



CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

International Inner Wheel - 19th Convention
Manchester 2024



IWNZ Inner Link
September 2023

From the Editor's Desk: Let me Tell you a Story

The story of Inner Wheel founder Margarette Golding (Mrs. Oliver Golding, to be more in tune with the time) is well known – her “association of friends working together for the good of others”, making garments for crippled children and needy persons and fundraising for the Manchester girls’ orphanage and the Ancoat hospital (to which the Inner Wheel Club of Manchester donated the mortuary chapel), still inspires after 100 years.

The first Club in New Zealand was formed in Napier by Mrs. Laura Holland on 27 November 1936 and they supported various charities. During the war years they even joined the Red Cross as a unit! They received their Charter in 1946, becoming the tenth registered Club outside Britain. In 1947 the second New Zealand Club was formed in Taumaranui. It was in 1963 that the next Clubs chartered: Fitzroy (New Plymouth) and Christchurch South, but by 1980 the South Island had 32 Clubs and the North Island 24.

Although a few Clubs went into recess, and several amalgamated, there was a steady increase after 1980: by 1992 there were 81 Clubs in New Zealand, plus one in Noumea, grouped in five districts.

(<https://nzhistory.govt.nz/women-together/inner-wheel-clubs-new-zealand>).

Today there are only 40 Clubs remaining. This year, with your help I hope to tell the story of how our **current Clubs** started, what traditions they follow, and how our service in NZ has changed over the course of 87 years. Please, if you have a story that you’d like to share, let me know at editor@iwnz.org.nz!

In this newsletter we are looking at the Charter days. And yes, there are also some additional bits and pieces for information and delight. The song meandering through the pages, and the two poems are given in full in the Addendum.

Hannie



Above: The formidable Mrs. Margarette Golding

Below: Christine King at the Blue Plaque in Manchester at the site where Inner Wheel started its journey.



A Word From our President

I cannot believe that it is already the middle of September and that it is only 3 months to Christmas! Where does the time go?! ... However, that does mean that we are officially in our Centennial year and counting down to 10 January, the date it was all started by Margarette Golding, and if you are in any doubt then just go to the Centennial page on the website and watch the clock ticking down, it is quite mesmerizing and therapeutic.

There are not many voluntary organisations that can say that they have been going for 100 years so we can all be extremely proud of what we have achieved to date and hope that we can continue for another 100 years. Wouldn't that be something, not that I would be around to celebrate our 200th birthday. Although, who knows, science is working wonders these days.

Of course, though our birthday is on 10 January that does not mean that we cannot celebrate throughout the year and I hope that Clubs will organise some fun things to do as well as raise some money for the two charities we are supporting, *Girl Boss* and *Mitey*. And then most exciting of all are the roses. The rose that IWNZ has commissioned is called *In Friendship* and this name is ours in perpetuity. They are only \$50 each and will be ready for delivery in June 2024. Check out the website where you will find more details and an order form, so please ladies get selling. They are beautiful roses and all money is going to two very good causes.

But hey, it gets even better, as we are also organising a celebration in January to commemorate 87 years of Inner Wheel New Zealand by having an event in Napier as they were the very first Club to be Chartered. More details will be coming out soon and I do hope that many can attend and make it a great day. Well, any excuse for a party – eh girls! So please watch this space.

Of course, the celebrations don't really stop until May when we all make our way to the UK to the 2024 Convention. I hope to see many of you there. I am certainly going, registration done, hotel booked just need to sort out my flights and I am on my way. I am so excited to be going especially as I will be representing IWNZ as your President and National Representative. What higher honour could I aspire to? I will not let you all down. I am so excited to go and meet up with old friends and to make new ones, which is the best thing about being a member of Inner Wheel – friends all around the world.

So, I wish you all a Very Happy and Fun Filled Birthday – enjoy!

Yours in Inner Wheel Friendship

Judi

IWNZ President and National Representative 2023/2024

 Let's shine a light on Inner Wheel women And lift them up to take a role that they can understand.

Charter Stories

The older Clubs had a more difficult journey than our newest Club, *Braided Rivers* (more about them later on in the newsletter). In the “Olden Days” you not only needed to be a Rotary wife (or, grudgingly, a daughter), but you needed permission ... It is a common theme in the older Clubs that there was some resistance from Rotarian members at the time that they were set up – and that asking didn’t mean that getting permission was a given! Although our first Club, Napier, was chartered in 1936 – and is still going – our current Clubs come from the Seventies onwards. Different times, but exciting and fruitful times for Inner Wheel in New Zealand!

We acknowledge that there have been many Clubs in New Zealand that have closed down due to many reasons: Women started work, finding office holders has become more challenging, there is a shift in the way women think about service. So our Charter Stories are only about the Clubs that are still with us, still building friendships and international understanding, still serving their communities with fundraising, and knitting, good cheer and good advice!

This newsletter is also not looking at the National Committee, or International. This time we are celebrating our Clubs.

