



District Fifteen Altrusa Aotearoa

June 2019

Welcome to our new District Fifteen Board 2019 - 2021



From L to R:

Christine Melville, Claire Paterson, Lynette Budge, Melanie Squires, Fiona Wilson-Taylor, Mingchun Wu, Danae McConnell & Governor Maria Mackay

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Altrusa Aotearoa
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Governor Maria Mackay

It was with honour that I accepted my nomination for office to the District Fifteen Board of Directors for the biennium 2013 - 2015 to the position of Director. What an incredible journey it has been since, working with amazing, talented Altrusans who so willingly share their knowledge and expertise.

I joined Altrusa of Oamaru International Inc. as a very shy, young, but motivated and enthusiastic member and have thoroughly enjoyed my involvement over the last 40 years. During my years of membership I have willingly held many roles within my club, on behalf of my club, at District and International level because of the mentoring and support that Altrusa gives you.

You are never alone. I value the camaraderie and friendships made with Altrusans and the wider community, as we give service. Serving as a member on your District Board of Directors allows you to participate further in the administration of District Fifteen. A highlight is the close contact that you have with other Clubs, enjoying further involvement with members, and learning so much more about Altrusa and our international links.

I was privileged to attend Governor Elect Training in Chicago along with the Governor Elects from other Districts. Our trainers Jenette Borrell and Linda Barb, gave us exceptional training, support and mentoring, also from the time we first became the Governor Elects - meeting through 'Free Conference' calls and receiving encouraging emails regularly. The support and mentoring continued as I headed towards Governorship with Immediate Past Governor Christine involving me in all aspects of District.

I am excited about this opportunity and look forward to sharing my experiences, gaining from the experiences of others and putting new ideas to best practice. I strongly encourage you all to accept the challenge of leadership opportunities - be it at Committee, Club, District or International level. We have an amazing mentoring and support network throughout our membership. Altrusa is truly a 'Builder of Woman'. Words that resonate with me and speak of why I have said 'Yes' and committed to the task whenever asked ...

'Embrace the Journey'

Always go with the choice that scares you the most. Take the road that has more curves, because these are the choices that are going to require the most from you. Never stop challenging yourself.

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Immediate Past Governor

Hi Altrusan Members,

What a great Conference! I hope that the members who attended enjoyed the dynamic speakers, good training sessions, fun Friday night, Award dinners and presentations, lovely Board Installation, memorable and moving remembrance service, great food (thank you Gourmet Delicious), mini tour of area by day and unexpected, unplanned and rather unfortunate mini tour by night – but a certain saying from a speaker caught on...“It is what it is.”

A huge thank you to the International President, Board members, Past Governors, Presidents and members who carried out various roles and tasks throughout the conference. It is great that so many members contributed to help achieve a successful conference.

I wish Maria and her new Board all the best for the next Biennium – there will be challenges and special moments ahead for you all.

The Te Awamutu Club members demonstrated how a Sports Club can be transformed into a conference venue with clever use of a brought in stage, tablecloths, plenty of flower arrangements and changing table decorations, Thank you very much Te Awamutu club members for taking on this challenge and surpassing my expectations!

The presentation of the beautiful Oamaru stone carved Koru and plinth was a very humbling experience. I never expected such a beautiful and generous gift. Thank you Altrusa Clubs of District Fifteen for presenting me with such an amazing keepsake. I have a spot in mind for it under a large acacia tree in our garden where visitors park near our front door. Please visit if you are in Te Awamutu.

Best wishes to everyone.

Yours in Altrusa.

Christine Melville
Immediate Past Governor



Governor Christine's Gift from District Fifteen

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Snapshots of Conference 2019



The Te Awamutu 3 at the opening of Conference: President Joanna Gulliver, Governor Christine Melville and International President Leanne Milligan.

The Gavel changes hands for the next Biennium!





