

Abbeyfield Waimakariri Inc.

Newsletter June 2025

Issue 004

Message from the Chair ~

A very belated welcome to 2025 to our loyal AWI members, volunteers, supporters and friends! Despite being some time since our last AWI newsletter you have not been forgotten as our AWI Committee has been working extremely hard with the hope of being able to convey some exciting news on the progress of our aim to achieve an Abbeyfield House in Waimakariri. Regrettably, I am still unable to confirm that AWI does have land for the house but, I can report that progress is being made and that AWI and Abbeyfield NZ Inc. are in negotiations. So, watch this space!

Currently we are working on a new Constitution as required by the Incorporated Societies of New Zealand. We plan to confirm the new document at our forthcoming AGM in late July.

Ally and her team of volunteers continues with catering engagements and are encouraged by receiving more enquiries and orders from local groups and businesses. The market team fronts up every month (fantastic!) and enjoy being indoors during the colder weather. Fundraising projects are top of our priority list as fundraising will help us get over the line to achieve our aim of an Abbeyfield House in Rangiora. Once we have land approved we will be in a better position to seek funds / grants from philanthropic organisations. Until then we continue to offer our preserves which are sold at the Church Street market and can be ordered via our email address: abbeyfieldwaimakariri@gmail.com

We look forward to having you join us at our 4th AGM on Thursday, 24 July 2025 and to enjoy a catch up chat over supper.

*Warmest best wishes
Valda*

Valda's Story ~

Our newsletter Editor has encouraged me to tell you a little about myself and I feel privileged to have been asked to tell you about my journey through life and how I became so committed to the Abbeyfield concept.

Born and raised in Ashburton, a surprise to my parents who thought a gap of 13 years meant their family of two was complete. But no! Childhood and schooldays in Ashburton until marrying my husband in 1970. and a move to Timaru. Timaru and two children was our happy home for 9 years, then the big adventure - we went to live on the Chatham Islands for 2 years! How naive I was and how lucky were we. What an amazing place - only generated power for most houses. New experiences, cooking on a coal range, making bread, ordering in bulk which came by boat, initial loneliness, then becoming part of the community, wonderful! Dunedin was next and then Invercargill which was a real opportunity for development, learning and volunteering. Rangiora was our last stop. For 25 years I have been Trustee-Secretary for the North Canterbury Mini Bus Trust and for 29 years I was with Presbyterian Support in several roles, largely with older people, Community



Coordinator, Social Worker, Community Development Facilitator (Selwyn), Regional Manager, Elder Care Coordinator and Abbeyfield Volunteer. And this, 8 years into retirement is where you will find me today. Proudly 15 years as an Abbeyfield Volunteer and until recently, house manager at Abbeyfield Hornby. Chair of Abbeyfield Waimakariri Inc. since its inception and working with a group dedicated towards achieving its aim – all of which is adding to those volunteer years.

In the past 3 years the AWI Committee has worked tirelessly to raise funds and raise awareness in the community of who we are and what an Abbeyfield House represents – it will not be completed overnight but it will be completed through the commitment of loyal and generous support from people who care about meeting the supported accommodation needs of the elderly in our community.

Happenings & Upcoming Events~

Church Street Market, Rangiora – Market Team Leader Donna, and willing assistants Valda, Stephanie, Richard and Linda give up their Saturday morning once a month to prepare the AWI stand and chat with market visitors who stop by to peruse and purchase our homemade preserves, jams and jellies. We now have a very cute and attractive “wee house” on which to display the goodies. Our creative member, Quentin (he who made the sandwich board!) has surprised us with another of his innovative creations (see photo below).

Strategic Planning Workshop – Recently the entire AWI Committee met one evening to hold a facilitated workshop on “Where to from here?” Sandra James (*Connecting People*) was the facilitator and made us work hard, think outside the square, and kept us on track to a tightly timed programme. The workshop has helped us to prioritise what is required to maintain the momentum and commitment which is required for our project to succeed.

Fundraising Workshop – A group of members led by Treasurer Mary is scheduled for later this month to identify and plan specific events to help raise funds.

Catering Team – Ally and her team of volunteers continue their monthly catering for local groups and organisations and welcome enquiries for any catering needs – their club sandwiches are a particular favourite with some local workers!

4th Annual General Meeting – The AGM will be held on **Thursday 24 July 2025** in the Wyllie Room, John Knox Community Centre, corner of High and King Streets, Rangiora at 7 p.m. Notice of Meeting will be distributed shortly. Please remember, in order to vote at the AGM you must be a current financial member of AWI.

Quiz Evening – Following the successful fundraising event held last year another is planned for Tuesday, 14 October 2025.

Membership: If you are not yet a member and would like to be part of Abbeyfield Waimakariri Inc. (AWI) please contact our Secretary Rosemarie who would be happy to provide you with an Application for Membership form. The annual membership subscription remains at Ten Dollars (\$10.00).

News from other Abbeyfield Societies~

Abbeyfield Western Bay of Plenty Inc. – Fantastic to report that the house being built in Katikati for Abbeyfield WBoP Inc is now under construction with the roofing on and wooden cladding and brickwork in progress. This single level house, to accommodate 14 residents, each with their own studio and ensuite bathroom, has been made possible due to impressive fundraising activities by a committed committee together with a \$2M+ grant from the then *Affordable Housing Fund*. AWI wish Carole and her team at Abbeyfield WBoP Inc. every success in completing their house and securing residents.

Te Rau Aroha - Abbeyfield Manukau - Completed in late 2024, celebrating its opening in February 2025 and accepting its first residents in mid-March 2025 this two -storied house with studios and ensuite bathrooms for 12 residents named, Te Rau Aroha, reflects the tikanga of love, hospitality and support for the people who live there.

New Abbeyfield House in Maitahi Village Development, Nelson – A grant from the Nelson City Council will enable plans to proceed for an Abbeyfield House in the Maitahi Village.

Wānaka – A steering group has been formed by a group of locals in Wānaka with the aim of establishing a 14 room house – AWI wish this new group every encouragement to succeed.

From our photo gallery ~



**Valda, Richard, Ruth Seabright (Executive Officer, Abbeyfield NZ Inc.)
Relaxing at the Abbeyfield NZ Inc. Conference November 2024**



Display shelving / wee house



Donna and Steph at our market stand

Chair: Valda Reveley
Deputy Chair: Debra Wilson
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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.