



Inner Link Annual Overview, June 2023

From the Editor

Another year has sped past – I'm starting to sound like my mother, complaining that life speeds up when you become a bit older ...

But what a year it's been! For the first time in years we didn't need to cancel meetings, meet wearing masks – and many of us have packed suitcases and headed off to visit our dear ones, in some cases not hugged for 3 – 4 years.

It's been good, hasn't it?

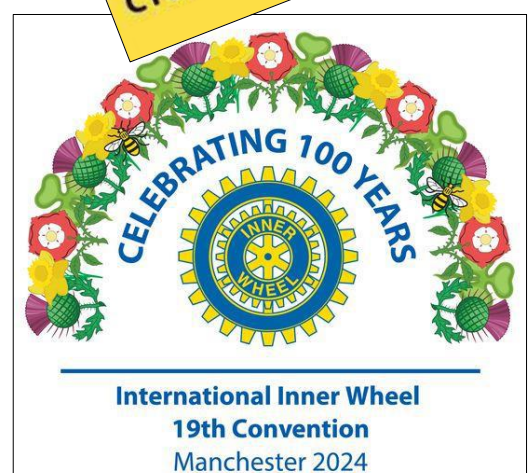
Sadly, some Clubs did not respond in time to be included in the newsletter – we miss hearing from you. Hopefully the Clubs are going well, and the Presidents, Editors and Secretaries are all somewhere warm!

This Inner Link is the final one for the year. Every ending brings some sadness, and like me you will be sad to hear that the Inner Wheel Clubs of Napier and Eastern Hutt have decided to close. Napier has been going for nearly 90 years. I believe I'm speaking for all of us in thanking them for their long years of service. I'm sure that many of the long friendships nurtured in these clubs will endure – and hopefully members who are still keen to continue on the Inner Wheel journey will find another club in the vicinity to join.

As sad as we are all to hear that, it is balanced by our delight that we have a new Club, Braided Rivers, our first "new generation" club since 2016! Read all about how that came about on page 12 of this newsletter.

And for the rest of the year – well, turn the page and hear what our IIW and IWNZ Presidents have to say, and what the clubs have been up to in 2022 – 2023!

Hannie de Beer



Zenaida Farcon, International Inner Wheel President 2022-2023



As I laid down the goals for my Presidential Year, I was keenly aware of our calling to “Work Wonders” by transforming, building, and uplifting humanity. I knew in my heart that we had the capability to do wonders in our communities as we forged genuine friendships, rendered true service, and empowered those we served to create wonders in their own way.

Walt Disney once said, “You can design and create and build the most wonderful place in the world. But it takes people to make the dream a reality.” The reality is that the bond of friendships, activities executed, and service rendered this year could not have happened without the commitment and support of all the Inner Wheel members throughout the world.

To my dearest members in Inner Wheel New Zealand led by National President Alyssandra

Skerrett, the four Work Wonders District Chairmen, and forty-one Club Presidents, I will be forever grateful for the blessing of being able to serve you and to serve with you. I would again like to extend a heartfelt “thank you” to our parents, spouses, partners, and children for being our source of strength as we continue to do our part in making a better and stronger world.

My dear friends, I hope that, as National President Alyssandra had said, you have been inspired by the “magical pixie dust” in sharing your blessings, and as such, you have all found great joy, just as I have, in working wonders throughout the year. Let me make mention too that I am so proud that you have 123 new Members this year and have formed a new Club after seven years.

Cheers to all the Wonder Women of IWNZ!

My heart is forever at your service.



President's Message: Alyssandra Skerrett

After being blown away by President Aly's speech at conference, I asked her if she would consider sharing it with the entire Club – after all, only 10% of us will hear it again. I'm so grateful that she agreed. So, here it is, in full! Editor



It gives me great pleasure to present my report as Inner Wheel New Zealand President | National Representative for 2022 – 2023. Inner Wheel New Zealand is a mirror of you. Each year, it reflects amazing achievements. Inner Wheel Women's sisterhood is strong, bold, and capable while being kind, generous and compassionate.

Deep inside every one of us there is a quiet soft voice who ask us: Do you know who you are?

*With love and the people around you, the seed inside of you begins to grow.
The mistakes you make guide you.*

Who am I?

I am the girl who joined Inner Wheel.

I'm the girl who transformed from a Wallflower into a Leader.

As a leader, my biggest lesson this year was to stop being that fix-it girl. I can't do it on my own, and I asked for your help. I trust and believe in you, and in awe I watched your transformational journey begin from inside you, your seed flourishing to SHINE.

Our Good Story starts with a Conversation. It is where all great ideas start. At Empowerment Day, the first sprinkles of love reminded us that it all starts with a Conversation. In every District, the noise and number of Members sparked.

The idea of having a Mentor was introduced. I, personally, announced Annabelle Valentine as my mentor. She gets me to think, kick a few cans, and brings me back to the importance of my garden, which is my most intimate part of me – 'The Garden Girl'. Annabelle is my most valuable treasure. She is that star who SHINES giving me hope – truly a special gift.

"All the world is made of faith, and trust, and pixie dust." J.M. Barrie, Peter Pan

What does this mean ... often, success is a perplexing combination of hard work and chance. You need both, and trust that you'll stumble upon what you need, when you need it.

I believe in Divine Timing, and while I don't understand it, I do have the gift to see it. Each International Theme builds on the year before. I am so blessed with 'Work Wonders' as it is the pixie dust that has ignited new growth in us – Members. Our Theme is a purposeful theme to set the stage as we celebrate in our 99th Year. We prepare the ground, grow, and ignite, so that we can celebrate our past achievements. Judi and Rina will take us into our 100th year. This is that monumental moment where a Brand-New Chapter of Inner Wheel emerges. We are exactly where we were 100 years ago, same Ukrainian-Russian War, Economics, and the list goes on.

