



# Inner Link Annual Overview June 2021

I love the friends  
I've made on the  
way – we have  
such fun.

We have great  
speakers –  
I learn  
something new  
every time.

**WHAT'S YOUR  
REASON?**

It feels good to  
help with  
fundraising and  
at the same time  
having fun.

Friendship and  
Fellowship are so  
important in my  
life.



Walking in the Rain, Mt Roskill



Breast Cancer Appeal, Riccarton



Membership drive, Tawa



Honorary Member, Blenheim



# President's Message

My year as National President of Inner Wheel New Zealand is coming to an end, and what a strange year it has been - beginning with not being able to attend any Rose Days due to the Covid-19 lockdowns, and then moving from my home town of Invercargill to my new abode in Blenheim.

I had never heard of Zoom or Google Meet, but I have had so many online meetings throughout the year, that I felt I have really got to know my fellow National Representatives and also other Inner Wheel members throughout New Zealand so much more than in a more normal year.

Highlights are of course when one can visit the Districts to see the enthusiasm of the Members and of the District Chairmen as they host the National President. I was most impressed with the Kits for Kindys programme that 3 of the Districts embarked on - what a great array of toys, games, books etc. for the kindergarten children of Vanuatu, and what an amazing co-ordination of boxes for shipping that was undertaken prior to Christmas.

Our photo competition was fun and something different for all members to be involved with.

Then there was the Virtual Convention - who ever thought this could run successfully, but it did. We had 10 members from NZ join up and although timing was not great for us, I think all participants enjoyed it and it would be something that could be an option in the future should the need arise. The electronic voting system was excellent once the initial problems were ironed out. It was a shame not to be able to experience Jaipur in person but luckily I visited in 2020 so I considered that a bonus.

Our Inner Wheel Conference was very definitely the highlight of my year - something that had been looked forward to for two years, and we were not going to let any Covid-19 lockdowns stand in our way. We came up with a contingency plan that meant all members could have confidence that no money would be lost if the conference had to be postponed or cancelled. This gave everyone peace of mind and we were able to host members and partners in beautiful Queenstown, beginning on the Friday with a Well-Being Day - great feedback from this and it's likely we will include in future conferences.

Saturday's business session ran smoothly and then we unveiled the new Inner Wheel New Zealand website. I urge you all to look at this if you haven't previously. We had the very funny Amanda Foo-Ryland speaking in the afternoon, followed by the Gala Dinner and our guest speaker Lisa O'Neill.

Sunday was our day of Remembrance as we respected those members we lost during the last two years, this included the very recent passing of Denise White from Fairfield, and also since then Gaye Pratt of Orewa & Whangaparaoa, both of whom were District Chairmen whilst I was National Webmaster.

My year is ending shortly with visits to the Districts for their AGM's and changeovers which I am very much looking forward to, and then I can safely leave the reins of Inner Wheel New Zealand to incoming President Michelle Atkinson who has great plans to lead our organization well into the future.

Thank you one and all for your support, I have felt humbled by the messages I've received over the year, but inspired at the same time that we are an organization that people are proud to belong to.

*Dot Anderson-Lee, National President*

## FROM THE EDITOR

At recent Rose Days (*Roles and Responsibility, Orientation, Strategy, and Enthusiasm*), Incoming President Michelle Atkinson asked us to think of the reasons why we joined Inner Wheel – and what we value. It didn't take much thinking on why we joined – often because a long-time member, a Rotary connection, or a friend encouraged us to come to a meeting. As regards the reasons why we stay around? Well, it's all about friendship and fellowship.

Your contributions that have come into my mailbox over the past few weeks have underpinned this – it is obvious how much we as an organization depend on fellowship and fun and service to the community. And in this year where travel to distant shores has been put on hold, we have all enjoyed the opportunities to invest in our friendships and in the service we can do locally.

The photos on the front page are prize winners from the recent photo competition. To see them all, have a look at the Inner Wheel page on Facebook. In fact, follow Inner Wheel on Facebook if you haven't done so yet – it's the place to be for up-to-date information and photos and feel-good moments from our Clubs.

I should also note here that this newsletter, and the newsletters that are to follow are no longer going to be printed. Not only because it is costly (to the Clubs, and to the planet), but also because on a computer you can change the size so that you can easily read, we can afford beautiful colour, and it is easy to find and refer back to!

