District Fifteen
Altrusa
Aotearoa

District Service Bulletin

September 2020

Contents
1 Title page
2 Governor Maria
3 Buzz from the Board
7 Committee Chairs
9 Club News
  • Hamilton
  • Tauranga
  • Queenstown
  • Morrinsville
  • Levin
  • Ohariu
  • Invercargill
  • Taieri
  • Ashburton
  • Christchurch
  • Oamaru
  • Hawera
18 Jenny’s Jottings

Embrace the Journey

Don’t look back. You’re not going that way.

Life is a journey – not a destination

Altrusa Aotearoa

September 2020
Once more we internalize and share our thoughts as we respond to the level the virus has determined for us this past week as we browse our spring edition of ‘Altrusa Aoteoroa’.

It has been wonderful to reconnect with friends, family and Altrusans meeting with them in a new kind of normal, but in the meanwhile we must adapt the pace of life for a time again.

I was so fortunate to be able to maximise the school holidays last month exploring the upper North Island, another amazing part of our beautiful country with Club visits in the Waikato and then time in Northland.

Thank you to all the Clubs in the Waikato…Te Kuiti, Te Awamutu, Cambridge, Hamilton, Morrinsville and an ASTRA Auckland Girls Grammar catch up in Hamilton. Clubs willingness to meet and share is always so much appreciated and emulates reciprocity. You all, along with our other District Fifteen Clubs have begun working in ways you would never have dreamed of in the past. Our community’s needs have changed and we have embraced new opportunities to serve, with our forward thinking, with kindness, a generous spirit and most importantly fun.

It is very timely to encourage your Clubs to apply to International Foundation for a grant to support a community project you may have underway or may yet have in the planning stage for the very near future. As fundraising has been challenging, Foundation understands this and actively invites you to put forward your proposal. All information and forms to complete are on the International website with applications due September 15.

Dates had been set for District Fifteen Area I.F.F. Days but sadly we have already had to cancel Area 3’s day in Ashburton due to social distancing, using a public venue and potentially receiving apologies after going into Level 2. More than ever we need to share our Altrusa value of ‘Flexibility’.

Take care, stay safe, and stay well. Spring is around the corner.

Warmest regards
Maria
Recent highlights in my role as Governor have been acknowledging members with their pins for their amazing years of service in Altrusa, presenting awards at Club meetings that would normally have been presented at Conference and visiting our northern most Clubs. I look forward to presenting further awards at our area I.F.F. Days and celebrating with you all.

Altrusa Aotearoa

September 2020
Governor Elect – Danae O’Connel

Last month I was supposed to travel to Las Vegas for the Governor-Elect Training. Like the President-Elect training and Conference here this has become a series of Zoom meetings, we are therefore still able to get to know each other as we receive remote training.

I am taking a positive approach for the coming months and have Club visits and I.F.F. Days scheduled and I look forward to meeting up with many of you then.

As Altrusans, we all know opportunities for service, fundraising and projects are important. As members we get fulfilment from them and our communities gain from them – a win-win situation.

Yet there are other opportunities that can be just as fulfilling which we often overlook or discount – possibilities that would allow us to validate and embody the concept of Altrusa as a builder of women. Altrusa can be a win-win-win situation when you extend yourself by being open to these opportunities. Sometimes these are offered directly, sometimes they just present themselves, sometimes we can be bold and seek them out.

WIIFM – ‘what’s in it for me’? Opportunities exist at District and Club level for extending skills and knowledge, extending ourselves beyond our comfort zone.

Accepting new opportunities could allow you to follow an area of interest, realise your potential or discover hidden talents. As Charles Schulz said “Life is like a ten-speed bike. Most of us have gears we never use.”

Is it fear that holds you back? – stops you from becoming the best ‘you’ that you could be by extending your comfort zone borders? Ask anyone who has stepped up to a District or Club challenge and they will all admit to feeling the fear and doing it anyway and what an experience of personal growth it became. Mark Twain said “Courage is resistance to fear, mastery of fear, not absence of fear.”

