



CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

International Inner Wheel - 19th Convention
Manchester 2024



IWNZ Inner Link
December 2023

From the Editor's Desk: Let me Tell you a Story These are our Traditions

In this newsletter we're looking at the way we honour the Inner Wheel objectives in the traditions we embrace – how do we promote true friendship, encourage the ideals of personal service, and foster international understanding. What do we do that gives us a reason to want to belong?

In looking through some historical material, I found this poem by the late Sue Hunt, IW Club of Riccarton President in 1983 - 1984, which she read while welcoming IIW President Esther Vibal to Christchurch.

WHEELS

Women of the World are we, in Inner Wheel united.

Hands to help and Homes to share – Hours to give and Hearts to care.

Eyes to see with vision new – art and flowers arrayed for you.

Ears to hear with special care when a friend just needs you there.

So, the Wheel is turning now – bringing understanding words, and works and worry too – Smiles and Service Sharing.

When I read the stories of each Club's traditions, that is exactly what I found –caring hearts! What a wonderful organization Inner Wheel is!

I haven't addressed membership recently – but we all know that we need every one of our members! So, a reminder that every member matters in a tradition as old as our organization – the President's Christmas message. This poem was sent by Mrs. Golding to all Clubs as a Christmas message in 1937:

JUST A THOUGHT, by Kathleen Partridge

Supposing, just supposing, that one petal of a rose

Said, Nobody will miss me; I could fall off if I choose.

I really need not bother to flush my petal edge,

Or fill my heart with perfume, or keep my beauty pledge,

And smooth my satin garment that the dew this morning kissed.

There are many other petals that just one would not be missed.

Then other petals of that rose would murmur with a sigh,

That petal did not bother, then why indeed should I?

While another and another would follow suit you see,

And what a dreadful withered thing our lovely rose would be.

So it's working all together in the harmony of soul,

Every unit gives its best to make a perfect whole.

So, enjoy learning how we do what we do best!

Hannie



President's Message

Well, here we are nearly half way through the year, my word it has gone quickly, which means that not only are we rapidly approaching Christmas, but also the 100th Birthday of Inner Wheel on the 10 January 2024. I hope that you all have plenty of celebrations planned and have a great time.

Of course, IWNZ is also celebrating the 87th Birthday of our very first Club, Napier, which will be held at the East Pier Hotel, Napier on Saturday 13 January 2024 at 12 p.m. I do hope that many of you can come and celebrate with us. A copy of the invitation is on the website under *Events* and has all the details.

I have now finished all my visits to the Districts and had such a wonderful time meeting up with old friends and making some new ones. I am also delighted that many of you have taken up my challenge to start more conversations instead of texting or emailing all the time, as since the meetings more of you have been phoning me with queries instead of texting and emailing and I have had some great conversations with a great many laughs along the way. Thank you, ladies – keep up the good work.

This edition of the Inner Link is all about Club Traditions. I know we have many National ones like the Red Rose of Friendship and the Friendship Candle; however, I am sure that many clubs have traditions which are unique to their own clubs, and it would be wonderful to hear about these. But, ladies, don't stick religiously to traditions that are now a bit old hat and maybe, as we head into our 100th year, it is time to be radical and start some new ones. Food for thought.

I would like to wish all of you a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Peaceful New Year and hopefully see many of you in Napier on 13 January.

Yours in Inner Wheel Friendship

Judi (*IWNZ President and National Representative 2023/2024*)

The Traditions we Share

There are not many clubs who don't use the Red Rose symbol, light the Friendship Candle or celebrate Inner Wheel Day or NZ Inner Wheel Day. But how many of us know where these traditions originate?

The Red Rose

The red rose, handed out for membership admissions and at changeovers is most likely our best-known tradition – many of you will know the story of how it came about. For those that don't, here is its story – my thanks to Ashburton.

