

The Kiwi Altrusan



Governor's Message

Planning is well underway for the **Conference in Wellington** next May. I hope your Club is making plans for as many as possible to attend. We have wonderful speakers, fun activities and a good balance of learning opportunities instore for you. Plus, of course, the opportunity to catch up with friends made at previous Conferences.

If it is your first time coming to Conference you will not be disappointed. Conference is a time when we become more connected with the Altrusa brand, what it stands for and why we belong.



The Conference has been shortened to Friday afternoon, Saturday and Sunday morning. This reduces the number of nights you need to stay, with arrival in Wellington on Friday morning giving you plenty of time to get organised. President and Club Officers, and District Committee meetings will be held on Friday afternoon. For everyone else, the Conference starts with a social gathering on Friday night.

Your District Board and Committees are working hard to make things happen for you. Planning is underway to sort the logistics for a District wide Service project. We are also working with Active Hearts for the possibility of sponsoring our own project in Nepal, under our own banner. These projects are a way to add up the collective efforts of all our Clubs and show the collective impact we are having throughout the Country. This is all good for promoting our name and letting the communities we serve know more about us.

Promoting our brand is an important part of **ensuring our legacy survives**, and we will still be around to carry on the great work we do, in another 100 years! Be proud of what you do, and most of all, don't be frightened to tell others all about it.

I am wishing you all a lovely holiday season, with family and friends. I do hope we get some warm weather by then, to enjoy the sunshine and the outdoors after a long winter.

Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year

Margaret

District Chairs & Service Committees

Foundation

In my last Kiwi Altrusan update, I covered grant cycle deadlines and ways to support the Foundation and Lamplighters. Now, I'm excited to share a new funding vision for the biennium.



Traditionally, our District has relied on raffle ticket sales at annual conferences, often supported by the same generous members. To ease this burden and expand our reach, I'm exploring a fresh fundraising approach: offering a practical, affordable product—ideally priced between \$15–\$20—that's easy to sell to friends, family, colleagues, and fellow Altrusans. The goal is to find something gift-worthy, with strong profit margins, that can be sold widely and help alleviate financial pressure on club members.

Whether locally made or imported, I'm open to all ideas. If you have suggestions for such a product, please email me at susi@twentyfive7.co.nz—I'll happily explore all possibilities.

Currently, I've been selling **potato bags** at \$15 each, generating a \$10 profit per item. Unfortunately, my supply has temporarily run out, but I hope to restock soon.

Ultimately, my aim is ambitious: to raise more funds than NZ clubs receive in grants annually and make a meaningful contribution from **District Fifteen** to the **International Foundation**.

Let's make it happen—together!

Susi Chinnery-Brown (Morrinsville)
FOUNDATION CHAIR

Membership Development

Keeping the Heart of Altrusa Strong

Our members are the heart of Altrusa.

As we continue to grow and strengthen our Altrusa club, let's remember that keeping our existing members is just as important as recruiting new ones.



Each member contributes unique strengths, experiences, and energy to our clubs.

Retention starts with connection—welcoming each other warmly, recognising contributions, and making time for fun and fellowship. This ensures every member feels valued, included, and that they matter.

Take a moment this month to get in touch with someone you haven't spoken to in a while. A small act of kindness can go a long way in sustaining the strength and supportiveness of your club.

Together, we build a stronger Altrusa.

Rosemary Moore, (Ashburton)
Membership Development Chair.

Service

Active Hearts Foundation

We await news of a project in Nepal developed especially for Altrusa to focus on and support. Check out their website and see the impact their projects are having on the children and families in many villages and remote areas.



When clubs are planning upcoming projects and fundraisers, please consider adding the Active Hearts Foundation to your list. It has been chosen as District Fifteen's International Project, alongside Days for Girls, for this biennium. Focusing and working together as a district on a project for AHF would go a long way in making a difference for a community less fortunate than our own.