Eleanor Roosevelt said “Do one thing every day that scares you.”

Keep this in mind in the coming months when questions are asked and opportunities are offered. The borders of our comfort zones are defined by our risk tolerance. Ask yourself how you can extend yourself, risk just a little bit, in some small way, until you are comfortable again with your new comfort zone borders.

Will you step up when asked?

District Treasurer – Fiona

My job as Treasurer has been interesting this year with the need to email Carrie at International to update her with the names of individual members in each club who were paying the reduced dues payment. One advantage out of it – I’m getting to know the Treasurers in all the clubs in District Fifteen. Carrie was great – NZ had come out of lockdown, but she was still working from home in Chicago.

As we were unable to hold the Foundation Raffle due to Conference in Wellington being cancelled during lockdown, I have also been busy reconciling payments from clubs who have held raffles, morning teas, etc for donations to Foundation – as a district we have raised over $1,800 – well done everyone!
In early June, we received and distributed grants from Foundation for Hawera club for their "Emergency Care Packs" project and for Ohariu club for their "Feeding the Future with WELLfed" project. This month we also received and distributed awards from Foundation to Rotorua club for the Letha H Brown Literacy Award and Ashburton club for the Dr Nina Fay Calhoun International Relations Award. Congratulations to those clubs!

Keep warm and safe everyone 😊

Claire Paterson – Director 1

Sadly Ladies, we are again in an upside down world!
Sensibly we postponed Area 3 IFF Day for Saturday 15th August following the latest Covid announcements. Thank you Kay and her team of Ladies in Ashburton who were all prepared for this day but if life takes another turn we may be able to reschedule for later in the spring.
Well done to all Clubs who have looked after their members through this trying time, kept in touch with everyone and attempted to continue with activities where possible.
All the best for the next challenge, Ladies, we might just continue to think and work outside the square!

Melanie Squires - Director 2

Hello everyone from sunny Taranaki 😊

It has been a quiet start to the Altrusa year, and having a Zoom board meeting and Zoom Awards was certainly a bit different! I worked right through lockdown 1.0 sharing a temporary home office with my son (as he’s an IT guru I had my laptop and screens set up in no time). Coming back to the factory office with no husband delivering a 3pm cuppa was quite difficult.

I am looking forward to Area 1 IFF day in Rotorua later in the year, and the opportunity to catch up in person with members. It is heartening to hear what clubs are achieving despite the restrictions we were under earlier in the year.

Congratulations to all clubs who achieved placings at the Conference Awards. There is a lot of work involved in both the projects themselves and in writing up and submitting the award applications; however the rewards are worth the effort. I encourage all clubs to start working on their applications for Conference 2021 Awards if they haven’t already. Honing your skills at selling yourselves will be of great benefit to the club, and this in turn helps your club continue their service to communities throughout NZ.
Christine Melville – Immediate Past Governor

I am having more time to spend with family and sporting activities as Immediate Past Governor. We were all very disappointed to miss meeting up at a Wellington Conference - but now looking forward to Timaru!

District Secretary – Lynette Budge

After the ‘ZOOMING INTO THE AWARDS’ with District Fifteen Clubs, we embraced Zoom in our Club. It was exciting to chat and ‘see’ everyone on screen after so many weeks.

A few weeks further on, we in Omarama, zoomed into winter. It wasn’t so cold, the lowest temperature at our place was minus 8 degrees. But oh dear, the fog! We had days of it but on the bright side it created the most beautiful hoar frost. Many photos were emailed off to family and friends overseas.

Next week we are off on our annual pilgrimage to the West Coast for two months whitebaiting. We will be making the most if it, as it could be our last season, due to the impending closure of some rivers.

Following that venture, it is the District Fifteen mid-year Board meeting, then full steam ahead to Conference 2021.

Enough from your Secretary, so take care and I look forward to catching up with many of you at Conference 2021 in Timaru.