Our year started softer without all the emails as our International Theme *Work Wonders* by Zenaida Farcon brought us the magic – perhaps a sprinkling of pixie dust and wonder of the stars dancing in celebration. The packets of seeds dispersed followed by the October and November Meetings where the volume of chatter grew. I asked for your help to invite New Members, make Inner Wheel Our Good Story, and A Place to Belong. Women to stop self-shaming and instead encourage our Members' successes. Every time an Inner Woman wins, we all win – we win as women, so celebrate every success! It starts with our hand reaching out to those before us with the other hand reaching out behind us. It is a chain of women connecting our successes that stretches globally.

Now, I must be honest planting a garden can be a bit of work. Patience isn't one of my best qualities and watching a garden growing is a bit painful. In fact, it is frustrating! Deep in the earth a seed starts to grow with love. You can't see anything happening. It is where I trust and believe as I wait, wait, and continue to wait. You know patience is a sinful word.

I am not sure exactly when, and as I stepped out, I am truly grateful to see the wonder of our Inner Wheel Garden. The care and nurture sprinkled like sparkling stars are still sprouting and will continue for years ahead. The miracle of a seed is one of the most inspirational wonders of nature's gifts. You can't make a flower bloom before her time.

As I look around, I am grateful to see you SHINE. I want to 'Thank You' all for being kind and generous. As President, I am in admiration of all your relentless selflessness to keep giving.

I Am Grateful.

I want to 'Thank You' for being so kind and generous:

- To all the Members on the Conference Committee and District NZ294 for your amazing dedication to make these four days memorable. You have given so much of yourselves and love in handcrafting every item and moment.
- For all the Exciting Events, Fundraisers, and Meetings I have read of in the newsletters. Many Club Editors inspired me to wish I was there, and of course, I have discovered that we eat a lot.
- To all the Members who have introduced and inducted New Members. I 'Thank You'. You heard my call when I asked for your help.
- To all the Members who have stepped up into their roles and blossomed. Personally, the Executive, National Council, Appointments, and Associates – have all exceeded my expectations and flourished.

President Aly now thanked the Board, Executive, Associates and International IIW President Zenaida before continuing with the Changeover

I ask all Past National Presidents to come join me in this honour. This is a tradition that hasn't happened for many years.

Now, proudly I pass this historic chain representing those before us onto you. I represent the Past and you the Present with Rina Maxwell-Hesp our Future. My gift is my garden that has a sprinkling of pixie dust and wonder of the stars ✨ dancing in celebration that continues to Work Wonders.

Judi, it is now your turn to 'Discover Who You Are'. To discover the joys and experiences before you on your journey and where you will take all of us. I wish you the BEST with lots of celebrations for 100 years as Inner Wheel New Zealand NZ grows.



The 2022-23 Board, Committee, and Associates with IIW President Zenaida Farcon
Absent: Joanne Gaudin

District NZ291

AOTEA



An evening of creative flair as we shared time in a flower shop - *Infinibloom* – owned by Club Member, Fiona. We all had so much fun creating beautiful arrangements and playing with flowers. Some of us even purchasing our creations to take home.

Such a great night out sharing friendship and creativity.

AUCKLAND EAST

We ran a very successful Spring Fashion Parade at Repertoire in Newmarket to raise funds for Woven Earth; they help family violence survivors rebuild their lives by furnishing their houses with love and dignity to start the next chapter of their lives. When the clients of Woven



Earth enter these houses they are just four walls, so a lot of items have to be gathered up to create a home. Woven Earth works with frontline domestic violence support agencies across the Auckland region. It is an amazing organisation that has arisen from just one woman's tenacity and determination.

Doris and her ladies from Repertoire just knew our styles – and the supper and bubbles was quite lovely too.

FAIRFIELD

We have a wonderful tradition over many years of knitting for the Waikato Newborn Unit, Plunket and the Middlemore Foundation. One year we also made approx. 30 blankets for women undergoing fistula surgery in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. (We were lucky enough to get inside with the NZ Consul who didn't mind transporting the blankets in his luggage allowance!)



Much of our knitting is done by friends outside of Inner Wheel. A couple of them are not well but they love knitting Fish'n'Chip jumpers and beanies for the little ones who may not have much in the way of warm clothes. Our own Members have added to the collection and have made many small blankets for the little ones.

HOWICK

Christmas last year we baked biscuits to drop off to First Responders and Front-Line Workers. Club Members also helped at the Brit and Euro Car Show and we had a cake stand fundraiser at the Pakuranga Rotary's carnival. At both these events we had a show case stand of our Club! To spread the word of our incredible organization, Member Huibrie interviewed Adrienne Davies on our local radio station. With her long service and knowledge of Inner Wheel she was able to spread the word of our incredible organization.

We knitted (215 little garments for the Botany Birthing Unit) and had fun – including a fundraiser for the Cancer Foundation and a movie night. (The photo shows the Club celebrating friendship. Over coffee, of course!)



MATAMATA



We are ending this year on a high with the highest annual increase in numbers since the Club chartered over 40 years ago – seven new Members and two transfers. The majority of new Members joined after hearing from existing Members of the fun, fellowship and community service opportunities; while others joined on meeting Members promoting the Club at community events. We were delighted to welcome seasoned Members Carole Young and Fiona Laming from disbanded Club Opotiki. Monthly morning tea and sundowner gatherings provide great opportunities for having fun together, and one-on-one time with other Members to foster relationships. President Vera led from the front and is congratulated on growing the Club both in numbers and spirit.

MT ROSKILL



This year we celebrated 40th years with a sumptuous high tea. We were so lucky that four of our charter Members were on hand to cut the cake!

We are still collecting goods for Women's Refuge and other organizations. Early in the year we gathered a full car load of bedding, towels and clothes for those so badly affected by the recent floods. Our lovely knitters also put together two bags of knitting to be donated to *Mummys in Need*. We have enjoyed our meetings with interesting speakers who have exposed us to many different topics, including an inspiring speaker from *Star Jam*. And then there are our fun outings – the highlight the District Outing to the Zoo!

