

# District Fifteen Service Bulletin



**September  
2022**

## Submissions

Submissions for the next edition of the District Fifteen DSB **due by 15 November 2022**

[submissions@altrusa.org.nz](mailto:submissions@altrusa.org.nz)

Reminder that submissions need to meet the paragraph format of 200 words, however in special circumstances we have allowed some leniency.

Please keep your submissions relevant and as close to 200 words as is possible

If you are sending photos of children or non-members, please ensure you have their permission to publish the photo.

## Resources

Reminder to read and use the resources provided in both the District Fifteen and the International Altrusa websites. Take the time to look at what is on these two websites.

## ***District 15 Awards to Think About Aiming Towards For 2023:***

### **Margaret Inch Award**

*Recognises an Altrusan who has shown positive leadership in their community and Club*

### **Governors Award**

*Recognises outstanding club achievements in all areas of operations.*

### **Newsletter Award**

### **Helen Bartlett Communication and Marketing Award**

### **Legacy Service Project Recognition Award**

### **Service Project Database Recognition Award**

### **Fundraising Recognition Certificates**

*Recognition of club fundraising projects collecting over \$1000.00.*

Check out the District Fifteen Website (Resource Area) for more details, criteria and submission due dates.

## From the Governor Ming-chun:

I hope this finds you all in good health!

It is great to see so many of our clubs, across New Zealand, active with service projects and fundraisers despite the winter season bringing flu and COVID to many households. The wintry chill certainly hasn't stopped the Altrusan service spirits!

There have been some changes to our team at the International level. This month, we welcome Foundation's new Executive Director, Dr. Kantrice Rose, who can be reached on [kantrice@altrusa.org](mailto:kantrice@altrusa.org). I am also pleased to share that we now have lamplighter pins available in New Zealand with our supplies officer. The International website has had a refresh with updated content: <https://www.altrusa.org/>

Many of you would have received notice from your District Board representatives about the mega-IFF Days which the District Board is trialling this year in lieu of the face-to-face conference. The two North and South Island IFF weekends will be packed with both service and social activities for those that can make it to connect with other Altrusans. The Board would be interested to receive feedback about how attendees find this format. Do sign up to attend and make it a short get away if you haven't registered already!

As we approach the end of this biennium, I would like to encourage you to consider putting yourself or your fellow Altrusan forward for the District Board slate. If you have not been a Club President but would like to contribute at the District level, you could consider one of the District Chair positions. Please reach out to Governor-Elect, Marvynne, if you would like to join her team in 2023-2025. You can also approach any of the District Board members and the Nominations Committee for more information. Join us in creating the Altrusa history in New Zealand. <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/women-together/altrusa-international-new-zealand>



We are still on the hunt for clubs to host Altrusa Conferences in 2024 and 2025. Please contact Governor-Elect, Marvynne, if your Club is interested in hosting this important annual event.

Finally, I would like to encourage every Club in New Zealand to undertake a food related project (such as food collection for foodbank) for World Food Day on 16th October. We would like to publish every club's projects on the District Facebook page during October to form our national campaign for Altrusa. Please email me your photo and a short descriptor to [governor@altrusa.org.nz](mailto:governor@altrusa.org.nz). You could also send a short article to your local paper to help grow awareness for your Altrusa Club!

Keep safe everyone!

Yours in Altrusa,  
Ming-chun Wu

## 14 Lamplighter Pendants in New Zealand



Let me introduce you to the Altrusa Lamplighter Pendant.

I was given 24 of these in Austin to bring home. 14 are now available to clubs to recognise those Altrusans who have dedicated years of service to Altrusa and the community.

Bringing these home mitigates the risk of U.S. customs duty on the 'price we pay' vs the 'value of the pendant' which can be in the thousands of dollars.

The Lamplighter Programme is one of many our International Foundation supports.

*The Lamplighter Programme recognises Altrusans who contribute U.S.\$500 or more to the International Foundation in one year. They are recognised as a "Lamplighter" and receive the specially designed "Lamplighter" pendant. Contributions can be made in honour or memory of someone. Once the "Lamplighter" level has been attained in one year, a diamond chip is awarded for each additional U.S.\$500 gift given in succeeding years.. Any Altrusa Clubs making a minimum contribution of \$500 in one fiscal year will reach the Club Lamplighter Award level and receive a special banner patch acknowledging this status.*

I encourage clubs to recognise those Altrusans who have dedicated years of service not only to Altrusa but to their communities. They may also be Altrusans who epitomise our Altrusa values.

