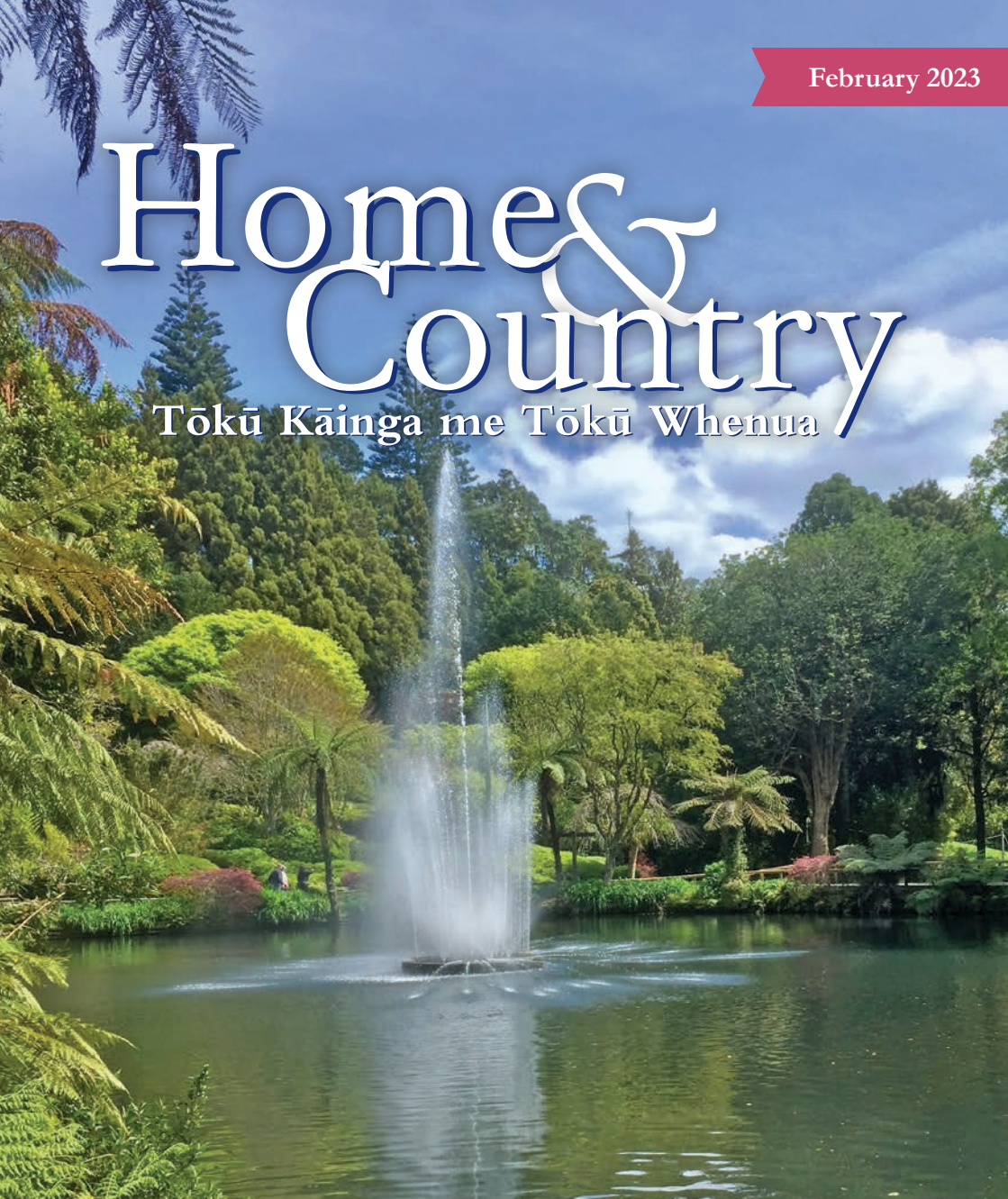


February 2023

Home & Country

Tōkū Kāinga me Tōkū Whenua



- **Flying solo**
- **Juniors add to new beginnings**
- **NZ's love affair with the Peggy square**

THE NEW ZEALAND FEDERATION OF
**WOMEN'S
INSTITUTES**
for home & country

A right royal treat

Arorangi WI, West Coast Federation, member, Bernadette Stenhouse, has been a keen Royalist since the 1974 Royal tour when, as a schoolgirl she was chosen to help serve in the Queen's luncheon tent when the monarch visited Greymouth.

Among Bernadette's numerous memorabilia items are over 100 royal books and she has also visited

Buckingham Palace, Balmoral Castle, Windsor Castle and been at the Trooping of the Colour. Bernadette felt a real loss with the Queen's death.

The accompanying article/photo appeared as a centrefold piece in our local paper, the Greymouth Star.

6 November 1, 2022

West Coast

Tuesday, November 1, 2022 7

A right Royal collection

Greymouth woman Bernadette Stenhouse has been a devoted follower and supporter of the royal family since Queen Elizabeth's New Zealand tour in 1974. She is a passionate collector of royal memorabilia and over the years has amassed a sizable collection. "I love the history of the royal family and have been a loyal supporter ever since." **PAUL McBRIDE** checked out some of her collection including pieces commemorating King Edward's coronation, dated May 12, 1937. King Edward abdicated in December 1936, so the coronation was never held.



Tuesday, November 1, 2022 7

Greymouth woman Bernadette Stenhouse has been a devoted follower and supporter of the royal family since Queen Elizabeth's New Zealand tour in 1974. She is a passionate collector of royal memorabilia and over the years has amassed a sizable collection. "I love the history of the royal family and have been a loyal supporter ever since." **PAUL McBRIDE** checked out some of her collection including pieces commemorating King Edward's coronation, dated May 12, 1937. King Edward abdicated in December 1936, so the coronation was never held.

Southern Wellington fly solo

Raewyn Hill, Liaison Officer

We have done it ... Southern Wellington Federation has become The Wellington Cluster. With the assistance of NEC and especially Colleen (Dryden) we are trialing continuing without a federation.

Maybe we have something to thank Covid for. It became evident as institutes were closing or getting smaller that federation events were no longer viable. Many hours were being put into organising events with only a few turning up. As for getting officers and an executive, that was becoming a nightmare.

Throughout 2022 we trialed being a silent federation with a skeleton executive - five of us. Yay! this worked well so we decided to fly solo. NEC drew up a Pilot Scheme for us, the main difference being that we send all money directly to NEC, bypassing federation.

We are still very much part of NZFWI and are still able to attend

conferences, enter competitions and get the Home & Country magazine. Within our Cluster if a WI has a planned outing, bus trip, luncheon, a speaker of interest, a special day etc., we let the other WIs know. This is making events far more viable. Institutes have additional finance with a 70 – 30 percent split, with no money going to a federation. We will have a member as a Liaison Officer and deputy to help keep us in the loop where required.

If you wish to have a closer look at the Pilot Scheme, please feel free to contact Colleen and she will send you a copy.

Maybe we are a springboard for greater things to come. Remember with change comes excitement, refreshment and energy. We are hoping for all of that this year. We are ready for CHANGE!

Celebrating International Month

A student dances with a Taradale WI member at their November meeting which celebrated International Month – Samoa.

The local Hawke's Bay Today newspaper came along to capture the atmosphere with a story and photo.



Photo: Hawke's Bay Today

New Zealand Women's Institutes



Founder: Miss A. E. Jerome Spencer OBE,
Homemaking, Co-operation and Citizenship



Patron: Her Excellency The Rt Hon. Dame Cindy Kiro, GNZM, QSO,
Governor General of New Zealand

Jude Vaughan: President,
Chair - Mealing Estate Trust, Chair - Barbara Wood Memorial Trust

Website: www.wi.org.nz **Charities Services registration number:** CC 23683

Theme: Vision for All

Project: Looking for Opportunity in Your Community

Judy Cathcart – Vice President / Chair,
Lead Membership Committee Trustee,
Barbara Wood Memorial Trust

Adrienne Allen – Co-Lead Promotions &
Operations Committee
Finance Committee

Toni Brumby – Vice President
Co-Lead Promotions & Operations Committee
Trustee, Barbara Wood Memorial Trust

Jessie Hopkinson – Lead Social Issues Committee
Trustee, Mealing Estate Trust

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HOME & COUNTRY ADVERTISING CHARGES

For a WI member:

Full page B&W	\$190
½ page	\$100
¼ page	\$55
Inside front/back cover (colour)	\$260

For non-members:

The addition of 15 percent to these prices.

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Front Cover:

Taking centre stage, the fountain in all its glory embraces the magnitude and beauty of New Plymouth's Pukekura Park.

Photo: Jude Vaughan.

Jude Vaughan's photo opposite:

Toni Williams, Ashburton Courier



Follow us on Facebook

From the President



Kia ora koutou. Hello, WI members.
Kei te pēhea koutou? How are you?

It is a well-known fact that any new year brings forth expectations and resolutions that we will endeavour to fulfil. Goals are set with all the fervent wishes that yes, we will manage to achieve the impossible this year.

Strategies are set out in timelines, guiding us along a pathway towards our triumphant goals. Well, that is the theory.

So, what do you think we will achieve this year? To be honest, I don't know exactly. But I do know that CHANGE has to happen for the whole organisation.