"The Inner Wheel Club of Kalmar in Sweden was established in 1957, and the chartering ceremony was held in a church. The President of a Swedish Club congratulated the new club with a single red rose, which was all they could afford at the time. A Danish Club President was present and was inspired by the idea – she brought it back to Denmark and began giving a single red rose during special occasions. In 1964, at the Inner Wheel Conference in Scarborough England, Astrid Holck, the Danish District Chairman, represented the three Danish districts. She conveyed their best wishes and presented three red roses to Association President



Mrs. Helena Foster – one from each district. The President of International Inner Wheel expressed admiration for the Inner Wheel Rose and pledged to bring it around the world. Over the years it has become for all of us a symbol of Friendship, Gratitude, and Love.”

The photo shows the beautiful quilted red rose which Tawa and Plimmerton use as a trophy for their annual bowling competition, described later in this newsletter.

Lighting the Candle

Here I was, thinking that the lighting of the candle had been around since the beginning. Problem was, I couldn't find any evidence Thankfully, Cecile Pierce and Carole Young came to the rescue! If I learn something more, I'll report that in the next edition!

“In October 1979 at the Australian National Association Conference held in Kiama, New South Wales, the Association President, Von Bellizia, introduced the Flame of Friendship into Australia. This was adopted by Australia for general use from 1980, and spread to NZ.”

With this year's theme, *Shine a Light*, lighting the candle (or three candles) is certainly a tradition that we should treasure. There are many different words used, and they are worth taking notice of!

International Inner Wheel Day

This special day on our calendar was the brainchild of IIW President Helena Foster (1969-1970), who came up with the idea for a special day for a special organisation, and wrote the following to Clubs worldwide:

"I would like to ask all members of clubs throughout the world to link together in ACTION ON 10 JANUARY. I have chosen this special day because it was on 10 January 1924 that the Mother Club, the Manchester Inner Wheel Club, England, first adopted the name *INNER WHEEL*. It can be interpreted in any way you think fit – in a group or as individuals: Giving personal service to someone who needs you, planting a tree or flowers to beautify some corner of your land, or just the simple act of writing a letter. I am sure that there is inspiration and encouragement to be gained by the knowledge that your fellow members throughout the world are at that moment joined together to extend service and friendship".

The response to the first celebration of Inner Wheel day, it is reported, was magnificent:

"We were filled with pride and happiness as the letters poured in, describing so vividly the infinite ways in which members had brought joy and comfort to so many" Editor Audrey Sargeant noted: "Hundreds of letters from Clubs all over the world testify to the success of Helena Foster's challenge".

Today Clubs celebrate in many ways, always reflecting the aims of Inner Wheel: Friendship, Service, and International Understanding.” (Source: *The Inner Wheel Spirit* by Luisa Vinciguerra)

And today we know that Clubs do indeed celebrate in different ways – **Plimmerton** celebrates with a Pizza and Plonk event, **Riccarton** arranges a picnic in a local park, and **Auckland East** has arranged a lunch / coffee / evening gathering each year since their inception. This is also an occasion where partners, friends, and family are welcomed. **Auckland East** have also arranged a Walk and Talk on IWNZ Day and a lunch/coffee/evening gathering on IIW Day.

IWNZ Day

This day commemorates the creation of Inner Wheel New Zealand (IWNZ) in 1990, which brought together all the Clubs in New Zealand and the Pacific Islands. It is most often celebrated with a walk – and of course, talking and coffee!

The Things we Do to Promote True Friendship

We have a lot of traditions in our Clubs that engage our individual members and promote friendship – there are the Walk and Talk meetings, Knit and Natter, shared meals and coffee! All very wonderful.

And then there are the Clubs with traditions that take the friendship outside of their Clubs – arranging functions where they host other Clubs, or challenge each other in some endeavour. Many friendships grow out of such occasions! It's fun to prepare for others; and fun to be hosted!

Friendship in the Clubs

With **Napier** in its 87th year, members have been sharing their stories of joining Inner Wheel and the benefits they have gained from membership – the most common thread being the support members have received from the friends they've made over the years. Often (*and I'm sure all other Clubs will support this thought Ed.*), these fellow members have become friends that have been with us through all the changes of our lives!

