

TAURANGA AlNewza

March 2016

President:

Julie Bradley

President Elect:

Secretary:

Shirley Youens

Treasurer:

Jean Scoullar

Past President:

Christine Dean

Directors:

Margaret Beswick

Shona Sterritt

Attendance

Pam Crossman

National Council for
Women Rep:

Fern Nielsen

Sunshine Lady:

Doreen Bendall

Committee Chairs

Literacy:

Service/Fundraising:

Pauline Gillies

Membership/

Communications:

Marie Meads

Archives:

Margaret Beswick

Editor AlNewza:

Denise Bean

Ed's Corner:

Hello everyone and a big welcome to the first edition of AlNewza for 2016. Already the end of March and we are nearly at the end of the "Altrusa" year. I guess it is time to start looking forward to the year starting in June.

The Nominations Committee reports that between them they have contacted every member but have been unable to find anyone to put their hand up to be President-Elect for the 2016/2017 year. Please give it some serious thought. We are fortunate the Julie has agreed to spend another year as our President, but while she has soldiered along without backup this year, she would really appreciate knowing that there is someone coming up to take over from her in June 2017. On a brighter note all other positions on the Board have been filled. Thank you to those who have accepted the appointments.

Our condolences and prayers go to Mary Anne and her family on Ian's sudden passing. We are all thinking of you at this sad time.

Six of our members recently travelled to Auckland for a very pleasant luncheon to celebrate the 50th birthday of Altrusa International of Auckland at the Ellerslie Racecourse. Auckland was the very first New Zealand Altrusa club, and two of their foundation members are still very active members today. (A photo of **Dot Halliday** and **Margaret O'Connor** cutting the Auckland birthday cake deservedly graces the front page of the latest DSB.) What a lovely day out we had. All dressed up in our glad rags we were served a beautiful lunch, enjoyed great company with Altrusans from as far south as Christchurch, made new friends, and had a really nice time travelling to and from Auckland with our clubmates. It was indeed a privilege to be able to join the Auckland girls to celebrate their very important milestone, and it was nice to spend a day socially with our fellow Altrusans from Tauranga. Lots of laughs!

An inspirational day!

Denise

Below is a photo of all the Altrusans present at Auckland's 50th birthday.



What a happy bunch of girls!

President's Corner:

Here I am missing in action once again and realise that I am lucky to have the support of our members. The Board and members have been working away with business as usual, organising the successful movie fundraising night and various other activities.

It's great to see that members are looking to the future with ideas for the conference in 2017 and for future activities for the club. Hopefully everyone has been looking out for potential members for our new members' night in April.

Ed's comment: Thanks Julie – we all hope the ankle is improving, and thanks from all the members for continuing to “steer the ship” while you are laid up. Best wishes from us all.

Service Corner:

The Service Committee has been busy packaging the Easter Eggs for delivery to Tauranga Hospital. They looked so nice when they were completed, as the photo below shows.



*Easter eggs for **Meals on Wheels** recipients*

The movie night in March was a sell-out success, with the theatre full. And, it was a great movie. The nibbles beforehand were amazing, and some of our guests have asked that their thanks and congratulations go to our members for providing such wonderful food. And they also said to make sure we let them know when we were having another movie night. Really nice feedback.

And don't forget the Garage Sale for Conference funds – **9th April at Margaret & Russell Beswick's home.**

The Service Committee have organised our Club members to have some fun with wool and needles and make some **Twiddle Muffs**. Now what are "**Twiddle Muffs**" you may well ask – most of us did! So I asked Shirley to send us some information and a photo. Below is that description and photo of a "**Twiddle Muff**". Patients with Dementia are often to be seen twiddling with clothes etc. A **Twiddle Muff** is a simple knitted band to which various items have been attached so that the patients can twiddle with it in their hands. They help stimulation whilst on a ward or in a care home, and they are found to be simple and valuable to the patients. Knit World is doing a project nationally with people who wish to participate. We are making these to give to our local diversional therapists who work with our local dementia patients.



