Altrusa Bee Garden

It was third time lucky for our Winter Working Bee at the Altrusa Bee Garden! In mid-July we removed the annuals that had finished flowering, dug over the garden bed to loosen the clay soil, and put mulch through the garden to prepare for planting in Spring. Thanks Sophia, Barbara, Jenny, and Katrina for your hard work! This weekend Emily scattered more bee-friendly seed to fill the garden with vibrant colour next season.
President’s Message

He aha te mea nui o te ao
What is the most important thing in the world?

He tangata, he tangata, he tangata
It is the people, it is the people; it is the people

Maori proverb

After attending a service project with club members on the 6th of August at the House of Grace, it reminded me we all have the power to make an impact and create lasting change for the people our club comes into contact with. I am proud of the support we have been able to provide within our community since past president Katrina Clokie formed the club on the 14th of June 2018. Thank you to all current and past members for the difference you have made within a short time to the Ohariu community.

Are you interested in what projects we are working on and have coming up? Or if you want to help us make a difference in our community, then we would love to meet you at our next club meeting on the 10th of September.

Janine Langdon-Lee
Altrusa International of Ohariu Club President

District Fifteen Conference

The next national conference for Altrusa clubs from across New Zealand will be held in Timaru from April 30th to May 2nd, 2021.

The theme is “Creating waves in our Community” with a Friday night dress-up Beach Party!

To find out more about the programme, travel, and accommodation options take a look at the conference information pack that was sent to all District Fifteen Altrasans.

It would be great to have some Ohariu Altrasans keen to make the trip South.
Once COVID restrictions were lifted, we were able to complete our hands-on service for House of Grace.

Kiran and Katrina spent a Saturday morning making meals that will feed a total of 64 people for dinner. Apricot Chicken, Devilled Sausages, and Macaroni Cheese will be delivered in batches to the House of Grace freezer for residents to enjoy. Thanks to Altrusans who helped purchase food.

Then Emily, Natalie A, Janine & Debbie visited the house for a weekday cleaning bee, spending 2.5hrs washing and wiping all the surfaces after recent renovations.

This project has been funded by an Altrusa International Foundation Grant, donations from Altrusa members, and fundraising through our chocolate sales. House of Grace have said "Your support is so very important and helps build a positive start in life for a new generation of families."

House of Grace

The House of Grace accommodates and equips young pregnant teens with the skills they need to become successful mothers.

In March we donated $2000 to The House of Grace in Wellington to purchase a fold-down bed for their downstairs office. All the bedrooms in the house are upstairs and restricted to girls and house family only. The downstairs bed will be used by girls who can’t manage the stairs, for medical examinations, and overflow accommodation. Because it folds away, the room can still be used as an office too!
WELLfed teach people to plan, shop, safely prepare, and cook, low-cost healthy meals. We have purchased the first 75 copies of Edmonds ‘My First Cookbook’ to be awarded to graduates of WELLfed community cooking classes. These cookbooks have step-by-step illustrated instructions for over 90 recipes and will help WELLfed graduates to continue cooking for their families.

A big thank you to Natalie C for leading this project for Altrusa, and to Marsden Books who provided a generous discount to support our cause and went out of their way to deliver us the books.

We plan to provide hands-on support at the end of September to help maintain the WELLfed community gardens that supply fresh ingredients for meals.

IFF Day
Information, Fun, and Friendship (IFF) Day is an opportunity for clubs in our area to meet and exchange ideas. We are part of Area 2 with Hawera, Palmerston North, Levin, and Wellington Altrusa clubs.

Our IFF Day will be held on 5th September and this year it will be hosted by the Levin Club. The event runs from 9.30am – 3.30pm at Thompson House in Levin.

The cost per person is $25 (includes materials, morning tea and lunch). There is a $10 discount if a member is attending for the first time. Registrations and payment is due by Thursday 20th August.

Chocolate Fundraiser
Thank you to the Altrusans who have sold (or in many cases eaten!) our fundraising chocolate!

This was our first purchase of fundraising chocolate and it has been a very successful experiment with simple fundraising from our workplaces.

Thank you to Trudi for ordering and distributing the chocolates. Funds raised are to contribute to our House of Grace and WELLfed projects.
Altrusa Ohariu are excited to be a Silver Sponsor of the Victoria University of Wellington Women in Tech conference. Spot our name in the logo!

WITCon is a conference designed to bring students and industry together to discuss technical and social topics surrounding STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics).

In addition to sponsoring, we are sending four local high school students to the event. Two senior girls who study the digital technology curriculum at Tawa College and Onslow College. WITCon is an opportunity for these students to get a taste of University and industry by networking at the event and listening to the presentations.

This project is one of many initiatives with a tech focus that we are undertaking to use a grant received from WeTest last year. We’re excited to support more women to pursue careers in Tech.

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**Book Donations**

We had several boxes of books that were excess from our Book Drive for Arohata Prison earlier in the year. We have been working hard to home all of these books in places that they benefit our community. In the past month we donated 9 boxes of books to the Blue Dragon Book Fair (left) and donated books to the Linden Community Centre Community Library that were received by Linden Community Centre Advocate Fieza Ibrahim (right). Thank you to Janine and Mike who are coordinating and delivering the bulk of these books!

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**Next Meeting**

Our next business meeting is Thursday 10th of September.

If we are still able, we will meet at the Johnsonville Bowling Club from 7.30pm – 9pm.

If things have changed, President Janine will be in touch with information of an alternate venue or dial-In details for an online meeting.

Visitors are always welcome! Get in touch if you would like to visit us.