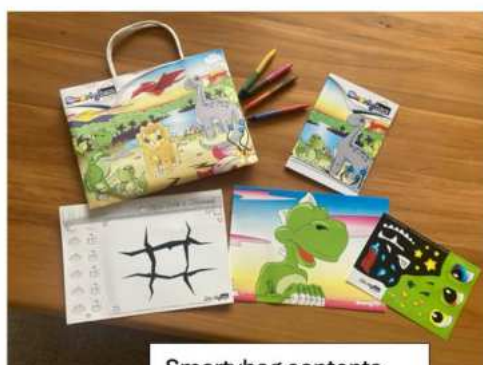
Distraction Packs

The Distraction Packs available through the Smartybags website are a reasonably priced bag or pad of activities which first responders would find very useful as they deal with situations involving children. The reasonable cost could make it possible for the packs to be distributed more widely and in greater numbers. Perhaps clubs might like to get some sample packs and collect some feedback from their local first responders as to whether or not they would find them useful.

They could be used in conjunction with Distraction Packs already being made by clubs.



Pad with activities



Smartybag contents

Karen Liddy (Timaru)
Service Chair



Congratulations to Altrusa International of Ashburton who have been successful in winning a \$1200 Foundation Grant for their project 'Yoga lessons for former Afghan refugees' in the 2025 – 2026 Cycle One

The Active Hearts Foundation

The **Active Hearts Foundation** is honoured to be selected as Altrusa NZ's overseas fundraising focus for the next two years. Founded by Kiwi trekking guide, Dan Keys and Nepali trekking guide, Arjun Adhikari, AHF is a New Zealand and Australian registered charity working to promote education, literacy, hygiene, and wellbeing in remote Himalayan communities and impoverished regions of Nepal.

AHF partners with rural Nepali communities to build libraries and sanitation facilities that give children safe, inspiring places to learn. Each library is led by a AHF-trained local librarian and stocked with Nepali and English books to foster literacy and lifelong learning. It is our aim to improve access to education and support healthy school environments.

The AHF team, in collaboration with Heartspace Expeditions, continues visiting remote project sites and planning new initiatives. Grateful to Altrusa NZ for your ongoing support!

Please get in touch if you'd like to join us in Nepal:

Website: www.activeheartsfoundation.org

Instagram: @active.hearts.foundation

Facebook: The Active Hearts Foundation

Contact: Beth Grannis –
namaste@activeheartsfoundation.org

Beth Grannis, Louise Holiston
(Queenstown Club) and Dan Keys



AHF at the clothing distribution in Salme Village

Club Highlights

Cambridge

At the Cambridge October Business meeting guests were invited to listen to their guest speaker Nic Turner on the subject of Mainstream Green. By all accounts Nic was amazing and had members thinking that they could do a lot more in that space!

Pamper evening

Four members enjoyed a social night out experiencing treatments at Elite Beauty in Hamilton, followed by and very nice dinner at Mediterranean Kitchen.

Santa to a Senior.

A fun evening was enjoyed by members as they created Christmas cards to accompany our Santa to a Senior.



Members left to right, Maire Davis, Glenda Little, Joanne James and Henry Shaw.

Christchurch

It's getting near Christmas and Christchurch Altrusans are busy preparing Christmas bags for groups in the community. Fifty bags have been completed for our literacy project for children, to be given to a Foodbank for distribution close to Christmas. Each bag contains a book, toy, game, stationery items and some special surprises.

A small committee prepare Christmas bags to be given out at the Christchurch City Mission Christmas Party for the Women's Night Shelter and Walsh House Day Programme women. This year there will be forty bags for Walsh House and twelve for those staying in the Night Shelter. The bags contain essential items, and some extra treats. Many of these women receive very little at Christmas and these bags are very special to them.





Congratulations to Jax Fisher, the very deserving winner of the Diane Harrington Altrusa Scholarship for 2025. The award was presented by Val Lee, Scholarship Committee Chair, at a recent function at Ara Canterbury. We wish her well for the future as she continues her studies.