Mamie L Bass Service Award
1st Altrusa Int'l of Taieri
2nd Altrusa Int'l of Oamaru
3rd Altrusa Int'l of Ashburton



Letha H Brown Literacy Award
1st Altrusa Int'l of Hawera
2nd Altrusa Int'l of Ashburton
3rd Altrusa Int'l of Oamaru



Dr Nina Fay Calhoun International Relations Award
1st Altrusa Int'l of Cambridge
2nd Altrusa Int'l of Timaru
3rd Altrusa Int'l of Invercargill



The Margaret Inch Leadership Award was presented to
 Robyn Atherton
 Altrusa Int'l of Te Awamutu

Two Lamplighter Awards were presented by District Fifteen to Immediate Past Governor Pam Hayes and Jenny Bevin Altrusa International of Timaru



Our Past Governors who attend Conference catch up at a Past Governor's Lunch



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Who's Who on the District Fifteen Board?

Governor Elect Danae McConnel

Although I wasn't born in Christchurch (born in Rotorua, early childhood in Timaru), I have lived most of my life here apart from 5 years of OE in Melbourne and Sydney back in the day. I am a Christchurch person.

I joined the Christchurch Club in 1994 and although I served as Treasurer a few times in those early days it wasn't until later that I began on the journey I am currently embracing, by becoming President in 2008 until 2010. I can honestly say that it was a transformative time for me, and I am who and where I am now because my mentor and supporter, Helen Bartlett

I currently work in Administration in the Health sector.

My daughter and grandson (and granddaughter due in November) live in Melbourne, while my son is currently living in Christchurch.

In my spare time (yes, I do have a little bit) I knit, read and go to the occasional movie.

Vice Governor Ming-chun Wu



Ming-chun Wu (MBA, BSc, BBus, BEd, BA) is a Chartered Director with the Institute of Directors with over 10 years' experience in developing strategies and leading transformational changes to improve effectiveness and efficiency of organisations. She brings governance experience, community and voluntary sector involvement, and comprehensive knowledge of the public-sector.

Being social-minded, Ming-chun is the current Board Chairperson and Trustee for Volunteer Wellington, an organisation which connects and supports more than 380 community organisations with volunteer engagement, professional development, networking opportunities, support and mentoring services.

Director Claire Paterson

During my 12 years as an Altrusa member I have thoroughly enjoyed being part of and contributing to the splendid work Altrusa does in NZ Communities and Internationally.

My career has taken a few twists and turns. Starting out as a speech teacher involved in teaching children communication skills, literacy is close to my heart. As a Physiotherapist with a keen interest in other therapies, I have a keen interest in personal health and wellbeing. When I have the time, I love getting out and about enjoying golf, biking and photography.

I feel great pride being part of an organisation like Altrusa which supports many folk in communities throughout NZ and the world. I'm looking forward to the challenges the role will bring and I am keen to learn and contribute in any way possible.



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Director Melanie Squires

I've been a member of the Hawera Club since 2004, holding Presidency in 2015-16, and District Fifteen Service Chair for the last biennium.

Working for Fonterra Brands Bridge St Eltham keeps me busy with site health and safety and administration. As part of the senior lead team my days are varied, I can go from reviewing records to coaching to planning in the space of a morning.

Weekends are usually spent with husband Antony, son David and socializing with friends over food

District Secretary Lynette Budge

I am a Foundation Member of the Oamaru Altrusa Club.

During the past forty-four years I have served in many positions; President, Secretary, Director and Chairperson of most committees.

I was honoured and humbled to receive a Lamplighter from my Club.

In the coming year I will serve as the Vocational Chair.