This is what a "**Twiddle Muff**" looks like. The patterns vary, so each one is a "one off".

Ed's comment: *I hear that some Altrusa members have been sitting up until the small hours knitting! And then they are complaining of being tired the next day!!!. I wonder why!!!. Keep up the good work girls. It looks like real fun knitting and– I am sure the Diversional Therapists at the residential complexes will enjoy have another resource for their clients. What a great Service Project. Thanks Shirley for bringing the idea to our Club members and providing AlNewza with the information. Pauline – your committee is doing a great job.*

Membership Corner:

Since our last AINewza report with the Christmas break we have not had as many meetings to report on but hope what we have organised has been enjoyable.

The December pre Christmas dinner at Kempton Park was successful in spite of the committee having numerous hiccups with caterers letting us down and not getting in touch after being contacted. The attendance from members and their husbands was very good and of course the food as usual provided with pot luck was enjoyed. The committee would like to recommend that for future Christmas dinners they book well in advance and have a suitable venue and caterers so members are able to have a night off.

The January fish and chip night at Yatton Park was also well attended and a good time to catch up on all members holiday activities. A change of venue from the beach seemed to be successful.

February we went to Palmers Garden centre for coffee and informative talk from a staff member. Once again it was very well attended and the committee would like to suggest that more Programme meetings be held during the day and look at visiting shops like John Darke Interiors, whom we couldn't get in the evening as he was fully booked.

Looking forward, we are having a new members night in April with a guest speaker on Genealogy and May a soup evening at one of our members home.

Marie Meads
Membership Chair



*February 2016 Programme meeting at **Palmers Garden Centre**. Coffee, cake and chrysanthemums!*



*January 2016 – **Fish and Chips at Yatton Park***

Ed's comment: Thanks Marie. We certainly have all enjoyed the programme you and your Committee have provided. Keep it up girls – well done!

Sunshine Lady's Corner:

Hello Everyone

Well – I am supposed to be the “Sunshine Lady”, but the weather of late has not been very sunny. Maybe I will be given a new title as the “Rain Lady”. January, February and March have all been wetter and cloudier. Hopefully we will have a nice sunny winter! I’m OK having the title of the “Sunshine Lady” if it brings “Sunshine” into your home when you receive birthday or get well wishes. I know that at times my printing is a bit wobbly, but as long as you can read it – that’s all that matters.

Love to all – “The Sunshine Lady”. Regards,

Doreen

Ed's comment: Thank you Doreen. We all love the cards you send us – they definitely bring a ray of sunshine into our lives.



NCW Corner: a report from our NCW Representative Fern Nielsen

It's hard to believe that on 11th April 2016, National Council of Women NZ will have been actively seeking and supporting "Gender Parity for Women" for 120 years. 3 years after Kate Sheppard in 1893 led the world and was instrumental in enfranchising New Zealand women.

Yet despite so many good and noble things;

International Women's Day promoting human rights for all,

- UN's CEDAW (Commission for Elimination of Discrimination Against Women)

- "White Ribbon Day" (Man's problem which affects both men and women)

- "Orange Friday" (SHINE, Safer Homes In NZ Everyday est 1990)

We still have some very sad statistics of Domestic Abuse in New Zealand.

Domestic Abuse is at epidemic levels in our country!

* 1 in 3 NZ women are physically or sexually abused by an intimate partner in their lifetime.

* A child is killed by a family member every 5½ weeks in NZ

* Every 5 minutes the NZ Police attend a domestic abuse incident,

* And the Police estimate that less than 20% of domestic abuse is reported.

Domestic abuse happens to New Zealanders of all ethnicities, cultures, ages, sexual identities and socioeconomic groups. Overwhelmingly, women experience the most serious domestic abuse in terms of fear and injury, but men are sometimes the victims of serious abuse too. All victims deserve support. Domestic abuse is never OK. And children **exposed** to domestic abuse suffer the same long-term negative psychological effects as children who are physically abused.