The Seventies

The Seventies is (depending on who you ask) known as the *Disco Decade* or the *Me Decade*. *Disco Decade* speaks for itself – the best-selling single from the 1970s was Queen’s Bohemian Rhapsody. *Me Decade* refers to the fact that a focus on self-development and self-expression characterized those years. It’s the decade that launched the streaker, the Brady Bunch and the smiley face – and let’s not forget platform shoes and polyester leisure suits!

It was, therefore, the perfect time for Inner Wheel – many of these new Clubs were all about self-expression! Just read Margaret Stanton’s lovely poem about Riccarton’s start! The poem beautifully encapsulates how the Club came about – I’m sure many of you will relate to a woman who felt that there was more to life than smiling politely in the background!

The following of the existing Clubs were chartered in the Seventies: Feilding, Palmerston North, Ashburton, Marlborough, Riccarton, Balclutha, Dunedin South, Invercargill, Invercargill East, Invercargill North, Invercargill South, Oamaru, Queenstown, Waimate. Here are some of their stories!

Dunedin South held their charter night on 17 February 1971. Subscription was \$2.50 and there were 44 members. Lyn McLauchlan, one of their charter members, is still part of our Club.

From a poem written by one of their past members, Merle McCulloch, who belonged to the St Kilda Club and once it closed joined Dunedin South (for the complete poem see the Addendum), this summarises their years together beautifully!

Fifty years of service

Fifty years of fun

Fifty bright and burning flames

Fifty years of friendship

 Shine a light on the stories that have really enriched our lives To work hard, work smart then brighter shines the light

Riccarton was chartered in February 1970 – the photo shows Charter President Noeline Harrington looking absolutely delighted! And this is current President Margaret's poem that tells how the Club came to be chartered.

*This year at this time, the month of September,
We look to the past and take time to remember
That it's 52 years since our Club it began
A Club for just women, excluded to man.*

*So how did it happen and where did it start?
There was clearly one woman who played a big
part
A woman with vision without any fear
Who as we all know was the wife of the mayor.*

*Now Noeline helped Richard in his public life
But often she felt that she was just the wife
She'd put on the lippy and brush up her curls,
Gather her hand bag and put on her pearls.*

*She'd smile in the photos dressed up in her fur
But those public functions did little for her.
Then Noeline got asked to an Inner Wheel
Meeting
And thought to herself, this is what I've been
seeking!*

*If I feel like this, then others may too
And soon she was planning just what she could do
She sent out an invite to each Rotarian's spouse
To come to a meeting she held at her house.*

*And so they decided with clearly one voice
That forming a Club was the obvious choice.
And while they acknowledged their role as a wife
They wanted more purpose and challenge in life.*

*So the Club it was formed and the roles all
assigned
To apply for their charter was next on their mind
But that's when they found there had been an
omission
When forming a Club you should first seek
permission!*

XXXXXXX

*And often in life it can turn out quite funny
That despite all the hard work it often may take
The biggest reward is the friendships you make!*

XXXXXXXXXX



From left to right: Richard Harrington (Mayor of Riccarton), Charter President Noeline Harrington, District 298 Chairman Ruth Gallagher, District Extension Officer Gwen McElroy, Riccarton Rotary President Charles Caldwell

The inaugural meeting of **Oamaru** was held on 28 March 1971. Nineteen members attended and it was decided they would start a Club with Marion Borrie as Interim President. Meetings started at 7.45 pm, a simple supper was served at 9 pm and the meeting closed no later than 10 pm. Founding members included Joan Martin (shown here) who is still a member, and Jean Currie, Sheama Shepherd and Avis Tempero.

The Club was established to foster fellowship among Rotary wives and give friendship to newcomers in Oamaru. The Club received its Charter on 8 July 1971. The Inner Wheel Club of Oamaru is still strong in its friendship and fellowship and recently held a big 50th Celebration at the Brydone hotel.



On 7 March 1974, Erica Stewart, then Southern Extension Officer for District 298, spoke to the Rotary members and their wives in **Waimate** and told of the pleasures to be gained from an Inner Wheel Club. After this meeting the women formed an Inner Wheel Club and elected a President and Secretary. At the next meeting a Treasurer, Vice President and Committee were elected. Members met for seven months until the Charter Meeting held on 13 September at the Criterion Hotel. Guests included International Board Member Ruth Gallagher, District 298 Chairman and Secretary, the local Mayor and Mayoress and the Rotary Club

President. Membership stood at 20, but rose to 36 during the first year. The first President stated that it was to be a “doing” Club and not a money raising one. We have one Charter member still active and she said that it was the “best decision ever, meeting people with similar ideas and having lots of fun doing the projects and tasks.”



Invercargill was also founded in 1974 and there were 44 members, two of which remain with the Club, Hap Naylor and Wilma Muller. At that time you had to be invited to join the Club and your husband had to belong to Rotary. The meetings were held during the day while the children were at school and generally had lunch then listened to a speaker. Various things were done to fund raise including the sale of baked sponges, knitting and raffles. Many organisations were supported including Women’s Refuge which continues to this day.



