

ALTRUSAN



ALTRUSA CLUB OF TAIERI
*The Membership Committee welcomes you
to the AGM & Installation of the Club Board 2017/2018*

*President: Clare Banks
Immediate Past President: Jane Taylor
President Elect: Rosemary Watson
Secretary: Pip Pilling
Treasurer: Susan Johnstone
Directors: Pam Yardley, Brenda Brook,
Ann Stechman, Chris Wither*

AGM & INSTALLATION OF BOARD 2017 -

TAIERI CLUB OFFICERS 2017 - 2018

Board of Directors

President -----	Clare Banks
Immediate Past President -----	Jan Muir
President Elect -----	Rosemary Watson
Secretary -----	Pip Pilling
Treasurer -----	Sue Johnstone
Directors -----	Ann Stecham Pam Yardley Christine Wither Brenda Brook



MEETINGS

2nd and 4th Wednesdays
5.25pm for 6pm start

MEETING PLACE

Nellies Function Room
Hotel Taieri, Gordon Road
Mosgiel

POSTAL ADDRESS

PO Box 62
Mosgiel

VISITORS AND APOLOGIES

Please telephone or email
Sue Johnstone
[Redacted]

INTERNATIONAL BIENNUIM THEME 2017 - 2019

'REACHING OUT'

International President
Leanne Milligan

District Governor
Christine Melville

Taieri Club President

Clare Banks
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Newsletter Editors:

Claire Paterson & Glennys Espie
please submit information and
articles to email:
allanespie@xtra.co.nz

*This Newsletter is Kindly
Supported by
Nellies Wine Bar & Restaurant*

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE



Dear Ladies, The year has begun with the Installation Ceremony of the 2017/2018 Board and with a delicious meal in late May. It was a lovely evening, thanks to Pam Yardley and her Membership Committee with special touches including colourful table mats and numerous "horsey artefacts"!! (Jill and Austen did a great job, totally unbeknown to me!!)



Our first programme meeting of the year was a brainstorming night. It was great to see a wonderful array of ideas come forth for the Community Service, Literacy, and Membership committees to ponder over and decide which ones they'd like to pursue. From subsequent committee meetings, the little I've heard is that there are the beginnings of some exciting projects. We will look forward to hearing more at our next business meeting.

Meantime, keep warm and dry in this, our wettest and coldest winter for some years.

Clare Banks



Board member's line up for a photo with President Clare.

From the left: Chris Wither, Jan Muir, Clare Banks, Sue Johnston, Pam Yardley, Ann Stechman, Pip Pilling, Brenda Brooks and Rosemary Watson.

FROM THE EDITOR'S

It is great to see a combination of new members and longer serving members as we go into the 2017-18 year.

We have such a variety of skills, knowledge and energy that the Taieri Altrusa Club is in great hands.

This winter has been one of the toughest in decades – severe frosts, black ice, heavy rains and flooding. Keeping warm and dry has become a priority for not only ourselves but extended family, friends, work colleagues and neighbours as well. So keep warm and Take Care.

PRESIDENT JAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2016 - 2017

It is with pleasure that I am presenting the President's Report for 2016 - 2017.

The year as President has gone by very quickly. As mentioned in my first message, I was apprehensive when I took over this role, but it has been an interesting learning curve and a wonderful year. You all have been so supportive.



This year has been steady with ongoing projects from all committees. Altrusa members read to the junior students at Silverstream School over a period of three weeks. This was a very enjoyable time and then these books were donated to the school. Also some members presented books to students during three of their school assembly's. At East Taieri school three members of the Otago Rugby team came and spoke to the students about the importance of reading & learning and again we were able to leave books with the school. At Arahina house 20 books were wrapped up for Christmas presents and given to children aged between 5-12yrs. Our Altrusa club was also able to support the request from The Taieri College for \$1600.00 for dedicated year 9 Teacher's Aid in literacy for the year 2017.

A wonderful fundraising evening was held at the RSA with Jo Seagar promoting her book "Elbow's off the Table". We raised \$2,500.00 for the Rescue Helicopters Trust.

To the food bank, Wrapped toiletries and sanitary items were given for distribution at Christmas.

New Membership brochures, handouts & information sheets for promoting Altrusa have been updated.

Again Daffodil Day street appeal was supported by our members. IFF day was held in Invercargill this year and we had two members attend.