Hamilton

Literacy Focus: Books for Babies

Claire and Diane led our literacy initiative by presenting a selection of books to the Riverridge Birthing Centre, supporting early reading for newborns and their families.

Make a Difference Day

To show appreciation for our local heroes, the club delivered morning tea platters to three fire stations: Hamilton Central, Chartwell, and Te Rapa.

Jenny also contributed by planting vegetable seedlings at Abbetfield.

Distraction Packs for December

The club is currently assembling 24 distraction packs, which will be distributed in December to bring comfort and joy to those in need.



Youth and Young Citizens Awards

Our largest project this term was the Youth and Young Citizens Awards, held on Wednesday 29 and Thursday 30 October at Hamilton Gardens.

- On Wednesday, 19 Year 8 students received certificates and book vouchers, followed by afternoon tea.
- On Thursday, 11 Year 12 students were honoured.
We were thrilled with the quality and enthusiasm of the entries.

Guest Speakers

Our last two meetings featured inspiring talks from Brain Tumour Support and Epilepsy Waikato. We are exploring ways to support these organisations in their vital work.

Hawera

☀️ Altrusa Hawera Supports Local Foodbank This Christmas

As we approach the festive season, many families in our community are feeling the strain. Every little bit helps—and Altrusa Hawera members have stepped up by donating items to the Hawera Foodbank to support those in need.

At our October dinner meeting, we were joined by Barbara, who shared heartfelt insights into the dedication of the Foodbank's volunteer team. These hardworking individuals tirelessly collect, sort, and distribute food parcels to families across the region. Their commitment is truly inspiring. Barbara's account highlighted the growing demand for support, with an astonishing number of parcels going out each week. While it was disheartening to hear that some recipients offer little thanks, it was equally uplifting to learn of those who return with gratitude and even donations once they've overcome their own hardships.



Altrusa Hawera is proud to contribute to this vital community service. Together, we can make a meaningful difference.



Hawera Altrusans and family members have also been busy knitting for SANDS Taranaki to provide teeny tiny hats, capes and wraps.



Invercargill

September: Elizabeth Miller Storytelling Competition

In September, members of Altrusa Invercargill travelled to Gorge Road School to attend the annual Elizabeth Miller Storytelling Competition. Elizabeth Miller, a dedicated Invercargill Altrusan, had previously visited the school as a storyteller, and the competition was established in her memory to honour her contribution. Following the prize giving, the school children delighted us with a performance, showcasing their creativity and enthusiasm.



October: Pink Ribbon Afternoon Tea



Pictured under the Pink Ribbon balloon arch is President Elect Elizabeth Robertson and guest speaker Lynley McKerrow.

October marked our fourth annual Pink Ribbon event, which this year took the form of a delightful afternoon tea. Our guest speaker, Lynley McKerrow, appeared in her Town Crier's uniform and delivered an inspiring talk on embracing every moment of life. The event was well attended, including guests from Taieri Altrusa. Anne McElwain was especially thrilled to win the pamper hamper, having purchased her ticket online. Interestingly, the winning ticket number was 38—perhaps a sign that the number 8 brings good fortune. The afternoon was filled with warmth, connection, and delicious treats.



Levin

A Morning of Meaningful Action and Community Spirit

What a fantastic turnout we had! Eleven Levin Altrusans and four enthusiastic members of the public rolled up their sleeves and got stuck in to help us assemble an impressive 90 distraction packs. These packs are headed to the Police, Women's Refuge, and the Rape Crisis Centre, where they'll offer comfort and support to those in need.

The scrapbooking station was a real hit with visitors. Easy to put together and genuinely enjoyable, these scrapbooks are destined for refugee children. Each page is thoughtfully laminated and bound to stand the test of time, helping little ones recognise and remember everyday items from their new surroundings.



Meanwhile, the Days for Girls table showcased beautifully finished sanitary products, ready to be distributed both here in New Zealand and around the world. It was a powerful reminder of how small efforts can have a global impact.