Once you have made your contribution to the International Foundation our Supplies Officer will have your Pendant delivered.

Congratulations to Lorraine Eves and Jenny Wright-Gardner of Altrusa International Hamilton. I was honoured to be invited to attend your business meeting and present you both with Lamplighter pendants.

**Waiho ma te tangata e mihi**

***"Leave your praises for someone else."***

Great leaders shine the spotlight on their people, not themselves.

Ngā mihi

Marvynne Ashley, Governor Elect



Cutting and assembly of Breast Pads ready for overlocking

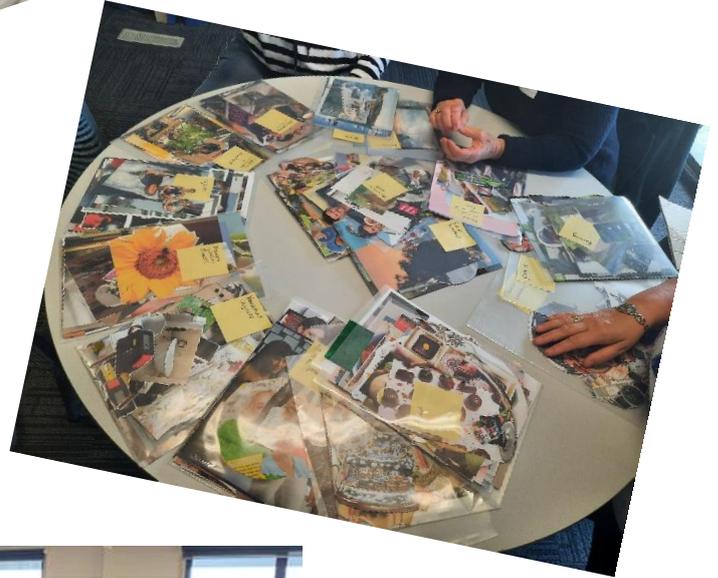


IFF DAY TAUPO 2022



Distraction Pack Construction Fun

Preparation of the pages for the Picture books



## North Island Mega I.F.F. Day Attendance and Raffle

Susi and I were so pleased to welcome 46 Altrusans from a registration of 53. This included 10 First Timers, some we heard are already Club Presidents!!.

Altrusa is indeed a builder of women, particularly in leadership roles.

We were sorry to hear COVID and colds/flu/life situations prevented 7 members attending. This is our new reality with illness now affecting so many at this time.

However, whether Altrusans attended or not, interest in Susi's MEGA Raffle achieved a high volume of weekend sales. Coupled with pre-I.F.F. Day sales and a small donation to round out our total post weekend; North Island Altrusans are donating \$620.00.



Congratulations raffle winner Elaine Duder, Te Kuiti.

Thank goodness Elaine travelled by car

**We are donating \$500.00 to Days for Girls**

Thank you for your generous donations for our three workshops – Discussion books for Children, Distraction Packs, and Days for Girls.

***You are awesome***

Ngā mihi

Marvynne Ashley, Governor Elect

Susi Chinnery-Brown, Director District Fifteen



## North Island Mega IFF Day First Timer

Wow I mean wow what an amazing collection of wonderful women.

I was blown away by what other clubs around the North Island were achieving in these challenging times. The ideas from others were an inspiration to me, as President, to put a different array of projects on the table to try.

Learning what is available on the District Fifteen site that we can feed into, wonderful. What forms to use, great.

Amazing the volume of knowledge that was shared, this was appreciated along with the help and friendship that was offered, very heart warming.

I thoroughly enjoyed the workshops, outstanding kai, full bellies, happy faces and lots of laughter.

What more could a first timer ask for.

Debbie Myers  
Rotorua President



*Guest Speaker Jenny Coles*



*Story Books presented to Jocelyn from Central Kindergarten*



*Distraction Packs presented to Constable Philip Brookfield and Senior Constable Ciara Hepburn Taupo Police*



## Distinguished Clubs for 2021-2022

Taieri Hawera Te Awamutu Ashburton Levin

Each club scored at least 65% of the possible points awarded for various questions on the Club Annual Report for International. Pins are being sent out soon. Clubs who have not previously been recognized as Distinguished Clubs will also receive a cord.

## Group Tally

It is really important that we keep our individual club member contact details and club details (including leadership information) up to date on Group Tally. Group Tally is the database that we refer to for communication with members. For example if you are not getting the DSB then it could be because your member details are incorrect. Club presidents may not get information if they are not listed in Group Tally as the Club President.