To finish the year a Pamper Day was organised for six Mums with Autistic children. They were given a special day out being pampered, visiting Olveston and then an evening meal out. It was a wonderful day but the weather could have played its part!

We still have two ongoing projects:-.

The collection of bras, which will be sent to the Pacific Island Ladies, part of the Breast Cancer NZ. The collection of cell phones for Autism NZ. The 1st 165 phones have been delivered to Sharon Oliver so they can now be exchange for an Ipad. These causes are very worthwhile and have our continuing supporting.

Speakers for the year included. Michelle Kerr, she gave us a very enlightened talk about the food bank and she left with more tins of food to add to the bank. Richard Yardley made us all feel a little tired with his energy and his commitment to the climbing of the Sky Tower for fund raising for Child Leukaemia. Sharon Oliver gave a very interesting and moving talk about parents looking after their Autistic children.



Over the year there were also social opportunities. A visit to Bathgate School to see their artist in resident, Janet de Wagt who inspired the children to create art from the bits and pieces that had been left over from our bazaar. There were some amazing displays done by the students of all ages. The evening was finished with Coffee and pizza.

Once again we had our Christmas gathering at TJ's a wonderful evening, made even more special when we were able to install Gay Clarke as our Emeritus Member. Gay was a foundation member of our club, a past President and a very loyal member

A final meeting and meal for the year was held at my home and it also gave us a chance to say our farewells to Sallyjane and to wish her well in Auckland.

The year started with a visit to Margaret Cotton's home for chatter, Chinese banquet and eating Margaret's culinary desserts. Our birthday celebration was at the old historic Burns home and an evening at the movies to see 'A Street Cat named Bob' then coffee and desserts afterwards.

To celebrate 100yrs of Altrusa our archivist Glennys Espie organised a trip to the Hocken Library. We presented them with the last 5yrs of our records so that these could be added to the past records that had been given to them in 2012 it has been a very varied year with all these actives

We now have 21 members, but have sadly said our farewells to members Elizabeth Shepherd, Sallyjane Cranfield, & Di Smit, who have left Mosgiel. We will miss their friendship, but wish them well and thank them for their service to the club. Sadly two past members have died. Joyce Innes our 1st President and a charter member and Glenis Evans a past treasurer and also a charter member.

We have also welcomed new members, Anne McElwain, Brenda Brook, Annette Taylor, Kath Burrow, & Pip Pilling. We all look forward to your ideas, friendship and energy.



Conference this year was held in Tauranga and the theme was 'Flying into the future', so the four of us Clare, Rosemary, Elaine & myself flew in as Supermen!! As usual it is great chance to catch up with other Altrusans, to gather new ideas and listen to inspiring speakers. At the conference we were shown Leanne Milligan's Korowai that had been given to her by District 15. It is beautifully made from poultry feathers and she will be able to wear it when she is installed as the Altrusa International President at Convention in July. As a club we made a donation to this lovely gift

Also at conference we were thrilled to receive three service awards

2nd Leitha H Brown for "Literacy in our Community

2nd for Governors Award

3rd Year Book

Other important milestones for the club are: Our Altrusa sign is now up at the entrance of Mosgiel. The Altrusa International Club of Taieri is now the trustee of the Educational Trust of the Altrusa International Club of Dunedin. It needs to be noted that there was no text book grant this year as it was decided to allow the funds to accumulate.

Finally to all the Committee chairs and every member thank you all so much for your hard work, support and friendship over the year. A special thank you to Sue (treasurer), Jill (secretary), Glennys (newsletters, archives, photos), Claire P (photos & putting our entries together for awards) and Elaine (year book).

So, it is with pleasure that I now can hand the chair of President over to Clare and her team. To President Clare and her team all the very best and we look forward to another great year.

Jan Muir - President 2016/2017

MEMBERSHIP REPORT 2016-2017

The membership committee hosted a programme meeting with our guest speaker being Richard Yardley from the Fire Service. He told us about the Fire Service's commitment to fund the Leukaemia Foundation.

Our committee welcomed and inducted Brenda Brook, Anne McElwain, Kath Burrows, Annette Taylor and Pip Pilling. Sadly we accepted resignations from Liz Shepherd, Sallyjane Cranfield, and Di Smit, who have all left Mosgiel. A special appointment was made to Gay Clark as our Emeritus Member.

