

Message from the Chair ~

Greetings members, friends, donors, supporters. You are all believers, as are we, in the Abbeyfield Model of Social Housing for older people who wish to remain well and independent in this community.

A new year signifies for some new beginnings. New directions for us means hoping that what was begun 3 years ago might come to fruition this year, and the new beginning will be the identification of land where we will build. This is all important when fundraising and a number one priority for us, in tandem with sharing what Abbeyfield Housing brings to this community.

Our committee brings passion, personal skills and dedication, but no money, so as you will appreciate progress is slow. We have applied to the Waimakariri District Council for leasehold land and while supportive, this is necessarily a careful and slow process. To date we do not have options except for continued ground up fundraising. Catering and Market Days continue to be at the forefront and we all have total admiration of what the teams have achieved.

We have a Business Plan and ideas for fundraising are being sought - can you help? Any ideas would be gratefully received. The team enjoy taking part in Expos in the area, and respond enthusiastically to requests to present and speak to local groups.

As well as above, the committee plan to set up an online connection. Two things are missing -

- 1) The ability to create and maintain a Facebook and Market page to raise awareness. (None of us have the knowhow!).
- 2) Items to sell.

In mid-March our Committee is hosting an informal get-together for members which will provide the opportunity for us to meet them and bring them up to date on our AWI activities. AWI would welcome new members and interested supporters are encouraged to contact our Secretary Rosemarie who would be only too happy to provide you with more information and an Application for Membership form.

Thank you for your support and encouragement.

Warm best wishes

Valda

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Obituary ~

JOANNE GUMBRELL (nee Redway). 07/12/1940 – 17/09/ 2023:



Joanne was an active, staunch and dedicated member of Abbeyfield Waimakariri since its inception and eager to contribute to progress our aim to establish an Abbeyfield House in the Waimakariri District. She had a clear understanding of the issues faced by older people, including loneliness, housing and access to services. When Joanne and husband Bob were living in the UK in the early 1990s Joanne held management roles in the social services sector for older persons. She maintained this interest on their return to New Zealand to ensure that our senior citizens “*had a voice*”. She was prominent in a number of organisations and received recognition from Soroptimists International North Canterbury and the Waimakariri Age Friendly Community.

Joanne was a strong advocate and valuable member of Abbeyfield Waimakariri Inc. She is missed.

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Happenings ~

Last October AWI had a presence at the Waimakariri Older Persons’ Expo held at the Rangiora RSA. Our table was full of Abbeyfield promotional material, brochures, photos and items for sale, including our very special Abbeyfield aprons. We had one huge drawcard which was the scale model of the Hornby Abbeyfield House built by Committee member Quentin de Hamel. The model was not entirely completed at that time however, it created a lot of interest and continues to do so. The Expo was well attended and committee members were able to interact with visitors who showed interest in what we are doing. Below is a photo of Deputy Chair Debra with Waimakariri District Councillor Philip Redmond standing behind Quentin’s model.



Happenings ~ continued:

Abbeyfield Waimakariri continues to have a stall at the monthly Church Street Market held in Rangiora on the first Saturday of each month, except January. Donna and Valda are the force behind the success of the market together with considerable input and assistance from Mary, Quentin, Richard and Roni. AWI has also had stalls at other local markets which has helped raise our profile in the community and awareness of the need for an Abbeyfield House in this district. We were delighted to be a part of the annual market day held at the Rangiora Charles Upham Village in early December, and in November we once again had a stand at the John Knox Mini Market. The Christmas Church Street Market was very successful with a plentiful supply of produce and, of course, balloons gifted to each child. Valda's grandson has become known as the "Balloon Boy" as he delights in ensuring no child misses out! The balloons, printed with our name, were donated by a very generous AWI member

Here are some pics from our market days:



Christmas 2023 Church Street Market – Valda, Donna, Roni



Gift Baskets Raffle



Donna and Roni

Further fundraising efforts was a raffle with three fabulous Gift Baskets as prizes. Each basket contained goodies donated by Committee members and the variety of items in each basket was fantastic – something for everyone! Ally assembled and wrapped each basket in cellophane tied with ribbons in Abbeyfield colours. The success of the raffle has helped boost our finances and sincere thanks are extended to all who contributed.

Home Visits ~

In late October, seven AWI Committee members drove from Rangiora to Leeston to meet with Pat McEvedy and Jackie Cochrane at Abbeyfield Ellesmere. Jackie is a founding member of the Abbeyfield Ellesmere House committee and has worked tirelessly to establish Abbeyfield Ellesmere. Pat is the current Chair of their Committee and he and Jackie continue to give generously of their time and skills.

Our Committee members expressed appreciation of the opportunity to visit and thanked Pat and Jackie for their time in responding to numerous questions about the challenges they faced in establishing an Abbeyfield House in the Selwyn District. This house is modern, well designed and with charming décor. The gardens are well tended and the residents look out onto a recreational reserve and sports ground.

The previous year a number of AWI Committee and members visited Abbeyfield Hornby to meet with residents. The visit provided the opportunity for those of us who had not previously visited an Abbeyfield House to better understand the concept of this form of housing. Chatting with a number of residents was also appreciated and enjoyable – they delighted in showing us their apartments.

A visit is yet to be made to Rhodes Wigram and it is hoped to be achieved later this year.

Abbeyfield National Conference - Christchurch ~

Sadly only a few of our AWI Committee and members were available to attend the Annual Conference held in Christchurch in November however, those who were able to attend reported on a very interesting, informative and successful Conference. Considerable work and planning is involved in holding the annual conference and we commend Susan Jenkins and her team in Nelson on a job well done.

Coming Events 2024: Note your diaries ~

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| Afternoon Tea for AWI members | Friday, 15 March – McAlpines Pavilion |
| AWI Annual General Meeting | July (Date and venue to be confirmed) |
| AWI Quiz Night | Tuesday 29 Oct – Charles Upham Village |
| Church Street Market Day | 1 st Saturday of each month |

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Please Note

Should you not wish to receive newsletters from AWI please advise the Secretary who will remove your details from our mailing list.