OREWA AND WHANGAPAROA

We welcomed Lorraine Baily to a monthly Club Meeting to speak about *Sweet Louise*, a charity that provides specialist care and compassion to Kiwis with incurable breast cancer: "to live as well as possible for as long as possible". We turned out in pink outfits to welcome our speaker and to show our support for this very worthwhile charity. Some of our fitter Members have also accepted the challenge to walk 50km during May, supported by



donations from Members not so fit. During our busy year supporting all the charities and enjoying the social side of Inner Wheel, we were also very proud to be announced by IWNZ to have the biggest Membership increase over the year. May this continue!

PARAHAKI OF WHANGAREI

On several Saturdays throughout the year Members have come together to prepare and fill women's and children's bags for Whangarei Women's Refuge. This year providing 80 children's and 106 women's bags.



A couple of our Members do a magnificent job of making the bags in their spare time. These are then ironed and filled at our working bee in a Member's home, which is always followed by lunch and chat.

The women's bags include toiletries, while the children's bags include toiletries and pens, pads and games.

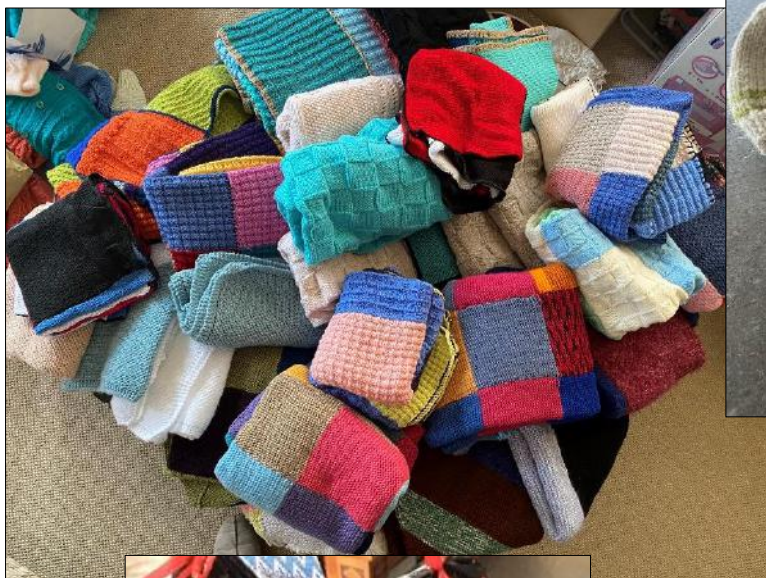
At a recent meeting we invited one of the local refuge organisers to talk to us. It was most interesting to hear the many and varied situations that require refuge help, how they go about this, and of course how much they appreciate our bags.

SHORE CITY

One of our many highlights was speaker Karen Ross from *Foster Hope*. We have an annual PJ Day when Members bring winter pyjamas to donate to children in foster care.

Foster Hope was started by two ladies in Auckland and there are now branches throughout New Zealand. We were shown examples of the backpacks of essentials provided to each child so that they do not arrive on their caregiver's doorstep empty-handed. These packs include a carry all bag, toiletries, and some personal items that they can call their own (books, soft toys, etc.).

When a child is released from foster care they are still protected in that the government often provides them with housing and Foster Hope also makes up Flat packs for these young adults.



Ahuriri describe their knitting as “Warm, Woolly and Welcoming items of clothing”, while Nouméa Pleasance tell us that they distribute “slippers, beanies, socks, and little sweaters made by our little hands.” Isn’t that just a beautiful summary of why we all knit?

On this page, from top left: Lovely knitting from Auckland East – they knit scarves and beanies, including for Age Concern: beautiful baby knitting from Matamata, and bags filled and ready to go to Women’s Refuge from Parahaki of Whangarei.

INTRODUCING OUR FURTHEST FLUNG CLUB: NOUMÉA PLAISANCE

It was great meeting Chantal (Incoming President for 2023 – 24) and Nadine at the Conference. They are such lovely bubbly ladies. And then I thought – we don't really have an idea of how Inner Wheel works in New Caledonia ... So I asked and received this lovely report on what this Club is up to – and the photos are delightful! Editor.



In the words of Incoming Club President Chantal:

We represent IW Nouméa Plaisance which celebrates its 35th anniversary this year!

We are 20 Members and at Changeover, I (Chantal) will once again be President.

Although it is hard to get back to an active life after 2 years of Covid, we have kept our Inner Wheel relationships going using WhatsApp. Our main aim is to help women and children, but also men in difficulty, as far as we can.

We have very good contacts with Rotary Clubs and participate in common actions.

Since 2021 we have committed ourselves to supporting the emergency accommodation system ("Appartements relais") which sadly

remains necessary, raising funds to purchase items, such as bedding, beds, a table and a fridge that families can take with them when they leave their temporary accommodation. We work together with the municipal social action centre (Les missions du centre communal d'action sociale (CCAS), the police, a doctor, and a psychologist to ensure that people are well supported. The group currently has five secret apartments - 3 at Nouméa and 2 at Dumbea – where women can stay in safety for between 2 and 6 months when they are relocated. We are very grateful for the help of NZ291.

In addition to many small actions that we do every day, we have, over the past year:

- Fundraised – an outing to the Cinema, and a concert evening with women singing choral works, jazz, and so on.
- Collected money for Avec, which takes care of medical evacuees and also collected and sold items made by Club Members over Christmas.
- Provided meals for the elders and helped fund dance lessons for disabled children, teenagers and adults; participated in a book Club for young people and helped a new women's soccer team.



We also participated in help after Hurricane Gabrielle – at the Conference, we brought a 22 kg piece of luggage with us which contained adult and children's linen, as well as slippers, beanies, socks, and little sweaters made by our little hands.

And, of course, we also had fun – including, as you can see in the photos here celebrating Galette des Rois (*Epiphany - Chantal crocheted the crown, she tells me, Ed.*) in January, and enjoying the songs prepared by the 30 students from Normandy College in response to the Club's contribution to their trip to NAPIER next September.