All in all, it was a morning filled with purpose, connection, and plenty of smiles. Thanks to everyone who joined us—you made it special.

Morrinsville



We, in Morrinsville, are a small club but we make things happen! We successfully hosted the Upper North Island IFF Day, only one small injury due to the excitement of our out and about photo activity. The food was great, and the weather turned it on after a frosty start.

One of the workshops/service activities was bundling and tagging scarves for veterans. We have been honoured to have bundle and tag over 100 scarves for Morrinsville to be given to Veterans on Armistice Day. The scarves were all knitted and donated by local knitters as part of Operation Wrapped in Remembrance.

For the second year running we joined in at the Morrinsville Kiwanis' One Day Funday event for children aged 5 to 12. We set up a 'Chill Zone' where families could come and rest up, provided a

colouring in corner and gave away over 650 free books for the children to choose from and take a book home.

Oamaru

Altrusa International of Oamaru Inc: Supporting Community Wellbeing

Since 2012, Altrusa International of Oamaru Inc has supported North Otago primary school children by funding term-long swimming lessons for 12 to 14 nominated students annually. In 2025, thanks to a grant from Foundation and proceeds from the club's bazaar fundraiser, the programme expanded to include 23 children. Each participant receives a swimming bag containing essentials like goggles and a towel, ensuring all children—regardless of financial background—can join in equally. This initiative fosters inclusivity, confidence, and a sense of belonging.



Another cornerstone of Altrusa's community service, **Oamaru House in Dunedin**, will close on October 31, 2025, due to the building's scheduled demolition. Established in 1997 amid concerns over the future of Oamaru Hospital, Oamaru House became a vital haven for patients and families from Otago and Southland. For nearly 30 years, it provided affordable accommodation and emotional support to those undergoing medical treatment far from home. Its closure marks the end of a deeply valued service and a proud legacy for the Altrusa community.



Ohariu

Thursday 16th October was World Food Day, and Altrusa Ohariu again ran a food bank collection.

We've found the two key factors are:

- to partner with a local supermarket, making it easy to people to pop a little something extra in their trolley, and
- to hand everyone an A5 flyer of items as they enter the store, while greeting them with a quick explanation: "we're collecting for the Johnsonville food bank, here's a list of the things they need most".

It's a no-pressure, no-fuss approach, most people are happy to take the flyer and are often incredibly generous!

Here are Yolanda and Barbara with just some of what we collected on a Sunday morning, which was gratefully received by the Johnsonville Food Bank.



Rotorua

The Rotorua Club recent High Tea was a wonderful event, held to raise funds for 'Christmas Bags' for the children at St Francis Whanau pre-school. The funds raised will go directly towards providing festive Christmas Bags filled with a book, pencils, pad and a soft toy for the children, making their holiday season brighter.

We had a lot of fun and received many positive comments about our High Tea, including the heartfelt feedback below:

'A lovely way to spend an afternoon. Tea in fine china with delectable nibbles and entertainment – our table was very satisfied and appreciative of your club's efforts. Many thanks, Anne.'

Many hands make light work, as shown in our collage photo featuring our members working together



preparing the food for our guests.

CHILDREN SPONSORSHIP ON THE EQUISUCCEED PROGRAMME



We were delighted to welcome Arorangi School Principal Billie-Lee Brown as our guest speaker. She shared inspiring stories about the ten children we sponsored on the EquiSucceed programme, describing how they gained in confidence, perseverance, friendships, empathy, pride and had noticeable improvements in their behaviour. The positive outcomes for these children have inspired our club to sponsor ten more children in the EquiSucceed programme next year.

Taieri

Taieri Altrusans have been busy. We bought Smarty bags as distraction packs for Dunedin hospital Emergency dept and donated money to buy specific books for children who suffer bereavement of a family member in intensive care.

Members are currently collecting digital devices to donate to Com-tech for recycling and in the process of giving puzzles and cards to the Whanau room at the Corrections facility in nearby Milton.