"I cannot say whether things will get better if we change; what I can say is they must change if they are to get better." George C Lichtenberg

Mr Lichtenberg is right. Change is an optimistic concept to grapple with. It is not something that we enjoy as it pushes us out of our comfort zone and

into the unknown. But we need to have curiosity to question and ask, "What If we..." It shows that we are prepared to be inquisitive and signed up to change. It keeps us keep alive and interested in what is happening around us. But for some it is a step too far. It is devastating to hear of another recessed WI and the steady trickle of more members abandoning the NZFWI after many decades of service and devotion.

So, what has changed for these unfulfilled members? I was invited to attend a wind-up WI meeting with members who have renounced their membership. Legitimate reasons were presented but eventually it resulted in another WI going into recess. The change to these ex-WI members will be minimal as they intended to continue to meet together for coffee/lunch/cards/scrabble/craft....but not WI. Why? Because they couldn't get officers and no one wanted to be bothered to step up. No amount of cajoling to consider the plenty of solutions offered by the Federation President and myself, as by then, the last nail had been hammered into the WI coffin. En masse resigned as members of the NZFWI.

We are members of an organisation that is considered a precious commodity in our communities. You only have to read the CPR (many thanks to our treasurers for their commitment to input data online) and read the number of donated items and hours spent supporting local initiatives and projects. Outstanding and awesome - well done to all those who continue to make a difference.

"Change will not come if we wait for the other person or some other time.

We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek."
Barack Obama.

We are the only ones who can forge a new path for the organisation. Change must happen and it has to happen now. The membership has to increase. So, WI meetings will need to have interest and enjoyment, to encourage participation and retention of members. The new implemented, single level of membership will enable us to attend other local WI meetings as well as our own designated 'home WI' each month. Support the host WI by buying a raffle ticket and ask if there is a gold coin donation for refreshments. Engage with fellow members. Create networks of members who have skills that you are interested in becoming more proficient. Share your own talents. What can you bring to the WI? Invite a friend as a speaker or demonstrator. Encourage them to stay and meet the members. Everyone has to extend that hand of friendship to inspire a potential WI member. Being a member has to be what you can do for the WI not "what's in it for me?"

This will be a challenge for all of us. We are in this together. We have got this. Change is going to happen and it is going to be exciting, motivating and a thrilling ride.

To WI members who have been unwell, I wish them a speedy recovery and extend my deepest condolences to those members' families who have lost loved ones.

Noho ora mai.

Jude
National President

Correction

On page 40 of the August issue, it was wrongly stated that Katie Croom was awarded two Mealing Estate Scholarships.

This was incorrect and should have read that she has been the recipient of two **Barbara Wood Memorial Scholarships**.

The Barbara Wood Memorial Scholarships are awarded for all academic studies while the Mealing Estate is designed for study in art, craft and music.

WI Activities

Waihola-Clarendon coffee morning back up and running

In October, after a long wait, Waihola-Clarendon WI, Mid Otago Federation, held their annual coffee morning. This was the first of these events to be held as there had been a two-year hiatus due to Covid-19 shut downs.

These coffee mornings have always been open to the community but for this one, they decided to promote awareness of WI and delivered flyers to all mailboxes in the area which advertised the coffee morning and their programme for the next two months. As has been usual in the past, sister institute members were invited. There was an amazing attendance by both WI members and members of the community.

Mrs Jeanne Barclay welcomed Mary Reet, NEC Member, Rural Women representatives, along with members from South Otago Federation as well as a great attendance by Mid Otago Federation institutes.

The morning commenced with morning tea, provided by the Waihola-Clarendon members, followed by Mr Alistair Yule, a former general surgeon at both Balclutha and Dunedin Hospitals, who was the guest speaker.

Mr Yule had volunteered and done four tours of duty on the Mercy Ships over a period of several years. These ships focus their work around the ports of Africa and many people are given lifesaving surgeries on these ships that are filled with professional volunteers to provide free healthcare and surgery to countries where it is just not available. This was a very thought-provoking talk and I think we all left thinking that we are extremely fortunate here in New Zealand to be able to access treatment when it is required.

Following the talk, the usual sales tables were opened for us all to purchase baking, plants and the like.

From the Editor

Wishing you all a happy New Year and good fortune for 2023. Many of you will have experienced the vagaries of our uncertain weather patterns in recent weeks and for those of you affected, particularly the East Coast and Auckland, I hope the clean-up and recovery is progressing well and that we can all enjoy a more 'normal' climate for what's left of summer. In

this issue, there is a strong emphasis on the best way forward to safeguard the future and importance of WI in the community. As a result, there has been some great initiatives introduced by a number of WIs to spread the good word and attract new members. Great stuff, that is indeed showing the true spirit and essence of WI.

Jane Hunt

Editor's Notes

Home and Country Magazine:

After the review of the future of our organisation's publication and the decision to cut back from 6 to 4 publications annually, Home & Country remains an important piece of our communication strategy.

We are aware that the opportunity for all WI members to share celebrations and events on a national scale in the official magazine is very important to everyone. Communication is vital to ensure that WI information and notices are passed along to all members.

Therefore, it is our intention to produce extended digital newsletters during the year to encompass the interim. This arrangement will enable members to contribute articles about their events held and further notices from the NEC.

Points to remember:

- Ensure photos are of a high quality and are sent separately and not embedded in the copy.
- Please do not photograph copy/ words as it cannot be edited when in this format.
- Please be mindful of deadlines and the timing/relevance when submitting items.
- The recipe has been tested.
- The content is more about federation and WI activities.
- Highlights should be looking ahead at what's coming up as opposed to the previous model of looking back at past events.
- Any member profile includes aspects of their life outside WI as well.

May 2023 issue (deadline, Thursday, April 6)

Poverty Bay-Wairoa

Oroua

Northern and Hawkes Bay

Canterbury District

Southern Southland

Whangarei

North Canterbury

Mid Otago

National Office News

Kia ora koutou

Here we are, another year in the life of WI – our 102nd. I trust all those members who have agreed to be a new officer for their WI or federation are supported by those who have stepped down, making life easier for all. Remember that I am but a phone call or email away if you require any information or guidance.

Thank you to those who have correctly entered the data online for our Consolidated Report. If you had difficulties, I trust there was someone nearby to share the load. I think it has been easier to record in whole figures without the cents. Some federations will be audited in more detail this year by our new auditors, Moore Markhams, who are keen for us to have an unqualified audit of the group.

I have had queries about 'no dual members' as voted for at the AGM. The idea behind this was that members would belong to the organisation throughout the country. A WI member could attend a WI meeting wherever they happened to be in Aotearoa/New Zealand. Members affiliate with one WI and be part of their programme, but there is nothing to stop them going to another and joining in with the competitions, buying a raffle or listening to an interesting speaker organised by that WI. There are some restrictions though, a member can only be an office bearer at the WI they are affiliated to and can only be involved in voting with their WI and Federation.

A reminder please to send in your membership lists by **1 March**. These should detail name, postal address (including post code), email address and phone number. Also required is the address where the Home & Country magazines are to be sent for each WI. Where possible for this, please provide an address that does not include rural delivery as this increases the cost of the magazine.

Affiliations for 2023 are \$49 per member with \$39.20 going to the federation and of this \$29.40 going to the national federation. Junior membership has not changed, still at \$24.50 with \$19.60 going to the federation and of this \$14.70 going to the national federation. Payment of affiliations during the year for new members should include a membership information form.

We are looking forward to working with the WIs in the Wellington area which will be affiliating direct to the national office following the Southern Wellington Federation going into recess. This is a pilot programme at this stage to ascertain any pitfalls that may occur. A full discussion on this is planned for the 102nd AGM in Timaru where all members will have an opportunity to have their say and listen to other ideas. That's it for this time. Until next time ka kite ano

Colleen Dryden, Executive Officer

Bank account numbers:

*The New Zealand Federation of
Women's Institutes:*
03-0518-0013797-00

Barbara Wood Memorial Trust:
03-0518-0303997-00
Mealing Estate Trust:
03-0510-0876029-00

Birthday Congratulations

90-year birthdays

*Dorothy Clark, Waiholā Clarendon WI, Mid Otago Federation
Joan Curtis, Tamatea WI, Northern & Hawkes Bay Federation
Margaret Gilmour, Gate Pa-Kaimai WI, Tauranga Federation
Heather McDonald, Janefield WI, Mid Otago Federation
Jean Mills, Puha WI, Poverty Bay-Wairoa Federation
Joan Readman, Rangiora WI, North Canterbury Federation
Viv Thorby, Tikorangi WI, North Taranaki*

Floral displays for Community Centre

During Awareness Month, Newlands WI, Southern Wellington Federation, presented floral displays to the Newlands Community Centre where we hold our meetings.

The larger one was for the staff at the Centre and the smaller ones had cards with details of our meetings and inviting ladies to join us.

*Photo: Courtesy Newlands
Community Centre*



Member Profile: Esma Allen

Sefton Kowai WI, North Canterbury Federation

Esma Allen is Sefton Kowai WIs oldest member. She was born in 1929 in Bluff, Southland and was the second child in a family of five children, four girls and a boy.

She attended Gore Primary School before progressing to Gore Secondary School as a boarder at the hostel. On leaving school, she attended Teachers College in Dunedin 1947/48.

Her first position was at Lime Hills in Southland, then she moved north to teach at Springston in Canterbury before getting promoted to senior teacher at Kaitangata in South Otago and then onto Riverton. And this is where she saved up enough money to buy a brand-new Morris Minor car.

About 1956, Esma did a teacher exchange in England working at a school in Lincolnshire and while over there travelled around the Continent with a group of friends before returning to New Zealand by boat.