We are proud to have been the first country to have given women the vote.

We should be ashamed that many of our homes are unsafe, places of fear, and criminal behaviour.

Ed's comment: Thanks Fern. As always, a full and interesting report – lots of food for thought.

2017 Conference - a report from Margaret Beswick -

PROGRESS SO FAR - 2017 ALTRUSA CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN TAURANGA

(Tauranga and Te Awamutu Clubs combined)

An inaugural meeting was held at the Armitage Hotel on 21st Feb with Governor Pam Hayes in attendance along with myself, Julie, Denise and 4 girls from the Te Awamutu Club.

You will remember that our Club thought we'd add 100 years instead of looking back 100 years with 'Fast forward to the Future' theme, this was built on throughout the meeting and 'Flying into the Future' may have been born (still awaiting final approval).

Sounds a bit wacky but when you find out that our banquet on the Saturday night is going to be held at the Classic Flyers museum you'll understand.

The Governor arranges for the speakers and she's thinking Ray Avery (inventor and former NZ'er of the Year), Annah Stretton (business woman working with recidivist criminals through raw.nz) Jenine Crossan (CEO of Flossie.com) and my suggestion of Gareth Morgan was laughed at. Oh well you can't win em all.

We will be looking/begging for sponsorship for this conference as we want to make it the best yet. Denise is on the ball in that area. Don't be shy anyone if you know someone or business that may sponsor as little as \$25, \$50 +++ please don't hesitate to grab them.

The call to Conference that we're presenting in Hawera in a few weeks is taking shape thanks to Te Awamutu girls for their suggestion of a 'Star Wars' outfit. Hey, girls going to conference it wasn't my idea. Anyway I think they've got things under control but it's always a work in progress.

Futuristic is the plan...even so far as our programme may be available on line instead of spending mega dollars in printing costs. Guess I gotta hone those computer skills.

Cheers for now
Margaret Beswick
2017 Conference Convenor

Birthday Corner:

No birthdays in April

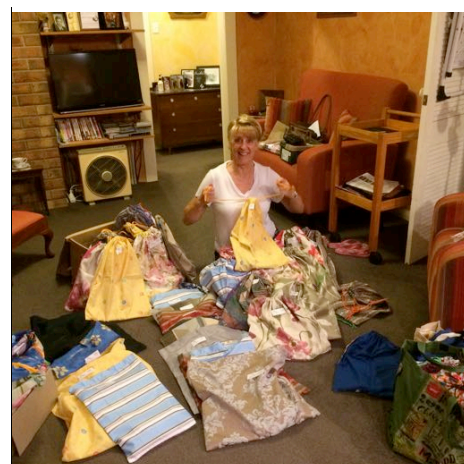


1 March	-	Mary Anne MacKay
9 May	-	Pam Crossman
10 May	-	Alison Cranston
5 June	-	Margaret Beswick

Literacy Corner:



Margaret & Book Bags -



We have had a busy few months in which we have put together various projects that have been in the pipeline for a while. Last year we had a sewing day making up book bags - these were finished off with a working bee last week to put everything together ready for children, who come with their mothers to either the Tauranga Women's Refuge or the Shakti Ethnic Women's Refuge. We made up 76 bags which all included coloured pencils, rubbers, colouring in books, writing pad, reading books etc. Some lucky children even got a calculator and drink bottle as well.

We have also assembled a few more of the "Blokes Books" ready for distribution for Alzheimer's patients in the rest homes in Tauranga. This is an ongoing project and it is fun making them, we will have to have another cutting out and pasting evening soon as we still have plenty of pictures ready to do.