In **Invercargill North**, 21 Rotary wives supported founding a Club. Luncheon meetings were held on the third Monday of each month at a ‘sit down meal’ costing \$1.75 each complete with table plans and place cards. International Inner Wheel World President Gwen Davies from Sydney made a visit in November 1975. A sherry preceded the first Christmas luncheon and the speaker Margaret Hibbs demonstrated Christmas Floral Art and was given a \$2 cheque for the Floral Art Society! The highlight of the year was the Charter of the Club on 13 March 1976 where 37 enthusiastic members had formed an excellent bond of friendship and 118 attended the celebration at The Kelvin Hotel.

The first year was indeed a very happy one with friendships made and lots of fun and fellowship while learning about Inner Wheel.



On 19 November 1976, a group of women, all wives of Rotarians, gathered for the inaugural meeting of **Ashburton**. Although there was some resistance from Rotarian members at that time, the women were determined and the Club was chartered on the 19th November 1976 with 23 members, mostly young mothers. Gwen McIlroy presented the Charter. It was held in the Allenton Community Hall with tickets costing \$8.00 each. Items were from the Ashburton College Evening School Chorale. Present day Charter member Jenette Storrier recalls how Jenny Thompson had not run a meeting before

and asked her husband Norman for advice on How to move a Motion! Jenny went on to prove she was very capable and the Club is about to celebrate 47 years of Friendship and Service in Inner Wheel. The photo shows five of the charter members at the 45th birthday celebration. *From left to right Carolyn Nelson President 2021-22 with Almond Royds Charter Vice President, Joan Dephoff Charter Treasurer, Jenette Storrier Charter Secretary, and Jenny Thompson Charter President 1976*

Feilding chartered in 1979 with 36 members. Two charter members (Trish Linklater and Julia True) share their memories of hosting the Club's first big project in October 1980:

"Our first big project was a seminar on Heart health, held in a local school hall, with most of the costs covered by the Manawatu Branch of the National Heart Foundation. We had 3 cardiologists (supported by a GP, coronary care Head nurse and a St John's tutor) attend who spoke on all matters of the heart, from prevention to hospital care.

There were also static displays and attendees could have their blood pressure taken and heart rates monitored. The importance of the day was shown in the extended Q & A session. We had about 150 attendees. Doors opened at 10 a.m. and the day finished at 3 p.m. We charged a \$2 entry fee and provided a light lunch and afternoon tea. The day was most successful and we donated \$150 to the Manawatu Heart Foundation."

And they made the paper! Ed.

Slightly out of order, but then **Marlborough** started off as Blenheim in March 1973, so they celebrated 50 years as an Inner Wheel Club this year. Wendy Inder is the only member who was there at the beginning. Over the years their main project has been making the pillows for breast cancer patients. Margaret Alexander takes charge of this and has a studio dedicated to the sewing and stuffing of these pillows where members meet over a cup of tea and form a production line from the cutting and ironing of the fabric to the sewing and then stuffing of the pillows.



The Eighties

Ah, the Eighties!

There was the good - The 1980s were a time of great pop culture they tell us, including some of the best movies, music and TV shows of all time (although, let's face it, not everyone loves ET ...).

There was the bad – honestly, I don't think there are many of us who look at our photos of that time, and do not shudder delicately when we see the big hair, shoulder pads, large and dramatic earrings and eye-straining fabric colors and patterns.

And then there was the ugly – AIDS ravaged the world, casual racism and sexism were totally acceptable and drug use was becoming common.

And in the midst of all this, Inner Wheel continued to Charter new Clubs. In fact, the Eighties were Inner Wheel's golden years.

The following Clubs were chartered in the Eighties: Fairfield, Matamata, Mt Roskill, Noumea Pleasance, Parahaki of Whangarei, Ahuriri, Kapiti, New Plymouth North, Plimmerton, South Wairarapa, Tawa, Upper Hutt, Wellington, Christchurch West, Motueka,



Clare and Bill Russell transferred to **Tawa** in 1979 after being very involved in the Oamaru Inner Wheel Club for 6 years. Clare was disappointed to find that there wasn't a Club in Tawa. In those days forming a new Club had to be done through the local Rotary Club and after two requests to Tawa Rotary Club the board finally approved. Invitations were given to Rotarian's wives though a letterbox drop, inviting them to attend an interest and information meeting at the Russell's home on 15 July 1981. The Inner Wheel District executive was also invited, along with the Rotary President Neal Schofield who chaired the meeting. 15 Tawa Rotary Annes attended with three women from the District committee and after some discussion it was agreed to form the Inner Wheel Club of Tawa with Jenny Tait the convenor of the steering committee. The first meeting of the newly formed Tawa Inner Wheel Club was held on 5 August 1981 at the rotary President's home. Maureen Humphrey was elected President, Marion Patchett Secretary, Clare Russell Treasurer, and Janice Lee, and Rae Chaney completed the

committee. It was agreed to meet on the 3rd Wednesday of each month in member's homes at 7:30pm as we were all quite capable then of sitting on cushions on the floor and getting up off them – a lot harder these days!