District NZ294

What a busy year this has been. My car has been driven many miles as I visited all thirteen Clubs, celebrated Club Birthday milestones, District meetings and a conference. Just as all the District Chairman I have spoken to have said, my highlights has also been meeting the people. The hospitality, generosity with your time, your knowledge and your stories has humbled me. I am so glad that Covid restrictions have passed, and we are now able to spend time with each other, because it is the people that are the jewels in our Inner Wheel World, and it is spending time with each other that is the most fun.

He aha te mea nui o te ao (What is the most important thing in the world?)

He tangata, he tangata, he tangata (It is the people, it is the people, it is the people)

I hope to be able to spend more time with everyone, get to know more people and share more stories. I am looking forward to some fun weekends at District meetings where we will have more time to have fun and get to know each other.

My dream is to see an Inner Wheel Club in every town in NZ. Then when you move you can just transfer to the Club in that town and have an instant group of friends and support network.

Sue Jameson, NZ294 Chairman

AHURIRI

We have been busy – fundraising for Cranford Hospice with a wonderful movie night (We sold out the 93 seats of the cinema and raised \$850) and collecting Easter Eggs for Starlight for the hospital children's ward Easter Egg hunt. Like much of the North Island, we have also had to come to grips with what has happened around us with the impact of Cyclone Gabrielle, and we have been reminded how important friendship is in times like this.



As for the knitting, all Members have knitted in the past, but one or two Members are quiet achievers in this respect, knitting behind the scenes, blankets, singlets, beanies and jerseys for the neo natal unit at Palmerston North hospital. Fabulous effort ladies!

KAPITI



FEILDING



We are in Fantastic Form in Friendly Feilding. 14 Members have enjoyed another year – BUT WAIT – we are now 16! with one new

Member Lois and one returning Member, Mary. Haven't we done well!

We are Fabulous at running themed meetings – from Halloween and ANZAC to mid-winter Christmas and St Patricks Day. Dress-ups and props make these meetings so much Fun, and keep our Members enthusiastic and enjoying our meetings.

Due to Covid our fundraising plans were very limited, however we were able to have a Fashion Parade and the funds raised were donated to The Kapiti Women's Centre who run the local Women's Refuge.

Over the year we were faced with several crises needing support and I was really thrilled with Members' response, both in donations of goods and money. Our biggest was Cyclone Gabrielle affecting the Hawkes Bay part of District NZ294. I was very fortunate to be able to coordinate with my quilt Club – Kapiti Quilters – and we were able to collect 22 handmade quilts along with other donations of other items at our March Empowerment Day. These quilts and donated goods have gone to help families impacted by Cyclone Gabrielle.

MANUWATU CENTRAL CONNECTION

One of the highlights of our Inner Wheel year was hosting the IWNZ294



September District Day in Palmerston North. We were fortunate to have a great venue with excellent facilities at the Christian Community Church. Our team catered well for the day with all Club Members participating. Along with the raffles we were able to raise good funds for our charity projects and have fun along the way. We donated these funds to Starfish House in Feilding and *Grandparents Raising Grandchildren*.

We also enjoyed some great social functions with dinners at Wharerata and at the Yatai Japanese restaurant for International month, ten pin bowling, along with the great speakers at our monthly meetings.

NEW PLYMOUTH NORTH



For many years, we have been making dolls for our local Hospital. Frances McCurdy coordinates this project, sourcing white sheets from Dry Cleaners and Laundromats. A

clipboard is handed out at our July meeting and Members put their names down to cut out, stamp and bundle the dolls. The bundles are distributed at our August meeting and Members take them home and stitch them.

September is Doll Stuffing – after a feed of fish and chips and coleslaw, some of us stuff the dolls, and a few ladies sew up the hole. It's a fun night, and we are never short of helpers, completing between 250-275 dolls.

The dolls are given to children who are hospitalized – if a child is having surgery, the Surgeon will draw on the doll's body wherever the surgery is happening.

PALMERSTON NORTH

Palmerston North Club has been very productive and social this year. We have our monthly coffee and chat and walk and talk which are well attended. We have visited a few gardens and outings to the movies have proved popular. Our Club has discovered the fun of Bingo!

Mary McKenzie made 185 toilet bags and 85 drainage bags for the hospital and 134 wheat bags for the Arohanui Hospice – Members donate both material to make these items and supply items to fill the toilet bags.

A fundraising morning tea, hosted by Joan Spencer, and

a lunch, hosted by Barb Mouat raised money for the Arohanui Hospice and the Cancer Society.

We discovered that Parkinson's Manawatu did not have wheelchairs for their Members to attend appointments and meetings so we donated a wheelchair and Sue Carpenter also donated her late mother's wheelchair.



PLIMMERTON

We do well at getting out and about as a group. There are places that you may not want to go to by yourself but with some lady friends it is fun. There are places you may always have intended to get to and our Inner Wheel Club makes that happen. Other friends and husbands can join us. We are fortunate in that we have the train to hop on as a group!

Our group *Try Something Different* aims at a day / idea a month. In our year we visited: The Police College Museum, the Whitirea Nursing School, Ruth Pretty's for a soup lunch, the beautiful garden of a past Member, the book shops in Featherston and Greytown, and the Otaki outlet shops. And, of course, outings tend to end with coffee!



TAWA

Sunday 26th March was a wonderful occasion when the IW Club of Tawa celebrated 40 plus 1 years of being a Club. The venue being the Tawa Bowling Club was colourful with balloons and table decorations. There was a real buzz of excitement as past Members and guests were welcomed and caught up with each other, some whom they hadn't seen for a while.



The photo shows the four Charter Members cutting the cake and Di Patchett leading the singing. Once upon a time the IW Clubs of Tawa and Plimmerton played bowls on the outside greens at the Tawa Bowling Club. This annual tournament was played in March, when the weather was supposed to be settled. For two or three years it rained so the bowling evening was moved inside where it is held each year now, usually in April. No need to worry about the weather.

UPPER HUTT

The Upper Hutt Club have added new Members, inducted at the April dinner meeting by District 294 Chairman, Sue Jameson.