So here we go – this is what Inner Wheel has been up to in 2020 – 2021.

*Hannie de Beer, IWNZ Editor*

# District NZ291

During the past year, I was amazed by the activities Clubs are undertaking with such enthusiasm. The Covid implications were just a minor setback and members stepped up to the challenge to deliver a service to the community and to keep each other safe. My thanks go out to you, and I am grateful to be part of this organisation of "Amazing" women. My many visits far and wide through the country to visit Clubs were preceded by lunches and dinners before a meeting, this allowed me to get in contact with committees of many Clubs and have open discussions about the future of their Club and the future of Inner Wheel. At the recent Queenstown conference, it was refreshing to seeing many members who were ready to move into the future and to "Lead the Change" for their Club and members. A big thank you to the members of the NZ291 District Committee, for standing by me and supporting me all the way, I could not have done this without your enthusiasm and commitment.

Thank you all for your friendship.

*Rina Maxwell-Hesp, NZ291 Chairman*

## AOTEA



During our November meeting we planned the catering for December's Headway House Christmas Lunch, where we served Christmas fare with all the trimmings. A big day, but very rewarding. We also fundraised for our annual service project, this year, we chose *Helping Understand the Grief of Suicide (HUGS)*, for which we are the inaugural supporter. HUGS is run by Diane who works with families in the Far North. Diane has now registered her organisation as a charity.

*(The photo of these ladies catering the Christmas Lunch won second prize in the Service Through Friendship category. Ed.)*

## AUCKLAND EAST

As always we have been busy – with Mah-jong and the book club, and our monthly meetings and coffee mornings. Our speakers have been



inspiring. The photo here is of Kiwi Harvest, where our speaker explained how unwanted food is rescued and redistributed to where it certainly is wanted very much indeed. In the same vein we have provided items to local schools to alleviate period poverty, and food to the Glen Innes foodbank.

## FAIRFIELD



For many years we have catered for Rotary at one of their first meetings in January. We have got it down to a fine art! This year we catered a Rotating Dinner where each of 6 tables of six people each had a different main and dessert.

Members could choose which main and dessert they wanted which involved some table changes between courses. One Inner Wheel member hosted each table. It was a good way of mixing the Rotarians

up and a change from sitting at a table often with the same people. Both of these events were good fundraisers for our Club.

## HOWICK

Covid-19 did not dampen our spirits or service- we produced hundreds of face masks and we raised our profile by a cake stall at the Pakuranga Community Carnival. The community was out in force and supported us very well. Funds raised will go back into the community. A speaker who assists in housing homeless people bought three Samoan lasses with her who are stranded in New Zealand. They had signed a lease on accommodation but had no household goods. With members decluttering and a plea on a community website, we managed to furnish their house within a week.



## MATAMATA



A shared March lunch meeting at member Valerie Steiner's rural home is always a highlight, particularly when it involves getting up close and personal with some of the Steinvale deer!

With Covid denying NZ293 members the opportunity of enjoying a final get-together when the District disbanded last year, former (and final) DC Vera Farmilo organised a super March Mix 'N' Mingle in Taupo. Around 40 members of the various NZ293 Clubs gathered and such a good time was had by all that it may just become an annual event!

## MT ROSKILL



We interspersed fundraising (ladies shown here with new backpacks for children in need at a local school) and fun (so many wonderful meals and laughter) with inspiring speakers Anna Irvine, of the Child Cancer Foundation, Ruth Davey on We Can Keep Safe (a personal safety programme for 3 – 5 year olds), and Elizabeth Hold on Hearing Health were only a few of our many excellent speakers.

## NOUMEA PLAISANCE



The IW Club of Noumea Plaisance activity take part in a number of fairs and markets in Noumea.

Earlier in the year they were participants in the Pink Ribbon Charity run/walk and also man a stand at the market following the event.

## OPOTIKI

The inner Wheel Club of Opotiki is small and busy and happy. President Carole keeps us going with her enthusiasm and attention to detail. We have embarked on a slipper knitting program encouraged by Lana – finally we had amassed enough pairs of children's slippers to take along to the local Kohangareo pre-school. What a welcome we got! A lavish morning tea and excited enthusiasm from the children who pulled open the bags and donned the slippers. Now the 15 adult helpers also want



them! We were quite humbled by the pleasure the group got from our efforts and we felt so rewarded by their enthusiasm.

