her talent with us when some of our members were preparing to attend National Conference earlier this year. She played for us as we sang an original song which hopefully encouraged fellow Altrusans to attend Conference here next year.

By her own admission Elaine loved Altrusa and she was a dedicated member for 38 years serving in both Oamaru and here in Ashburton. With the exception of the position of Treasurer she served in all office roles, attended national conferences and both of the International ones held in N.Z.

Elaine also held the offices of Club President, Information Chair for District 15, District 15 Secretary as well as being the Committee Chair for International, Membership and twice leading the Literacy Committee locally.

In 2001 Elaine received an International Community Leadership award and in 2008 she received a Lamplighter award from District 15. In 2014 she was honoured with the Margaret Inch Leadership award. Elaine will be sadly missed by all who knew her.

In the days ahead may we draw strength from each other and the special memories we all have of this strong, gentle lady.



EVERYONE SEEMS HAPPY AT THE CHRISTMAS PARTY!!!