One of the Club's favourite activities, as reported by Incoming IWNZ President Judi, is their sewing bees where they all come together to make items for charity, have fun and a good natter.



WELLINGTON

One of the highlights for the Wellington Club this year took place at our February Club meeting when Beryl Green was awarded an Honoured Active Membership by our President Ina Hansen. Beryl has just taken over the role of the District NZ294 Editor. She has held many leadership positions in the Club and has an extensive knowledge of Inner Wheel procedures and practices. She willingly gives her time and energy to many Inner Wheel activities – her contribution is outstanding so this was a well-deserved award.



Some handwork from NZ294 – clockwise from top left. Drainage bags from Palmerston North; surgical dolls from New Plymouth North in the initial stage, beautiful knitting from Feilding and the ladies of Upper Hutt with their handiwork!



District NZ297

And in a blink I am one month away from the end of my Chairmanship. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting out to all the Clubs within NZ297 – the only one I have missed was Marlborough. I was very disappointed to miss their 50th birthday celebrations – an amazing milestone.

I have really enjoyed seeing what each Club has to offer the Members and their community. Everyone has a different way that makes their Club work with Member get-togethers, the way they hold their meetings, fundraising and speakers. Just know that there is no set way of doing anything – make changes if you want to and bring your own flavour to your role. When I came into my role my goal was to increase the NZ297 Membership by 50 new Members.

We have added 47 new Members as I write which includes a NEWLY chartered Club. Welcome to the new Braided Rivers Club of Ashburton. A big thank you to Carol Haskett & Clare Chapman for all their time and support to get this Club off the ground – a wonderful achievement. I know that there will be other opportunities to charter more new Clubs and we MUST keep the Membership momentum going so that our Inner Wheel Clubs are able to continue to support their communities and each Member. Please remember our current President Aly has offered to pay for any National & International fees – a lovely and generous gesture.

New Members are as follows

Ashburton:	10 (and counting)	Marlborough:	5	Otautahi Canterbury:	4
Braided River:	13 (first Club charter since 2016)	Motueka:	3	Rangiora:	1
Christchurch West:	6	Nelson:	2	Riccarton:	1

The next IW Conference is NZ297 District's turn – this will be held in sunny Blenheim in May 2025. Let's make this a "Grape Escape" and be sure to mark in your diary for 2 to 4 May 2025. Everyone who attends a Conference always says it was an amazing experience; so if you haven't been – make this the one you attend.

I would like to thank my committee for their support for this year and I wish Clare and the team all the best for the coming year.

Diane Ladd, NZ297 District Chairman

TELLING THE STORY OF OUR NEWEST CLUB: CAROL HASKETT ON THE BRAIDED RIVERS CLUB

"All our dreams can come true — if we have the courage to pursue them." Walt Disney

Throughout NZ Membership numbers are falling, making it imperative that we retain current and gain new Members.

Could a Next Generation Club be formed? YES. After four meetings we had 20 women on our email list interested in joining Inner Wheel. At the fifth meeting a new Club was chartered with 13 Members: the youngest is 22, there is one in her thirties with a new baby, and a real estate agent in her early forties ... the rest are in their forties/fifties, all are working.

The best way to get women to join us is to share information about IW though advertising in the community, using posters about town or local publications, or asking in person. An information sheet (available on the IWNZ website under Membership resources) was handed out wherever possible and shared via email with all new prospects for them to read and share with others. You can change the contacts and the service groups to suit your Club or District.

A new Club may not want business meetings every month and there is no requirement to do so in our Constitution. They will use the Inner Wheel International guidelines and choose their own way to meet, socialise, and do service.

"Nothing is impossible. The word itself says I'm Possible." Audrey Hepburn

I ask that all IW Members work to invite potential Members to join our existing Clubs but also look at forming new Clubs within our Communities and within Communities that don't currently have Inner Wheel.

Let's all support the next generation to get involved with our amazing organisation to ensure we continue making a difference to women and children for many years to come.

ASHBURTON

Another busy year of fun and fellowship for our Club with Members very supportive in many ways – we have achieved much! Our meetings have been interesting and varied and we have supported numerous charities throughout the year, including donating two large teapots to the local hospital for serving patients' morning tea.

Our Club continues to thrive with eight new Members and social activities continue on



a positive note with Members keen to participate. A highlight for us was the morning tea prior to Christmas for women living at a local retirement village as a number of these folk are reasonably isolated. It was very well supported and thoroughly enjoyed.

We also entered a Christmas Tree at the "Christmas Festive Forest" event in town. This was a fun activity as well as helping to spread Christmas Cheer to folk after so much gloom throughout the year. Christmas presents were generously donated to Grandparents Raising Grandchildren to bring a little joy into the families.

CHRISTCHURCH WEST

We have had an excellent year this year! We have inducted six new Members into our Club and had three transfer from Avonhead. We are thrilled with our new Members and really look forward to seeing them at our Committee and socializing with our other Members. We have had a very successful fundraising sausage sizzle and helped at Rotary's Bookarama. There has been lots of neo natal knitting, lots of cutting and sticking making scrap books for dementia care homes, and we have made and stuffed heart pillows. A new venture was a sales table at one of our meetings, lots of cupboards were cleared out plus baking, preserves and garden produce. We have had interesting speakers ranging from the ex PA to TV chef Julia Child, to one of our Members' memories and tips



from her holiday, such as making sure to read the small print! And, of course, we've had fun socializing at our Red Ribbon Tea and Casa Rossa!

MARLBOROUGH

The Inner Wheel Club of Marlborough has had a busy and interesting year – and what a year to celebrate our Fiftieth! This was a great occasion.

We have donated funds to a little girl to go to the Speed Skating Championships and we gave \$1000 to the Cyclone Gabrielle appeal.

Most of our funds come from our raffles and sales table that we have on our Club Nights.

We are delighted that Members of our Club represent New Zealand at all levels in the organization: Neroli Edwards has become District NZ297's ISO officer, Helen Faulkner has taken on the role of National Secretary, and Dot Anderson-Lee is this year's International Inner Wheel Board Director.