Plimmerton arranges "Something Different" visits each month which are varied and fun – this year that included a Ladies Lunch at Shed 5, a visit to a shoe outlet and a Parliamentary tour. Other ways in which they get to know each other better is a Tasty Tuesday dinner on the first Tuesday of every month and a Mix and Mingle at a local bar on the last Thursday of the month where members just turn up for a drink and or a meal. This has been to help those members who are still working and cannot attend a morning tea with other new members. And then there is a table of eight (photo on the right) where members and partners are welcome – a great way to get to know each other!



Howick runs many social events – there is a morning tea on the first Wednesday of the month (where they are often joined by past members) and then there is their most popular activity "Friendly 4s", introduced by Joy Ward. This involves a get-together for lunch, dinner, or a movie.

A lot of Clubs also mention new initiatives (*You'll be pleased about that President Judi! Ed.*) **Parihaki of Whangarei** is experimenting with lunch at a different restaurant every month, and **Plimmerton** is starting a Tuesday dog walkers' group.



I'm sure that every Club has a tradition of celebrating Christmas – in fact, I was wondering why only **Dunedin South** and **Auckland East** told me about it! Dunedin South have been doing so for over 50 years – the venue has changed, but there will



always be a Christmas tree, delicious Christmas food, Secret Santa parcels, and the singing of Christmas carols! "At every meeting", Christina King reports, "we create the spirit of true friendship." This year, their special Xmas teddy was made by Noeline Te Raki-Hill and the cushion for a special raffle was made by Hazel Jolly (*on the left in photo*). They celebrated the King's birthday with a party at the King's House! (*And how festive they all look in the picture on the right. Ed.*)

In addition to a Christmas Party in December (where they always arrange a bumper raffle for a chosen charity), **Auckland East** also celebrate their Club birthday in April. A Club Birthday Celebration in April and a Christmas Party in December with a bumper Raffle for a chosen charity are a tradition. Like many Clubs they also have a regular monthly coffee mornings at varying venues and an annual Past President's Lunch – both long-standing traditions, and then an annual morning tea for the more senior members, a more recent tradition.

Friendship between Clubs

Turns out that quite a few of our Clubs arrange annual sporting meet ups!

Some 10 years ago, **Tawa** reports, they wanted to connect more with their local clubs. As they were hiring an outdoor bowling clubroom at the time, it was an ideal opportunity to challenge **Plimmerton** to a game or two. They sent an invitation, Janice Lee (Tawa) quilted and framed a beautiful rose as the prize for the winning team, and that first event was enjoyed by so many that it has become an annual event, diarised in both Clubs' calendars. As the weather wasn't always conducive to outdoor bowls, a decision was made to bring the games indoors. Members of the indoor bowls club assist on the night and there is a great deal of laughter and competition. It is an evening looked forward to by both Clubs and includes a meal prior to the challenge and the presentation of the *Rose trophy* (see the photo earlier) to the winning club.

The photos show Tawa on the left, with the Rose trophy, and Plimmerton in action on the right. It looks fun – and very competitive! Ed.



Plimmerton doesn't only participate in the bowls tournament, they also have an annual Walk and Talk with **Wairarapa** to celebrate NZIW day. This year it involved a morning tea at Cobblestones in Greytown, and a walk around the grounds.

Parahaki of Whangarei arrange an annual Petanque competition with **Orewa**, that is much enjoyed! (Photo on the right.)



Not all ways of sharing time together need to be sporty – **Christchurch West's Spring Fling** is a much anticipated event in NZ297 – where the speakers are always excellent and the food and company even better! At this year's event, Cherie Buckner was awarded the Margarett Golding Award by Judi Newborn and Mayoress Chrissy Mauger was the guest speaker, with proceeds of the day going to the Mayoral fund.