Altrusa Aotearoa

September 2020
Communication

Thank you to all clubs for quickly updating our current Board details. This ensured that the 2020 Directory was able to be distributed in a timely fashion.

Just a reminder- please remember that your newsletters are not being redacted before being put onto the website. You must ensure that you are happy for the information in the newsletter to be shared with the world; phone numbers, email addresses etc...

Many thanks
Jenny Craig - Communication Chair

Nominating Committee

Nominations for Office to the District Fifteen Board of Directors for the Biennium 2021 - 2023 will be accepted from all Clubs, District Officers, and Past Governors. Nominations must be forwarded to the District Nominating Committee Chair, Katrina Clokie, by the 10th of December 2020.

To be eligible for election for any District Office, members must be an active member in good standing. Then the rules vary based on role:

- For Governor-Elect, you should have previously served on the District Board.
- For District Treasurer, you must have been a Club President or Club Treasurer, or be serving in one of these roles at the time of the election, and have general accounting knowledge or experience.
- For any other office, you must have completed a full term as Club President or be serving as Club President at the time of the election.

You should also know that:

- No one can be elected to the same office for two successive terms.
- We can't have two elected officers on the District Board from the same Club

Nomination forms will be available on the District Fifteen website. All Club Presidents, District Officers, and Past Governors will be emailed a copy of the nomination forms by the 1st of September. There are three forms to complete for each nomination:
• Nomination form (1a)
• Biographical form (1b)
• An open letter (1c)

Please send nominations by email to nominations@altrusa.org.nz or by post to Katrina Clokie at the postal address provided in the Altrusa District Fifteen Directory. The Nominating Committee is looking forward to receiving your nominations by the due date.

Katrina Clokie (Chair), Alison Burr & Pam Hayes

2020 - 2022 Nominating Committee

Foundation

This is a friendly reminder for members to send Grants Program applications to foundation@altrusa.org by September 15th. This cycle will be distributed one month early by October 30th to help expedite projects impacted by the pandemic. The grant applications and guidelines may be found here on the International website.

Jeanette Halcrow - Foundation Chair

Service

Covid-19 has certainly played havoc with the start to the 2020/2021 year. But in true Altrusa fashion, our clubs have bounced back into action, raising funds and serving our communities again. Well done everyone. Hopefully, our Auckland members will soon move back to Level 2 and we all be in Level 1 before too long.

Thank you to clubs that have been sewing for ‘Days for Girls’. This enables young girls to attend school full time. Remember clubs can support ‘Days for Girls’ in different ways...

• Sewing
• Donating knickers and dark coloured face cloths
• Donating money - Please ensure any monetary donations are deposited into the District Fifteen account tagged ‘Days for Girls’. Contact Fiona treasurer@altrusa.org.nz for details.

Our club has decided to have a working bee to make masks. I will attach a couple of patterns we are going to use. My sister who lives in France was telling me that they must wear masks if they leave their properties. She said masks are becoming a fashion statement and if you put sunglasses on you do not have to wear makeup!

Homemade-cloth-face-masks__web.pdf (1MB)

https://www.mindfood.com/article/8-face-mask-tips/

Jenny Cleland - Service Chair

Altrusa Aotearoa
September 2020
Altrusa Tauranga

Tauranga is gradually getting underway for 2020-21, although it was a little slow after the lockdown. We rescheduled our first couple of Business meetings to a Saturday afternoon as our original venue was no longer available and during the winter months members are not so eager to venture out at night. This worked very well, and we had good turnouts for meetings.

Tracey Carlton, from Street Kai was our guest speaker for the July Business meeting. Tracey gave a very enlightening talk on how they had worked through the Covid19 lockdown with the homeless people of Tauranga. Tracey’s group provide food and other products for homeless on a regular basis in Tauranga central. Altrusa Tauranga donated $350 towards this cause and several knitted beanies were handed over. Members also donated a variety of home baking, which will be donated regularly to Street Kai.