Do read Dot's Board Report at the end of this newsletter. It's great! Editor

We have been delighted to welcome new Member Lynne who was our speaker for October and was inducted the following month.



MOTUEKA



Club activities have been of a varied nature, from a scone baking competition – results leave ng definite room for improvement – to a talk from an ex-funeral director at which we were given very good advice.

We started the year with a "Look Good Feel Better" luncheon with two of our Members having "a makeover", quiz nights at our local RSA, a visit to

Willowbank Heritage Park

(shown here), playing croquet and a very informative talk by a local librarian advising of all the various activities available.

Members continue to meet on a monthly basis for coffee at various local cafés.

Members have been busy knitting. Three lots of beautiful merino knitting have been delivered to the prem baby unit at Nelson Hospital.

We have also been knitting Twiddlemuffs for dementia patients to provide stimulation by soothing restless hands, minimising agitation and increasing flexibility.

NELSON



A recent highlight was a trip into the beautiful Tasman countryside to visit a small family-owned mushroom farm. A large number of our Members plus many partners enjoyed learning about mushroom growing, including the interaction between the 6,000 trees that have been planted and the physical association with the fungi. Their products, which are distributed NZ Wide, include not only fresh mushrooms but Mushroom Soup mix, Risotto & Pasta mix, Mushroom Salt, etc. This very interesting day was rounded off very satisfyingly with a bowl of mushroom soup and bread.

OTAUTAHU CANTERBURY

This last year our Club has increased its focus on our social get-togethers and developing those wonderful friendships within our Club. Highlights of our activities include a visit to a flower grower, learning to put together fabulous arrangements, a macrame making session, High Tea at a lovely Kaiapoi cafe, an evening picnic, movie nights and walk-n-talk meetups.

We've continued to invite inspiring speakers to Club nights. Nurse educator Maria TenHove gave a talk regarding her work at the Plastics Surgical Unit, Armed Forces recruiter Barb Findlayson entertained and inspired us with her story of her later-in-life career change, and Yvonne Hiskemuller, Rotary Community Breast Milk Bank



Canterbury founder shared with us her role in the organisation and all about how the Breast Milk bank works. Our Members are continuing their valuable contributions to community projects such as making Beads of Courage,

Knitted Knockers, Prem Baby knits, Cuddle Hearts and Drain bag covers. Other efforts include fundraising through the Bunnings Sausage Sizzle, donating goods to Christchurch City Mission and helping out at The Christmas Box.

RANGIORA

We held a most successful fund-raising dinner in November.

We invited Rotary Members and our spouses and we had a great attendance. A scrumptious 3-course meal was prepared by our Member chef extraordinaire Ally Fussell. Santa Claus

(Michael Ermerins) helped to make the evening even more fun and the exchange of a small Christmas gift added to the celebration, fun and enjoyment. Money raised was donated to several local charities.



RICCARTON



This year Members of the IW Club of Riccarton have enjoyed some inspirational speakers ranging from a young migrant who has written a book on adapting to Kiwi living; a local glass artist who exhibited her beautiful work; a survivor of the Wahine disaster (pictured here); and representatives from

the Flying Doctors Service and Fred Hollows Foundation. Those Members who are now living in aged care facilities, or are unable to attend meetings, are visited each month by the Popins group. Those visited love to keep in touch with what their friends are doing at Club level. Other groups within the Club give Members the opportunity to meet for walks and coffee; monthly visits to the movies and supper; and to share their craft skills for the benefit of local charities..... proving that busy hands keep minds active.

District NZ298

I am pleased to present the year-end report of our District, summarizing the achievements and future prospects of Inner Wheel NZ298.

Despite being a small District, we have accomplished remarkable things. Our Clubs showed great generosity by donating a large amount of toiletries to the Cancer Society, demonstrating our compassion. I successfully completed Club visits, and the unity among Clubs in Invercargill, Waimate, and Oamaru showcased our commitment to a strong Inner Wheel community. The Empowerment Day in Dunedin was a memorable event, honouring the exceptional Christina King with an Honoured Active badge for her dedication. We took a new approach to training by having open discussions about the challenges faced by our Clubs. As District Chairman, I pledged to resolve any issues hindering the enjoyment of being Club Executives, promoting transparency and empowerment. We had moments of entertainment, such as Dawn Perkins' impressive impersonation of Jacinda Ardern. The establishment of a new Inner Wheel Club by Carol Haskett in Ashburton, with younger Members, offers valuable lessons for our District. We should consider reaching out to women in local Rotary Clubs as potential Members.

However, the future of our District is uncertain without a District Chairman and committee for the coming year. We need enthusiastic individuals to step up and fill these vital roles. I urge each of you to reflect on the impact Inner Wheel has had on your lives and consider how you can contribute to our District's success. I want to express my deep gratitude for your unwavering support and dedication. Your commitment fuels Inner Wheel's mission to make a positive difference. Let's embrace future challenges with renewed enthusiasm, knowing that together we can continue to inspire change in our communities. Inner Wheel NZ298's success depends on us, and I am confident we will make a lasting impact.

Monica P Mulholland, NZ298 District Chairman

BALCLUTHA

Our Membership has grown with two! We hold monthly dinner meetings and have many varied activities.

During the year we have hosted interesting speakers, including one via satellite link from a Rotary Member staying at the Antarctica Base on his experiences there.

We donated *Personal Care Emergency Packs* to St Johns and the local hospital, and money to a raft of organizations and programs, including the Police Youth Programs and Surviving to Thriving. The first baby born in South Otago in September received a baby basket full of knitting and clothes. We helped at the Senior Citizens Christmas dinner and Cancer Society, and held a BBQ at the opening of the Aged Care office in Balclutha.

Our Members are very focussed on staying together and enjoying each other's company, raising money, or giving their time to others in the community.