No internet in those days so Minutes & Newsletters were typed or even handwritten, copied somehow, and hand delivered to members letterboxes, - we knew all the streets in Tawa in those days and the rule book had only 6 small pages.

The Club was chartered on 13th March 1982 at the Tawa Rugby Club rooms. A total of 126 members and husbands from Clubs, NZ294 District and the Mayoress of Tawa Nancy Kemp attended.

Rotary President Neal Schofield presented the Club with the President's chain and Naomi Colson, the District Chairman presented the Club with their Charter. Each member received an Inner Wheel lapel badge. The District also presented us with our bell. The Inner Wheel Club of Tawa was chartered with 23 members and was the 70th Club in NZ.

Christchurch West Club was started in 1988 by Rotarian wives. The ladies got members by phoning women whose husbands were members of the Rotary Club, their friends and their acquaintances. Bev Lee, the District Extension Chairperson helped form the Club which was chartered in 1989 with 25 members. The Rules and Regulations were far stricter in those days!

Now in our 34th year we have forty members with several new members to be inducted later this year. We are a very active Club, a friendly Club and do lots of good work for the community.

Following a November 1980 meeting **Matamata** chartered in July 1981 with 27 members.

Current member Gail Pearson joined the Club in September that year and is its longest-serving member. The following 42 years have seen 113 women enjoy fun, fellowship, friendship and, of course, the opportunity of serving their community. Current membership stands at 40.

The Club was thrilled to have four founder members, Jan Scott, Sheila Wiseman, Gillian Robinson and Thelma Bowler at its 30th birthday celebration. Jan, Gillian and Thelma have since passed.



Kapiti Charter Member Helen Bannon tells the following story: “Kapiti was chartered in 1980 with a small group of Rotary wives (as was the criteria then). We met in each other’s homes had some very interesting speakers – and a nice supper. It was very informal and pleasant. We also had overseas visitors. One English lady visited us regularly for many years. A visit from an Egyptian lady saw us all going into that Embassy for a very different lunch (using gold cutlery). We assisted Rotary with a number of things. The most enjoyable was catering for them at dinners (mashing potatoes for 40 men)! the Run for Fun and Casino evening. Our biggest fund raiser was ushering at Southwards Theatre – lots of fun. “Wheelchairs, crutches, double booked seats, no tickets and seating for children. We did get to see many different and entertaining shows. Early days in Inner Wheel were very friendly and fun and great support as we all had young families.”

Wellington was Chartered in 1983. Encouragement to found an Inner Wheel Club of Wellington came initially from the President of the Wellington Rotary Club. His Club always invited wives of members to their changeover and to their Christmas party.

However, he believed that the wives would form closer friendships amongst themselves if they had an Inner Wheel Club, and could meet more regularly. He faced resistance from some of the Rotarians initially, but he persisted, and in 1982 his wife, Sue Clothier, became the first President of the newly founded Inner Wheel Club of Wellington.

To start with all the Inner Wheel members were wives of the Rotary Club of Wellington. They met in each other’s homes, formed a committee, shared potluck lunches, and supported each other as friends. They

undertook some service in the community, mainly by collecting for Street Appeals, particularly for organisations already supported by members.

As numbers grew and wives from other Rotary Clubs in Wellington joined, the group began having meetings in public venues like Burma Lodge. But from time to time when they had special meetings in their homes, they would invite their Rotary husbands to be there too and to share their suppers (a great attraction for the men!) The men admitted that by having these informal and social times they too were forging closer friendships.’.





In 1983 **Mt Roskill** was the first Club established in the northern area. A group of Rotarian wives attended a Ladies' Night at Rotary and Laurel Rotherham suggested that they start an Inner Wheel Club – she'd been a member in Tokoroa, but none of the other ladies knew what she was talking about! However, they decided to give it a try and held their first meeting at the home of Gerta van der Sluise. The Mt Roskill Rotary Club sponsored the Club and Margaret Johns, Fay Marie and June Dunningham (all three still active members) all say that their husbands encouraged them to join so that they could get to know other Rotary wives. The reward has been life-

long friendships while doing great community service.

Originally the Club was part of District 293 (which became NZ293). Members joined in the activities of that District and enjoyed lots of fun on weekends away, travelling by trains or buses to get to District meetings, workshops and conferences. *The Charter Night festivities made it to the Social Pages of the NZ Herald!*

Motueka celebrated their Charter dinner on 27 April 1984 with a membership of 31 Rotary Anns. The first President was Mercer Clarke. The enthusiastic members included 91 year old Ivy Thorpe (shown cutting the cake with Nelson president Jenny Maskill) and Sue Lusty in her 20s. It was a very active social group who visited regularly with the Westport Club. The Club is still in good heart and over the years has continued to retain its membership at the same level.