While teaching at Leeston, Esma met her husband to be, Matthew Allen, who was also a teacher. They married in 1962 and had a daughter and a son. They moved to a home at Tuahiwi where Esma taught at Kaiapoi Borough School and Matt taught at Rangiora. Soon after they bought a small farm with a brand-new house at Sefton where Esma got a job at Sefton school. She taught some of the children of current members of Sefton Kowai WI.



Esma became a member of our institute in 1988 and has received her 20-year and 30-year service badges.

She was treasurer from 1997-99 and then vice president from 2003-06 then president 2006-09 and lastly a committee member 2010-12.

Esma remains a loyal member and still enjoys meeting up with other members at social occasions.

In her earlier years she played golf and then went onto play indoor bowls at Sefton along with her husband. She is currently patroness of Sefton Indoor Bowls Club.

Esma also has done a lot of knitting and embroidery over the years and is now enjoying retirement and life in her own little townhouse at Rymans in Rangiora, where she still has a very busy social time.

WI Activities

Nelson Federation Literature Competition winner (theme, childhood memories)

Childhood memories – 1940s

By Nancy Ward

Into the world during World War 2
A baby arrived and the road soon knew
That this child would grow and give joy to the home
And never again would there be reason to moan.
And as she grew the memories were made
Of car trips and picnics and working with Dad:
Of chocolate bomb ice creams and other sweet joys.
And the weekly Sunday visits to the town candy store.

A blue trike, toy tractors, and a sandpit, well stocked
With diggers and buckets and much more,
lots and lots.

Later a red bike arrived at her place
And away went this girl, at a fast-cracking pace.
A life on the farm led to many fun times,
Of lambing and calves and horses of size.
Then riding and biking and driving became
A part of the life and she became very game.
What else can one say, forties life, it was great
For a girl who grew up with parents whose fate
Was to share childhood years and many excursions
And hear stories of which there were many versions.
But grow up she did, in a life of true pleasure,
Giving and sharing each little treasure
She will forever be grateful to parents she loved
For the life, and the love, and advice from above.



Top to bottom: Nancy Ward, left, with President Ngaire Sharpe and the winning cup for the Literature competition.

Musicians entertaining during the afternoon.

Nelson President Ngaire Sharpe, left, with Nelson delegate Gwenda Roberts, winner of the Burn Trophy.

Put a smile on your dial

- Where's the best place to hide a body? Page two of Google Search.
- If someone from the 1950s suddenly appeared, what would be the most difficult thing to explain about life today? One answer: "I possess a device in my pocket that is capable of accessing the entirety of information known to man. I use it to look at pictures of cats and get into arguments with strangers."
- "I've given up social media for the New Year and am trying to make friends outside Facebook while applying the same principles. Every day, I walk down the street and tell passers-by what I've eaten, how I feel, what I did the night before, and what I will do tomorrow. Then I give them pictures of my family, my dog, and me gardening. I also listen to their conversations and tell them I love them. And it works. I already have three people following me—two police officers and a psychiatrist."
- I wish people were like Internet videos and you could tap them lightly to see a clock of how much longer they're going to be talking.
- Whoever said that the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results has obviously never had to reboot a computer.
- The only people who don't click Skip on ads before YouTube videos are people who died during that ad.
- I can still remember a time when I knew more than my phone.

Welcome Corner

A big welcome to these new Members

Waikato Federation

Whitiora WI - Mary Robinson

Northern & Hawkes Bay Federation

Tamatea WI - Rhose Shand

Wharerangi WI - Julie Ward

West Coast Federation

Paroa WI - Carla Anderson

A Circle within Circles (part 3)

By Chris King

During the next month Jess kept herself busy preparing the materials to enable the group to make the little dolls. She sourced some pretty materials and made cardboard patterns so everyone who wished to, could easily make one.

When the landline rang one morning she nearly jumped out of her skin. The phone never seemed to ring early in the day and she'd given up answering it later because they were nearly all nuisance or scam calls. Gingerly she picked it up....

"Hello" pause "hello" she said again. She was about to put it down when a voice said,

"Hi Jess, this is Chris Pike. Wasn't sure I had the right number or that you'd remember who I am! I was wondering how you're doing with the little dolls and if you'd have time to meet for a coffee?"

Surprised but delighted Jess immediately responded with a warm, "Yes, yes let's. When suits?"

They arranged to meet the next day at the local café and once seated with their drinks and an indulgent looking chocolate muffin Chris said,

"I must ask you; did you get an email this morning from Lucy Mannering?" Jess nodded, but before she could reply, Chris continued,

"I only took a quick look before leaving the house but it appears the WI are having a special celebratory lunch. It's the WI's birthday or something.

I guess we have got an invite because we've been to the Crafty Circles. Shall we go? I always promised myself I wouldn't get more involved but the Circles are fun and well, oh, let's go together and find out what it's all about. We don't have to go again". Chris looked pleadingly at Jess and Jess suddenly realised that Chris was as lonely as she was.

"Oh, what the heck, alright let's do it," Jess laughed.

And so began a new phase in Jess's life. She and Chris became good friends. The Crafty Circles slowly grew as more ladies came along. There were plenty of 'would-be' sewers, artists, flower arrangers, photographers and now bakers. Background music played, chatter abounded and laughed seemed to be the order of the day.

Amidst it all Jess realised that the ordinary Woman's Institute days were held and enjoyed by those who went along. She and Chris had thoroughly enjoyed the birthday lunch. The food was wonderful. There had been a quiz and some competitions and an excellent speaker on animal husbandry and the rescue of unwanted pets; all of which were dear to Jess's heart and to crown the day she had won the raffle; something she didn't believe could possibly happen.

All in all, Jess's life had become meaningful again. She had made friends, she enjoyed new ideas and

felt she belonged. She and Chris went regularly to WI. Suddenly her new home and new area had become appealing. She would never forget the beautiful home and surroundings they had left behind, but this new place wasn't as bad as she'd first feared. In

fact, she found herself actually looking forward to the next meeting even though it was the annual general meeting. I'll just listen and keep schtum she promised herself! Chris can get involved more but I am happy just as I am!

WI Activities

Kaponga in support of SANDS

Kaponga WI, South Taranaki Federation, recently had a speaker at our meeting from SANDS (Stillbirth and Neonatal Death), a charity group of volunteers who support families after the loss of a baby.

The charity receives no official funding, so fundraising and donations are essential. Cooling cots owned by the group are loaned out to the family to keep their sleeping baby in and cost several thousand dollars.

Castings can be made of the babies' hands and feet. Local photographers donate their time to take photos.

A memory box is given to the family

containing special things and families can add their own precious memories. All situations are unique and the support will fit the needs of the family.

Kaponga WI members donated items to be given to families who unexpectedly arrive in hospital, e.g. shampoo, lotions, tissues, soap, toothbrushes and paste, etc with two large bags of items being donated. And three lots of beautiful knitting to dress these tiny bubs in were also lovingly made and donated by members.

"A little life but not a little loss"



New ideas, New beginnings, New circle

Debbie Tidswell, Otawhao-Takapau WI

Here at Otawhao Takapau WI, Central Hawkes Bay Federation, we have two juniors who have been members for some time now.

These girls have friends who have been asking, "What do you do at WI, can we come, this looks like fun, I'd like to have a go at what you're doing can you show me?"

Solution - two of our members have come up with a programme to start a Junior Circle for local girls aged between six and 16 which will include our two young ladies as well as some other girls in the local community.

The circle will be held after school every fortnight during term time, with the girls coming to our normal WI meeting during the holidays.

The programme will be directed towards community service as well as to name a few, crafts, baking and lots of fun activities. It is important to give the girls a sense of community and to have them involved in community service activities in and around the local area to build resilient, well rounded strong minded young ladies.

We are very lucky that several of our members have already offered to help with crafts - sharing their own skill and coming on outings with the girls throughout the year.

They will have the opportunity to enter the local WI, Federation and National competitions. We are planning to repurpose one of the many trophies packed away in the cupboard as a

Junior Trophy where they can collect points for entries, attendance, goals achieved etc.

Numbers will be limited with a ratio of one adult per six girls. We have already been busy with fundraising, with a Christmas raffle bringing in enough funds to cover the cost of having smart polo shirts printed (to be worn with navy shorts or jeans in winter) ready for those outings to give the kids a sense of pride in what they are a part of.

We are hoping to introduce a reward (such as certificates or badges). One of our ladies has been busy drafting certificates during the holidays and another has cleared out and donated



Madison and Christina at last year's Christmas party.

lots of pencils, felts etc to add to our ever-growing craft stash.

We are hoping this will encourage other girls in the community to come along and join the WI, along with mums and grans.

Our two juniors, throughout the holidays, have already come up with a

wish list of activities they'd like to try this year, from going swimming, meeting the Greyhounds for Rehoming at the kennels down the road, making felt bunnies for Easter to going out to McDonalds for lunch and camping at the end of the year. It looks like it's going to very busy.

WI Activities

Loyal member celebrates 90th birthday

Marking a special occasion, Waihola-Clarendon WI held their end of year luncheon at Nellies Restaurant, Mosgiel, On December 19.

This day was very special as Dorothy Clark, who has been a loyal member of WI for 62 years, was celebrating her 90th birthday. Dorothy firstly joined Lovells Flat WI and in later years became a member of Waihola-Clarendon WI.

