

Hand Up - not a Hand Out
THREADS ACROSS THE PACIFIC

**Nomination for
Dr Nina Fay Calhoun International Relations
Award**

**Altrusa International of Cambridge
District Fifteen**

2018 -2019





**Dr Nina Fay Calhoun International Relations
Award
Entry Form**

District: Fifteen

Name of Altrusa Club: Altrusa International of Cambridge

Address:

Street/Post Office box: 45 Wordsworth Street, Leamington

City: Cambridge

State/Province: Waipa

Country: NEW ZEALAND

Zip/Postal Code: 3432

Contact Person: Jenny Shaw

Telephone: 07 827 4028

Email: shaw.jenny@kinect.co.nz

Date (day, month, year): 14th March 2019

Club Membership (as of entry date): 21

Project title: Hand Up - not a Hand Out; Threads Across The Pacific

Hand Up - not a Hand Out; Threads Across the Pacific

Our Project Overview and Selection

This is our club's second year of our International Project in support of Threads Across the Pacific (TATP).

Our 2018-2019 project aims and objectives were to use funds specifically raised in 2017-2018 to:

- Purchase and provide sewing machines, fabric, sewing kits and materials to empower women to be self-sufficient with skills of sewing and generate income
- Investigate extending our project to support one village school with reading materials and stationery
- Build relationships with NZ service providers for greater impact and awareness
- Raise awareness of Altrusa and our project within our community and internationally

The TATP organisation aims to give women and older children opportunity, independence and income by teaching sewing skills to provide for themselves, their



families, and opportunity to earn income selling goods made to tourists and other villagers.

This is achieved by providing access to electric sewing machines, sewing supplies and sewing lessons held in school rooms in villages throughout

Vanuatu. Some women are also selected to train as sewing teachers.

The philosophy of TATP, '*A hand up, not a hand out*' resonated with our members after founder Caroline Mason presented to our Club. Members see TATP philosophy reflects Altrusa aims as a builder of women by making a difference with developing skills, knowledge and independence. They voted unanimously at a business meeting to support TATP as an ongoing International Project.

TATP also has a strong New Zealand support base of volunteers and other organisation support.

- Kiwanis provide space to TATP in their bi-annual container to Vanuatu.
- Bernina New Zealand sell Bernette machines at reduced cost.

This was a determining factor in selection of our International Project. No freight cost and low-cost sewing machines achieve greater value for money raised in donations.

Members agreed our International Project provided opportunity for all members to be engaged at various stages of this long-term project. A designated working group communicated decision making and project activity at business meetings.

Members expressed interest in extending our project by supporting a Vanuatu school with school supplies and books.

After Club member Chris Davies returned from volunteering in Vanuatu, her presentation to members updated how and where our donations were used. She recommended supporting Esnar School. An isolated village where she taught sewing, and noted limited school supplies for their 120 children aged 5-12.

Members voted unanimously to support Esnar School.

Development and Implementation of the Project

Members voted to purchase five Bernette machines initially, revised to ten once total fundraising was realised.

Members were updated and engaged in project activities at business meetings.

One member liaised with TATP to report progress, updates, container timelines and required resources.



Project activity included working bees to sort and pack donations for shipping and purchasing sewing supplies for sewing kits (made 2017).

Project working group scheduled activities that provided opportunity for membership participation and managed timelines. Members undertook following activities including:

- Using their local knowledge to engage business/service clubs for book donations
- Their sewing expertise to purchase sewing supplies
- Sewing skills. A member volunteered in Vanuatu through September teaching sewing skills at two village schools. She also identified a possible school for the Club to support
- Working bees to sort and pack fabric donations on behalf of TATP and identifying appropriate books for school children

PROJECT ACTIVITIES		
<p>March</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advise TATP of Club decisions re 2017-2018 fundraising outcomes • TATP to provide benefits and value statement. • Purchase 10 Bernette sewing machines 	<p>April</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project activities to be presented to Club for approval 	<p>May</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Club meeting update
<p>June</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fabric donations (Club members) 	<p>July</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shipping container to Vanuatu (Bernettes) 	<p>August</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fabric donations • Purchase decisions • Working bee
<p>September</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chris in Vanuatu & will scope a possible school option to support 	<p>October</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working bee packing fabric for container 	<p>November</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation to Club from Chris re Vanuatu volunteer work. Update re school • Purchase decisions for school stationery • Book donations from members

December	January	February
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marketing for donations from local business for Esnar School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marketing for donations from local business for Esnar School • Purchase decisions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working bee to pack for container • Deliver packed donations to Auckland • International Project planning 2019-2020 • Project Review



Container packed with our donations

70% of membership actively participated in the project contributing 83 hours of personal service.