From left to right: President Sue with Chrissy; a group of happy visitors, Cherie and family.



The Things we Do for the Ideal of Personal Service

There is a lot of overlap between Friendship and Service in Inner Wheel. After all, while we're doing things, we usually have fun too, and build on the friendships. As you'll read below, Clubs deliver Easter Eggs AND have scones; collect money for charity AND have a delicious afternoon tea.

Since 2007, **Rangiora** has supported the Cholmondeley Childrens Centre at Governors Bay. They have made toilet bags filled with toiletries, swimming bags, and donated children's story books; and they make an annual special trip to deliver Easter Eggs for the children. Regular visits by a group of our members entail scones at The Sign of the Takahe on the way over and usually lunch and shopping on the way home. A very social day for those involved.

The photo shows the happy ladies on one of their delivery runs.



Marlborough reports that their main tradition is making pillows for cancer patients which they do as required (*which is, to be fair, always. Ed.*). Margaret Alexander's studio is kitted out for sewing, and members meet there, some to cut the material, some to iron or sew or stuff. The Cancer Society ladies are invited for afternoon tea and pick up the heart pillows. The Club was recently awarded a grant of \$1,000 which enabled them to stock up on materials. The photo shows just a small number of the heart-shaped pillows that they produce every year.

Working for the Cancer Society is of course something many Clubs do – in addition to the pillows, there are the knitted knockers, and then the fundraising by ways of an annual high-tea. **Plimmerton** always takes responsibility for collection sites for Daffodil Day and Pink Ribbon.



Riccarton and **Parihaki of Whangarei** both host an annual Breakfast or High Tea, which is much appreciated by Club members! As you can see from the photo on the left, everyone in Riccarton dresses up, and the shades of pink need to be seen to be believed. Ed.

Auckland East report that they traditionally participate in the Pink Ribbon Walk for Breast Cancer Foundation. They also host a Look



Good Feel Better Morning or Afternoon Tea fundraiser for members and guests. (And don't they look ready for the walk in the photo shown here!). Another tradition that we have is that the incoming Club President chooses a particular Charity that she would like the Club to support for her year as President – they arrange for a speaker from that Charity and have a dedicated Fundraiser for that project. This goes back to the time they were Chartered and has included an amazing array of different Charities. Such a good idea!

One of the charities that Inner Wheel supports regularly is Women's Refuge.

Parikhaki of Whangarei report that they have made more than 300 emergency bags in the last 2 years. And aren't they pretty! Ed.



And, of course, we take care of the lonely in our communities, especially at Christmas time. There were some lovely stories about this tradition. **Riccarton's** Pop-Ins visit every month, but at Christmas time they always take along a little gift to each person they visit. This year, as you can see in the photo on the right, little knitted Santas.

Manawatu Central Connection also provide joy for others at Christmas. They decided many years ago that instead of giving secret Santa gifts to each other they would give to those less fortunate. These gifts have varied. Some years they give gifts to children and mothers other years they provide special Christmassy food items that many may not be able to afford, such as chocolates, biscuits, cakes, sweets, Christmas mince pie, etc. They have given to the same organisations multiple times, and these include the Salvation Army, Women's Refuge and Maori Women's Refuge. These gifts are always gratefully received. (The photo here shows the very generous collection of gifts.)



A lovely tradition came to me from **Matamata** – since 2012 they have run a cookie project! Christmas can be a lonely time for many elderly who live on their own, and when the late Jackie Gieschen convinced her club members that it was their duty to brighten up the festive season for such people, she little knew she was setting down a tradition that continues after her passing. Jackie (shown here) – who worked full-time –



established the club's Christmas Cookie Cheer Project towards the end of her first year in the Club. Members baked cookies and gathered at her home to pack these tempting titbits into baggies before delivering them to delighted elderly recipients around town.

The cookie project continued after Jackie moved away, such was the pleasure it gave members. Now, when members gather each December to pack the cookies for delivery to well over 100 recipients, Jackie, who died in 2020 aged 57, is remembered.