Here is a useful link from our International website that can help you navigate Group Tally.

<https://login.altrusa.org/grouptally-toolkit/> Here you can find PDFs and video guides on how to log in, update club officers, make payments etc. If you have any problems with accessing Group Tally please contact the International Office at [altrusa@altrusa.org](mailto:altrusa@altrusa.org) and our staff will help you out.

## Leadership Tools at Your Fingertips

Community Governance NZ, is an organisation with a focus on empowering people with knowledge and support so that they can be effective board members. You can find their website at [www.communitygovernance.org.nz](http://www.communitygovernance.org.nz)

You will find a wide range of tools to help you regarding creating agendas, taking minutes and if you are new to a Chair role, some helpful videos and much much more.



**Community  
Governance**

Supporting community  
governance in Aotearoa

**GOVERNOR ELECT TRAINING  
IN THE HEAT OF AUSTIN TEXAS**

Kia ora koutou katoa,

I was so lucky to be able to travel to the U.S.A. in July, with minimal travel restrictions, to attend two intensive Governor Elect training days in Austin Texas. The heat when I arrived just after midnight was 39C!

What I did not expect was the frigidity of our meeting room. Hence you can see me with 4-5 layers in our group photo. The following day I was wearing all of my merino, Kathmandu clothing with hoodie up, puffer jacket, socks, and sneakers. Two of my colleagues utilized room blankets.

Despite the freezer room, the training and collegiality of two days together was priceless. The sessions were informative, reflective, innovative, and FUN.

With many years of leadership experience between us we collectively problem solved and supported each other with both common Altrusa and distinct District challenges. Internationally, membership growth and leadership succession remain our biggest challenge for the future of Altrusa.

I am excited to share Service, Membership and Leadership initiatives with you all that have been successful with other Districts. Not only could they build on what already works for many of you throughout District Fifteen they will assist clubs seeking new initiatives.

I also have a Governor's Council that regularly brings us together, chaired and co-chaired, by two inspiring leaders Debbie and Lorraine.



**Front row:**

Lorraine Brewer Vice-Chair Governor Council.

Linda Smith, President-Elect.

Debbie McBee, Chair Governor Council.

Me next to Debbie – Freezing.

We heard from our President-Elect Linda Smith her biennium vision and goals which will be launched at International Convention in San Antonio 19-22 July 2023.

Ngā mihi

Marvynne Ashley, Governor Elect

# ROTORUA

COME AND VISIT OUR BEAUTIFUL CITY FOR THE 2023 ALTRUSA CONFERENCE

Conference 5-7 May 2023 in Rotorua

There is plenty to see and experience



To be held at the Distinction Rotorua Hotel



The Conference Venue



Whakarewarewa – the Living Māori Village



Biking and walking in Whakarewarewa Forest



The famous Bath House



The exciting Duck Tours

## Obituary

Denise Corson 1989 -2022 (Invercargill) joined Altrusa in 1989, a 33 year membership.

Over the years we have worked together on many fundraising projects, we have enjoyed much fun and laughter as Denise was always on for something different, something lively. She sometimes said we were too serious at times. Things didn't always go according to plan and we have sometimes sighed together when things weren't quite right but it all came right in the end, she made sure it did. She loved to get away to annual conferences when she could and enjoyed the fellowship and fun.



Denise was not one to be on the Board of Altrusa, but she willingly took on the role of various committee chairs. She took the Service Chair role for many years which meant she lead the club through many fundraisers, too many to name. When it came to approaching the business community for support for fundraisers, she had the cause at the forefront and was tenacious and successful.

She could also ask the questions that no one else would and liked a good discussion of the whys and wherefores.

Denise embodied the Altrusa motto of Patriotism, Efficiency and Service. Her generosity of spirit, her care about those around her and in our community, and her giving nature will be missed by many.

## DISTRICT FIFTEEN SERVICE CHAIR – PAM HAYES

As I write this, I realise that the North Island Mega IFF Day will have taken place and the South Island event will be very close to publication date.

The two awards unique to District Fifteen will have been discussed and hopefully clubs will start now to identify and compose their entries.

Now is also a good time to consider your entries to the Mamie L Bass, Letha H Brown and Nina Faye Calhoun Awards. You may not think so but from here time really flies and, in the middle, we have our Christmas / New Year break. Do yourselves a favour and at lease identify and draft entries now for a polish in February.