DUNEDIN SOUTH

The 2022-2023 year has been tinged with sadness as we have had three long-term Members unexpectedly pass away: Beverly Downie, Beverley Davis and Joy Batchelor. We have had some good times as well and were blessed by Members from the Mosgiel Club joining us. Highlights

included catering for the NZ298 District meeting and a stall at a Christmas Craft Fair which was very successful. We donate groceries to the Hospice each month, lots and lots of knitting for the children's ward at the hospital, and in the winter donate pyjamas to the children's ward, silky pillows to Mercy hospital and support Rotary with their Christmas trailer raffle. Our Club Members give fantastic support to all that we do. We enjoy the friendship and feel positive we

can continue in the next Inner Wheel year.

Balclutha and Dunedin South joined in welcoming NZ298 District Chairperson Monica to a combined Christmas meeting – the two Club Presidents and Monica are shown above. If you feel you need a laugh out loud moment, search for the video of Chairman Monica's changeover on the Inner Wheel Facebook page. Editor.

INVERCARGILL

Our Members recently celebrated the Kings Coronation with a 'Royal High Tea' at Braemar Home Baking Shoppe – a very enjoyable afternoon of friendship, laughs and delicious food, with our President of the month, Marjorie, decorating our table with royal mementoes and everyone wearing something royal!

Our Membership is small but our passion for helping our community is very strong. We support a variety of charities, in particular buckets of cleaning products to our local Women's Refuge; baby and young children's knitting to Plunket and we regularly donate pyjamas to the Childrens Ward at Southland Hospital for children unexpectedly admitted to hospital. Our Members help with the purchasing, washing, labelling, bagging and



delivering these to the hospital.

INVERCARGILL EAST

We have had an interesting and varied year. During the first half of the year, we started with Sylvie Chateau, joint owner of The Black Shag telling us all about their coffee beans, we danced the night away to a Mata Teariki Theme - 'Pacifica' for International Month, made sushi, inducted new Members, and had a fabulous Christmas function out of town on a Member's farm.



We started the second half of the IW year with chair yoga, were entertained by Ken Skerrett on Antiques Road Show and attended the investiture of Heart Kids Youth Ambassador Ryan Howden. We also had a book night with our Member Joy Brown.

All in all, a wonderfully busy year.

INVERCARGILL NORTH

As always the ladies of Invercargill North have been very busy. This ranged from the Proms which is very exciting for everyone, to the Winter Warmer Raffle.

The Winter Warmer Raffle Fundraiser for Hato Hone St John – Murihiku at the Mitre 10 in Invercargill started on 12 May and was set to run to 30 May, with enthusiastic IW Members and a few partners as well on the roster. (The photo shows ladies on their first shift.) However, the tickets to this wonderful outreach sold out within 2 days!



Mitre 10 Mega had generously donated goods totalling \$2,000.00.

This was a wonderful way of advertising our Club – we provided contact details and information on the raffle table.

OAMARU



Our Inner Wheel year started in July 2022 with our changeover and celebrating the induction of a new Member, Jan Sutherland. This brought our numbers back up to 11 following the death of Cara Duncan in June. We were very proud in December to see one of our Members, Bronwyn Goldrick, and her husband Stewart being presented with Paul Harris Fellowship Awards at the Rotary Christmas Dinner, for their services to the Rotary Bookarama. Many hours were spent there by them both, helping Rotary raising more than \$45,000 for projects. We have donated to the Cyclone Gabrielle Appeal through IW's *Give a Little* page. The Club purchased Christmas crackers and donated these to the *Christmas Parcels Trust*. This is a Trust set up by churches in Oamaru, who provide a Christmas Dinner and gifts for disadvantaged families at Christmas. A number of IW ladies provide help with this Trust.

QUEENSTOWN

We have enjoyed many highlights this year, however a new initiative was to move away from sitting in a meeting room and listening to a speaker, instead meeting outside or at a place of interest. This provided more variety, as well as an opportunity to be active as it often involved a walk with afternoon tea at the end. We held two craft meetings where we made Christmas decorations. This provided a hands-on, interactive meeting where Members engaged with each other differently. We sold these decorations at our local community market and raised almost \$500 as well as raised awareness of our Club and what we do.

And in another form of being active, IW President (and Queenstown Club Member) Aly, doing her bit for the Queenstown Marathon, a fundraiser for the Club.



Introducing Incoming IW President Judi Newbury



This too is a Conference speech – and once again, Incoming President Judi was gracious enough to share this with me. So, meet Judi! Editor

As you will all be aware, my darling and beloved mother passed away last Monday. I am here and not with my family because this is what she wanted. She was passionate about Inner Wheel and prior to her passing had already told me that I needed to stay in NZ and fulfil my responsibilities.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the messages of condolence and the beautiful flowers I have received.

The living room looks like a florist shop, I am truly grateful and humbled by your wonderful words and the memories you have of mum. I had no idea that she had inspired so many of you through me. Thank you for your love and support.

I wrote my speech prior to Mum's passing and have decided not to change it except to put references to Mum in the past tense. Please bear with me if this turns out to be a bit emotional.

I thought I would start by telling you a little about me. I was born in the UK, you probably guessed that from the accent, my father was an accountant who sadly passed away over 40 years ago and my mother was a teacher who would have been 99 on 5th June and was the last living WAAF in the world. I have an elder sister, Bridget, who is an economist who in 2019 was awarded a CBE for services to the economy, she's the clever one, and I have a younger brother Alan who is a builder. I am married to Phill who teaches technology and have one son Robert who drives an ambulance in the UK and is 41 on 9th May, he lives with his lovely partner Ella who is a nurse. Phill and I emigrated to New Zealand in 2008, nearly 15 years ago and have never ever regretted it, and in fact we both became New Zealand citizens in October 2017. As for me, I don't have time here to tell you about all the things I got up to, including getting expelled from school, but that is quite another story. During my career I have been a PA, Dressmaker, Shop Owner and a teacher but am now very happily retired and so busy I have no idea how I found the time to work.