Wairarapa every year did a fundraising event for a specific project, such as large print books for the library, sponsoring eye treatment for a village in Asia, purchasing a pacing clock for the swimming club, and two glucose meters for the hospital.

For the past few years it has been **Queenstown's** tradition to support the Queenstown marathon. This year they provided over 60 volunteers as road marshals for the marathon, which attracted over 11,000 runners. Their president Nell Hunter completed the 10 km in a very good time! They raised \$7,000 from our efforts which is going to the Social Workers in School programme in Queenstown. *The photo shows one of the committee members on traffic duty.*



And on a completely different note, if you will excuse the pun – Invercargill North have for some years arranged *The Last Night of The Proms* at the Civic Theatre Invercargill. Not only is it a wonderful service to the community, but a great way of fundraising with proceeds of the evening jointly shared by Hospice Southland and The Southland Charity Hospital. There was a full house at the Civic Theatre who enjoyed a lively evening of fun, and fantastic music, showcasing the wealth of talent in the South. In addition to soloists, it included the Invercargill Symphonia, the Ascot Park Brass Band, and a massed choir of 100+ voices. Our own Honoured Active Member, Sheryl Walker, accompanied the soloists.

And behind the scenes our fantastic members worked tirelessly! *The photos show two members hard at work on the left, and the "royal family" on the right.*



The Things we Do to Foster International Understanding

Would there be, I was thinking to myself, anything about our third ideal – that of fostering International Understanding? A lot of those things are, after all, done more at District than at Club level; and they do tend to be a one-off rather than an ongoing tradition. But fear not – one Club did reply, and I'm sure that a lot of Clubs could easily do something similar. After all, who of us doesn't get to understand the culture of a country first and foremost through their food?

Every September, **Manawatu Central Connection**, have gone out for a meal at an internationally-flavoured restaurant. As their normal monthly meetings do not include a meal, this has become a very popular and well attended evening out.

Palmerston North is blessed with many different types of restaurants and some of the more recent ones we have visited include: Indian, Japanese, Turkish, Mexican and Thai. Here is a photo of our most recent night out at a Turkish restaurant called Kapadokya. The food is fresh, fabulous, and reasonably priced. *(They certainly look happy! Ed.)*



The Tradition of Special Awards

We all know about the Margarette Golding award and the Honoured Active award – but two Clubs sent me information on awards that they traditionally hand out each year. Read on!

Howick's charter President was Ethel Abercrombie. In 1998, President Moira Malcolm, introduced the Ethel Abercrombie Award – this is given to a member who has given exceptional service to their community and is presented every year. Four years ago the late Dawn Johnson organised the Koru Award for local women (not a member) who have tirelessly worked in the community. The award is now presented by her husband to a nominated recipient.

The photo shows the recipient of the Ethel Abercrombie award this year, Hubrie Keyser.



Auckland East also has two awards – the Annabelle Valentine Charter President Award is given annually to a member of the Inner Wheel Club of Auckland East who has upheld the objectives of Inner Wheel: Friendship, Service and International Understanding - both within the club and the club member's life in her community. They also award the Pauline Bond "Making

a Difference" Award. This award, in memory of Pauline Bond, is for new members of less than 5 years, who have given extra service to the club and taken part in club activities at varying levels including committee.

The Things we did that we no Longer Do

Sadly, we're all getting on a bit! There is a range of reasons why some Club traditions haven't survived – whether this is due to Clubs becoming smaller, or older, or because of Covid. Many of us remember those traditions that lit up our past fondly, and I'm very grateful that Clubs have shared the stories – and with photos! Some Clubs also reported how their traditions have changed to meet different needs. President Judi will be pleased!

Howick has had a very close connection to Pakuranga Rotary and catered for their fundraising activities. Since 1994 we catered for their Annual Fishing Contest. Unfortunately, it was one of the casualties of Covid. For catering, we are still involved at their annual Community Carnival where we have a bake sale, for fundraising. For 17 years our members were involved in a reading program to decile two schools. This has now been discontinued due to Covid restrictions.