On 2 May 1989 **Fairfield** was registered as a member of International Inner Wheel and the Charter Certificate was signed by Alison Dowson, the first New Zealander to hold the office of International President. The Charter dinner was held on 7 October 1989 and attended by 28 charter members and guests. Two of those members, Margaret Arthur and Norma Deverson, are still members of the Fairfield Club and Margaret Whitmore (Charter Secretary) is a member of Orewa & Whangaparaoa. The Charter Certificate was presented by Cecile Pierce (still a member at

Riccarton) who was the IIW Board Member. (Cecile says she and Margaret wore the same dress, only in a different colour!) The theme for the 1989-1990 year was "Put your heart into it" which could work well today. Over the past 34 years members have come and gone but friendship and service have continued to be strong within our Club.

Preparing a celebration of just one hundred years It's time for all the women together to shine a light.

During his time as President of the Rotary Club of **Plimmerton**, Graeme Press encouraged the Club to sponsor an Inner Wheel Club, so in 1989, with the help of the Inner Wheel District 294 President, Shirley Lucas, Plimmerton was chartered. We held the celebration dinner in February 1990 in the Johnsonville pub. The mutual support of both the Clubs created a great partnership for all kinds of projects over the years.

The memory of food seems to prompt the memory of the various venues the Club has used since meeting in each others' homes and the fun and friendship we have enjoyed. The photo shows Graeme Press and Alka Rajpal, our first Club President.



The Nineties

The 1990s is often remembered as a decade of relative peace and prosperity: The Soviet Union fell, ending the decades-long Cold War, and the rise of the Internet ushered in a radical new era of communication, business and entertainment. I returned to work in 1992, after taking some years out, and found that handwritten notes had been replaced by email Gulp. I was completely adrift until I was firmly taken to task by a Gen Xer ...

The following words are the ones that Merriam Webster's give as the top ten words of the Nineties - Goth · D'oh · Globalization · Grunge · Politically Correct · DVD · Gen X · Dot-com, Genome and Virtual Reality. Inner Wheel had entered a completely new world, and it wouldn't be long before Clubs would do most of their communication using the Internet – but the core values of friendship and service? That hasn't changed.

The following Clubs were chartered in the Nineties: Auckland East, Howick, Orewa & Whangaparoa



Auckland East was the 85th Club to be chartered in New Zealand and the first new Club to be chartered in the newly formed District 291 (now NZ291).

The first interest meeting was held in July 1989, with an invitation sent to 8 Rotary Clubs in the area inviting their wives to a meeting. Annabelle Valentine spoke about Inner Wheel and her hope of forming an evening Club.

The Inaugural Meeting was held on 15 November 1989. The Charter document was signed by 21 members and was accepted by IIW on 11 January 1990. The Charter Party held that April was a Cocktail Party. Charter President Annabelle Valentine was presented with the Official Charter and Presidents chain, and 21 members were presented with Inner Wheel badges. A fantastic night with our theme song *Simply the Best* played at full volume!!

Over the years the Club has grown and upheld the values of

IW: Friendship, Service and International Understanding, with lots of fun and laughter as part of our activities.

34 ladies signed up as foundation members of **Howick** at the first meeting of interest, held at Ethel Abercrombie's home. The first Club meeting was held on 19 July 1991 at Jillian Moran's house and the Club was chartered on 2 November 1991 with 56 members. The Rotary Clubs in the area, helped when the Club was chartered, by donating to our regalia.

Ethel Abercrombie was the first President and our *Ethel Abercrombie Award*, instigated by Moira Malcolm, in her year as President in 1998/99, is awarded to a member who contributes to the Club over and above the call of duty.

From **South Wairarapa**, Charter President Robyn Draper reports: "30 years ago on 16 May 1993 114 people met at Masterton's Solway Park for the chartering of South Wairarapa. Among the guests was the Mayor of Greytown, John Garrity, Inner Wheel International Board member Beth Mcneill who had travelled from Invercargill to attend, District Chairman of Inner Wheel Marion Patchett, and my husband Tom Draper President of South Wairarapa Rotary.

I got the idea to form a Wairarapa Inner Wheel Club because along with other Rotary wives we were occasionally invited to informal gatherings by the current Rotary President's wife if they felt so inclined and as I had 2 friends who belonged to an Inner Wheel Club in Wellington I thought it would be a good idea to meet more regularly and form our own Club.

Over the years our Club has met in many different locations: Currently we meet at *The Offering*. Our first meeting's meal at the old *Turkey Red* cost the vast sum of \$8.00! There has been a lot of water under the bridge and many changes but great to see our Inner Wheel Club still active!"

The photo shows Alisoun Werry, Monica Rose, and Robin Draper the last of the original members still attending meetings.