With the assistance of Jan and Glennys the membership committee produced new marketing hand outs promoting Altrusa and an information brochure and information sheet for new members.

After Christmas and the New Year break our first meeting was held at Margaret Cotton's home. It was a social evening with a Chinese meal and dessert and nibbles made and donated by Margaret. Rosemary gave us an introduction to the Altrusa website.

At the AGM held at Nellie's Mosgiel we enjoyed a buffet meal and welcomed visitors Tania and Maria from the Oamaru club.

It was a pleasure to install the new committees and welcome Claire Banks to the President's Chair. The evening had a "horse riding" theme which is Claire's special interest.

Thank you to all the membership committee, and especially Rosemary who was my full time assistant.

I wish All the Best to the new Membership Committee.



Pam Yardley

Chair Membership Committee 2016/2017

COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORT 2016-2017

The community Service Committee hosted Michelle Kerr from the Mosgiel Food Bank for their programme meeting.

Michelle enlightened the club of the services to the community that the Food Bank offers. She explained the statistics including the number of families requiring the service, the type of food available and the source of many items. The specific process required for families who need assistance was also explained.

The club members enjoyed her presentation and we feel we have a better understanding as to how we can best assist this worthy service.

Following the meeting, the Service Committee has decided to look at providing women's toiletries for which Michelle had indicated there is a considerable need.

Diane Smit, Brenda Brook and Judy Justice brought and presented a number of sanitary items. Further toiletry gifts for women were gift wrapped and placed under the Christmas tree by members at our Christmas party. Other gifts were kindly donated by staff at Taieri College.

We, plus Ann Stechman, presented the items to Michelle Kerr at the Food Bank in December.



Judy Justice
Committee

LITERACY REPORT 2016-2017

The Literacy Committee went quickly into action, with September being Literacy month.

Initially, we asked the local primary schools if they would like help, given we have 'time, money and books'. Two schools responded and as a result, we read to the children in the new entrant class at Silverstream School weekly in September, leaving the books for the class to continue enjoying. Also at Silverstream School, we presented books at their weekly assemblies to 3 children each day, for good behaviour the week before.

At East Taieri School, we organised for four Otago Rugby players to talk to the children about the importance of literacy skills whilst being an elite sportsman. This was hugely popular with the children, especially as the lads stayed on to play with them at morning break.

In October, the speaker for our programme meeting was Sharon Oliver, Autism Otago. Being the mother of an autistic child, she gave us an insight into the lives of families having to cope with the unusual behaviours of these children on a daily basis. One way she suggested we could help was to collect 165 disused cell phones which would cover the reconditioning of an I-Pad for an autistic child. To date, we have delivered one lot of 165 phones and are well on the way to a second one. Our committee hope this will be an ongoing project for the club.

In December, we wrapped and then presented 20 books to the children attending the Arahina House after school programme. These children don't often get a book for Christmas.

Just recently in May, we have had a 'Magic Mums' Day, this time for mothers of autistic children. The ladies enjoyed a day of pampering which included a tour of Olveston; studio session having their colours done; make-up applied; nails painted; hair titivated; shoulder massages; and finished off with dinner at a restaurant. They were then delivered home with a gift bag of goodies.

A big thank you to Wendy, Glennys, Chris, Anne, and Annette for their ideas, guidance and help throughout the year, as all these projects have been completed.

Clare Banks

Literacy Chair 2016 - 2017



'Magic Mums' were pampered when they gathered at Wendy's home.

From Back Left:-

Claire Paterson, Kim Maskill, Helen Monsari Wendy Harvey, Clare Banks, Anne McAlwain, Front:-Robyn Thomas & Nadine Goodall.

ARCHIVES AT THE HOCKEN COLLECTIONS LIBRARY

In April 2017 Taieri Club Members and Guests visited the Hocken Collections Library in Dunedin and presented the club Archives to them for safe keeping. Anna Blackburn, head curator of archives, greeted us and providing an informative talk on the history of the Hocken and the importance of Archival information. They were especially pleased to receive our clubs archives and emphasised the importance of the archives for future generations.

We were given an extensive tour of the Library collections, which is massive. It was an eye opener to see how much importance is placed in keeping books and histories of people and society. From 18th century recipe books to 21st century digital files, the Hocken's archives collection is the largest held by a New Zealand University. The archives tell stories of early Dunedin giving first hand insights into events, people and places significant in Otago's history.