Another organisation Tauranga is supporting this year is Bellyful. We will be providing home baked biscuits to go in their freezer, every other month to help this organisation out.

We are in the process of organising a High Tea for Grandparents who care for grandchildren and Alzheimer’s carers. This will be in October and I look forward to updating on that.

A new venue for our Business meetings has been organised at the Matua Bowling Club and returning to our scheduled fourth Tuesday night in the month. There have been two Saturday morning coffee groups organised, and these have been well supported.

Altrusa Aotearoa

September 2020
40 Years of Service by Altrusan Shona Sterritt Celebrated in Tauranga

On Saturday 8th August, Altrusa Tauranga members attended a High Tea at Trinity Wharf to honour and celebrate Shona Sterritt’s 40 years of service to Altrusa. Shona was surprised when her two sons Craig, Brett and granddaughter Bridget accompanied by great grandson Lachlan, turned up for the event. She knew her daughters Janine and Gillian were attending. Messages from District Governor Maria Mackay and club members who could not attend were passed on to Shona. Written prose and praise of Shona were read from her Oamaru friends - Helen Newlands, Kath Mercer, and Mother Macaulay. Shona was a little overwhelmed but thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon held in her honour.

From Left: Sons Craig and Scott, Daughter Janine, Granddaughter Bridget, Daughter Gillian and a very proud Shona Sterritt with Great Grandson Lachlan on her knee.

Altrusa Queenstown

Altrusa International of Queenstown ran their Haberdashery sale in July, which was a great success, raising $4000 for the Salvation Army Queenstown’s Covid Community Response. We had not had a sale for two years and this year we changed our venue to the Lake Hayes Pavilion. The new venue coupled with the fact that it was the school holidays seemed to draw the crowds in. Particularly popular were the dress fabrics. Sewing threads and buttons sold well, as they were very cheap! This year we tried something different by providing tea, coffee and scones which proved to be extremely popular! It was a fantastic effort by our members.
Altrusa Morrinsville

Post Covid lockdown we have had 3 members retire bringing our membership to 6 active members and 1 on leave. Our March High Tea fundraiser was cancelled due to Covid.

With these things in mind we wanted to find a big impact project for little cost that didn’t over tax our membership and would meet the immediate needs of our community post lockdown. An email to our local Public Health Nurse led us to Kids in Need Waikato (KIN). KIN provides care packs for children in care. Add in a drawstring bag for inspiration and our Snug as a Bug in a Rug project was born. We have sewn, knitted and bought enough cosy, warm winter items to make 20 packs. Each pack contains knitted slippers and beanie, fleece blanket, colouring book and pencils, socks and underwear. Our retired members were able to contribute and the local community responded when we asked for donations of knitted items, socks, and underwear. Because we decluttered our wool and fabric stashes, we were able to keep costs down (and cupboards cleaned out). It has been a quick, fun project to put together.
Altrusa Levin

Having resumed normal meetings, we have a busy schedule with our upcoming projects.

Our monthly members’ morning tea reached a record high of 19! Great venue, food and lots of chatter.

We shall be inducting 2 new members at our Combined Service Clubs meeting in September, hosted by the Literacy committee.

Our ladies collected for the Alzheimers appeal in New World, Levin totalling $831.70.

On August 29th, we shall be supporting the Daffodil Day appeal.

Our fabric fair, which was delayed through Covid-19, has been resurrected. The Warehouse Stationery shop that has closed in the Levin Mall has freely offered their shop to show off our fabrics, buttons, wool etc, so this all takes place on Saturday, 29 August 2020. We have had “fabric bees” to organize this huge undertaking and the public have greatly contributed, as they always do.

Then on 5th September, our club will be hosting IFF day here in Levin at Thompson House, which will of course be another great day.

Altrusa Ohariu

Our club met virtually using Zoom during April and May, however in June we could meet in person for our AGM and club meeting. During level 3 we partnered with Churton Park New World to support two local food banks. The supermarket staff set up a donation trolley and matched every donation the community made.