Also in 1993, wives of Rotarians from **Orewa and Whangaparaoa** gathered at the home of Richard & Judith Gee, President of the Rotary Club of Whangaparaoa. It was attended by Gloria Mitchell (Extension Officer) and Jean Currie (DG Wife). Eighteen ladies attended. Gloria outlined the objects and aims of Inner Wheel and answered questions of concern. A discussion followed and those present decided that:

An IW Club be formed and named "The Inner Wheel Club of Orewa & Whangaparaoa" Joan Earwaker was nominated as President; Judith Gee as Secretary; Cathy Leighton as Treasurer and Mary Wilson as Vice President.

 Shine a Light, Shine a Light, Shine a Light

The New Millenium: 2000 and Beyond

What an auspicious thing we all got to experience – the start of a new decade, a new century, and a new Millenium. All on the same day!

Can you remember where you were on that first day? I was waiting for the sun to rise at Brighton Beach, and the sun didn't come out that day Can you remember that we were worried about technology not working? Can you remember that there were really people who were worried that the world was going to come to an end?

But the sun did come out after all, even if it was a day late!

And in the intervening years, Inner Wheel has continued on!

The following Clubs have been chartered since the start of the new Millenium: Aotea, Shore City, Manawatu Central Connection, Braided Rivers, Otautahi Canterbury, Rangiora



Hard work and persistence by Rae Innes resulted in establishing **Shore City**. Rae had been a member of Auckland, and was District NZ291 Chairman for 1999-2000. She was assisted by Elizabeth Donaldson in introducing women to Inner Wheel – in those days, members needed a connection with Rotary. Meetings started at St Aidan's Church Hall in May 2001, with Rosalie Houghton the first President. Rae lit, for the first time, the Candle of Friendship. It was decided the Club's name should be *The Inner Wheel Club of Shore City*, ratified by International Headquarters, England.

The formal Charter Dinner was held at McHughs of Cheltenham on 14th September 2001. Jean Currie, National President 1991-92, presented the Charter Documents, followed by District NZ291 Chairman Annette Mackay, giving all members their name badges. The Chain of Office was presented by Keith Rogers on behalf of the Birkenhead Rotary Club.

The Club celebrated its 20th birthday at the same venue, in February 2022, delayed due to Covid. The photo above shows our remaining three Charter Members, Maureen Kearney, Rae Innes, and Denise Bullus with Michelle Atkinson, National President 2021-22.

Rangiora was chartered on 1 November 2005 by IWNZ President Carole Young with 24 members; at the start all Rotary wives. Since then we have welcomed other women to our Club. The Foundation celebration took place at the Rossburn Reception Centre. Our first President was Anne Wilson and during our 18 years of existence we have had Edith Sim as District Chairman and Lynnette Lightfoot as District Treasurer. Six of the founding members are still members of the Club.

We were founded mainly for fellowship and friendship – and we have tried to keep this up. There have been many trips by bus into Christchurch – some for movies



and concerts at the Arts Centre Worcester Boulevard; visiting the spring flowers at the Gardens; exploring new buildings like the new Library the Art Gallery, The Children's Theatre, the Cardboard Anglican Cathedral and the restored Theatre Royal.

Our time is also spent doing service – whether it is making toilet bags for Cholmondeley, delivering telephone books for Rotary or general fundraising for all sorts of charitable organisations

Sue Jones of **Otautahi Canterbury** reports: 'We owe our inception to the unwavering dedication of two Inner Wheel members, Lorraine Margetts and Colleen Payne, who embarked on this journey 15 years ago.

They meticulously compiled a list of individuals with ties to Rotary, past or present, and began reaching out to gauge interest in forming a "young" Inner Wheel Club - aptly named *New Generation*. The underlying motivation for this initiative was a recognition that without an introduction of younger members, the organisation's overall growth potential would remain limited. Hence, the birth of our new Club.

The commitment of time and effort shown by Lorraine and Colleen was nothing short of inspiring. They served as remarkable mentors, and we all felt embraced by the wider organisation with their unwavering support from day one.

My personal desire to join this organisation stemmed from witnessing the strong bonds of friendship among the ladies and their selfless dedication to meaningful work. The prospect of giving back to our broader community greatly resonated with me.

Our Club was officially chartered in November 2008. The occasion was marked by a splendid evening of formality, fun, delectable food, and a gathering filled with husbands/partners, guests, and members from all the other Christchurch Clubs. The warmth and hospitality extended to us made us feel like royalty, but, more importantly, we were surrounded in an atmosphere of love, kindness, and a genuine willingness from fellow members to assist and support our young Club in its journey to success and integration within their District.'

Palmerston North's beginnings were instigated mid-2009, by Dorothy Booth, as Immediate Past District Chairman and responsible for extension. She and three immediate Past Presidents in our area contacted a list of women to see if they were interested in forming a new group that would become a new generation Inner Wheel Club.

Dorothy hosted the initial meeting and gave a power point presentation of what Inner Wheel was about. The group was enthusiastic and met monthly with Dorothy's committee at various venues, with support from other ladies from Palmerston North Inner Wheel.