## OREWA AND WHANGAPAROA

This year some of our Club members participated in the Look Good Feel Better Charity Walk. Others attended a Rotary Conference, where we wore our Inner Wheel badges with pride – and explained to some Rotarians what Inner Wheel is all about.



At Christmas time we rose to the challenge to fill the tins for LoveSoup, a local charity that collects, sorts, and distributes good food to assist communities, delivering to organisations such as food banks that help people in need.

We also ran a car boot sale, hosted a bingo night – and enjoyed each other's company at both formal and informal meetings.

## PARAHAKI OF WHANGAREI

This year we have collected food for the Salvation Army, washed the towels for Look Good Feel Better sessions and hold regular sewing bees where we lunch and sew, label, string, package and sort refuge bags for woman and children at Woman's refuge. We have also found out that we have some very interesting speakers in our own Club – and have learnt many things from them and from visiting speakers.



## SHORE CITY

With Covid-19 lockdowns, many of our meetings and were either cancelled or postponed.



However, at a subsequent "catch-up" Club meeting in October, we were able to combine two of the Club's activities: a fundraiser lunch and our birthday celebration. At the same meeting we welcomed District NZ291 Chairman Rina Maxwell-Hesp, who gave an entertaining and informative talk before joining us in our annual Soup and Rolls Lunch. Then, to celebrate Shore City's belated 19th birthday, we had a magnificent cake, complete with candles – a fitting dessert to follow our soup and rolls.

Shore City has three founder members still in the Club and we look forward to our 20th Anniversary this coming September.

# District NZ294

District NZ294 is thriving and we have enjoyed welcoming many new members in the past few months. My district theme is 'Let's Work Together'- and we do! I have just loved visiting the Clubs, sharing information and hearing about all your activities and involvement in the community. Thank you to everyone for your support. Each Club was given a \$200 District grant last year which has been used for promoting their Club, mainly by purchasing banners. A prime example of all our Clubs working together has been our ISO Project 'Kits for Kindys' and I'm pleased to say that all 32 boxes and the playground equipment we sent have arrived safely in Vanuatu. Sue, from Pacific Pathways, now has the mammoth job of distributing the items to the kindergartens on the islands.

Our Clubs are doing an incredible job in supporting their local community in addition to Days for Girls and Look Good Feel Better. Our District meetings have been well attended and are always heaps of fun. The Inner Wheel Club of Feilding did a wonderful job in hosting 78 members at our Assembly in April. All 13 Clubs brought along an item for the IWNZ conference raffle in Queenstown and we mixed everyone up for a great day of friendship, training, and brain-storming with, of course, some fun and games. Debbie Lattey and Michelle Atkinson presented a wonderful programme and everyone loved the day. Eastern Hutt and Ahuriri have recently celebrated their 40th Anniversaries in style and the IW Club of Napier was the first Club to be chartered 84 years ago. New Plymouth North has had 21 new members as a result of interacting and following up on women interested in joining IW. This had a snowball effect and they in turn brought along their friends. They also did a promotion for their Club on the local radio. Plimmerton and Upper Hutt Clubs have gained several members through Social media posts. Wellington, Palmerston North and Feilding Clubs have been gaining members by encouraging people to bring along their friends. Manawatu Central Connection will be inducting 3 people this month. I can quite safely say that on the whole NZ294 members are promoting their Clubs and embracing the new Membership Drive, making use of the membership toolkit.

Yours in Inner Wheel Friendship,  
*Carol Woodfield, NZ294 District Chairman 2020/21*

## AHURIRI



It's been a year of celebrations – we did our 40th in style with an amazing high tea! Money collected at this event was donated to Heart Kids NZ. We also arranged a reunion with friends from

the former District NZ293 Clubs in Taupo (and then there was Rose Day and Conference!)

Our Knit and Natter in Taradale is growing in numbers – this is not only about spending time together but also advertising our profile in the community. We also collect items for StarLight, a charity that supports mentally ill patients in hospital, and the community by providing welcome packs and gifts.