Thanks to the 3 clubs who responded to my query in regard to Club Days For Girls Activities. As the District DFG Liaison I need to report in to International regarding to our district's activities. I am also hoping to participate in the DFG Conference in November.

I see from the posts on Facebook, club Newsletters and the DSB the fabulous work that is being done in your communities, after all, that is why we joined Altrusa, to serve – isn't it?

# WHAT HAS EVERYONE BEEN UP TO LATELY?

## ALTRUSA CAMBRIDGE

### Lunch at Clementine's Cafe

What can be better than to spend a very miserable Sunday lunch at Clementine's Café, with a group of friends. We welcomed past members Hilary, Patty, Rae, Teresa and Theresa, two prospective new members Anne and Sue and nine of our members. Two hours of chatting and catching up and everyone has asked that we do this again. I think early next year, perhaps February at about the time of our birthday would be a good idea. A very enjoyable afternoon for those that were able to attend.

Unfortunately, we didn't take any photos, there was way too much chatting going on.

## ALTRUSA HAMILTON



There was great excitement at our August meeting as Lorraine Eves and Jenny Wright-Gardner were awarded Lamplighters. Marvynne Ashley, Governor Elect, was invited to present the Lamplighters and shared the Lamplighter story. Lorraine Eves joined the club in 2001 and was President 2006-2007, 2014-2015 and has been on the Board as Director, leading club projects for many years. Jenny Wright-Gardner joined Altrusa in 2004 and was President 2009-2010, 2017-2019 and 2021 and is current President.

Both Lorraine and Jenny have given so much to the club in leadership and service. They have incredible catering and organisational skills. Lorraine has always led the annual carers weekend for those who care for partners with dementia. Jenny hosts our annual curry night at her home where we raise money for AIKYA. She also organises the Youth and Young Citizens Awards each year where students are acknowledged for their leadership and service. Last year Jenny made 296 mini Christmas cakes which we sold to raise funds. Both ladies always help out with our Liquor Auditing fundraiser at Waikato FMG Stadium. We thank them for their leadership and service.



## ALTRUSA INVERCARGILL

### The Altrusa Elizabeth Millar Memorial Storytelling competition.

This competition is held as part of the Invercargill club literacy focus each year. It was held at Gorge Road School, on July 6<sup>th</sup> for the second year. Jenny and the teachers had set it up really well which we appreciated.

It opened with a chat about Elizabeth both as 'Dreamweaver' and a club member. They had a photo of Liz up on the screen with her two dogs so she was with us on the day.

There were 3 categories, Year 1&2, Year 3&4, and Year 5&6, with 3 entrants in each. They each told their story in front of the rest of the school and Ceciley, Elizabeth and Nellie were the judges. Each category had a winner, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. and received certificates and the winner a small gift.

As the photos show there were some happy children and Yana from Year 3&4 was the overall winner who received the trophy.

The stories were delivered with much aplomb and it was a very entertaining afternoon.

*Photo shows overall winners with President Nellie.*



## ALTRUSA LEVIN

In the last few months, Levin Altrusa, have made three monetary donations to our community from the proceeds of a number of earlier projects completed by our club. Firstly we have provided funding to the Horowhenua College Cycling Team towards their new uniforms which they proudly wore to a competition event. Secondly we donated money to the local Arohanui Community, money for crafts and incidentals that otherwise eat into their budget.



And finally, we have approved the purchase of 4 single beds and mattresses for the new St John Facility in Levin. Funding for this became available due to the generous donations from three local producers- Woodhaven, Swazi and Benniks Eggs that was to be for our Conference which sadly had to be cancelled. Now our local community has benefitted from their generosity.



## ALTRUSA MORRINSVILLE

In June we were very pleased to install Linda Larsen as our President. Linda loves Star Wars and orange so that was the theme of the installation. The Star Wars characters chosen embody the different Altrusa tenants. 😊



After seeing International clubs around the world setting up Laundromat Libraries on the Facebook service page, we thought this would be a great way to meet the 500 book International Literacy challenge and start a community library in Morrinsville. We have been throwing around ideas for a library for a number of months.



One of our local laundromats was thrilled to give us space for a bookshelf. It is stocked with adult and children's books and good quality men's and women's magazines. All members are rostered to add books and keep the bookshelf tidy. After posting on the Morrinsville Facebook Community Page we received many offers of books which we have been collecting and feeding into the library to keep it fresh and interesting. Our local paper got in touch and published an article.

We hope the community will embrace the library and add their own books to the shelves. An outdoor library is in the pipeline.