So, our Club was chartered on 13th June 2010 at Wharerata, Massey University, by IWNZ National President Annabel Valentine and assisted by Vivienne Spanjaard, District Chairman. The photo shows the Palmerston North Committee, set up by Dorothy Booth, at the Charter night. L-to-R. Dorothy Booth, Jill Morrison, Lynn Jensen, and Shirley Crothers.



Braided Rivers is our newest Club and was Chartered only a week ago at District NZ297's District Meeting on 23 September 2023. What a lovely thing to be part of! President Judi was on hand to officiate, the Charter was handed over by Carol Haskett, and the chain by District Chairman Clare – Carol and Clare were instrumental in setting up the Club. It was lovely to have a Club President bringing her eight month old in the photo! (Best baby ever!)

We were once again reminded that women value connection – and that social isolation is very real for a lot of women of all ages. So ladies, here's a challenge –talk about Inner Wheel, invite women along, and if they don't fit in with our Club – well there are Clubs nearby that may very well cater for them. And if all else fails, why, then we can take a leaf from Carol and Clare's book and walk beside them to start a new Inner Wheel Club! Nothing is impossible.



Introducing Our District Chairmen

Clare Chairman District NZ297



I am Clare Chapman, Chairperson of District NZ297. I am an enthusiastic member of the Ashburton IW Club. Friendship, opportunities and giving back to the community are the standout features for me. Favourite place: Moeraki. Love: my children, my six special grandchildren, music, walking, summer, coffee with friends and sometimes shopping!

District NZ297 for the year 2023/2024 is to *Shine a Light* on the wellbeing of our amazing women. Learning to nurture our own wellbeing can be such a cool journey. At the District meeting our speaker, Pup Chamberlain will be sharing a variety of tools to support our mental wellness.

How well do you know your members? Reach out and connect, not by txt but make a phone call and have a conversation. A great way to Shine A Light.

At the District meeting there will be laughter as we attempt some simple and fun activities. Fun is sunshine and the more we experience it, the more we feel we are actively alive. Keep yourself active and keep learning by taking on a District role.

As we continue finding different ways to increase membership, I believe the most successful way is to start up new Clubs. My goal is for two new Clubs by the end of this Inner Wheel year. We can do it. We are bold, brave and can do anything.

Bridgette Ferguson, Chairman District NZ291



I've been involved with Inner Wheel since 2019 – I think that was the year I was coerced into joining an organization I knew absolutely nothing about. The selling point was the sewing that I do for *Dress a Girl Around the World* – and Dot (Anderson-Lee, a friend of 25 years) said it was a shame that my hours could not be counted for charitable purposes. There were a lot of follow up calls by members of Auckland East and the late Faye Burke was my mentor and drove me to the meetings. All the initial contacts from other members of Auckland East demonstrated the friendship that existed in the Club.

My journey has been quick – my first real Inner Wheel event was the Auckland conference and I was asked to be the minute secretary – working alongside Judi. Then my Club needed an Editor – I thought I could do that! Then I was asked to be District Secretary – this was a challenge but I had put

my hand up and the rest as they say is history.

And now I've become the District Chairman. It was a proud moment and I'm lucky to have the support of my husband Frank – although he can't quite believe the number of meetings and events that we have in Inner Wheel. But it works in our family.

I work full-time for Consulting Mechanical Engineers – surrounded by 16 engineers – who by profession traditionally are very black and white people – they need to be as they are designing structures that needs to withstand the test of time. I am quite a fluffy shade of any other colour – and we get on well.

I think this year is the best year to be in the position of Chairperson in that celebrating 100 years with all the trimmings that go with that can't be too bad. I know that Clubs have some exciting events planned, and I hope that we can as a District perhaps have something spectacular that recognizes 100 years.

To be part of the promotion of our 'In Friendship' rose is quite exciting and Clare Chapman and I will keep you up to date with the progress of sales and the growth of the rose.

Our international theme of Shine A Light embraces my own projects that I care about and I know that many Clubs support the same theme of mental health. Our fund raising with the "In Friendship" rose that will go to the Sir John Kirwan Foundation – Mitey Programme and also provide scholarships for Girl Boss.

I am also the chairperson of an Intermediate School Board of Trustees and I know that in our school we have embraced the Mitey Programme – where our teachers have been taught the philosophies and practices and in turn can assist our young students. The programme is very successful and just loved by all who participate.

Many Clubs are great at having a diverse meeting schedule but some do need help and sadly those are the ones that are folding. Let's not have that happen in NZ291. I think it is up to all of us to do something to ensure that Inner Wheel survives and any idea to encourage new Clubs, or new activities is well worth it.

Remember that we are all here to help, there is an amazing amount of experience, certainly many years of involvement, that we just need to nurture and use for our new members. We are a friendship Club after all!

I would like to recognize all of you who have put your hand up to take on a role – I firmly believe that while we can we should. I think it is exciting times for us, and I know that your enthusiasm will rub off on us all – so here's to 2024 and the journeys it will provide, especially if you are going to Manchester.