## EASTERN HUTT

Despite Covid putting a spoke in the wheel at times, we have managed to meet regularly. We have inducted a new member, collected money for the Upper Hutt Women's



Centre and heard speakers on Anzac Day and had a photographic journey. The photo here is of the bottle, bag and box auction.

## FEILDING



A little Irish luck came our way when our monthly Inner Wheel meeting night in March coincided with St Patrick's Day. Of course, the night couldn't be anything else but an Irish



theme and we met for a meal at the Denbigh Hotel's Function Room in Feilding. There were a number of little Irish gifts and everyone had an Irish joke to read out. Photos were taken with Irish hand props and Irish balloons. There was a round of lucky number Irish prizes where every player won a prize and several games of Irish Housie finished the evening off. Green sweets, lots of fun and Irish treats made for a very enjoyable green evening.

## KAPITI

Raechel Osborne CEO and Founder of 'Kapiti Youth Support Services' (shown here with our President) was one of our inspirational speakers this year and we were impressed with what this Support Service has achieved and is actively involved in. We have also assisted Rotary with the Foodbank Appeal. Now that Covid is behind us (we hope ...) our Monthly Brain Teaser Groups (Scrabble, Mah-Jong and Rummicub) and our Walk and Talk groups are also all in action again.



## MANUWATU CENTRAL CONNECTION



Speakers from a High School Teen Parent Unit and the Children's Co-ordinator at Women's Refuge were highlights of the year.

Club members did a lot of knitting/crocheting during "lockdown evenings". Special

mention must be made of Kathy McKnight - blanket maker extraordinaire who spent hundreds of hours producing dozens of cosy blankets. Our members also provided monthly morning teas to the LGFB and supported the Salvation Army and Women's Refuge Centre.

## NAPIER

84

The IW Club of Napier was the first Club to be chartered 84 years ago – what an achievement that is! We wish the lovely ladies who are still continuing all of the best for the 85<sup>th</sup> year.

## NEW PLYMOUTH NORTH

We celebrated our 40<sup>th</sup> birthday in October 2020 with four charter members present. The knitting group continue to support Barnardos and other groups with beautifully knitted garments and rugs. A few members had a sewing bee to make wet bags for a local kindergarten we have worked with for many years. The Club continues to grow and enjoy social outings and interest groups.



## PALMERSTON NORTH



We have had a productive year here at the Palmerston North Club with a variety of social outings, a range of interesting speakers and hosting the NZ294 District meeting in November where 70 people attended

and we filled Kits for Kindy boxes. We continue to meet monthly for Coffee and Chat and continue to support the LUCK foundation (we bought gifts for 97 children and adults associated, with a member adding 33 beanies to the gifts). In addition, we have also started a Walk and Talk group.

## PLIMMERTON

We have an annual Walk and Talk meeting with Southern Wairarapa members. A great time of fun and friendship. This year we met at the Kaitoke Gardens.

A highlight of our year is our Annual Book Fair



Café that raises funds for the Life Flight Trust. Rotary runs the Book Fair and we have the café to entice folks to sit and read and have a rest while browsing, through the books. Members also went on a guided tour of the Life Flight Trust and were able to donate the \$1,500 raised to the trust.

## TAWA

"Stuff the trailer" is the fun title for the collection of publicly donated goods that was organised by President Carolyn Crutch in conjunction with the Salvation Army and Tawa Rotary. The generosity of those



contributing and the number of items given was humbling. With our hospital bag project, we made 114 bags. This is one activity which involves all Club members and their varied skills.

## UPPER HUTT



The highlight of this Inner Wheel year for us has been the induction of four new members, with two members taking positions on the committee! We have had two sewing bees;

one to make kitbags for CanBead, part of the Can Inspire Charitable Trust and one to make heart pillows for the Wellington Hospital Cardiac Unit.

We have also collected materials for Kits for Kindys and for the Upper Hutt Women's Centre. At our July meeting Rachel and Tracy from the Women's Centre spoke to us about the work they do.