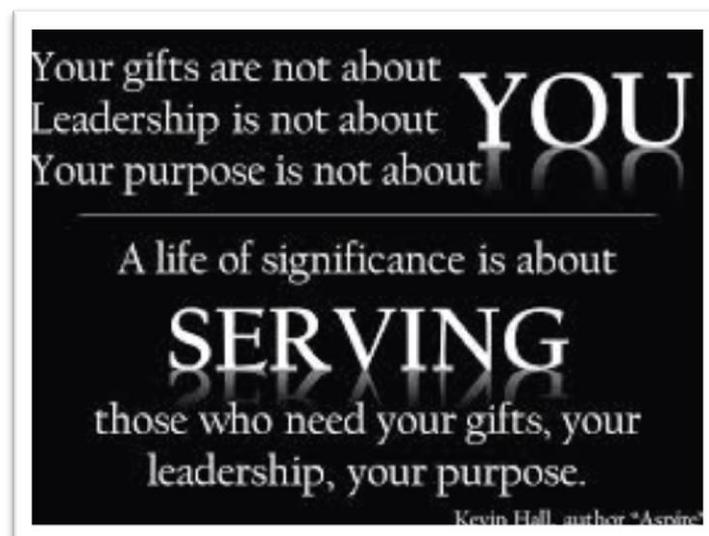
Outside of Altrusa my favourite passion is theatre. I have been involved in many areas - onstage and behind the scenes as Director, Choreographer and Stage Director.

I am looking forward to my role as District Secretary in this biennium.



Also on the District Fifteen Board are:

Fiona Wilson – Taylor as District Treasurer and Christine Melville as Immediate Past Governor



We thank and appreciate these ladies who have stepped up and said YES to the challenge of serving on our District Fifteen Board.

The District Fifteen Board are presenting to members a progress update of our District Fifteen Strategic Plan for the Biennium 2017-2019.

District Fifteen Altrusa International Inc. Strategic Plan – 2017 – 2021 Progress May 2019

<p>Vision: Altrusa is a leader among international organizations improving communities worldwide through a network of member clubs.</p>	<p>Mission: To improve communities worldwide by providing service, developing leadership, fostering international understanding and encouraging fellowship through an international network of dedicated volunteers.</p>	<p>Brand: Leading to a Better Community</p> <p>Brand Anchors: Flexibility, Inclusion, Clarity</p>	<p>Measures:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Member Numbers 2. Service Hours and Fundraising \$ 3. Nomination Committee Leadership Recommendation 4. Website hits 5. Social Media Connections
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<p>Service Inspire profile enhancing Service Projects.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support a Signature International Service project 2. Facilitate the sharing of service project ideas 	<p>➤ <u>Encourage</u> clubs to engage with ‘Days for Girls’ (DfG) International Project</p> <p>Progress: <i>Clubs have really embraced DfG. Service Chair Melanie Squires has received from Governor Christine DfG information from another Districts DSB and club newsletter. Opportunity to include this information and updates from clubs in future DSB articles re our District progress with this project. Helen Griffin DfG NZ coordinator advises their need is for liners in large quantities. Governor newsletter will suggest this for club involvement. By end of District Conference 100% of clubs will have engaged with DfG in some way.</i></p> <p>➤ <u>Encourage</u> clubs to take up a new service project.</p> <p>Progress: <i>Encouragement and ideas sent out to all Clubs from Melanie and Governor- Elect Maria on Club’s goals re ‘A New Service Project’. Currently gathering responses through Presidents at IFF Days. The Board is seeking a template for clubs to put forward their projects. Objective is for service projects to be on our District Website to share ideas and promote Altrusa to our communities. Electronic copies of winning Award entries to be on website to share ideas.</i></p>
<p>Marketing Enhance the flow of Altrusa information internally and with external parties</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enhance bi-directional flow of information within Altrusa 	<p>Progress: <i>The Board communicated information through our DSB, Governor communications, Facebook and website. Sought member feedback from Board club visits and a bi-annual Board survey. The challenge is ‘How do we engage District Fifteen Altrusans in using the website as a resource and reference place?’ We conducted demonstrations at IFF Days - by showing members how easy it is to get on the Website and accessing the toolkits available. Secondly, regarding the ‘enhance bi-directional flow of information with Altrusa’ we decided we can only encourage members and clubs to contribute to the DSB, Facebook and Website articles. Information was passed to Jenny Bevin and Katrina Clokie when website issues and change opportunities were identified. Clubs were encouraged to send their updated club page information to Webmaster. Club newsletters and DSB feedback from Board members are valuable and appreciated.</i></p>