The club continues to provide new babies born in Taieri a book and knitting as part of our “Books for Babes” program.

Members held two morning teas at Enliven for the elderly and will give them a monetary donation towards craft supplies.

We have donated bags to Fosterhope to use as swim bags.

Our monthly coffee mornings are well supported by members who enjoy these social events.

As a continuation of our international project, we collect used bras and thanks to Project Uplift they will be delivered to the pacific islands.

Recently President Kath Burrows and members were delighted to celebrate with fellow member Brenda Brook, who received a Life Membership award to TENZ - Technology Teachers Association of New Zealand for her services to teaching.



Tauranga

Tauranga Club has continued to be busy over the last few months, both in the community and socialising with fellow members.

Projects undertaken in the last 3 months have included members donating scarves and jewellery to Tauranga Living Without Violence, making Christmas bookmarks and cards for the elderly in rest homes, assembling Christmas crackers for the children at Tauranga Hospital, a group of members getting together to do the 6 monthly tidy up of the Otumoetai Plunket grounds (wearing the new fluoro pink Altrusa vests) with a coffee afterwards [great “Make a Difference Day” project] and assembling more distraction packs for children and teenagers. We have our big fundraiser, “Sandjars” coming up, with the money raised this year being donated to “Under the Stars” for their kitchen project.



Eleven members (including 2 first timers) attended the IFF Day that Morrinsville Club hosted in September. We all thoroughly enjoyed the day – plenty of information, fellowship and fun.

Programme nights have included a Book Chat evening where local author, Denise Fitzpatrick, came and speak about her books. The Friday Night Diners group (alternate month to Book Chat) and first Saturday of the month Coffee mornings continue.

Te Awamutu

Te Awamutu Altrusa Club Celebrates 30 Years of Home & Garden Ramble with Record Success

The Te Awamutu Altrusa Club marked a major milestone on **2 November**, hosting its **30th annual Home and Garden Ramble** under perfect Waipā sunshine. This year’s event was a resounding success, raising **approximately \$14,000** to support local initiatives.



Main beneficiaries include:

- Life Education Trust
- Te Awamutu Health Shuttle
- Te Awamutu Food Forest

This also helps to fund our literacy and community programmes.

With **433 tickets sold** the highest in many years the Ramble drew more visitors than ever before, thanks in part to extended advertising and stronger interest from out-of-

town guests. Attendees enjoyed exploring beautiful homes and gardens, while contributing through **raffle ticket sales, plant and flower stalls**, and the sale of **handmade girls clothing** crafted by talented local maker and Altrusa member **Di Muggeridge**.

Feedback from participants has been overwhelmingly positive, with many already looking forward to next year's event. "It was a beautiful day and a wonderful way to celebrate our community" said one rambler.

The Altrusa Club expresses gratitude to all who supported the event, noting that the funds raised will make a meaningful difference for local services and projects.

Te Kuiti

Te Kuiti Club Highlights



25th Anniversary Celebration 🇳🇿

In September, we were delighted to welcome Leanne and fellow members from Hamilton and Te Awamutu to help us celebrate our 25th anniversary dinner. A special moment was shared as Leanne joined President Colleen Strahan and Gaylene Cumpstone to cut the celebratory cake.

Literacy Awards for Year 6–8 Students 📖

As part of our ongoing Literacy Program, we proudly presented 16 students from Years 6 to 8 with books of their own choosing.

These awards recognised their outstanding progress and enthusiasm for reading.

Melbourne Cup Fun 🐎

Our November meeting brought a splash of colour and creativity as members donned their finest fancy hats to celebrate the Melbourne Cup in style.

Rocket into Reading 🚀

Mary Scobie was pictured with a group of excited five-year-olds who received books through our *Rocket into Reading* initiative.

Twice a year, we visit eight local primary schools to gift books to new five-year-olds, along with a fun pack including stickers, a pencil, colouring pages, and information about Altrusa and the local library.