## WELLINGTON

Matt from Kaibosh (a charity that collects and distributes quality surplus food) spoke at our Christmas meeting – a good choice for an evening where partners were also invited. We also visited House of Grace – there were no mothers and babies in residence at the time. We were all really impressed by the volunteers, the warm and comfortable house and lovely rooms and furnishings. Ladies Who Lunch have had a lot of fun this year too – visiting lovely places and eating delicious food. One of our activities this year was making bags for Arohata Prison.



*(The Clubs of Tawa and Wellington also support women with Days for Girls packs – this outreach will be highlighted in the edition of Inner Link that focusses on service. Ed.)*

# District NZ297

It has been a wonderful year, visiting all the Clubs in the District and meeting old friends, from past District meetings and luncheons, we used to enjoy regularly and met so many new ladies. There are so many of you, it is really hard to remember all your names, but I thank you for all your kindness and hospitality.

My big concern has been the lack of new members joining our Clubs, and the aging of our present membership, which I am one of, BUT at the wonderful Conference in Queenstown, I was totally shocked when it was announced by IWNZ Secretary, Judi Newborn, that District NZ297 was the recipient of the Morna Wood Trophy, for the District with the most new members over the last two years.

While I was totally shocked, and took a moment to respond, I was so thrilled and proud of you all, even though I did drop the trophy.

Well done ladies and please keep up the good work and enjoy the wonderful fellowship you all have.

Thank you for the opportunity to be you District Chairman for the past year, I have thoroughly enjoyed my time with you all.

*Judy Kingsbury, NZ297 District Chairman*

## ASHBURTON

Another very busy Inner Wheel year has flown by. We have had a very social year this year. As well as our monthly meetings, and monthly social catch up at a local café we have seen the formation of a Walking group, Ukulele Group and a Knitting/Stitching Group. These have all proved very popular with great fellowship among members.



We continue to bake biscuits monthly for the Cancer Society, give our spare cash for 'Look Good Feel Better, supply Silky Pillows to the Cancer Society when needed, and in September cater for the Rotarian's Bookarama.

## AVONHEAD



We had a lovely spring garden tour of "Dalketh", a four-acre property near Lincoln. We have supported many good causes this year, including Age Concern (afternoon

teas), LGFB (morning teas), Good Night Sleep Tight with warm sleepwear for winter, the Neonatal Unit with knitted garments, and many others.

Our activities have included our walking group's annual weekend away together in Waimate and we celebrated International Month with a delicious Indian lunch out with our husbands at The Himalaya Restaurant organised by our ISO Sue Geddes. We catered as a fundraiser for the Rotary Club of Bishopdale-Burnside's "Artarama" with preparing and serving finger food for 200 people.

## BLenheim



A highlight this year was an invitation to attend Navratri by new member Rekha Kothari. Navratri is celebrated as Durga Puja in various parts of Northeast India. In North and Western parts of the country, people celebrate the festival by fasting, staging

"Ramlila" and conclude with Dussehra where the effigies of Ravana and his brothers are burnt, again signifying the victory of Good over Evil.

Our continuation making of Heart Pillows is a very valuable contribution to the Cancer shop patients here in Blenheim. We even had an article published in our local paper!

## CHRISTCHURCH WEST

We had a very successful fundraising and fellowship weekend catering for the Cashmere Rotary Club at their Bookarama.

This was a great opportunity to get to know the Rotary members, wives and partners, as they came in to refresh with a cuppa and a snack. Some of the Rotary wives assisted us by dropping off plates, and a friendly relationship developed. We have had several of these members join us for morning tea during the year.



We are looking forward to doing the catering again this year, it was a great fundraiser, but also an amazing opportunity to build friendships and relationships.

## MOTUEKA



We visited Golden Bay Packhouse, looking very fetching in orange safety jackets and hair nets :-)! We were escorted around by Paul Heywood a member of one of the families that own the business. They have around 60 plus employees, who pack and sort the fruit and maintain the machines, but much of the warehouse is automated. It was fascinating watching the apples being washed, sorted and graded, and labelled by machine before they are checked by hand and packed into boxes. The boxes were then packed neatly onto pallets for export by yet more machinery. It was an educational and interesting visit.

## OTAUTAHI



The past year we have not looked too far ahead, and we made sure to be able to pivot if our plans are disrupted by Covid. Our Club has still managed to keep the wheels turning with fundraising, hosting speakers, and enjoying time with our Club members.