Our Bee garden got a Winter makeover to prepare for Spring. Sophia, Barbara, Jenny, and Katrina spent two hours removing annuals, digging over the garden and adding mulch. Bee-friendly seeds will be sown to fill the garden with vibrant colour in Spring.

During August we completed our hands-on service for the House of Grace project. Kiran and Katrina spent a Saturday morning making Apricot Chicken, Devilled Sausages, and Macaroni Cheese meals which will be delivered in batches to the House of Grace. Emily, Natalie A, Janine & Debbie visited the house for a cleaning bee, spending 2.5hrs washing and wiping all the surfaces. House of Grace said, “Your support is so very important and helps build a positive start in life for a new generation of families.”

An Altrusa International Foundation Grant, fundraising and donations from the club made this project possible.

Altrusa Aotearoa

September 2020
Altrusa Invercargill

We are delighted to welcome Yulieth to our club. She is from Columbia, and is settling into our NZ ways. She apologised to me for her English...and that she doesn't always understand., but I believe she is amazing- her English is so much better than my Spanish!

The club is busy planning for the Pink Ribbon Breakfast to be held on 22nd August. We are very relieved that our Covid Level did not change. We did feel the need to postpone the raffle sales that were to be held this weekend. It is weirdly funny, because this is the same raffle that we had to postpone due to the March Covid! Fortunately the prizes are non-perishable and an attempt to sell them will be made later in the year. The John Collie Hall is able to hold our ticket holders, even with the additional physical distancing, and other requirements of Alert Level 2. It promises to be a success with most tickets sold already.

Altrusa Aotearoa

September 2020
Altrusa Taieri

When members of the Altrusa Club of Taieri visited local preschools, we were made to feel very welcome. Funds were raised at a Nadia Lim Book Launch that the club had organised. Nine preschools on the Taieri benefited from this when they were presented with the proceeds for their literacy programmes.

At Arthur Burns Preschool we sat in with the children as one of the teachers read and shared one of the big books. The children all engaging, interacting and developing their early literacy skills.

The preschool staff were very appreciative of our donation towards resources for their learning centre. We left Altrusa Club of Taieri stickers for the staff to put on all the books.

At Outram Playcentre we were able to interact and join in with the children as they used one of the educational listening bingo games. The children had to listen to a CD disc and match the animal or bird picture to the sound they heard on their bingo card. The children were all very enthusiastic and engaged about using this fabulous teaching resource.

Staff showed us some of the additional early literacy games that they had purchased as part of their order.

Altrusa Ashburton

Ashburton Altrusans have been busy knitting woollen hats and garments for newborns in various sizes; some incredibly tiny for premature babies. The hats and garments are sent to the Birthing Unit at Christchurch Women’s Hospital. They are truly welcomed by all our new born babies, regardless of the weather.

About 6,000 babies are born at Christchurch Women’s each year. As soon as each baby is born, they have one of these warm colourful hats placed on their head. Any hats or garments which are too large for newborns are given to PIPS (Pregnancy Infancy Parenting Support, previously known as Pregnancy Help). It is a rewarding activity for our Altrusan members, one which continues throughout the years.

Our Books on Wheels service in Ashburton has expanded since Lockdown has ended. We work with the Ashburton Public Library, who select for us, fortnightly, distinctive green bags of reading material for 31 people, who are retired and unable to get to the Library as they would wish. We deliver the new selections and return the previous material.

Altrusa Aotearoa

September 2020
Altrusa Christchurch

This week we warmly welcomed Donna Sutherland from the Kiwi Coffin Club in Christchurch. Donna gave an interesting presentation about this charity, who provide Christchurch Women's Hospital with beautiful angel boxes for stillborn and baby cot deaths. President Val Lee presented Donna with a cheque for $500, proceeds from the raffles at our 2019 Christmas Stall.