This facility is a great asset to our City. Curator, Anna Blackman, & Hocken Librarian, Sharon Dell, were presented with further Archives from the Altrusa Club of Taieri. Photo Collage by Claire Paterson.

DISTRICT NEWS - CONFERENCE - 'FLYING INTO THE FUTURE'

Contributed by Rosemary Watson

Four Taieri ladies attended the “Flying into the Future” Tauranga, Altrusa, three day Conference, in May 2017. Balmy weather and sunshine and the close proximity to CBD and the waterfront, made for several walks and foray into shopping before Conference started. Governor & District Annual Reports were passed. Approval was given for an increase of \$4.50 in District dues.

The social evening saw some weird and wonderful outfits, hard to believe they were worn by Altrusans. The Taieri Superwomen swanned around the dance floor and kept pace with the memorable music.

Speakers reminded us of those less fortunate and how we might assist in improving their lives.

Jane Searle – “Protecting our Treasure”. Jane is the CEO of Child Matters. One in four is suspected to suffer from abuse in many different forms. We lose one in five children every five weeks across all kinds of society. The new Government initiatives may take 15-20 years to fix.

Wendy Isaacs – Assistance Dogs NZ Trust. Six staff produce ten assistance dogs, mainly Golden retrievers & Labradors, a year for mainly children with severe multiple disabilities. They enrich children's lives as well as their families, as these dogs can break down some behaviour, by playing & sleeping with them.

Selwyn Cook – Workbridge Employer Ambassador. This position was created in partnership with Z Energy. 24% of the population has some form of disability. Selwyn persisted until he won a position in a local Service Station (with one leg & crutches), concerned at the staff turnover. ‘People can add value if given an opportunity’. He & his wife until recently owned or leased 18 service stations with over 200 staff in the Waikato area. This position led to Selwyn with Workbridge & many successful employee stories.

The International Rep, Judy Stubbs, member of Altrusa Roswell, New Mexico was warmly welcomed by the meeting and updated us of International affairs and the coming Convention celebrating 100 years of Altrusa.

Governor Pam Hayes, gave a history of the International organisation and Maria MacKay Second Vice Governor, that of District Fifteen.

We were delighted for Taieri to receive second place in the Letha H Brown Literacy Award for “Literacy in our Community”. Other Awards received were -: Third Helen Bartlett Best Yearbook Second – Governor's Award Fundraising Award Sponsorship Award x4.

The Awamutu Club performed the Installation of the 2017-2019 District Board using a Rose theme. New Governor, Christine Melville, presented retiring Governor Pam Hayes with a piece of artwork and cheque to assist Pam to attend the International Convention.



During the memorial service Jan Muir lit candles for past Taieri members, Joyce Innes and Glenis Evans who passed away during the year.

We discussed project ideas with other club members, how to encourage younger members to our club and how to run club affairs in different ways and more efficiently. Hopefully we can pass on our enthusiasm to our fellow Taieri members.

Foundation raffle raised over \$2000.

Accent was “Pearls of Wisdom” from an earlier Napier newsletter, written by Shirley Prince.

Three interesting workshops were offered including

The “Alzheimers Project” shown by Hamilton Club. We pasted pictures in books for clients to look at. Our group did the Royal Family, Motor Bikes and flowers. This may be a worthy project in our area.

Tauranga ran a very successful Conference.

The 2018 Conference will be held in Ashburton.



BIRTHDAYS

JUNE	2nd	Anne Stechman
	18th	Alison Holley
	20th	Clare Banks
JULY	15th	Wendy Harvey
AUGUST	3rd	Chris Wither
	24th	Elaine Watson
	28th	Anne McElwain

COMING EVENTS

June

1st	International Children's Day	
14th	Board Meeting	5pm: prior to Business Meeting
14th	Business Meeting	Spotlight: Sue Johnstone Accent: Ann Stechman
28th	Programme Meeting	President - Brain Storming

July

12th	Board Meeting	5pm: prior to Business Meeting
12th	Business Meeting	Spotlight: Judy Justice Accent: Alison Johnston
26th	Programme Meeting	Community Service Committee

August

9th	Board Meeting	5pm prior to Business Meeting
9th	Business Meeting	Spotlight: Alison Johnston Accent: Jan Muir
12th	International Youth Day	
23rd	Programme Meeting	Membership Committee
25 th	Daffodil Day	Street Collection for Cancer.
27th	Soup & Games night	6pm Willis Room Coronation Hall

*Mark
your
Calendar*

NEW MEMBER



Sponsor Claire Paterson, new member Margaret Munroe, President Clare Banks and Judy Justice.