(The photo shows Howick members visiting a local school.)



Pre-Covid, **Auckland East** used to have a celebration and draw for Melbourne Cup Day – at race time with strawberries, and a glass of bubbly. They are hoping to re-establish this in the future. They also had to give up providing coffee and refreshments at LGFB seminars (these have now transitioned to Zoom).

Invercargill shared a tradition they followed for many years which has lapsed due to Covid. Every May Club meeting was known as Past Presidents' Night and a Whist evening would be held followed by supper, all organised by the Club's Past Presidents. A lot of fun was had by all involved. *The photo is of the last winners, Raewyn and Diane.*



From **Ashburton**, Club Historian Pam Tait (*photo on left*), reports both a lapsed tradition and traditions that have just changed because society has changed. It used to be that Past Presidents were expected to entertain the members with a short play. Apparently, this was an evening of great hilarity! And some changes – in the past members made patchwork flowers for an Inner Wheel quilt and peggy square rugs for the hospital. These days they knit for newborns at the local hospital and for the Cancer society. In the past they made up gift packs for children of single mothers – today we donate gifts to children of 'Grandparent raising Grandchildren'. Musical evenings were also popular – today we have our Inner Wheel Club of Ashburton Ukulele group to enjoy.

Ashburton also lists some other changes – in the past they enjoyed reciprocal club visits from both local and overseas IW members, with Club banners exchanged and then displayed at every club meetings – this doesn't happen so much today.

And one that a lot of Clubs can relate to – in the past IW meetings were mostly held in the member's homes, but as the numbers increased (*and people moved to smaller homes and retirement homes – and their knees meant they couldn't sit on the floor so easily. Ed.*) this no longer is an option.

Some special events from the past include the roving cake tin (*no further information provided – I'm intrigued. Ed.*), and members have compiled two recipe books over the years.

Over the years, **Oamaru** has given a lot of pleasure with the fun things they have arranged for Club and District meetings and Conferences. They take delight in dressing up for the fun of it and sharing singing, dancing and reciting with all who would like to listen. They have dressed up as Party Penguins, Witches, Victorian Ladies and Maids, as well as Steam Punkers. Everyone in the Club went along with the fun and games put on at many occasions. (*It was very difficult to choose a photo. Ed.*)

Attached are photos of them in action – The Penguin Party, where everyone was welcomed by penguins; The Owl and the Pussycat; and in 2010 Oamaru Club Clowns welcoming everyone to the Invercargill Conference.



Riccarton also liked a good dress-up and little plays in the past – ranging from the very smart, to the not-so-smart. The nice memory they have is how easy it was to get the men involved! Ranging from dressing up as a series of brides (*as shown here*) to participating in a potato peeling competition – it was fun!



I've left **Waimate** to last – it is such a lovely story! In their own words: “At the inauguration of the club, it was agreed that it would be a ‘doing club’ based on fellowship and community service. The ‘service’ decided on was a weekly commitment to help entertain the elderly at the local Hospital. Members took turns to organise Housie, play games, have sing-a-longs, take them on outings and bring in interesting speakers. This continued for 22 years until the local Hospital was closed and replaced by Lister Home for the Elderly. Staff there were employed to take over the entertainment.”

Below the photos shows Meri Ruddenklau (seated) and Eileen Berry helping patients with Housie. Both would have been taken at the local Hospital where Inner Wheel ladies gave time to help with some activities as part of their community service.



And a Final Word

So there you go – our traditions! If you or your Club didn't feature here, I hope that this inspires you to think back on all the fun you've had, all the friendships you've gathered, all the things you did for the community. Are there traditions you could re-imagine, or new traditions that are more suited to the way things are done now? Are you having fun?

And as always my heartfelt thanks to every Club that contributed. I can't do this without you ladies!

Editor