Timaru

Timaru has had a busy couple of months, and we have enjoyed some Hands-on Projects at IFF day and at our Programme meetings. Our Books and Beanies bags were delivered in September to our local Maternity Ward at Timaru hospital. Each bag contained a book, a knitted or material beanie, a cake of beautiful soap sourced from a local supplier, coffee sachets and chocolate. The bags were decorated beautifully by our members. The bags were presented to the nurses in the ward on September the 8th International Literacy Day. This project was undertaken by our Literacy Committee.



In the lead up to Christmas our Service committee is focusing on the delivery of some Christmas cheer to families being supported by Family Support. The “Santa’s Tasty Treats” project will see decorated bags filled with tasty treats for the adults and children.

We have enjoyed some social times together. Our Membership committee organised a lovely dinner with a black and white theme in October. The tables were decorated in the theme and members dressed to impress in Black and White. The focus was on getting to know each other a little better.



IT'S SERVICE CELEBRATION TIME



Cynthia 30 years, Wendy 5 years, Pauline 30 years (pinned by District Governor Margaret Melhop)
Congratulations to Club members Pauline Kingston and Cynthia Clark on receiving their well-deserved 30-year service pins—their dedication and leadership have inspired so many in our club. Also, congratulations to President Wendy Morgan on reaching 5 years of service to Altrusa, your energy and vision have truly made a difference. We are grateful for the positive impact you all continue to make to our club through your commitment to Altrusa's mission.



At the **Morrinsville** September meeting they recognised a member for her 10 years of service, presenting her with a Service Pin. Lorraine joined Morrinsville Altrusa 10 years ago and in that time has taken on many roles, including President and Literacy Committee Lead. Lorraine is a valued member with plenty of fun, humour and not to be fooled by her quiet demeanour!

The Altrusa Club of **Hamilton** were proud to present Claire Wilson with her 15 Year Membership pin. Claire has been a member of Hamilton Altrusa for two years after being a member of Rotorua for 13 years. Claire is very project driven and a very valued member.





TE KUITI CLUB CELEBRATE 25 YEARS

Past International President and District Fifteen Past District Governor, Leanne Milligan, presented President Colleen Strahan and Gayleen Cumpstone with their 25-year membership badge. These two amazing women are Charter Members of the club.

These three thoroughly fabulous women cut the anniversary cake.



L-R: Past Governor Leanne Milligan, Club President Colleen Strahan and Charter Member Gaylene Cumpstone

Celebrate Club Excellence

Submit Your Award Entries by 15 March 2026!

Altrusa clubs around the world are invited to showcase their impact by submitting entries for three prestigious awards that honour our legacy of service, literacy, and international goodwill.

Dr. Nina Fay Calhoun International Relations Award

This award celebrates clubs that foster global understanding. Highlight your efforts to promote international relations, cultural awareness, and meaningful connections across borders.

Letha H. Brown Literacy Award

Recognizing clubs that make a difference through literacy initiatives, this award honours projects that empower communities through reading, education, and creative outreach.

Mamie L. Bass Community Service Award

Honouring outstanding community service, this award is for clubs that have launched impactful programs addressing local needs—be it health, housing, or support for vulnerable groups.

These awards not only celebrate your achievements but also inspire others to serve with purpose and creativity. Let's honour the legacy of our leaders by continuing their mission through action.

Entries close 15 March 2026—don't miss the chance to let your club's story shine!





Join us for a fantastic District Conference in Wellington on 1 – 3 May 2026.