New Honoured Active Members



*Bridgette Ferguson
Auckland East*



*Glennis Pearson
Howick*



*Penny Carrington
Feilding*



*Julia True
Feilding*



*Fenn Leadle,
Ashburton*



Judy Kingsbury, Ashburton

*Also
Maureen Ellis, Kapiti
Beryl Green, Wellington*

Margarette Golding award



Christchurch West welcomed Spring, and at the same time, we were all very honoured to be present at the presentation of a Margarette Golding award to Cherie Buckner. President Judi was on hand to make the presentation.

Addendum

We have wonderfully talented women in our Clubs! Here is the work of three of them, whose words were picked apart in the newsletter. Ed.

Shine a Light

Weaved throughout the Newsletter and heard in person when District NZ297 Chairman Clare played this at the recent District Meeting with her Ashburton Ukulele Club. Delightful!

Let's shine a light on Inner Wheel women
And lift them up to take a role that they can understand
Shine a light on the stories that have really enriched their lives
To work hard, work smart, then brighter shines the light.

Chorus

Shine a light, oh shine a light
Around our Inner Wheel friends
Friendship never ends.
Shine a light, oh shine a light
With a smile on your face
To lighten up the darkness
Every corner, every space.

Knowledge empowers the women of our communities
To explore the world and share their vision talents with all they see
To shine a light on the beauty and diversity of life
It's time for all the women together to shine a light.

Chorus

As women are working wonders all around the world
Manchester's getting ready to welcome us all
Preparing a celebration of just one hundred years
Making lasting memories for women of Inner Wheel

Shine a Light, Shine a Light, Shine a Light.

© Clare Chapman, 2023

IW Club of Riccarton's History in Verse

This beauty was written by our talented Club President Margaret and much enjoyed at our Birthday Lunch.

This year at this time, the month of September
We look to the past and take time to remember
That it's 52 years since our Club it began
A Club for just women, excluded to man

So how did it happen and where did it start
There was clearly one woman who played a big part

A woman with vision without any fear
Who as we all know was the wife of the mayor

Now Noeline helped Richard in his public life
But often she felt that she was just the wife
She'd put on the lippy and brush up her curls,
Gather her hand bag and put on her pearls

She'd smile in the photos dressed up in her fur
But those public functions did little for her
Then Noeline got asked to an Inner Wheel Meeting
And thought to herself, this is what I've been seeking

If I feel like this, then others may too
And soon she was planning just what she could do

She sent out an invite to each Rotarian's spouse
To come to a meeting she held at her house

And so they decided with clearly one voice
That forming a Club was the obvious choice
And while they acknowledged their role as a wife
They wanted more purpose and challenge in life

So the Club it was formed and the roles all
assigned
To apply for their charter was next on their mind
But that's when they found there had been an
omission
When forming a Club you should first seek
permission

With everything sorted the ladies got cracking
Discussing the projects they felt needed backing
They all stood for hours despite sore feet from
bunions
To make loaves of sammies and pickling onions

Or putting on concerts for those that were able
Then entered a contest for setting a table
The look of surprise was all over their face
When the public all voted their setting first place

So they raffled the prize to help raise some more
money
And often in life it can turn out quite funny
That despite all the hard work it often may take
The biggest reward is the friendships you make

And that's an objective that we all hold dear
Making new friendships each year after year
So when life throws a curved ball and you feel all
alone
These Inner Wheel ladies just get on the phone

© Margaret Stanton, 2023

A Fiftieth Birthday Verse

Another poem at another birthday – this time in Dunedin South.

I have found a second home
At welcoming Dunedin South
So never want to roam
And today is really special
As for better or for worse
Christina invited me to write
A fiftieth birthday verse

So, here's to
Fifty years of service
Fifty years of fun
Fifty years of friendship
Enjoyed by everyone

© Merle McCulloch, 2021

And they're there to support you and help you
get through
Cause Inner Wheel ladies all know that it's true
That the people you meet when you feel you're
in strife
Are often the people you'll treasure for life

So as we look back on the projects we've done
While some have been hard work they still have
been fun
Cause the help we have given we know that it
might
Have made a huge difference and helped shine a
light

And while we're now older it still is the same
Our charity work is the name of the game
They say you are only as old as you feel
So age has no limits in this Inner Wheel

So thank you for coming to help celebrate
And being a part of our Club's special date
On looking back now it is hard to believe
The assortment of projects the Club has achieved

So where ever life takes you, around every bend
You bound to run into an Inner Wheel friend
here is something about them, I know you will
find
That an Inner Wheel member is one of a kind.

Happily gifting warm pyjamas
Food, cash, lots of smiles and hugs
Knitting baby clothes and peggy squares
For lovely winter rugs

So light up all the candles
On the birthday cake
Fifty bright and burning flames
Oh, what a sight they make
But, before we make big wishes
And, before we make big blows
Please lift and save our symbol
The lovely friendship rose.