She is a talented baker, gardener and crafts woman, has always been ready to share her knowledge and skills, and is a mentor and true friend to all members of Waihola-Clarendon.

President Jeanne Barclay proposed a toast to Dorothy and wished her good health and happy times in the years ahead. A birthday cake baked by Jeanne and decorated beautifully by Sue McDonnell was cut by Dorothy and shared with all present for dessert.

Members from Lovells Flat WI, Waihola-Clarendon WI and Mid Otago Federation were present to acknowledge Dorothy's birthday and her 62 years of being a WI Member and friend to all.



Dorothy Clark cutting the cake for her 90th birthday celebrations, alongside Waihola-Clarendon WI President Jeanne Barclay.

2022 Literature Trophy

Runner-up entry

By Gillian Fitcher, Turakina WI, Oroua Federation

"Good morning, Miss Spencer, it's another beautiful day in Christchurch."

"Good morning, Mr Nicholls, yes, the Alps look so peaceful this morning. The view always lifts my spirits and is so different from the Hawke's Bay."

"Did you enjoy your journey on the 'Hinemoa'?"

"Yes, thank you, the 'Hinemoa' is so new and fresh, comfortably appointed with modern conveniences. She is like a quality hotel. Quite different from when I first travelled to England, 30 odd years ago." Miss Spencer sadly sighed, "but it was war time of course."

"Come in. Please sit here Miss Spencer, so we can capture the best light from your left. Excellent! The dark green wall brings out the rich burgundy tones in your suit, Miss Spencer. A perfect choice after our discussion."

"Thank you, Mr Nicholls", Miss Spencer replied, as she settled on the wooden chair. "What pose would best suit your portrait style, Mr Nicholls?"

"Please relax and sit as you feel comfortable. Here's a small book to hold, bringing attention to your creative hands. I feel it is symbolic of your interests in education and teaching so many different women lifelong skills. While I start to sketch, tell me, how many members does the Country Women's Institute have now?"

"The Country Women's Institute celebrated her Silver Jubilee two years ago and members numbered 30,000. There are more now," Miss Spencer replied. "Women have married returned soldiers or they are widows in changed circumstances. They are interested in a safe, caring, creative environment, where they can support each other and those less fortunate than themselves."

"You and your ladies have worked so hard for positive outcomes and improvements in our communities for all New Zealanders. Your OBE was well earned." Mr Nicholls spoke while considering Miss Spencer's pose.

"Thank you, Mr Nicholls. Congratulations on your recent honour also," Miss Spencer continued, "for your services to New Zealand art. With so many skilfully executed portraits of our leaders, your careful observations will keep these personalities alive in our future history."

"Thank you, Miss Spencer," Mr Nicholls continued, "I very much enjoyed meeting Lord Freyberg but I felt greatly humbled to receive such an award." He went on to explain, "Capturing the personality and spirit of the sitter, making the invisible visible, becomes the focus of portrait painting."

Miss Spencer chuckled, "What do you propose to visualise in me, Mr Nicholls?"

"Pardon me, Miss Spencer, but knowing of what you have achieved in

your own life, you have also inspired thousands of women, in the past and into the future, to find their own strengths and capabilities. I want to visualise in my portrait, your serenity, strength, determination, organisational and social skills, while all the time I'm sure you are thinking of new ways to make life better for women of the future."

"Oh Mr Nicholls, you are too kind," Miss Spencer modestly replied.

"Not at all, Miss Spencer. So many of your members working together physically, with one strong voice have wrought so many changes for the betterment of New Zealand. This is just the beginning; you mark my words!"

Miss Spencer looked wistful and smiled.

"I feel that is enough for today, Miss Spencer. I will write to arrange another appointment so we can meet again. In the meantime, I have enough to work on in oils. They take time to dry so it is a long process." Mr Nichol offered an arm to assist Miss Spencer to her feet.

"Thank you, Mr Nicholls, I will look forward to that with anticipation."

"Likewise, Miss Spencer. It is an honour to meet you. Mind the step! Good day, Miss Spencer."

Three months on -

"Good afternoon, Miss Spencer," Mr Nicholls beamed as he warmly shook Miss Spencer's hand. "It is so good to see you again. I feel like we have become friends."

"Good afternoon, Mr Nicholls. As a portrait artist, you would come to

know your subjects well, capturing their spirit in your work. I am so looking forward to seeing your finished masterpiece." Miss Spencer laughed.

"All in good time, Miss Spencer. Would you enjoy a cup of tea with me now that rationing has been abolished? I am keen to learn more of your travels."

"Thank you, I would enjoy that, Mr Nicholls. The war and rationing have been hard on New Zealand citizens. So many have suffered tragic loss. At least this time, we haven't had to battle the 'flu epidemic as well. The CWI ladies have worked so hard to support our boys overseas and their own communities. I hope New Zealand never has to go through that again. The healing process will take decades after all that we have been through. I can relax as I have completed our CWI business for the day, so I don't need to hurry", Miss Spencer replied, as she enjoyed a sip from her bone china cup.

After many memories and much chatter, Mr Nicholls spoke as he removed the covering cloth. "Now Miss Spencer, I can reveal your portrait."

Miss Spencer was silent for a short time as she absorbed the image of herself. "Oh, Mr Nicholls," Miss Spencer exclaimed, "I humbly feel you have captured your subject well."

"Thank you, Miss Spencer."

Mr Nicholls went on to explain, "As you know I paint my portraits in the Singer-Sergeant style. I tend to capture the faces and hands in lighter tones which brings them forward. They are the most interesting as they

tell the sitter's story. My own personal style can come through but not dominate."

"I am amazed at how well you have captured the colour of my moonstone necklace and the tiny details of our CWI badge, of which we are very

proud of course," Miss Spencer spoke with delight. "The Country Women's Institute will be very happy with their commission, Mr Nicholls. You have done our members proud with your skill. I'm sure they will value this portrait for years to come."

Keeping WI Alive

Chris King, Maraetai WI

Maraetai WI was saddened by the demise of the South Auckland Federation, but quickly realised we had to do something. It was no use sitting around in endless discussions with a "Woe is us, what'll we do" attitude.

The raw facts are that life has changed and people who would have willingly served on committees have now grown older and don't feel up to attending committee meetings, or many of the younger ladies work fulltime as well as rearing families, so can't spare the time for extra meetings with the results that Federations seem to be left high and dry. Another contributing fact is that many actual WIs are lacking members, so the institute dies, causing the Federation to be at risk of continuing through lack of supporting institutes.

Having heard that Northern Waikato was in danger of closure for this reason it seemed sensible for Maraetai to investigate joining them, also they were probably the nearest geographically to us. We reasoned that it would help us, in that we'd have the benefit of Federation support, likewise it would benefit Northern Waikato to have another institute join their ranks. With

that in mind we approached Beverley Berwick (President) and Gill Ward (Secretary/Treasurer) asking if they would have us. They readily agreed so we both set about making it official through Head Office in Wellington.

The advantages for us are, although the meetings are quite a distance, we do have three or four federation meetings to go to if we wish. We meet another group of lovely ladies, receive their newsletters regularly, are able to enter their competitions and enjoy a thoroughly pleasant day out. We fill a car and set off. We are perhaps, lucky in that it is a nice drive through countryside. It all adds to the day. From the Federation's point of view, they now have an added institute which is saving them from extinction.

Hopefully other WIs from the South Auckland Federation will take the hint and join, so helping to secure an otherwise dying federation. As for the committees, well, maybe in these enlightened times, there need only be two to three ladies who could meet by Zoom or simply communicate by email or text so saving the time to actually go and attend formal committee meetings. Just a thought!

Sample brochure

This is a sample of a brochure that Maraetai WI have produced in a bid to get more members. We have got a new retirement village being built in Beachlands which is attracting new people. Also there has been pretty extensive building in the area so we thought we may be able to distribute the brochure in strategic places.

We intend to insert each month a little slip with the time, date and place on it and what 'circle' we'll be concentrating on that month. We are hoping that new ladies may then want to stay on at the end of the circle meeting at noon and join in the WI meeting.

When there is a special day to be celebrated or the ladies simply want a change, we occasionally go out for lunch, which adds to the variety and enjoyment. If any ladies cannot or do not drive, we arrange for a member to pick them up, bring them to the meeting and deliver them back home. If we go out, we endeavour to car pool as much as possible.



If you feel you would like to come and visit us, we would love to welcome you. Hopefully you will find us a very friendly and fun-loving group of reasonably local ladies.



*The day the new National President, Jude Vaughan came to visit!

Maraetai W.I. is the local group which is part of the North Waikato Federation, which in turn is part of the N.Z. Federation of Woman's Institute. There is an interesting and informative bi-monthly national magazine called Home and Country available to members.

MARAETAI W.I contact: Marilyn 5366123 or Chris 0274 961260

WOMEN'S INSTITUTES for home & country

MARAETAI BEACH

Maraetai Beach Woman's Institute meets on the third Monday of each month at St Hilda's Anglican Church Hall, Wakelin Street, Beachlands. The W.I. meeting starts at 12 noon with a shared lunch and finishes about 2.00 pm.

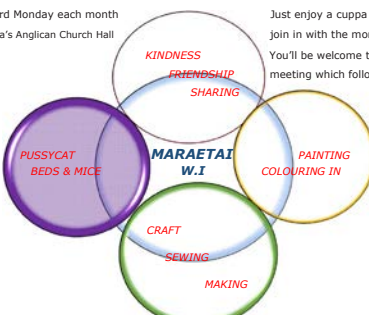
We have speakers, demonstrators, entertainers and a variety of 'in-house' social events. We cater for ladies of all ages who want to join in with a happy gang for chatter and friendship!