We have helped at the Pink Ribbon Walk, cooked at Ronald McDonald House, hosted interesting speakers including Jo Bailey from Uniting Canterbury women, Belinda Van der Monde from Cochlear Implants, and Averil Stevenson from Ecosort. We donated to Kits for Kindy, Cochlear Implants, Uniting Canterbury women – and a member made beads of courage bags for the Cancer Society. We have also welcomed 5 new members.

## RANGIORA

Our Club is in good heart. We have shared memories about a Christmas decoration, shared book reviews, and visited Cholmondeley to deliver easter eggs, swimming bags and general use bags. A bottle auction at our May meeting hosted by Annette and Greg Wright was so much fun. What an interesting array of bottles and contents. Our Auctioneer Greg Wright extracted money from us all with ease – Greg was a great auctioneer and had us all continually laughing. It wasn't safe to scratch your face – one movement of the hand, cost you. We were thrilled to welcome several visitors.



## RICCARTON



Who would have thought that efforts to raise funds for our chosen Charity CURE KIDS would have taken so many twists and turns, but that is what happened all because of the pandemic that re-arranged the way we lived during 2020-21.

With planning almost complete for the FASHION SHOWCASE, the first date in April was cancelled two weeks out from the show, and then as fate would have it, the second re-arranged event was cancelled with just 10 hours to go.

However, due to extraordinary ticket sales, the generosity of our sponsors, venue, caterers and audience, we were able to make a much bigger than expected donation in December, to fund a Cure Kids research scholar. A happy ending to be sure!

## STOKE TAHUNANUI



During August 2020 Our Club organised a Fundraiser Luncheon to support the Pink Ribbon Appeal. Motueka and Blenheim attended along with other

invited guests. The collected funds will be put to excellent use for Breast Cancer Education, Research & Patient Support. It was a fun afternoon with a quiz, giveaways and several very interesting speakers. Pink was the colour of the day! All in all, a very successful day - combining fellowship with a good cause.

*For those of us struggling to think of speakers – some tips! President Jennifer from the IW Club of Orewa and Whangaparoa referred to a chapter about Club Meetings in an old Inner Wheel book – these are some of the speaker topics that some of the Clubs had back in the 1950s: Circus Clowns/ Irish Linen/ The Situation in Egypt/ Life in a Greek Village/ Corsetry/ Inn Signs/ The Chemistry of the Breakfast Table/ The Price of Coal/ The Work of a Sanitary Inspector/ Re-covering an Eiderdown/ Evolution.*

# District NZ298

District NZ298 has had a busy productive year, not least due to our involvement with the 2021 Conference – our special thanks to the Inner Wheel club of Queenstown for the on-the-ground work done to ensure that Inner Wheel participants from all over New Zealand were welcomed and comfortable at the lovely Hilton Resort.

It is wonderful to see clubs genuinely making a difference with the many regular ongoing projects they have which when completed are distributed locally, nationally, and internationally. Thank you all for working so tirelessly – and for your friendship and support..

*Jo Williamson, NZ298 District Chairman*

## BALCLUTHA

Balclutha has had another busy year. Our annual Garage Sale held in February this year was a great success. The money generated from this sale resulted in ten charities involved with youth in our town receiving monetary support to carry out their programmes. This year we co-shared with the Balclutha Scouts, thus involving young men and women to share in the work and the profits. This sharing also broadened community knowledge about Balclutha Inner Wheel. At the end of April Balclutha IW hosted Rose Day for District 298. Pam, a member of our Club, is the incoming District Chairman and presented the opening address.



## DUNEDIN SOUTH

50 Years is a milestone worth celebrating! On Saturday 20 February 2021, the Inner Wheel Club of Dunedin South held an Anniversary lunch. (Our charter night on 17 February 1971 cost \$3.67 per person, and the annual subscription was \$2.50!) Over the years we have supported the Dunedin South Rotary Club and participated in many fund-raising adventures. At our celebration past and present members were joined by visiting Club members from Invercargill, Balclutha, Mosgiel, Queenstown, Oamaru, Temuka-Geraldine, and Waimate. Many of Dunedin South members have held positions on the District Board, including Christina King who has been the New Zealand President and on the International Board.