<p>2. Promote Altrusa to our New Zealand communities</p>	<p>Update from Jenny Bevin: <i>The DSB is only as good as the information submitted from Clubs, Board members and District Officers.</i> <i>These submissions are edited into an attractive, interesting and readable publication for all members of District Fifteen and beyond. Once the DSB has been checked by Governor Christine it is sent to the International Office for distribution. Both Raewyn as Submission's Editor and myself as DSB Editor have had very little feedback on the DSB from Clubs, Board members and District Officers for this Biennium.</i></p> <p>Progress: <i>The Altrusa International Marketing Programme and tools are launched on the International Website e.g. 'How to build your own Marketing Plan.</i> <i>District Website: The Board is considering a redesign of our website as a key marketing tool. Newsletters submitted are up to date and meet the criteria of removing personal information, so they can go online.</i></p>
<p>Members Increase membership Numbers to 500 members by 2027</p> <p>Membership at September Board Meeting currently 433 – aiming for 500 in 2027. Tracking nicely.</p> <p>Build two new clubs</p>	<p>➤ Recruit & Retain a diverse membership</p> <p>Progress: <i>There is comprehensive material on the International Website providing examples of successful initiatives that attract new members. Rotorua Club continues to utilise the Home and Garden Show with an Altrusa stall that has successfully resulted in new members. Exhibition event often waive stall fees for registered charities/ Service clubs. Members leaving Altrusa will be invited to complete an Exit form - available on our website.</i> <i>Board to consider communication with outgoing presidents regarding 'stepping down' and 'not being president any more' to be supportive constructively of their new president</i></p> <p>Progress: <i>Ohariu chartered.</i></p>
<p>Leaders Create a pipeline of strong Altrusa Leaders</p>	<p>➤ Develop leadership at all levels of Altrusa</p> <p>Progress: <i>Work in progress: To launch a handover checklist from Outgoing to Incoming President which requires both to complete. This to go to the Board to identify further support and training requirements.</i> <i>Launched on the International Website:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Mentor and Mentee application forms and Mentoring Handbook. This is currently accessed under the Membership tab and will be available under the Leadership tab.</i> • <i>A Revised Club President Handbook (January 2019). All Presidents advised. For President Elects who were unable to attend the workshop at Conference a follow up group Conference Call to raise awareness of key points and resources.</i> <p><i>The Board will use DSB to raise attention to Leadership tab on Int. Website which has tools - Point of Order, Parliamentary Procedure, President Handbook etc.</i></p>
<p>Member Service Inform, Update and Educate members</p>	<p>➤ Respond to member needs in a timely manner</p> <p>Progress: <i>Regular communication through Governor Newsletter and communications to clubs, DSB, IFF days and workshops at Conference.</i></p>

District Chairs and Appointed Officers

Position	2019 - 2021
Programme Co-Ordinator	Danae McConnel 2019-20 Ming-chun Wu 2020-21
Supplies Officer	Vicky Apps
Legal Advisor	Nathan Bourke
Archivist	Patricia O'Donnell
Parliamentarian	Pam Hayes
Conference Chair 2020	Patricia O'Donnell
Service Chair	Jenny Cleland
International Relations Chair	Louise Houlston
ASTRA Chair	Robyn Moore
Foundation Chair	Jeanette Halcrow
Membership Development Chair	Julia Stevens
Leadership & Training Chair	Merridy Marshall
BRR Chair	Jann Tresadern
BRR Vice Chair	Jean Palmer
Communications Chair	Jenny Craig
Web Support	Katrina Clokie
Webmaster	Jenny Craig
DSB Editor	Jenny Bevin
DSB Submissions Editor	Raewyn Hutton
New Club Building	Katrina Clokie

ASTRA

Congratulations to Ruby Fincham-Wells, Waitaki Girls' High ASTRA Club, New Zealand, sponsored by the Altrusa Club of Oamaru, NZ - District Fifteen who has been awarded a \$2000.00US ASTRA scholarship.

ASTRA work with other local civic and volunteer groups on service projects of lasting benefit. They interact with the business, professional and community leaders.