* Ladies at the International Day meeting. Samoa was the country designated so we had two Samoans speak on the country, traditions & culture. A traditional Samoan lunch followed.

Come and join us on the third Monday each month
10.00 am - 12 noon at St Hilda's Anglican Church Hall
Wakelin Street, Beachlands.

Just enjoy a cuppa and chat or
join in with the month's activity.
You'll be welcome to stay for the W.I.
meeting which follows.



CONCENTRIC CIRCLES OF CAMARADERIE

Learning and laughter..... Creating and caring..... Cuppa and chatter..... Circles within circles

Absolutely no pressure just a couple of hours of relaxed enjoyment!

Recipes

Coconut loaf

¾ cup sugar	1 cup coconut	1 cup flour
1 tsp baking powder	1 egg, beaten	¾ cup milk
½ tsp vanilla		

Put all dry ingredients in a bowl, add milk, egg and vanilla.

Pour into a lined loaf tin.

Bake at 180°C for 45-60 min, until golden brown.

Supplied by: Eastern Otago Federation

Carrot Cake

1 cup wholemeal flour	1 cup white flour	2 tsp baking soda
2 cups raw sugar	Salt	2 tsp cinnamon
1 small cup of cooking oil	4 eggs	3 cups grated carrot
1 tin crushed pineapple		

Method

Mix dry ingredients, add oil, stir well, stir in beaten eggs, then add carrot and pineapple.

Grease the sides of 10-inch square cake tin. Line bottom, bake at 180°C for one hour or until cooked.

Icing

100gm cream cheese	50gm butter	2 cups icing sugar
1 tsp vanilla essence		

Mix together and spread over cake when cooled.

Supplied by: Yvonne Murdie, Waimea WI, Southern Wellington Federation

Salmon Mousse

Large tin of salmon	2 hard-boiled eggs	2 gherkins
1 tsp sugar	½ tsp mustard powder	½ cup mayonnaise
½ cup tomato sauce	2 tbsp lemon juice	4 tsp gelatine
10 drops Tabasco sauce (optional)		

Mash salmon well with a fork. Add chopped hardboiled eggs and finely chopped gherkins. Add remaining ingredients and mix well. Dissolve gelatine in ½ cup of boiling water then add ½ cup cold water. Mix everything together and pour into an oiled mould. Chill until set. Turn out and serve with crispbread, decorate with olives, or parsley or gherkins.

Supplied by: Rosemary Kardos, Waihola-Clarendon WI

Chicken Tray Bake

Serves 3-4

4 chicken thighs	2 capsicum (red or yellow)	
1 aubergine or 2 small zucchini		1 red onion
4 cloves garlic	2 tbsp olive oil	2 tbsp red wine vinegar
1 tsp smoked paprika	Salt and pepper to taste	

Method

Chop vegetables and add to tray with chicken. Crush garlic and add to tray.

Toss with oil and vinegar, and paprika and pepper and salt.

Make sure chicken is on top.

Place in 180°C oven for 50-55 minutes. Can be mixed at halfway cooking.

Can be served with green salad or vegetables, and either crusty bread or potato.

Supplied by: Sandra Benson, Waimea WI, Southern Wellington Federation

Spicy Sausage and Beans

500g sausages	680gm jar of pasta sauce with roasted garlic and onion
1 tin cannelloni beans (drained)	

Grill sausages until browned. Cut into buttons.

Place sauce, beans and sausages in a saucepan and heat through. Simmer 2-3 minutes.

Italian sausages are nice in this recipe.

Supplied by: Megan Simmonds, Te Puke

Brownie

200gm melted butter	4 beaten eggs (mix)	2 cups flour
2 cups sugar	8 tbsp cocoa	2 tsp baking powder
1 packet chocolate melts		

Combine wet and dry ingredients. Press into lined 20 x 30cm tin. Bake at 180°C for 35 minutes. Leave to cool and sprinkle with icing sugar.

Supplied by: Julia Grigg, Waimea WI, Southern Wellington

Easy Slice

395g tin condensed milk	1 cup sultanas	1-1/4cup self raising flour
1/2 cup coconut	1 cup dried apricots, chopped finely	
1 cup walnuts, pecans or slivered almonds (chopped)		

Mix all together, put into slice tin and smooth over. Bake for 30 minutes at 160°C.

Supplied by: Marilyn Corbishley, Wharerangi CWI, Taradale, Napier

Up the Garden Path *with Poppy Bear*

What a summer we are having. Some parts of the country are having very wild, wet, cyclonic weather which will make life and gardening very difficult in the regions affected by the storm. At this time of the year, you will be reaping the rewards of what you have sown and planted while also planting your autumn crops.

Edible garden

Keep feeding plants to encourage plentiful harvests and water regularly to keep the soil moist. Water stressed plants are susceptible to pests and diseases. Continue to harvest pip and stone fruit, trees, crops, berries and citrus. Fertilise your fruit trees to set them up for winter. Pick vegetables daily to encourage late growth, especially peas, beans, cucumbers and courgettes. Sow seeds for winter vegetables like carrots, cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, beetroot, winter lettuce, brussels sprouts, spinach, leeks and silver beet.

Flower garden

Continue to pick flowers and deadhead old flower heads. Sow seeds of winter flowers like pansy, viola, primula, polyanthus, calendula, cineraria and poppies. Bulbs can be planted from February through till late autumn. Continuous plantings will give you a continuous floral display during spring. In warmer areas put your bulbs in the fridge for four to six weeks before planting.

Lawns

Keep your mower up a level over summer so your lawns don't dry out too quickly and water in the early morning or late evenings.

Attracting bees to your garden

With bee numbers declining around New Zealand, gardeners are being encouraged to think about bringing bees back to their gardens. Honey bees and bumble bees are the most prominent bees in our gardens. Bees feed on the nectar produced by the flowers. While they are extracting the nectar from the flowers, pollen sticks to their legs and bodies and rubs off on other flowers as the bees move



This process is vital to ensure fruit, crops and seeds are produced. Lack of bees is a common reason for crop failure. To encourage bees to your garden to aid pollination of your crops plant bee friendly plants amongst your vegetables. Bees like flowers with open petals and upright stamens for easy access like cosmos and coneflower. Include flowers of different shapes. Bees have good colour vision to help them find the flowers, nectar and pollen. Flower colours that attract bees are blue, purple, violet, white and yellow.

If you have the space, plant in clumps a metre in diameter. Limit or eliminate the use of pesticides. Make sure your garden blooms from very early spring until late autumn to produce food for as long as possible.

By having several plant species flowering at once and a sequence of plants flowering through spring, summer and autumn you will support a range of bee species that fly at different times of the season. If you have open spaces or roadsides, plant wild flower mixes.

Native plants are four times more likely to attract native bees. Natives to plant in your garden to attract bees are New Zealand jasmine, pohutukawa, rewarewa, New Zealand flax, lemonwood, hoheria and manuka.

West Coast Federation have done their bit for “Clean up New Zealand” with several members picking up rubbish along the Kowhai Bush walk. This is a popular 15-minute walk in Greymouth and has a lot of native trees, especially kowhai, and bird life.



The history behind Peggy Squares

By Jude Vaughan

While reading "The Loving Stitch – A history of knitting and spinning in New Zealand" (Heather Nicholson), in the chapter titled "Between the Wars" Nicholson wrote about a girl who had learnt to knit at a very early age.

Four-year-old Peggy Huse lived with her parents and older sister at 'Haywards' in the Hutt Valley. Mrs T W Lewis (Muriel), the Wool Woman of DIC and radio 2YA station often visited the Huse family and saw Peggy knitting these small squares that were eventually sewn into a cover for her

doll's cradle. Mrs Huse had given her daughter the surplus woollen skeins from her knitting bag to practice her craft and to occupy her time productively.

The worldwide economic climate was depressed and Muriel Lewis was aware that children needed warm blankets, throughout New Zealand. During the 1930s, Radio 2YA transmitted a children's hour during the late afternoon hosted by Aunt Molly who suggested that children 'listening in' could follow Peggy's example and knit squares from their own mother's knitting bags.

Mrs Lewis asked Peggy to work out how many stitches were needed to produce a 6-inch square and a sample square was duly knitted. By the second broadcast this germ of an idea took flight and before long knitted squares were being sent in to the studio by the young listeners. Teams of volunteers were seconded to sew these together to produce lined blankets.

DIC (Drapery and General Importing Company of NZ Ltd founded in Dunedin by Bendix Hallenstein in 1884) employed 'Wool Woman' Muriel Lewis. They realised that there was potential for wool sales and in August

COMMENCING MONDAY, AUGUST 15.

CHILDREN'S PEGGY SQUARE KNITTING COMPETITION

CASH PRIZES ●●● NO ENTRANCE FEE

For Young Folk Under 15

A wonderfully interesting, simple, and worthy competition for both Boys and Girls.
Knit a Peggy Square, six x six, with New Zealand wool, send it, or better still bring it, to the D.I.C. Knitting Wool Section, on the ground floor, where it will be judged by the D.I.C.'s expert knitters. Then all squares, whether prize-winning or not, will be sent to Big Brother Bill at the 'Star', who will arrange to have them sewn together to make quilts for the Mayor's Disputes.

