

Message from the Chair ~

After a delay, due to family and health commitments, another AWI newsletter is on its way to our loyal members, volunteers, friends and interested supporters to bring you up to date with news of our latest activities and achievements.



Our 4th Annual General Meeting was held in late July and we are extremely appreciative and grateful of the large attendance. It was an honour to have in attendance Simon Hayes (Board Chair, Abbeyfield NZ Inc.), Tom Clisby (Board Member, Abbeyfield Properties Ltd.), WDC Deputy Mayor Neville Atkinson and some of his fellow WDC Councillors, and Guest Speaker Jackie Watson, KSM together with the AWI committee, AWI members and friends.

Jackie Watson, KSM

Jackie received generous applause for her vibrant and interesting talk about her life's journey, resulting in being awarded the KSM in the 2025 King's Birthday Honours. Due to conflicting engagements Mayor Dan Gordon was unable to attend. Neville however, did a great job standing in for Dan to take the chair for the Election of Officers - a role which he had carried out at our Inaugural AGM in July 2022. Once again Neville chaired this section of the AGM with the competency and good humour he is noted for. Thank you Neville. We are disappointed that by choosing to not seek re-election at the recent Local Body Elections you will no longer be available to handle the task in your role as WDC Deputy Mayor. At this point, and on behalf of the AWI Committee, we convey to Dan sincere congratulations on his re-election as the WDC Mayor – a well deserved victory. Congratulations also to the re-elected and the newly elected WDC Councillors.

Deputy Mayor Neville Atkinson



The AGM was memorable in that Richard Tolan was elected as Deputy Chair following the resignation of Debra Wilson. Debra did an outstanding job during her tenure as Deputy Chair as she prepared a Business Plan which AWI is adhering to – this is a working document and will be updated and amended when relevant. Debra also began compiling a register of volunteers which will be invaluable for AWI as we continue our work to establish a 14-studio house in Rangiora. She remains a loyal and interested member of AWI and we wish her every success in her new challenges.

We welcome Richard as our new Deputy Chair – Richard has been a member of the AWI committee since July 2023 and leads our Land and Building subcommittee. He liaises with the Project Manager and is the AWI spokesperson for the project. A role in which he has experience from his years with FENZ and the re-building of local fire stations following the Canterbury earthquakes.

Also at the AGM, members voted to adopt the new and revised AWI Constitution, dated 12 July 2025, to become effective once registered with the NZ Incorporated Societies. Registration has been completed and AWI is bound by this document.

By now you will all be aware of the news we had hoped to announce at the AGM, that the land at 245 Kingsbury Avenue, Rangiora will be ours. Unfortunately we were unable to do so due to timing issues however, it was so exciting to receive this news a short time after our AGM. The front page coverage given by The Press on Wednesday, 06 August 2025 was simply gold for us. The heading, "*Flatting for Seniors*" said it all! Negotiations continue towards ensuring a positive outcome for all parties.

Further changes have occurred on the AWI Committee as with great sadness we have accepted the resignation of Donna Abernethy due to health reasons. Donna has been a stalwart of our group since its inception as a Steering Group and then formally recognised as an incorporated society. She led the Market Team for the Church Street Market and ensured that I and other helpers were available. It was Donna's idea to source and sell pine cones at the market and she arranged the collection and bagging of the cones. A fine effort, and one which has been much valued. Donna remains a committed supporter of AWI and we wish her well in her health journey.

Following the AGM we have been fortunate to co-opt to the AWI Committee Su Anderson who comes aboard with many skills and experience in promotional and publicity work for not-for-profit organisations. Su and her husband are recent newcomers to Rangiora and she is proving to be a real dynamo in her role as leading the Publicity and Promotions subcommittee. Please take time to visit our Facebook page, Abbeyfield Waimakariri and read the posts which Su is posting on a regular basis. *Likes* and *Shares* are what we want to have as they will help us raise awareness of our cause. A *Givealittle* page has been set up which will provide AWI with another fundraising platform.