In ASTRA we believe that age is no barrier to being able to improve the lives of others. No matter how old you are, you have the power to create positive change!

There are 82 Clubs worldwide including Fathima Central Senior Secondary School ASTRA Chennai India (Clubs at Large)

There are two ASTRA clubs in District Fifteen; Auckland Girls Grammar School ASTRA and Waitaki Girl's High School ASTRA.

Both of District Fifteen's ASTRA clubs are working hard on their fund raisers and projects for the year and are to be congratulated for all their hard work.

The International ASTRA committee are working on updating ASTRA resources and these will be available on the new website shortly.



ASTRA Auckland Girls Grammar School with completed Starship packs

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Out and about with Clubs

Altrusa Rotorua

Altrusa Rotorua held a High Tea Extravaganza in support of the Rotorua “Growing through Grief” Programme

Extravaganza is the word. A great day was enjoyed by all our guests, performers, members and helpers. The club was very fortunate to have the support of local businesses with all items being donated including the generous donation of the marquee, a wedding venue. A stylish fashion show, musical entertainment, dancing, raffles and auction created a fantastic afternoon. And, of course, the ‘High Tea’ was the highlight according to the wonderful comments that we have received.

All the food was lovingly prepared by the members under the guidance of chef extraordinaire, member Claire. There were gasps of expectation whilst the auctioneer worked his magic to make our fundraising event so successful and the raffles of course were an extra bonus.



This didn’t happen with a magic wand. Many hours and deliberation were spent discussing the programme and finalising the food and entertainment, table decorations and floral arrangements.

A typical Altrusa day was ordered and delivered; the sun shone for the whole afternoon.

Altrusa Wellington

On Sunday 5 May we held an early Mother’s Day high tea to fundraise towards equipment for the new Wellington Children’s Hospital. Members made a sweet or savoury item each and decorated the hall beautifully, including with fine china, placemats, banners and flowers. We spent the afternoon serving delicious teas donated by T2 and chatting to the attendees. Feedback from attendees was very positive; they seemed to really enjoy the atmosphere and quality of the food and tea served. Bill Day, Chair and founder of the Wellington Hospitals Foundation, attended along with his wife Sue and shared the story of the new hospital with everyone. We are still finalising the total raised, but wish to thank all of our sponsors, attendees and especially our members who generously contributed towards making the afternoon a success.

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Wellington's High Tea Fundraiser

Altrusa Oamaru

Oamaru Senior Luncheon

Every year we hold a luncheon for around 70 of our Senior Citizens. This year it was held on the 7 April at Meadowbank Bowling Club.

Each member is given people to contact, invite and offer to pick up and return home.

The day before, we met and prepared as much of the food as possible, set tables, did flowers etc.

We are fortunate to have this great venue to work in.

We had raffles that mostly consist of baking, chutneys and jam which are appreciated by the seniors.

On the Sunday morning, we arrived with our guests and they very generously bought lots of raffles.

They all enjoy a wine or juice and enjoy catching up with old friends and maybe make some new ones.

This year 2 lovely Astra girls from Waitaki Girls High School came to help us.

After lunch enjoyed by all, we had the "Ukulele Ladies" entertain us with their great old songs and everyone enjoyed singing along. Our Wally Macaulay belongs to this group.

We get such great feedback from these lunches that hopefully they will continue for many years.

MEMORY BOOKS

At our programme meeting in March the Service committee organized a working bee to make "Memory Books." These books are especially for those in Rest homes and are helpful in jogging the memories of those looking through them.

Each book had a theme e.g. gardens, horses, cooking, holidays, scenery etc. We cut out colourful pictures and pasted them onto paper before laminating them and compiling them into an easy to read booklet.

Much fun was had during the working bee and of course, much laughter and talk as we made nearly 30 books. The Rest homes were delighted with our project and we hope to continue to supply more books to them in the future.



Altrusa Cambridge

Our club held a very successful evening with the movie 'Red Joan' starring Judi Dench. We sold 88 seats and all net profit will go towards our international project 'Threads across the Pacific',

We were delighted to have Governor Christine and other members of the Te Awamutu club join us.