FOUR WEEKLY COMPETITIONS

This competition will be held each week for four weeks. Peggy Squares for each week's competition must be brought in to the D.I.C. Wool Section before 12 noon each Saturday. Prize-winners' names will be announced on this page the following Saturday. All knitting wool must be bought from the D.I.C., and the ducket, which entitles you to enter, retained. The prizes awarded are as follow—

For Best Knitted Peggy Square		
First 10/-	Second 5/-	Fifth Prize of 1/- each.
Prizes For Greatest Number Of Peggy Squares		

The following prizes will be awarded to those sending in the greatest number of Peggy Squares during the month the competition is being held—

First 10/-	Second 5/-	Third 2/6
Prize	Prize	Prize

**Knit As Many Peggy Squares
As You Can**

There is no restriction on the number of Peggy Squares to be knitted. The more you knit the more warm quilts will be given to the Mayor's Disputes. Any shreds of wool may be sent, but it must be New Zealand wool, and bought from the D.I.C.

Entry Forms are obtainable from the D.I.C. Wool Section, ground floor. If you live away from the city write for one. It will be sent by return mail. Don't forget to attach your purchase ducket and entry form to your Peggy Squares when sending them.

OBTAIN ENTRY FORMS FROM THE WOOL DEPT.

D. I. C.

DUNEDIN



*Photo ref: Evening Star 20 August 1931
page 5. DIC Children's Peggy Square Knitting
competition. (Allied Press Ltd)
[https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/
ESD19320820.2.27.3](https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/ESD19320820.2.27.3)*

1932 ran an event for Children's Peggy Square Knitting competition over four weeks with cash prizes for the best knitted square and the greatest number of peggy squares submitted.

Before long the whole of New Zealand was caught up in the "Peggy Square" fever. Petone Woollen Mills launched a special knitting wool line called "Peggy". Newspapers produced special children's issues reporting the donations that had been sent into the office. The Waikato Times had "Peter Pan's Letter"; Manawatu Daily Times – "Happy Cogs"; "Lady Gay's Scrapbook" – The Press Ship; while the Southland Times had "Cousin Betty". As we all know papers sell when names are published and children waited in excitement to see if they were in the news.

In 1931, the Manawatu Times ran an article encouraging the WI to help in the Wool Campaign. The Home & Country reported at the same time, with the call to utilise spinning wheels to create knitting wools. Thick self coloured blankets made cosy quilts and if wool was too expensive then knitting from unspun wool was not that difficult to achieve (expectations were high it seems).

Before the start of World War I, Bessie Jerome Spencer and Amy Hutchinson had been experimenting with natural dyes, spinning and weaving as a craft that would be useful for women to work together. By 1935 these skills were being passed on to WI members. It was a chance for housebound women to pass the time constructively and with the threat of war on the horizon, their patriotic knitting would

become an industry vital for the troops overseas.

Belmont WI reported in June 1933 that Mrs Huse (Peggy's mother) had demonstrated raffia and pine-needle baskets and a tray to the members. A decision was taken to make "Peggy Squares" for the July meeting hoping that a cover would be sewn up during the meeting. Again expectations were very high in their confidence to complete the cover during the meeting – anyone who has sewn up a peggy square blanket will tell you, it IS time consuming.

Peggy squares are still being knitted today. Peggy's daughter Adair has resurrected the initiative to produce blankets for various charities.

"Peggy Purl Manawatu" has held a Knit-a-thon for the last two years, encouraging knitters nationwide to gather into teams of four, to produce as many squares as they can from 1 February to April 30. More than 2200 blankets (46,000 squares) have been produced and donated.

Peggy Huse Cook had a long and distinguished career as a proficient knitter and retired to Te Puke to teach knitting to Brownies and school children. She died in 1994.

WI Activities

WI Awareness Month -Looking after those who are looking after us

Every year, a month is set aside as Awareness Month for Women's Institute, to help make the public more aware that we are still out there, still doing things for the community, through knitting, sewing, baking, providing breakfasts in schools and other worthwhile activities.

The Northern and Hawkes Bay Federation decided that instead of having a stall in a shopping precinct or decorating a shop window as we have done in the past, we would make people aware of Women's Institute by honouring our frontline workers by doing what we do best, bake.

The word went out and we asked if our members could please bake something we could give to these wonderful people who are looking after us 24/7, to say thanks for what you are doing.



Tui Franklin and Marilyn Thorp handing baking over to the Napier Fire Brigade.



Molly Wylie and Pam Taylor delivered their assignment of baking to the nurses at Hastings Hospital A&E department.

All the baking was dropped off on a Friday and on Saturday we delivered the goodies to the fire brigade, police, St John and the hospital A & E department for the doctors and nurses. We were ecstatic with the response we got from our members, most of who are over 80 years young. We had 84 lots of biscuits, cakes and loaves, which were packed into eight boxes, along with a note saying where it had come from and why we were doing it.

The boxes were divided between the four of us who were doing the deliveries, with Marilyn Thorp (Tamatea WI and Federation President) and Tui Franklin (Taradale WI and Federation Committee) going to Napier's front-line workers and Molly Wylie and Pam Taylor doing the Hastings run.

We had a little hiccup with St John as their depot is not manned all the time, and they collected their boxes. Finding our way into the fire brigade station, police station and A & E are not places we normally go, but we got a very welcoming reception. And when we asked for a photo shoot, they were more than happy to oblige.

The recipients of the boxes were very surprised on receiving the baking, not quite believing someone thought so much of them and the work they do to keep our communities safe.

Thanks to all the WI members for jumping on board with our project and thanks to all our front-line workers, you are all amazing.

A treat for those in need

These colourful contributions were knitted with love for Age Concern by Chris Finlayson, Purua WI, Whangarei Federation, all with yarn from the \$2 shop.



WI Limericks

Limerick 1

There once was a woman called Vi
Who said, as the years passed
her by,
“I’ve heaps of spare time
To waste it’s a crime”
and so, she joined WI.

Limerick 2

The women of WI
For home and country, they cry
Each month they all meet
Come snow, rain or sleet
The women of WI

*Written by Norma McCallum,
Waimea WI, Southern
Wellington Federation*

Member Profile: Mary Young

Taradale WI, Northern and Hawkes Bay Federation

In the 1980s, Mary Young joined the Kirwee Women's Institute in Canterbury but then got involved in bowls which became her focus.

Following her husband's passing, Mary moved to Napier. Being in town a fortnight, a chance encounter with Inez Rudd sparked her interest in joining the WI. She became a member of the Taradale WI in 2007 where she recalls her initial event was a well-organised, heaps of fun, birthday lunch. She got stuck in. She has been Taradale WI president for two terms.

In recent years, Mary has headed the Taradale WI Garden Group which has visited the finest public and private gardens in Hawke's Bay. On wintery days, Mary oversees the garden group coffee mornings at MITRE 10 where members share cuttings and friendship.

In the role of almoner, Mary has kept in touch with members by phone, also making visits to care homes and the hospital. Mary has been our links coordinator with Martley WI in England and Killinchy WI in Northern Ireland. In Covid times our connection has grown by email. Closest to her heart, Mary has attended every Anzac Service since joining, bearing the Taradale WI wreath.

Welcoming is an important part of her nature and Mary has been a member of the Northern and Hawkes Bay Executive Committee acting as hostess for AGM meetings, half-yearlies, and friendlies. She has been



the Federation's representative to the local National Council of Women. She has attended National Conferences in Taupo and in Wellington 2022.

The most memorable WI event for Mary was the WI Centenary Celebrations. She attended all events, with the Sunday Church Service and unveiling of the Bessie Spencer Statute being special moments for her, followed by an escort by the New Zealand Navy.

Working through the WI, Mary has been a volunteer in Pink Ribbon campaigns and Daffodil Day campaigns, and she has liaised with the Napier Food Bank.

There is the mountain of Teddies that she has knitted for various charitable causes particularly the Hastings Hospital and Growing Through Grief, the Red Cross, and the Family Centre. Her glorious, crocheted rugs are

destined for care homes.

In her daily life, there is not a dull moment. She has undertaken voluntary work with the All-Saints Anglican Church, Mahana (Alzheimer), the Food Bank and as the Housie leader at Atawhai Care Home for 15 years. Not to forget the importance of dog walking and care of a wounded cat. Her lemon curd is the finest, made straight from the heart.

She is a people person and brings out the best in everyone. Her life has been much like the quilt made for her Christchurch daughter, attention to detail, composed of many fabrics, people, and causes, and beautiful. A remarkable woman is Taradale's Mary Young.

WI Activities

Edgecumbe WI lends a helping hand in the community

At a recent Edgecumbe WI, Eastern Bay of Plenty Federation, monthly meeting there was a large gathering of wonderful teddy bears and knitting collected for the local ambulance or the fire brigade which is a regular practise for us.

Thanks to a generous donation of \$150 from one of our members, Sue Rowe managed to purchase 72 pairs of much needed underwear for the gift set packs of clothing for the Edgecumbe Clothing Project which are handed out to local needy families through support agencies.

Top right: Edgecumbe WI President, Betty Richards, with the recently crafted teddy bears and knitwear for the local ambulance or fire brigade.

Bottom right: Seventy-two pairs of underwear purchased for a local charity we have adopted, called The Clothing Project. From left, Betty Richards, Edgecumbe WI President, Diane Harvey, Eastern Bay of Plenty Federation President, Sue Rowe, Edgecumbe Treasurer / co-ordinator of the Knit & Natter Group (where many of the teddy bears are created) / Clothing Project volunteer.