## INVERCARGILL



The Invercargill Club annually participates in the local Daffodil Day fundraiser for the Cancer Society and this past year was no exception. On a cool August day our two newest members at the time, Anne and Gwenda, stepped up to help man

the allocated selling space in the city for a period and enjoyed being part of a team that raised funds in Southland.

## INVERCARGILL EAST



Being face to face, enjoying close fellowship and friendship is the overwhelming highlight for our Club post Covid. Women's Refuge was our Christmas Charity recipient and the Spirit Army (an organisation in

Invercargill where volunteers help struggling families in their community over the bread line) received Christmas and April food hampers.

We had excellent, informative speakers and held a Club Forum to glean feedback, direction, and focus from members. We also had fun activities –Karna and Helen Mary, shared their expertise and tips when working with flowers, ribbon and all those other little items that make Christmas so special!

## INVERCARGILL NORTH

We are in good heart with 43 members. We enjoyed an active year of participation, outings and speakers, supported Kids Can and Southland Charity Hospital, and collected bread tags, food/pantry goods, toiletry and laundry goods.

Our activities included Walk and Talk in Queens Park, Canbead Coordinator Rachel Allan enlightened us with ideas and showed suggestions to create jewellery for



Caninspire. We enjoyed a night with a Christmas theme, decorating Christmas houses with biscuits, icing, and decorations, followed by a sing along of carols. On International Inner Wheel Day we enjoyed our annual picnic followed by a game of petanque. And of course, we celebrated our 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

## INVERCARGILL SOUTH



Our highlight of the year was a trip to Bluff for lunch. We car-pooled (without Karaoke) down there and spent a wonderful afternoon putting the world to rights, only leaving when we felt that the staff were

wanting to prepare for the evening diners. A wonderful view, watching fishing boats lurch in the very rough seas, and excellent company.

## MOSGIEL

Our numbers are dwindling but our enthusiastic members get together regularly for lunch or coffee and our craft group continue to meet once a month to knit and sew clothing, blankets, and cushions from donated materials. These items have been given to Foster Hope Otago and NICU. We also made and donated red heart cushions to Heart Kids Otago



## OAMARU

We were busy bees this week packaging Pineapple Chunks (which originated in Oamaru) for the Queenstown Conference being held in May.



Dawn Perkins Ruth Dove and Maureen Malcolm are pictured packing the pineapple chunks into little bags tied with a ribbon of blue and gold and hope that the members attending conference

enjoy this little treat from our little Club. We love to join together to do this sort of thing especially for the friendship this brings. We are all still enjoying Inner Wheel in the town of Oamaru.

## QUEENSTOWN

We held a very successful Blingo Bingo night for Look Good Feel Better. Everyone got into the spirit of it and there was some wonderful Bling! Prizes were given for the Best Dressed Man and Lady and members and local businesses were very generous and donated great prizes and monetary donations. The Arrowtown Bowling Club gave us the use of their rooms at no charge.



Much of the success was due to our member Clare, who ran the night – her husband, Steve was a great caller. A huge success and so much fun!

## TEMUKA

We have, after much thought and great consideration, decided to disband because of diminishing and aging membership, and after forty-six years of happy service to community and country, through the wonderful movement of International Inner Wheel.

Our long-term serving President and Secretary, Jeannette Woodley, receives our heartfelt thanks and appreciation for her service over the years to Temuka Inner Wheel. Our final vote of resignation is 30 June 2021.

Our members convey their best wishes to all IW Clubs and members of New Zealand Inner Wheel for continuing the successful and happy involvement with this special and rewarding movement. Thank you all for your friendship and for so many memories over the years.

## WAIMATE

Throughout the year we have made emergency toiletry hospital packs, sewed for Days for Girls, knitted and made silky pillows. A huge WOW to all our Club members who embrace our many projects and help out with catering, supplying food, and making themselves available to set up for functions. Because of our community involvement our Club was awarded the Waimate District Council group award at the annual Civic Awards on the 10 March 2021. We also 'walked our talk' by catering the event. Only about 4 weeks to go for this great year – a fantastic effort! Our minds are starting to think of projects for next year!