The photo shows Chris Davies, Jenny Shaw (President) Governor Christine and Caroline Mason who is the co-ordinator and will speak to us at conference in Te Awamutu about "TATP"

Our member Chris travelled to Vanuatu at the end of March to help the local women with the sewing and go into the schools to teach there. Chris is an excellent sewer with a lot of experience and a valued member of our club.

The photo below is of some of our club members cutting out patterns to be sent to Vanuatu so the local women can sew for their families and also sew to sell to the Cruise ship passengers.



This photo of De-ane and Irene was taken at Trash'n'Treasure on St Patricks day morning. This is a monthly fund raiser for our club, one we have been doing for many years. All products are donated by the Cambridge public and all monies raised go back in to the Cambridge Community.

Altrusa Palmerston North

Esplanade Day - First event for the year, absolute success, made this our Make a Difference Day. We gave away approximately 15 boxes of books, weather was beautiful. Most were amazed the books we free so were happy to drop a coin or two into the donation tins, we collected \$152.00 of donations.

10 Year Charter Anniversary Dinner – This dinner was attended by 40 current & past members, International President Leanne, District Governor Christine, Board Treasurer Danae, Board member Alison, and Altrousers. It was a fantastic evening, venue & food. The speaker was Ella Kahu whose inspirational talk, enthusiasm and passion for her course in the BA degree left us with plenty to think about. There was a multi draw raffle, and the cake specially made was very yummy. Five pins presented for 10 years' service.



Terrace End School – we had a request for some picture books, so the club has donated \$200 and an offer to process and label when they have been brought. Gael one of our members already reads to the children.

April happy hour – at Gael's attended by Pat, Fiona, Annette and Gael. We had a very happy Friday evening - lovely food. Gael organised two general knowledge quizzes with Moro prizes. Everyone enjoyed Gael's jokes.



Altrusa Hamilton

Our year started out with a fun and relaxing BBQ in January. We continue to have our annual curry night to support the Aikya project. Our last event was a Scavenger Hunt around Hamilton and a BBQ to end the day.

Our main project has been a carer's weekend for twelve participants for those caring for family members who have dementia. This is what it meant to them:

"You women from Altrusa are amazing beautiful women who made twelve stressed out women fulltime carers to husbands & mums. You just lifted our spirits & our souls to heights we could only imagine before the retreat. The treatment we received was so beautiful & full of love & it certainly will go down in my journal for my prosperity to read as a definite highlight.

From the Friday to the Sunday we were spoilt beyond our wildest dreams. The food, the hospitality and unconditional love shown & the pampering was absolutely glorious. I can't thank you all enough for a much-needed reprieve from an otherwise stress-filled but loving life. As a group of women who were complete strangers at the beginning of the weekend are now life-long forever friends."



January BBQ



Carers Weekend

Altrusa Christchurch

BELLYFUL

Bellyful provides meals for families with newborn babies and families with young children who are struggling with illness, particularly those lacking a good support network.

Their volunteers prepare the food in a monthly 'Cookathon', freeze them and then deliver them over the next few weeks to families who are referred by health professionals, family and friends.

Twice a month, three or four of our members agree to meet and bake suitable muffins to go with each meal pack. These are baked, cooled and packaged for collection on the baking day. We have a little card to go in each pack to inform recipients about Altrusa. Members share a lunch making this another time for fellowship.



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Altrusa Levin

Although our club has had several hands-on service projects this year, one of the most enjoyable and fun and which involves all club members is Taste Horowhenua – an event which has taken place since it started in November 2016 involving 8 sites in our area.

Our club was asked to be in partnership with the organisers of this event and willingly assisted by providing members to set up information desks at each venue.

The event has now been running for 3 years and is hugely busy and successful. Local growers and producers showcase their land, factories and products to thousands of people visiting all sites. The 2018 event saw tour buses included from out of the area with people able to see behind the scenes at the venues and of course taste some wonderful fresh food. Children were also encouraged to be inter-active with farm animals – a first for many.