Margaret grew up in the farming area of the Maniototo Plain and has worked in Dunedin for many years.

Her dedicated years with the local Wig Making Company, Freedom Hair, who supply worldwide, has been most rewarding – helping those less fortunate when illness changes their lives in a blink of an eye.

She has a son working as a Consultant Arborist in Melbourne and a daughter in Berlin working in Costume Design for the Film Industry.

Margaret is now enjoying living in Mosgiel, spending more time with her Surrogate Grandchildren (3 little boys) and following her creative interests.

We look forward to enjoying Margaret’s talents and her genuine friendship.

MEMBERS PROFILE



Brenda grew up in Dunedin, and lost her Mother at an early age, but was inspired by a Form 1 & 2 sewing teacher to create from fabrics. After attending Otago Girls Brenda went on to Teachers College in Christchurch.

Whilst teaching at Kaikorai Valley High School she met and married Peter, and has two lovely daughters, both working and living in Wellington, in Accountancy & American Student support respectively.

Brenda has been teaching at Taieri High since 2005.

She is a very capable creative lady, sharing her passion for textiles and design with her students. She loves to rebuild readymade and recycle clothing into something special.



Brenda’s enthusiasm & energy will be valued as a member of our Altrusa Club.

'A lot of people have taste, but they're not daring enough to be creative.' - Bill Cunningham

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

International Convention is being held on July 21 - 24 at Nashville, Tennessee. Our best wishes to club member Rosemary Watson who is attending the convention along with many other District Fifteen members. They will provide great support for District Fifteen (New Zealand's) Leanne Mulligan who is being inducted as the International President.



This is a very special convention as it also marks Altrusa's 100th Anniversary.

JILL'S REFUGEE EXPERIENCE

Contributed by Jill Dodd



It has been a privilege and a very challenging experience sharing the resettlement pathway with a Refugee family from Syria that I have been involved with over the last 6 months.

The family arrived in New Zealand late October to spend the next six weeks at the Mangere base orientating to 'Life in New Zealand'. They came to Dunedin early December to be greeted with a cloud burst and an amazing lightening display. There was a large group of Red Cross people waiting to greet those waving banners and flags.

My family consists of a young Mum and Dad and five little girls aged 7years to 18 months. The older two girls are at the Bradford school and the next two attend Little Wonders pre-school along Kaikorai Valley Road. Both places are within walking distance to home. The youngest child goes with her parents to a crèche while they attend English Language classes.

The family originally lived in a rural environment beside the Euphrates River with many of their extended families. Sadly their home was blown up during an air raid and they lost a little girl at that time. After three years in a refugee camp in Lebanon, it was at very short notice they were advised they had been accepted to come to New Zealand. They had no choice of country even though they have family in Canada.

They have a car and a three bed-roomed home which we had furnished and ready for their arrival. The children tend to stay inside although the school and preschool have been very welcoming.

One upsetting experience that I had with them was when we were at the Dental school and the helicopter came in to land on the hospital roof. It naturally brought back horror of life in Syria and the war. With the help of the interpreter they soon calmed down again.

Normally we have an interpreter at any appointments but on the last hospital and bank appointment I had with the Mother we managed without. We couldn't even use Google Translate as she needed a top up which was the next achievement. One very happy lady after a coffee in town before heading home. A busy and satisfying morning.

They're settling in quite well but do notice it very cold in Dunedin. Dad had developed a garden and shade house herbs beans and tomatoes some even that matured. He also has a car and a current driving licence. It is definitely a male dominated culture but we are trying with persistence to get him helping with the household chores!!!

In our volunteer support team of 6, is an Afghani former refugee who was foreign minister in Afghanistan till 2001. He and his wife and family escaped to NZ to full time academic employment in Dunedin. It was great having him on the team as he spoke some Arabic, and understood the issues of a new country and culture. Five other ladies were a willing band of supporters & workers.