TATP also has a strong New Zealand support base of volunteers and other organisation support.

- Bernina NZ sell the Bernette machine for \$150.00

- Kiwanis container to Vanuatu twice-yearly supporting their own projects provides a space for TATP
- Cambridge Lions and Paper Plus donated audio and reading books

Evaluation of Project

Our International Project objectives were achieved in support of TATP.

We purchased and provided ten Bernette sewing machines, fabric, and sewing supplies



to go with each machine.

A member volunteered for two weeks at two village schools, Esnar and Miele. Women on the workshops were taught skills of 'Quality' sewing so their items are at a level of quality to sell to tourists.



We selected Esnar School in Vanuatu to support with our first supply of school resources, audio books/CD player and reading books.

Thereby extending benefit to a local community and choices in both audio and reading books for the children.



We further developed our relationship with Cambridge Lions who are now aware of TATP and our support of Esnar School.

Altrusa awareness was raised with a badge attached to every sewing machine (costs donated) and on the CD player to Esnar School; our Altrusa Club presence on the Website of TATP and our project updates on our Club Facebook page; and donation activities raised our profile with local business and service organisations.



Each sewing bee in Vanuatu is attended by 15-20 women and older children and it is difficult to estimate how many people in total were helped by our project to learn to sew on the products we donated. Children who often finish their schooling at age 12 years are learning practical skills which could potentially earn an income. TATP's presence in Vanuatu is extensive



Word count: 998

60-word Synopsis

Hand Up - not a Hand Out; Threads Across The Pacific provided:

- Ten Bernette sewing machines to learn sewing and private use
- Sewing supplies with each Bernette, scissors, tape, thread, needles etc.
- Fabric to sew clothing for themselves, family and items to sell
- Club member volunteer taught sewing in Vanuatu
- School supplies, audio and reading books, CD player for Esnar School

SIX SUPPLEMENTARY PAGES



Hand Up – Not a Hand Out

Logo and use of TATP philosophy for our international project used with permission of Caroline Mason, Threads Across the Pacific

INCOME & EXPENSES

INCOME:

2017-2018 fundraising balance BFWD	\$ 2204.15
Donations	\$ 135.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 2339.15

EXPENSES:

Ten Bernette sewing machines	\$ 1500.00
Scissors, pins, tapes etc for sewing bags	\$ 222.85
Exercise books, pencils, wall charts and CD Player for Esnar School	\$ 430.16
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 2153.01

NET PROFIT (Toward 2019-2020)	\$ 186.14
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Our Project Review

What went well – Keep on doing

- ✓ Members connection with this international project and the philosophy of Threads Across the Pacific; maintains interest
- ✓ This year most members had opportunities to contribute with donations of books for Esnar School; and donations of fabric for TATP
- ✓ Opportunities for members to contribute their skills and time: fabric sorting working bee; packing working bee; a volunteer donated time to teach sewing in Vanuatu; and discussion and decisions at club business meetings
- ✓ The support from other organisations which minimised our project costs thus most of money raised goes directly to the people of Vanuatu. This continues to add high value to this project for members
- ✓ Presentation from Chris had a positive impact with Club, particularly pictures of our donated goods and handover of Bernettes at Esnar School; and opportunity to support a school

Lessons Learned

- Working group to present an International Project plan earlier that supports the programme of activities. Assists in achieving earlier visibility and greater opportunities throughout
- Planning for a media campaign earlier in the year with specific goals around raising Altrusa awareness and that of our club as well as TATP as a charity worth supporting
- More regular communication with Caroline Mason re shipping container timelines and information about which villages she is supporting for each visit – useful for our communications, marketing and fundraising