We look forward to our partnership with Taste Horowhenua continuing into the future. It’s a great service project where we meet up with local people as well as get to know and be involved with the local growers and of course provide local information to visitors to the Horowhenua.



Altrusa Ohariu



To start the year, the Ohariu club volunteered to collect at two different street appeals. In February we collected outside Crofton Downs Countdown to raise over \$500 for the NZ Heart Foundation. In March we collected at Johnsonville Mall raising over \$300 for Dementia Wellington.

These organisations find it difficult to get volunteers for their appeals and Altrusa have plenty of hands-on helpers that are eager to assist, so we make a good partnership! We had ten Altrusans, along with family and friends, collecting over these two dates.



Altrusa Te Kuiti

The Te Kuiti Altrusa club was overwhelmed by the response to a fashion show held 10 April 2019 at St Lukes' Church, Te Kuiti. It was amazing how many people members and businesses supported us. 168 tickets were sold, resulting in a packed house, and a profit of \$3814, raising funds for local projects.

Entertainment for the evening was provided by singer Chennay Pascoe along with her father Neil, formerly of Te Kuiti and soprano Beatrice Hofer, accompanied by pianist Ann Plowright. The musical theme was 'Celebrating all Mothers'

Retail contributors to the winter fashion parade were 'A little Bit Different' from Otorohanga and 'Looking Good' from Kihikihi.

Models L to R: Anna Aikman, Robyn White, Gemma Kearins & Alida Baker



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From the funds raised, we aim to continue providing all five-year old children with a book when they start school in the Waitomo district, give Literacy awards to each of the primary schools and present Literacy prizes to Te Kuiti High School and Piopio College.

Our members put care packs together for the mothers and children of Waitomo Waipa Womens' Refuge, supply items for the local foodbank, support our local elderly residents' care facility and 'make a difference' to various projects and charities.



Lisa Watkins, Christine Melville and Gwenda Bryant

Altrusa Ashburton

Members of the Ashburton Club have been busy over the past two months with two service projects supporting both District and International projects.



A Day's for Girls sewing bee was held in March. Two hundred shields were completed on the day by a busy team of cutters and sewers. This is always a day of fellowship, good food and a few laughs for members while supporting a wonderful international project.

MAGIC MUMS



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In April we provided twelve Magic Mums with a wonderful day of entertainment just for them. This included a flight over our district in a small plane, learning new skills in flower arranging and pampering time at a local beauty salon.

The mums were then treated to an evening meal at the Lake House restaurant, some fun interactive entertainment during the evening and given a basket of donated goodies to take home. We have received feedback from some of our 'Mums' on how much they enjoyed and appreciated the day.

Both service projects provide wonderful "feel good days" for our members while supporting two very worthy causes.

Altrusa Tauranga

This year we again made our "Sand Jars" – cookies in a jar. We had two sessions – one to measure out the ingredients and one to make the sand jars - all 120 of them. \$1,100 was donated to the Mount Maunganui Lifeguards who have this lovely new building and had a bit of a hiccup with the foundations on the way through, necessitating another \$900,000 of funding. We presented the cheque to the President and he gave us a tour of the building. This was followed by pizzas and a good old natter in the new building.



We also made 120 bags for the "Days for Girls" project. These were given to the Cambodia Charitable Trust who filled them and took them to Cambodia. The photo shows some Tauranga members with Denise Arnold, the Founder of the Cambodian Charitable Trust.



We are hoping to install five new members in the next month. We have gained these members through "An Evening with Altrusa", media notices, friends of present Altrusans and "Wonder Woman", an event run by the local Zonta Club. It shows how we need to spread our wings wide.

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Altrusa Hawera

BOOKS IN PRISONS

Our project of providing books to men incarcerated was to improve their literacy skills, fight boredom, and promote the joy of reading thus making prison a second chance environment.

With the donation of laptops and blank CDs, Dads can record stories for their children so that the child can listen to their father's voice reading to them at home therefore connecting families and helping them feel loved and treasured.