Jean Scoullar
Literacy Committee

Ed's comment: *Good work from the Literacy Committee and indeed all the Club members who helped with these projects.*

Calendar for April/May/June 2016

7	April	World Health Day
9	April	Garage Sale – at Margaret & Russell's home
12	April	Business meeting – Chapel Cafe
20	April	Altrusa International of Morrinsville - Fashion Show
26	April	New Members' evening – Kempton Park
4 – 8	May	District Fifteen Conference – Hawera
10	May	Business meeting – Chapel Cafe
15	May	International Day of Families
24	May	Soup night – <i>venue tba</i>
14	June	AGM & Business meeting – Chapel Cafe
28	June	Programme meeting

Plenty there to keep us busy and having fun!

I came across this poem some time ago, and with Anzac Day just around the corner I thought it was an appropriate time to share it with you all.

WHY WEAR A POPPY?

“Please wear a Poppy”, the lady said and held one forth but I shook my head
Then I stopped and watched to see how she’d fare, her face was old and lined with care
But beneath the scars the years had made there remained a smile that refused to fade.

A boy came whistling down the street, bouncing along on carefree feet
His smile was full of joy and fun. “Lady”, he said “may I have one?”
As she pinned it on I heard him say “Why do we wear a Poppy today?”

The lady smiled in her wistful way and answered “This is Remembrance Day”
The Poppy there is a symbol for the gallant men who died in war
And because they did, you and I are free, that’s why we wear a Poppy you see.

I had a boy about your size with golden hair and big blue eyes
He loved to play, and jump and shout, free as a bird he would race about
As years went on he learned and grew, and became a man as you will too.

He was fine and strong with a boyish smile, but he seemed with us such a little while
When war broke out he went away. I still remember his face that day.
When he smiled at me and said “Goodbye, I’ll be back soon, so please don’t cry”.

But the war went on and he had to stay. All I could do was wait and pray
His letters told of the awful fight. I can see it still in my dreams at night,
With tanks and guns and cruel barbed wire, and mines and bullets, the bombs and fire.

Till at last the war was won, and that’s why we wear a Poppy son”.
The small boy turned as if to go, then said “Thanks lady, I’m glad I know.
That sure did sound like an awful fight. But your son, did he come home all right?”.

A tear rolled down each faded cheek. She shook her head but didn’t speak.
I slunk away, head bowed in shame, and if you were with me, you’d have done the same.
For our thanks in giving, is often delayed, though the freedom was bought and thousands paid.

An so you see when a Poppy is worn, let us reflect on the burden borne
By all those who gave their very all when asked to answer their country’s call
That we at home in peace may live, then wear a Poppy, remember and give.



Recipe Corner: Nashi should soon be available, and I found this recipe which looks quite easy!

Spiced Nashi Cake

2 Nashi	½ cup Honey
1 Egg, beaten	1 ½ cups Flour
1 teasp Baking Soda	Pinch Salt
1 teasp Cinnamon	½ teasp Nutmeg
½ teasp Allspice	1 cup sticky Raisins
½ cup chopped Walnuts	Icing sugar

1. Heat oven to 180C. Cube nashi into a bowl. Stir in honey and stand for 2-3 minutes.
2. Stir in beaten egg.
3. Sift and add flour, baking soda, salt, cinnamon and allspice.
4. Add raisins and walnuts.
5. Place mixture in a greased 22cm tin and bake for 50 minutes. Cool and dust with icing sugar (Optional)

Ed's comment: *I haven't made this yet – so if you do please give me some feedback.*

Ed's sign off: I hope you all enjoy this edition - and thanks to all those who contributed. In a few weeks five members will be off to the District Fifteen Conference in Hawera. We aim to have a really nice time, lots of fun, learn heaps and be proud to represent Altrusa International of Tauranga. We also have a “starring role” along with the Te Awamutu girls when we give the “Call to Conference 2017” - which of course will be held at the Armitage Hotel in Tauranga from 5 – 7 May 2017. Margaret's report has given the details as they are at present, but I can tell you that Governor Pam has confirmed the Governor's Banquet will be held at Classic Flyers and the Conference theme is “Flying into the Future”. Fun times ahead – a great chance to showcase Tauranga.



Tootle-pip!