Since our last newsletter in June almost all of the activities and events listed then have been held and completed and we are now on the downhill run to Christmas and year end. The Quiz Evening held at the Charles Upham Retirement Village earlier this month was extremely successful with participants being challenged by the curly questions posed by Quiz Master Ann Jelfs. We were delighted to have Dan Gordon, our newly re-elected Mayor, attend and participate in the Quiz.

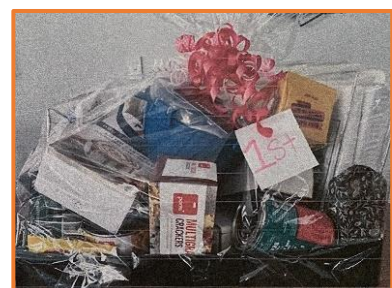
Chair Valda presenting the leader of the winning team with their prize.

Huge thanks extended to Ann and her family of helpers, the village management for their support providing the venue and supper, the players for their participation and purchase of raffle tickets, the sponsors for the generous prizes and last but not least to Mary, our Treasurer, for her work in setting up the event. AWI committee members assisted on the night with the registration of players, selling raffle tickets and with some taking part in the quiz – no winners there! Catering team leader Ally was good on the mic and even had a joke to tell. Proceeds from this event, the sale of our jams and preserves at the monthly Church Street Market and other local markets, together with catering engagements have given a significant boost to AWI funds. Generous donations from individuals have also been received with gratitude and appreciation. AWI ends the year in a good financial position.

Currently our Christmas Hamper raffle is underway and tickets will be on sale at the November and December Church Street Markets and at other local markets. We encourage you, your family and friends to buy tickets.

Christmas Hamper 1st Prize (2nd and 3rd hampers just as nice!)

In early October, AWI had a presence at the Waimakariri Older Persons Expo and we are encouraged by the interest shown in our house model and the concept of an Abbeyfield



House in Rangiora. Once again AWI has had a tree donated as an entry in the Soroptimists International North Canterbury *Christmas Tree Festival 2025*. Decorated trees will be on display in the foyer of the WDC Chambers, High Street, Rangiora from Monday 01 December to Wednesday 17 December. Gold coin donation to vote for the tree of your favourite charity!

So, a lengthy message from me but one full of exciting news and achievements. Thank you truly for your support and interest in our aim to build an Abbeyfield House in Rangiora.

Warmest best wishes
Valda

Promotion & Publicity -

We are pleased to announce we now have a Facebook page (Abbeyfield Waimakariri), an updated web page at abbeyfield.co.nz/house/Waimakariri and a donation page has been set up on *Givealittle*. Should you wish to make a donation via *Givealittle* please ensure that you include the word, "Waimakariri".

You can further help us by spreading the word about the above because the sooner we achieve our community fundraising goal of \$350,000 the sooner we can approach government and philanthropic organisations for grants to get the building underway.

The volunteers who have been making and selling jams and chutneys at markets around the region these past few years have done us proud and they're not done yet! You will still find them at the Church Street Market, Rangiora, on the first Saturday of each month (except January), as well as at other local fairs.

Follow our Abbeyfield Waimakariri Facebook page to keep informed of stall locations and other fund-raising events.

Next year you will see and hear more about us!

Happenings & Upcoming Events~

Church Street Markets, Rangiora – Saturday, 01 November and Saturday, 06 December.

Abbeyfield NZ Inc. – National Conference, Nelson 21 – 22 November.

Ohoka School PTA Fair, Sunday, 23 November – AWI will have a stand.

Rymans Christmas Market – Tuesday, 25 November.

Christmas Tree Festival 2025 – Monday, 01 December – Wednesday, 17 December.

Christmas Hamper Raffle – To be drawn 17 December 2025 – just in time for Christmas.

2026

North Canterbury Vintage Fair, Sunday 25 January – AWI will have a stand at this event.

Church Street Market, Rangiora – 1st market for the year is on Saturday, 07 February.

Swannanoa Fair – March 2026 – Date yet to be confirmed.

Auction of Promises – May 2026 – An innovative event being planned.

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 Hornby – Wonderful to report that just recently Abbeyfield Hornby celebrated its 10th Birthday! Our Chair Valda was involved with this house for 9 years and only recently