WI Activities

Donations for Women's Refuge

At their October meeting, Pegasus Woodend WI, North Canterbury Federation, donated a collection of towels and beanies to Women's Refuge. The photo shows some of items donated. Pictured at back are Jessie Hopkinson and Lorraine Duncan. In the front, the Women's Refuge representative and Pegasus Woodend President Mavis Elms.



Samoa celebrated in the south

As Samoa was International Month in November, members of the Waiholo-Clarendon WI, Mid Otago Federation, enjoyed hearing about the history, customs, artifacts and food of this Pacific Island country.

Our guest speakers were Reverend Malu and Reverend Luisa Fruean who entertained and informed us all. They had prepared and brought to the meeting some samples of Samoan foods, and joined in our shared lunch. All our members sampled and enjoyed traditional Samoan food.



Left: Reverend Malu Fruean shows members how to split open a coconut

Right: Reverend Luisa and Reverend Malu Fruean with their display of Samoan crafts.

WI Activities



Nelson Centre members on the hunt for litter at Tahunanui Beach as part of clean-up week, on a beautiful Golden Bay day.



11 members of Waimea WI, Southern Wellington, visited Woodville for a very well attended discussion day.



Not a cloud or any snow in sight for the majestic Mt Ngaruahoe on a beautiful summer's day.

Obituary

Mary Valerie (Val) Eliason CBE 24 January 1933 – 10 October 2022

When young women marry in a rural area, they often state to their mother, or mother-in-law, that they are lonely, or don't know anyone. This rang true for Val who arrived in the Kaponga District in 1954, after marrying Colin Eliason. She had lived in the Pihama / Opunake District all her young life and the move to Kaponga, halfway around the mountain, was exciting, but daunting. Val told her Mum that she was lonely. Her Mum said, "You have got to go out and join something in the district. You may have to go more than halfway, but you will make friends."

This was the beginning of Val's involvement in Country Women's Institute and remained for the rest of her life. She joined Kaponga CWI in 1955.

It didn't take long for Val to become heavily involved in the Kaponga District, especially after her children were born and due to an infection in the Kaponga Maternity Hospital in 1963, its doors were to close. Not on Val's watch. A public meeting was called and of the near 200 present, Val was the only woman to stand and speak on behalf of all young mothers. The Minister of Health came up from Wellington to meet the group of five representatives, including Val, to discuss the issue at hand. Let's just say, that was her first battle won!

As her children grew and life 'on the farm' became less of a tie, Val became more involved with the health sector



and was instrumental in women having cervical smears in South Taranaki after she had visited England with Colin and saw what progress was being made overseas. That was her first year as South Taranaki Federation President in 1984 after serving all roles at her local WI and having been awarded her Good Service Badge in 1970.

Progression to the National Executive was a given and she was nominated onto the Executive in 1986 for a four-year term. Health camps and life-sized teddy bears were made and it was no surprise when she was elected as national President in 1990. She still made time to undertake various roles on the National Executive as well as the President's role and for her outstanding contribution to CWI

was awarded the NZ Commendation Medal, also, in 1990.

She traveled the length of the country as national President and was happy to lend her leather craft skills whenever asked. A good number of leather name badges are worn by WI members throughout New Zealand. Along with those beautiful leather suits she hand-sewed, after tanning the leather. She even made and donated to Kaponga, for their 50th Jubilee, a set of hand tooled leather place mats and a leather wallet for their raffle.

Val received her CBE in 1993 and following her term as national President received her Gold Honours

Award in 1996. Having shifted off the farm with Colin and 'retired' to New Plymouth, she joined Lower Mangorei WI, North Taranaki Federation, in 2009 and served on their committee for four years. She remained a member of both institutes and was presented her 60-year membership badge in 2015.

Val had intermittent health issues over the years, but carried on and 'got on with it' as best she could. We are all aware how delighted she was to be 'well' enough to attend Kaponga WI's 90th birthday celebration in early October, just one week before her passing. Her work is complete.

Obituary

Joyce Klempel

Joyce Klempel passed away at the Granger House Rest Home, Greymouth, on December 6, 2022.

Joyce first joined CWI in Panmure in 1949 before moving to the West Coast in 1952 and becoming an integral member of the Moana CWI. Her involvement there covered 58 years and she was one of the stalwarts of not only CWI, but of her small community. Organising concerts and parties for locals of all ages, Joyce pushed to enhance improvements across many community facilities. She was renowned in her community for her involvement in so many organisations which included the fire brigade, girl guides and CWI.

To add another feather in her cap, Joyce was co-opted into the unpaid



job of District Nurse which provided much-needed medical help to her community for many years until this position was established for her with the provision of a rural nurse clinic. At times this involved being transported on the railway jigger to accidents that happen in communities whose workforce was employed in industries such as milling and farming.

Joyce also began the girl guide movement in the area, for the young girls – many wondering where she found the time in between being a wife and mother of two.

In 1975 Joyce was awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM) for her voluntary work, and in 2015 was recognised for her work in girl guides with the Queen's Scouts Award.

Accolades also came within her CWI involvement and Joyce was awarded her Good Service Badge by the West Coast Federation in 1960, and in 1998 she was awarded Long Service, in recognition of all she had done for her community and her WI.

In 2002, Joyce joined the committee of the West Coast Federation of Women's Institute. One year later in 2003 she was elected to Federation President, serving a four-year term. And again in 2010, she completed a four-year term as Vice President.

She led many delegations to national conferences throughout New Zealand and will be remembered by many as a tour leader, who looked after everyone, and for her fun-loving and efficient, pro-active personality.

Moana WI closed in 2007 and Joyce transferred to the Kaiata WI, once again picking up the reins in all aspects and was their President from 2011- 2014.

Joyce was awarded the highest honour given in WI - her Gold Honours Badge at the 2007 National Conference in Gisborne. Her philosophy was always that she was just giving back what she had got from being a member of WIand she surely did this ten-fold. Seventy-plus years a member in any organisation is quite an achievement.

Obituary

Ngaire Lenice Hampton 22 December 1936 – 13 December 2022

Ngaire Hampton joined Te Poi WI in 1968, going on to serve time as President, Secretary, and on the Te Poi WI committee.

She also spent 10 years on the Waikato East Federation, four years as Federation President while also being involved on the Piako Co-ordinating committee and the Te Poi

WI entertainment group.

Ngaire was awarded her Good Service Badge in 1986 and her Gold Honours in 2001.

When Te Poi went into recess two years ago, Ngaire became a member of Matamata WI.

Ngaire's hobbies were music (playing piano), knitting, gardening, crafts,

philately and reading. She collected the stamps from Waikato East Federation meetings, sorted them and sent them away to the Assistance Dogs charity every year.

From the age of 11, Ngaire had a pen pal in the UK who she corresponded with all her life.

Ngaire taught Sunday School for five years and was a Brown Owl for the Te Poi pack for seven years.

She organised ladies day tennis and badminton and was instrumental in holding a public meeting to have tennis courts laid in Te Poi.

Ngaire was secretary of the Te Poi Playcentre and responsible for getting finance for the existing playcentre to be built.

Over the years Ngaire's health deteriorated which prevented her from attending meetings, but she enjoyed visits to her home of WI members and



talking of her experiences as a WI member.

Rest in peace Ngaire.

Lockdown – staying focused

Colleen Yeoman, Taupo WI

Lockdown 2020, what a shock to all in New Zealand.

This catastrophe generated a new way of life with many obstacles put in place:

No close contact with family and friends on a face-to-face basis.

I was extremely fortunate to have my daughter living close by, also wonderful neighbours. A young man of about 20, who I had only met once, would knock on my window and chat away for a few minutes every other day. I didn't even know his name,

I learnt it was Sam. His father would send over books for me to read.

My home borders onto a public pathway, so I would chat to elderly residents from the nearby Bupa Rest Home as they toddled along with their walkers. I even took up walking myself, something I never do. Did I benefit? I guess I did, but as soon as lockdown was over, I gave up the daily walks and am no worse off!

My daughter in Whitby, near Wellington, knows I enjoy a whiskey

and milk as I sit down to watch the evening news. She went 'on line' to a bottle store here in Taupo. Very soon the van pulled up at my front door, large red letters splashed along each side "Liquor Land". My neighbours were very interested – "Chinese whispers", that one bottle soon escalated into a crate of whiskey!

At the time of lockdown, I was troubled with a very painful shoulder. Why, oh why didn't I throw away my bras, but no, I struggled each morning. I made a vow, if there is ever another lockdown, the bras would have to go.

Dare I say, I enjoyed my isolation, thanks to my friend, Judy Cathcart who has been so generous with her card making lessons, a hobby which kept me fully occupied. I didn't have to tidy up my large dining room table. Card making takes up a lot of space. I produced beautiful cards.

Eventually life began to return to normal. At the end of January 2021, I was at my daughters 60th birthday party in Hastings, a wonderful venue. I got carried away and booked the same venue for my 90th birthday in August. For months I planned and this venue would accommodate all 38 members of my family for the two-day event on August 25, 2021.

On August 17, my wonderful Taupo Women's Institute put on a beautiful high tea for me – I supplied the birthday cake.

When I arrived home – Bad News! Lockdown again. I couldn't believe it as I had so many "glitz & glamour" events planned.

Off came the bras, there was no way that I was going to struggle again, my shoulder was still a problem.

Fortunately, I had a good stock of all that was necessary this time, including the whiskey.