All members were involved in the collection of books and jigsaw puzzles. The Prison Librarian provided genres of books required as well as specific titles required to complete a set. Members sourced books from their own collections as well as family, friends and op shops. Many were purchased brand new. Subcommittee sorted and checked all books for suitability and quality and then we personally delivered to the Whanganui Men's Prison, 50 jigsaw puzzles, 150 books, two laptops and 100 blank CDs.



Another successful **Magic Mums** weekend was enjoyed by our Mums. They went for a trip in a classic car to a local Lake reserve. Then on to a hot stone massage, manicure, hair & make-up, dinner at Restaurant and each presented with a basket filled goodies all donated by the Community and our members.

With love we remember Past Governor Marion Ross

Contributed by Altrusa International of Ashburton

It was with sadness that we learned of the death on Saturday 30 March 2019 of Marion Ross. Marion was a long-standing member of Altrusa, having joined our Club in 1975. She served as our President in the year 1981-82, and again in 2002-03, as well as holding various other positions in the Club. From 1989 to 1991 she assumed the role of Governor for District Fifteen. While District Governor, she attended Altrusa Convention in Dublin in 1989 and in 1993 as Past District Governor, she attended the convention in Nashville and in Christchurch in 1995.

Marion was the recipient of the Altrusa Lamplighter Award and was a Life member of Altrusa. She was made an Emeritus Member of our Club in 2016. We will miss you, Marion.



Marion and Jack Ross at the Altrusa Conference in Queenstown - May 2002.

From Editor Jenny

Both Raewyn and I are pleased to be continuing as the DSB team for the next Biennium bringing news of our District and Clubs to you all.

Congratulations to all recipients of awards at the 2019 Conference held recently in Te Awamutu.

Those who attended were treated to some thought provoking keynote speakers with the catch phrase of Conference being "it is what it is"

A bus trip into the hinterland allowed us to see some of the countryside around Te Awamutu with green rolling hills and lovely autumn colours still visible.

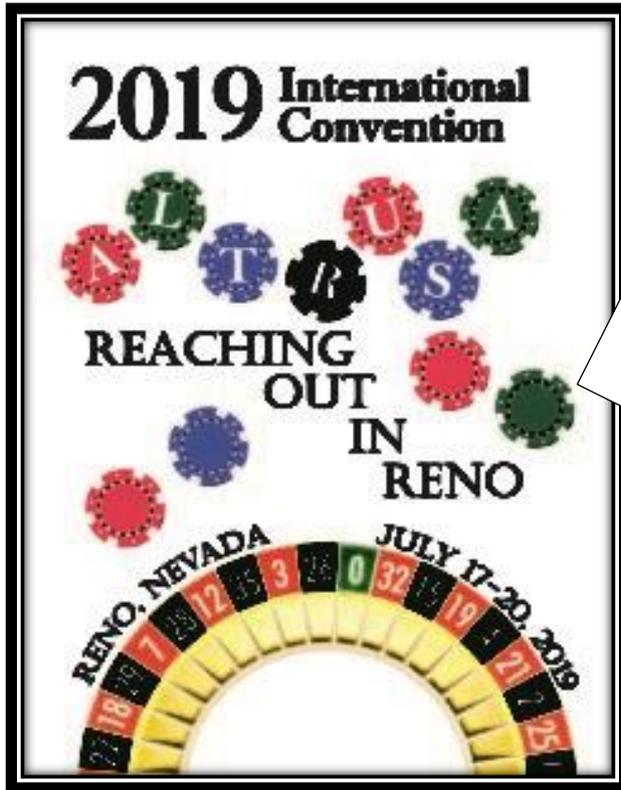
Governor Maria's installation was a moving ceremony based on 'hands' and was delivered by Helen Newlands and Lynette Budge from Altrusa International of Oamaru.

We are now challenged to 'embrace the journey' for this biennium 2019 -2021

With winter nearly upon us, keep warm and continue with the work you all do in your communities to make life better for many.

Jenny

REACHING OUT IN RENO



Governor Maria will be leading a delegation of District Fifteen members to Reno. We wish them all safe travels and a fantastic time rekindling friendships and making new ones.