Why Wellington Should Be on List

Wellington, often called the “coolest little capital,” offers an unbeatable mix of culture, nature, and creativity. Start with the world-class **Te Papa Museum**, then ride the iconic **Wellington Cable Car** for sweeping city views. Explore the vibrant laneways like **Cuba Street** and **Hannahs Laneway**, packed with artisan food and quirky shops. Nature lovers will adore **Zealandia**, a predator-free sanctuary, and the panoramic **Mount Victoria Lookout**. Film buffs can dive into movie magic at **Wētā Workshop**, home to *The Lord of the Rings* props. Stroll the scenic **waterfront**, soak up the city’s famous **coffee culture**, and enjoy its buzzing **arts and events scene**, from theatre to the World of WearableArt™ show. Whether you’re here for food, film, or fresh air, Wellington delivers an unforgettable experience.

Conference Programme (Outline)

Friday 1 May 2026 12.3 – 2pm 1pm – 4pm 4pm 5.30pm	Past Governors Lunch President Elect Training First Timers Session Optional Event: Embassy Theatre Movie Night
Saturday 2 May 2026 7am 8.30am 9am Noon 2pm 3.30pm 6pm	Leadership Breakfast (invitation only) Opening Ceremony, Keynote Speaker Business Session Luncheon (Presentation by Wellington City Mission) & Interclub Challenge All of Conference Workshop Share the Journey workshop Governors Banquet & District Awards
Sunday 3rd May 8am 9am 9.45 10.30 12pm	Memorial Service Breakfast Guest Speaker Final Business Session Benediction

We are changing things up to provide an **action-packed** conference programme. Here are some highlights below

Registration

Our conference is being held at the Copthorne Oriental Bay. You can get in quick and register now! We have a discount registration for our “Early Birds” and save \$20. To access the registration form click on the link below:

[Conference Registration Form](#)

Accommodation

[Copthorne Oriental Bay Accommodation Booking Link](#)

The Copthorne Oriental Bay has a large range of room configurations and if you go online you can check these out. A summary of room types and pricing has been provided below.

- Superior double which has one single bed and one double bed (City View) \$193.50 per night, per room instead of \$215.00
- Superior twin which has two double beds (Partial harbour view) \$211.50 per night, per room instead of \$235.00
- Superior double which has one king bed (Partial harbour view) \$211.50 per night, per room instead of \$235.00
- Deluxe double which has one super king bed (Full harbour view) \$251.10 per night, per room instead of \$279.00
- Deluxe twin which has one double bed and one king bed (Full harbour view) \$251.10 per night, per room instead of \$279.00
- Deluxe Family which has two single beds and one king bed (Full harbour view) \$251.10 per night, per room instead of \$279.00
- Junior suite which has a separate lounge/Kitchen lounge area, Super king bed (Full harbour view) \$436.50 per night, per room instead of \$485.00

When you go online to book make sure you use the **discount code ALTRUSA26** in order to get the 10% discount for our conference,

Friday Optional Event



On Friday night join us for an “A night at the Embassy” for a great movie night. The Embassy Theatre was originally built in 1924 and is the only custom-built 1920’s cinema still in use in New Zealand. Enjoy some pre-movie nibbles and watch out for more news on this.

Guest Speakers

We have two fantastic key note speakers for Conference

Bev Lawton ONZM

Professor Bev Lawton ONZM (Ngāti Porou), is the founder/director of Te Tātai Hauora o Hine (the National Centre for Women’s Health Research Aotearoa, Te Herenga Waka Victoria University of Wellington) and a pioneering force in women’s health in Aotearoa. Bev was named Kiwibank New Zealander of the Year (2025)



Claire Robinson



Claire Robinson is an award-winning designer, a painter, author, playwright, political scientist, political commentator, former professor of Communication Design and Pro Vice-Chancellor of Massey University's College of Creative Arts. Currently Te Tumu o Toi CEO of Toi Mai, the workforce development council for New Zealand's creative, cultural, recreation and technology sectors.

First Timers

If it is your first time to Conference there is a special session for you on Friday 1st May at 4pm. There is an additional \$10 discount on your registration as a special welcome

Partners Programme

There is a lot to see and do in Wellington so if your partner wants to come along too make sure you register their interest and we will reach out to them when planning what the guys will be up to on Saturday.

Wellington Images if you need them for the DSB