Birthday plans were put on hold and I still hoped it would happen, which it did.

On October 2, I had friends to a special afternoon tea, then on October 9, 17 of us sat down to a 'glitz & glamour" dinner in my home. My daughters Jenny and Angela were hostesses. What a wonderful evening, ladies in long skirts and glitzy tops, men in dinner jackets and my retired policeman neighbour in his police issue dress suit, how handsome he looked. Those who didn't have dinner suits came in casual clothes, sporting sequin bow ties from the two-dollar shop. My gorgeous sequin top came from a pre-loved clothing shop in Waipawa.

On November 27, my family, farming friends and children who I used to take to primary school 50 years ago, when living on our farm in Central Hawke's Bay, were all there at the Te Mata Views venue. The planning for this event is what kept me focused during our second time of lockdown.

We WI members are very resilient and resourceful. The telephone can be a life line.

I wonder now what lies ahead. I shall continue to smile, to whistle, to sing and look forward to what I hope is a secure future for us all.

We Shall Remember Them



Gold Honours

*Val Eliason, CBE, Kaponga and Lower Mangorei WIs,
South and North Taranaki Federations*

Ngaire Hampton, Matamata WI, Waikato East Federation

Joyce Klempel, BEM, Kaiata WI, West Coast Federation

Barbara Hunt, Durham WI, North Taranaki Federation

Noeline Bain, ex-Martinborough WI, Wairarapa Federation

Lyla Dunn, GSB, ex-Blaketown WI, West Coast Federation

Helen Elliot, GSB, Janefield WI, Mid Otago Federation

Helen (Gay) May, GSB, Tikorangi WI, North Taranaki Federation

Jean Honey, GSB, ex-Paroa WI, West Coast Federation

Marie Kalff, Woodlands WI, Eastern Bay of Plenty Federation

Joy Larkins, GSB, Green Island WI, Mid Otago Federation

Melva Lawson, GSB, Hope Ranzau WI, Nelson Federation

Maureen Love, Port Chalmers WI, Eastern Otago Federation

Kathryn McGregor, GSB, ex-North Beach WI, Canterbury District Federation

Ann Pedersen, Whakarongo WI, Manawatu Federation

Margaret Petrie, GSB, South Hill WI, North Otago Federation

Lorna Rowe, GSB, Leamington WI, Waikato East Federation

Dawn Sanders, GSB, Pegasus-Woodend WI, North Canterbury Federation

Dianne Steel, GSB, Burnside WI, Canterbury District Federation

Noelene White, GSB, ex-Martinborough WI, Wairarapa Federation

GSB: Good Service Badge

Federation and Institute Highlights

South Taranaki Federation

Founder's Day will be celebrated in our furthestmost area of the Federation to save travel distances for those members. They always have to travel much further north. A garden party may be in the pipe line too. We are very humbled to have such good support from all 11 institutes.

Carlyle: We are celebrating Marge Pryor's 94th birthday in March. We are also planning an outing with our sister institute, Waverley, later in the year.

Kaponga: We celebrate our 92nd birthday in October. We plan to play mini putt at Inglewood which will become an annual event with a cup presentation to the winning team. Our monthly hosts are assigned to organise the meeting day, i.e. the venue, activities, including competitions and/or speakers/outings etc.

Maata: Plans are still in progress as our programme hasn't been set as yet.

Manaia: We are going to be having an outing with a neighbouring institute. We are also looking forward to getting to know our new members better and the new ideas they bring. We intend doing some craft workshops to learn new skills and are looking forward to 2023 with Manaia WI.

Mangatoki: We are visiting Manawatu in March to the House and Gardens. A first aid course will be held in April and we look forward to having various speakers over the winter months.

Pihama: We are having a pot luck lunch in June to welcome new families

to the district.

Rawhitiroa: We are looking forward to celebrating our 90th birthday in 2023. We will also continue with our Community Project "ANZAC resurgence" which involves getting the entrance to our War Memorial pool re-landscaped and mounting replica honours boards on a wall outside the gates that are now locked during the winter months.

Riverlea: Fun, Fitness & Friendship is the Theme for 2023 and revisiting our member's 'Secret Garden'.

Te Kiri: We are donating a seat to Trinity Rest Home & Hospital early in the year. We are also celebrating our 86th birthday in March.

Turuturu: We have been anticipating the celebration of our 90th birthday in February and remembering the wonderful women who had the courage to establish our institute all those years ago and those who have been the life blood until the present.

Waverley: With so few members, thoughts were to disband, but we will keep on keeping on and continue our support of the Whanganui Hospital and Plunket Nurse by knitting teddy bears, beanies, booties, bassinet sized blankets and woollen singlets. Acknowledgement from the Wanganui Maternity has given us a boost.

Central Hawkes Bay Federation

We have a bus trip planned for Founder's Day to Havelock North. The

discussion day with seven Federations present was very successful. We are hoping to get many members to our AGM and Social Day after they were cancelled last year because of covid, the social day is instead of half yearly meeting.

Otawhao-Takapau: We will have a meal out for our 99th birthday in May and are preparing for our centennial next year on May 9 2024 at Takapau. A competition will be a bird feeder made from plastic bottles. Two members are instigating a youth group.

Waipawa-Tikokino: We will continue to run a raffle and sales table at each meeting as this enables us to pay for hall hire, donate to medical research plus our chosen charities, as well as subsidise subscriptions. We will make wrist warmers, gloves, slippers, soft toys, blankets and baby garments to donate to schools, kindergartens, plunket, oncology and grief councillors. We also look forward to interesting speakers and /or demonstrations, enjoyable company and another successful garden party in spring.

Wakarara: Members are looking forward to more socialising together. After our morning meetings, we add in a luncheon when first meeting in February, for our June Birthday and at the December closing. These may be a shared pot-luck or at a local cafe. Members enjoy the April annual outing, going further afield by mini-bus and car, especially if it is a mystery trip. Members are also keen to add in an extra cafe luncheon locally to break the winter.

Manawatu Federation

Well, here we are in 2023. We're looking forward to gaining new members, which seems to have started off well with three WIs having ladies interested in joining us. Founders Day 2023 will be celebrated at Greenhaugh Gardens, which has a very beautiful, almost mansion like house. We will have a garden tour with a visit to the potting house and shop for those keen gardeners among us to do a bit off plant shopping. This will be followed by a luncheon in their big, new summer house named 'The Giraffe House'. Fingers crossed for some summer weather for our special day.

Glen Oroua: For a month our members had a display of mainly craft at the Rongotea Community Art Gallery which was reported in two newspapers in the Manawatu (great publicity). For our Christmas meeting we visited a lovely private garden near Sanson, and had morning tea, and then on to Feilding for a two-course meal and Christmas cake, and exchange of gifts. In May we will celebrate our 90th birthday with past members, friends and local WIs.

Milson: We ended 2022 with a Christmas singalong led by prominent Palmerston North singing teacher Amy Hunt and her 6-60s singers' group. Carols and Christmas song galore with all Milson ladies joining in. Our 2023 meeting starts our year off with a 'BBQ Fundraiser' with the profit being donated to the Manawatu Federation 2023 project.

Newbury: All being well we will have a lovely time of friendship together again this year.

Whakarongo: Our first meeting in February will be a picnic lunch at the Esplanade Gardens. After lunch we will walk around the gardens and visit the Wild Base Recovery Centre.

Eastern Otago Federation

We are looking forward to our AGM in March. The table competition theme is “Think Pink” and we will have other competitions as well as two great speakers. In September we will hold our Competition Day. This has usually been the Eisteddfod, but we felt it was time for a change and we will have 38 different categories, so lots of variety for members to choose from.

Port Chalmers: After much discussion we decided to discontinue our usual Christmas party which we have put on for Senior Citizens in our community, most of our members now being older than some of our guests. However, we decided to still bake shortbread and this was shrink-wrapped by two members at our local Four Square supermarket and the following day the trays were decorated

with bows and a suitable Christmas message and then distributed to those on our party list. Some 50 trays were given out and all receiving them were very appreciative. March is our birthday month and no doubt our new committee will come up with a plan.

Peninsula Bay: Our programme for 2023 will include competitions, often based on the Eastern Otago Federation Competition Day schedule, ideas for our monthly programme including the popular theme shared lunches during our daytime meetings in the winter months and continuing to support the “Hospital Emergency Bags” we donate to the Accident and Emergency Department at the Dunedin Hospital and other charities.

Sunshine: We are a small group of nine members and enjoy meeting each month, if only for a social evening. All members have a turn to bring a raffle or supper plate, making it easier.

This year, we will have a game night, how many things fit in a match box, pink month in October. Lunch out for our birthday in April. We are looking forward to Competition Day, where each institute will do a short skit of entertainment.

Nelson end year in celebratory mode

With about 30 members in attendance at the RSA in Motueka, Nelson Federation combined its Christmas celebration and closing for the year with a guest speaker to highlight International Month.



Left: Members enjoying Christmas lunch.

Members gathered for a lovely meal and social time. We had a speaker on Samoa as part of the day and added quizzes and fun games between courses.



Right: The display table of Samoan treasures bought back from the Pacific Island by the speaker.



Left: Yvonne Murdie receives her well-deserved Good Service Badge from former Southern Wellington President Raewyn Hill



Right: Sheryl Holmes, who is much admired for her prowess of managing the finances of Waimea WI and Southern Wellington Federation, is presented her Good Service Badge by Raewyn Hill.



*To encourage and support
all women within their communities*