After trialling several venues, we have chosen the Nurses Organisation Rooms in the central city for meetings. This venue meets our needs well, being large enough for meetings and programme activities, and has adequate parking and Wi-Fi. We enjoy including Chris Mouter, our Nelson member, via Zoom.

![Image](image1.jpg)

Altrusa Oamaru

Yes, we are still here and going strong. During lockdown, the change of Board occurred via a Zoom meeting and at our first real meeting after lockdown we acknowledged those who were retiring from the board and the incoming board. Jeanette Halcrow is the president for the coming year.

District Fifteen Governor, Maria Mackay presented service pins to Jenny Cleland (30yrs); Bev Manson (15yrs); Liz McIntyre (25yrs); absent was Anne Brown (10yrs), and Issy Custer (30yrs).

Our 3 new members Carol, Marie and Lianne are enjoying the challenges of Altrusa, especially as we are busy sorting and collecting items for our Bazaar, in September, plus discovering the other activities we undertake in our community.

Our ASTRA girls, from Waitaki Girls High were awarded a certificate by Altrusa International for their initiative of collecting and supplying emergency items for people who are admitted to hospital unexpectedly. The certificate has been framed and will be presented to them at assembly and will be hung in the school hall.

![Image](image2.jpg)

Altrusa Aotearoa

September 2020
Governor’s Award

On July 27th 2020, District Fifteen Governor, Maria Mackay, presented Immediate Past President Lyn Cartwright with the Governor’s award for the Year 2019 -2020. Lyn has been a very valued Altrusan since 2007.

She is a member of St John’s ambulance service in Oamaru, along with her other interests. Lyn managed her commitment as Altrusa President for the past year with dedication, laughter, encouragement and where necessary sensitivity. She listened, asked questions and for the club as the saying goes “got the job done”.

Thanks, Lyn for your year as President and long may you be an Altrusan.

Altrusa Hawera

Several members of Hawera Altrusa club made Twiddle Muffs during the Covid19 lockdown. These have been a hit with patients and clients at local Rest Homes and Alzheimer’s Taranaki Day Care program.
Congratulations to Kaitlyn at the presentation of the Hawera Altrusa 2020 Nursing Bursary.

Altrusa International Inc
District Fifteen

CONERENCE ’21

Caroline Bay
TIMARU
April 30th to May 2nd, 2021

Creating Waves in Our Communities

Our next DSB issue will have more details of what to expect at Conference ‘21.

By now you should have all received the ‘Call to Conference’ sent electronically by the International Office in early August.

Please follow the link below and then click Conference Information

https://districtfifteen.altrusa.org/news-events/

Altrusa Aotearoa

September 2020
Jenny’s Jottings

As our lives and club activities began to gather momentum – being back to ‘normal’ albeit in Level 1, then along came Covid again sending us once again into a tailspin! In my own club we all left our Business meeting in August buoyant about projects and fundraisers coming up, only to have them put in doubt that same evening with the ‘breaking news’ that Covid is back in the community, with Auckland heading into Level 3 and the rest of NZ into Level 2.

So many charities will be struggling to maintain their normal levels of service for some time to come which makes what we give to our communities even more important. No matter how much we can give in ‘hands on service’ or by monetary gifts, it will make a difference.

Reading through all your club submissions, there is so much giving being undertaken by clubs in Aotearoa NZ. Please take the time to read what other clubs are doing as it is pretty amazing.

Mamie L Bass had a vision over 100 years ago to serve and in 2020 that vision is still so vital.

Sometimes we don’t think we are being as effective as we could be, but think how a few puffs of air changes a balloon or a small amount of yeast makes a loaf of bread – we then realise ‘small things count’

Take care as we navigate once again through the ‘new normal’

Submissions due to Raewyn submissions@altrusa.org.nz by 15 November please

In this issue, some submissions were shortened to meet the framework of 200 words, however in special circumstances we have allowed some leniency – a reminder to keep your submissions relevant and as close to 200 words as is possible

Altrusa Aotearoa

September 2020