# All the Crafts



*Matamata member Laurie Breadmore explaining how to make cuddle bunnies from knitted squares.*



*Howick's masks, made after a request from the Middlemore Foundation.*



*Beanies for LUCK, Palmerston North.*

*Kathy from the Club of Manurewa – knitter extraordinaire!*



*A collection of bags for Arohata Women's Prison, made by the Club of Wellington.*

*More beautiful knitting from South Wairapa.*



*Sewing bee underway at Upper Hutt, making kitbags for CanBead (shown on the right). The group also makes heart pillows for the Wellington Hospital Cardiac Unit.*



**Club sews heart pillows for cancer patients**

By Frances Chin

Local club Inner Wheel has been hard at work. Under the direction of Margaret Alexander, members have been sewing heart-shaped pillows to give to people recovering from breast cancer surgery.

Margaret has been a part of Inner Wheel for 23 years she says. She is also a member of Marlborough Quilters. Margaret has been sewing pillows since joining Inner Wheel. "We started with under 12 pillows a year. Now, on average, we do 45/50 odd pillows," Margaret confirms.

Margaret heads a team of eight. The team works in Margaret's sewing workshop in her home. All the pillows are made of cotton fabric patches, donated by members. The patches are sewn together by a machine, and later stuffed with dacron.

Marlborough Cancer Society centre manager, Felicity Spencer, says that patients often comment on the pillows, and ask staff to pass on their thanks to the club. "We give them the pillows as part of their discharge package. Having something tangible to give them really makes the message special."

The design of the pillow is extremely beneficial to patients. Felicity adds. The shape allows patients to tuck the pillow under their arm, which causes discomfort caused by surgery to lymph nodes.

"We supply the pillows to help patients implement their post-care."

Margaret has recently received an Honoured Active Membership with Inner Wheel for her "continuous dedication" to the manufacturing of the pillows.

"It's about supporting women and children," Margaret says.

Blenheim Inner Wheel members Jan Cahill, Margaret Alexander, and Neroli Edwards with the heart-shaped pillows they have made for Cancer Society Marlborough.

*In Blenheim, crafting earned them an article in the local paper.*

# Membership

Inner Wheel New Zealand is a part of International Inner Wheel, one of the world's largest women's voluntary service organisations with over 108,000 Active Members in approximately 4,000 Clubs in more than 100 countries worldwide. Our Inner Wheel Clubs, Districts and Countries take part in a wide range of work for charities and causes across the world with the aim of helping people live better lives.

New Zealand has had continuous representation on the International Inner Wheel Board since 1973, we have 46 Clubs across 4 Districts from Whangarei to Invercargill and across the seas to Fiji and Noumea.

From the brainstorming going on around the country at the ROSE Days we have confirmed what we all knew. Being a Member of Inner Wheel brings us the ability to work together to make a difference in our communities whilst also bringing us friendship, personal growth and the ability to gain self-confidence with support from our Inner Wheel friends.

Reading all the newsletters that Clubs share I see all the friendship shared through working on service projects, walking, craft, Mah-jong, coffee morning, dinners, ukulele lessons, movie nights, bus trips, picnics, bbq's, garden visits and many other activities.

Sharing our friendship and service with our projects allows us to connect with each other and our communities. When we share what we enjoy about Inner Wheel with others through conversation or by asking them to our social activities or meetings it allows them to see why we belong to Inner Wheel.

Congratulations to you all in working together, supporting your Members and for encouraging others to become a part of our wonderful organisation. Many Clubs have gained new Active Members in this IW year and I am aware that there are still more that intend to join us as well.

If you are looking for ideas to promote Inner Wheel or to add to your membership, please take a look at the IWNZ website [www.innerwheel.org.nz](http://www.innerwheel.org.nz) where there are toolkits available within the Library and copies of the IWNZ Inner Link.

## HONOURED ACTIVE MEMBERS, 2020 - 2021



*Frances McCurdy,  
New Plymouth*



*Judy Carvin,  
Kapiti*



*Denise White,  
Fairfield*



*Melva Waite,  
Tawa*



*Margaret Pine and Brenda Callear,  
Plimmerton*



*Diana Lockery,  
Tawa*



*Eileen Ward,  
Ashburton*



*Melva Brown,  
Ashburton*



*Beverley Davis,  
Dunedin South*



*Ineke Thissen and Laurie Breadmore with  
President Margaret Sing, Matamata*