P O Box 185
CAMBRIDGE 3450

1 March 2018

Caroline Mason
carolineann2017@gmail.com

Dear Caroline

At the Altrusa International Cambridge meeting held on 22 February 2018 the nett income realised from various fundraising activities for *Threads Across the Pacific* was tabled. A sum of \$2204.15 has been raised. At the meeting a motion was passed that a sum of \$750.00 be remitted immediately so that five (5) Bernina sewing machines could be purchased. The balance of the monies will be held in the Threads Committed Funds account until such time as you inform our club of extra purchases that will be required.

You are doing an absolutely amazing job in reaching out to the womenfolk of Vanuatu by giving them the skills to empower their lives and those of their children.

If you have any comments please do not hesitate to get back to the club either through Chris Davies or myself.

Yours sincerely

Ann Maclure
Secretary
Altrusa International Cambridge
Email: ann.maclure@xtra.co.nz

From: Caroline Mason [mailto:carolineann2017@gmail.com]

Sent: Friday, 2 March 2018 8:42 AM

To: John Davies

Subject: Re: Threads Across the Pacific

- In the first phase of the project 741 quilts were collected from around NZ and delivered to the families of Vanuatu at the time of Cyclone Pam in 2015.
- In the second phase, (2015- 2016), 100 used electric sewing machines were delivered accompanied by sewing workshops with the machine recipients. These Women have used the machines to sew for their families and their neighbours. Some have sold their craft to other villagers, expats and cruise ship tourists.
- In the current phase (2017), 80 new sewing machines have been supplied to three schools on the main island of Efate and 24 women community groups on outer islands. The machines at schools are used by both Village Women and senior school children.
- In 2018 a further 40 machines are scheduled for delivery to 3-4 further schools for the use of school children and village women.

The benefits to the chosen villages and schools are fourfold.

1. The Women on the workshops are learning the skills of 'Quality' sewing. Some have previously sewn on manual machines, but, the focus of these workshops is on a list of 'Quality' components intended to enable the Women to sew items at a level of quality required to sell to tourists.
2. Children who often finish their schooling at age 12years are learning a practical skill which could potentially lead to them securing some income.
3. Schools are provided with a resource which is part of their curriculum but which their meagre resources means they are unable to teach without the donation of these machines.
4. Ongoing twice yearly contact with the project means the Women receive fabric and other supplies along with further workshops bringing a range of new skills, patterns, and new sewing project ideas ideas.

On 1/03/2018, at 10:27 pm, John Davies <cjdavies@xtra.co.nz> wrote:

Evening Caroline

We are seeking further information about the benefits and spread throughout Vanuatu of TATP.

There are 2 questions we would like answered please.

Evaluation of Threads Across the Pacific

1. What was the estimated number of people who were helped?
2. What were the benefits to the chosen community?

If you could answer these 2 questions it would be really appreciated.

Kind Regards

Chris Davies

Threads across the Pacific

A Hand Up, not a Hand Out

Introducing Threads across the Pacific:

- Threads across the Pacific offers unemployed women of Vanuatu electric sewing machines, sewing supplies and introductory sewing workshops.
- The Project provides the opportunity, it is up to the individual Women whether they use the machines to sew for themselves and their families or whether they choose to produce products to sell either within their community or to tourists and expats.
- The secondary purpose is to identify any NiVan Woman (from the introductory workshop) who has the sewing skills, organisational skills and the motivation to progress and to offer opportunity and mentoring as tutors.

Our Philosophy:

- The Project has no affiliations with any religious or political group.
- We believe in giving 'A hand up, not a hand out' with the goal of Aid Independence not Aid Dependence.
- We aim to give unemployed women the opportunity to improve their income and thus to improve the lives of themselves and their families.
- Tutors within the Project are expected to show respect to the participants by: Acknowledging that each woman enters the workshop with differing levels of prior experience & will therefore achieve differing levels of success during the workshop. To the best of our ability we show respect for Ni Van culture and religion.



Chris Davies teaching in Vanuatu



Sewing classes in action