## ALTRUSA OAMARU

### Annual Bazaar

Within 5 minutes of opening the doors, the Scottish Hall in Oamaru was filled with eager bargain hunters. After 3 months of preparation, hours and hours of sorting donated materials, cottons, wool, zips, buttons, unfinished items, haberdashery, scarves and jewellery, pricing measuring and folding we were ready to go. We held our breath, (although we had been able to hear people talking for over an hour while queueing outside) in they streamed. The quantity and quality were excellent this year, the best ever and yes the profits



showed this. What was to be our most successful bazaar, was under way.



In came the serious shoppers heading straight for the items they most desired, pure wool, quality fabrics and craft items. Some were carrying huge striped bags which were quickly filled. After 3 hours the tables had been greatly depleted but there was still plenty left for the Sunday morning.

Because of the quantity of good donations we had already decided to hold a pop up shop in the main street, 10am-3pm the next week, so in the pouring rain on Sunday afternoon we packed up and relocated. A steady stream of customers made this very worthwhile .

## ALTRUSA TAIERI

The Books for Babies Project in conjunction with Plunket kicked off at the end March with our first delivery of 30 packs of beautifully illustrated books and quality hand-made items. An excellent article in The Star newspaper showed a great photo of our delivery of the packs to Plunket, and the article was good publicity for our Altrusa club. Members of the Literacy Committee have really enjoyed making up the packs, and our local Plunket Nurse, Kelly Morrissey, has had some very positive feedback from the new mothers receiving the packs. The new mothers were already sharing the books with their babies and love the knitted items. Kelly also had stories of burp cloths put into immediate use!



## ALTRUSA TAURANGA

At the start of June, our Changeover Night with a 'Herb' theme was a double celebration. Not only was the new board installed by new old member Maggie Dudfield (thank you Wellington!) we celebrated 20 years of Service by Denise Bean.



Denise has held almost all offices in the club including President 2017-2019 and is the person you can rely on when you want anything done. Over the years she has also served District Fifteen in a number of roles. She is currently the club Secretary.

Our service committee has worked hard to complete 100 Distraction Packs for Kids, for Tauranga Living Without Violence. The final 40 packs were delivered on 15 June and this batch included lovely warm beanies and small knitted dolls which were well received by the support workers.

Over the last three months we have welcomed four new members who have launched themselves enthusiastically into our service and literacy projects, as well as secretly organising Emeritus status for Alison Cranston, one of our charter members.

We have 11 members attending the Mega IFF Day in Taupo, including three first timers, and all are looking forward to meeting other Altrusans and seeking inspiration from the myriad of projects their clubs undertake.



## ALTRUSA TIMARU

Our latest service project came from a member's idea to help keep babies and children cosy and warm during winter, by providing hand knitted woolly hats for distribution through local organisations.

Members, family, friends plus a local craft group, were very generous with their time and skills, and amazingly more than 200 beautiful hats - knitted and sewn – were created and donated to our cause. Wool was also generously donated by those who didn't knit.

To continue our aim of promoting literacy, members matched the hats with a book, and these were packaged at our July programme meeting. To tie in with our 50th celebrations, we provided 50 packs



for newborns, which included a pamper pack for the mums, 50 packs for a preschool, and 50 packs for children aged 5 and up. Having exceeded our original target of the number of hats we thought we could provide, we have been able to provide three more community groups with cozy hats to distribute.

Our recent successful Elvis movie fundraiser provided funds for the purchase of the majority of the books.

We are pleased all these little heads are going to be kept cozy in the beanies and the books will encourage a love of reading.



## ALTRUSA WELLINGTON

Wellington Club is on a revitalisation kick. We have 5 active members at present, so we decided to showcase our club and Ohariu club at Expo Wellington. It was a steep learning curve as our club had not done this for over 20 years. Rotorua came to our aid with the 4 colours backdrop and lots of sage advice. It was a cold weekend so lots of people through. We tempted women to stop with homemade shortbread and a costless raffle. 2 days of chats with interesting women combined with friendly fellow stall holders around us made for an interesting experience. We answered lots of questions, explained what we did with reference to our large photos and 2 club display boards, asked women to sign up for movie night tickets or interest in joining us. The stall opposite was fruit gins and next to it a biscuit stall. Whose staff offered us free samples. Very tasty. Afterwards we emailed all those in our area details of and an invitation to our next meeting, passed details of others to Ohariu, drew the raffle, and rested our voices.



Here's hoping our next meeting will have a crowd of visitors who will lead to some new members.