So, what does Inner Wheel mean to me? Well apart from the incredible and lifelong friendships I've made over the years, it is a way that I can give back and make a difference and I learnt this from an early age. I grew up in an atmosphere of service above self as Dad was a charter Member of his Rotary Club and Mum was the Charter President of her IW Club back in 1967. I was just 13, I will let you do the math, and after 56 years of service Mum was just as passionate about IW and about giving back and making a difference. Mum not only served in IW but many other charities and in 2003 was presented with a

Margarette Golding Award, but she said her proudest moment in IW was when I was nominated for the Role of IWNZ President. So, I guess my mother has always been my inspiration, my mentor, my hero and my friend, even if she did live 12,000 miles away. Well, you have to be inspired when at the ripe old age of 98 she was Club President.

(Judi shared a photo of her Mum at this stage. Ed.) The photo was taken in August last year at the Battle of Britain Museum at Uxbridge where she used to work as a plotter. She is immortalized at the museum as there is a big panel all about her and what she did. Her secret to longevity, by the way, is a glass of red wine every evening!!

As mentioned yesterday, 2024 is going to be a very exciting year as IWW celebrates its 100th birthday, and we want you all to be a big part of the celebrations, so take back all the details of our new rose and start discussing ways of fundraising and the charities you would like to support. Remember the deadline is your June District Meetings.

So, what is my vision for IWNZ in the upcoming year? Well, it is a really simple one and that is to hand over the organisation to Rina with the ability to adapt and change not only to survive but actually thrive, so it can celebrate its own 100th Birthday in 2036. LADIES IWNZ IS CURRENTLY BALANCED ON A KNIFE EDGE. Our Membership is just under 1200, which is not enough.

Happily, you voted in General Motion 2 yesterday, increasing the capitation by \$7 to \$20, which gives us some breathing space, but this is just a drop in the ocean as we are still losing Members quicker than we can recruit them.

Existing and new Members are at the heart of IW's survival, either that or we have to keep increasing capitation, so how do we get new Members? Well ladies you need to brag, which is not a thing we are particularly good at. Did you know that the Service Records used to be called Brag Sheets, but many Members complained stating that we didn't brag, but did things in the background. Well, that can no longer be the case, IW can no longer be one of the world's largest volunteer organisations and the world's best kept secret. We need to shout from the rooftops and let people know what we get up to and who we are. Let them know about all the wonderful charities and projects we support, that we have a voice on the United Nations, about our friendships and the fun we have, only then will we get people rocking up to join and be a part of this amazing organisation. So, make your Club meetings fun and vibrant, don't just have speakers, but ring the changes with activities and projects. We lose a lot of potential Members to Rotary so perhaps it is time to revisit that connection.

But remember just getting new Members is not the whole story, they need to be nurtured and mentored so they understand what IW is all about and they don't feel isolated but an integral part of the Club. However, you need to let new Members know that by becoming a Member of a Club they have a responsibility to give back to that Club and that includes stepping up and taking a role. As an example, my Mum has been Club President 12 times!

Perhaps it is time to have a shakeup and a complete overhaul. We have, after all, been using the same format and logos for 100 years, so perhaps it is time for a change, to modernize, to look at our objectives and whether they are relevant to modern women. A lot of Clubs struggle to get officers each year. Well, is it time we asked the question: do we need all these officers or can Clubs run equally well with less or could they be outsourced or shared with another Club? Let's make each Club unique and fit its Members and not the other way round. Perhaps in order to survive it's time to ask these pertinent questions and start some conversations going.

Each of you know why you joined IW, perhaps it was for friendship or to help in your community, but all of you, by being a part of this incredible organisation, are making a difference. Last year Members, you, volunteered just over 53,000 hours of your time and donated nearly \$279,000 to over 250 charities and worthy causes, which is a remarkable achievement. Have any of you ever thought what would happen if IW was no longer here, what would happen to all those people you have helped and made a difference to in their lives. Do you want to see that happen? Well, if the answer is no, then it is time for each and every one of us to stand up, give back, change what is happening and revalidate the reason you joined IW.

To prove that everything I have been talking about is truly possible, as you have heard we have a new Club chartering, which is so exciting, and I would like to take this opportunity to offer my sincere congratulations to Clare Chapman and Carol Haskett from the IW Club of Ashburton for all their hard work and dedication in bringing this about. It is an amazing achievement and just proves what can be done with enthusiasm and a great Membership team.

I am truly honoured to become your National President and I will do everything in my power to help IWNZ grow and to be recognized, but I can't do it alone. I need all of you to work with me and together let us change the face of IWNZ to become an exciting, vibrant, fun and relevant organisation in each of our communities, one that we are proud of and that everyone will get to know and want to join.

I would like to leave you with three short parting thoughts: the first two are from Author C. S. Lewis
You are never too old to set another goal or dream a new dream.
You can't go back and change the beginning. But you can start where you are and change the ending"

The third is from one of my favourites – Dr Seuss
Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better – it's not.

Oh, and finally I would like to thank my lovely husband Phill as he said I had to.

A Final Word from International Inner Wheel Board Director 2022-2023: Dot Anderson-Lee



I asked Dot to tell us a bit about her year as Board Director (and I'm keeping a bit of the history she sent along for the September Inner Link). Editor.

For this year's International Inner Wheel Board, I was allocated the Non-Districted Clubs of Mombasa and Safia (Kenya), Riga-Jurmala (Latvia), and Kaunas and Vilnius (Lithuania). I am very excited about the possibility of a new Non-Districted Club in Kenya being formed.

I was appointed to the Covid-Response Committee, a committee formed to decide on where best to allocate the funds raised by Inner Wheel Members throughout the World specifically for Covid-19 purposes. We decided on the *Take a Shot* programme in Ghana, specifically aimed at Women and Girls. The proposed cost of the *Take a Shot* programme is 70,000 GBP of which we have contributed 42,000 GBP.

We researched many countries, but most had already completed their vaccination programmes or were well through them.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my year on the IIW Board and meeting the other Board Directors, 7 of whom are going to be having a second term.

I wish Michelle all the very best as she meets these, and the other 8 new Directors, along with the new IIW Executive.

