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### President's Message

Kia ora koutou

Welcome back everyone! I for one am counting my lucky stars that I live in the Waipa And don't need a tractor nor a boat to escape my own home-although some of you might have some stories to tell, I'm sure.

We have some exciting fun events coming up and I look forward to participating in some of them.

See you all on Monday night if you aren't still holidaying somewhere.

*Lyn*



### Editors Musings

Kia ora koutou

Who can believe that the first month of 2026 is nearly gone. I am almost tempted to start issuing a count down of days until Christmas – it will be here before we know it. Looking forward to catching up everyone who wasn't able to make it to our January social BBQ. See you Monday evening.....

*Leanne*

#### Next meetings:

Business: Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2026

Te Awamutu Club, Alexandra Street

Apologies by text to Brenda McIvor by 6pm Friday night before meeting.

Let Brenda know if you are bringing a guest

# Club Reminders

## FOOD BANK



**FEED THE HUNGRY**

Please bring along to the business meeting a can/jar/packet of foodstuffs for food bank.

They are always struggling to fill parcels, and the need is increasing weekly.

Sanitary items are also in great demand.

## SALE TABLE

From time-to-time club members bring in the bounty from their gardens and kitchens. This is available to Club Members for a donation. All funds raised unless otherwise stated are for the Conference fund to help fund the cost of delegates, alternates and other club members attending Conference and Convention.

So next time you see some wonderful fruit, veggies, jam or preserves on our donation table please help yourself but leave a donation. Thank you

## Meeting Hostess

### The Board

Please note if you are unable to perform your duties, please arrange your own replacement.

- Note duties include.
- Door – meal & raffle money
- Table set up - place names etc.
- Accent, Grace
- Raffle
- Speaker thank you gift (check with Beth)



**SAVE  
the  
DATE**

### Next Business Meeting:

**Monday 2nd February**

**5.30**

**Te Awamutu Club**

**Alexandra Street,**

**Te Awamutu**

## Things to consider

1. Please consider motion for Literacy Committee to be allocated \$1500 from the Garden Ramble proceeds allocated to support community service projects approved at our last meeting.
2. Consider your ability to help support making of morning teas for the "I am Me" programme – more info coming at our club meeting.
3. Would our club be interested in hosting District Conference in 2028 (noting that over the past couple of years the workload for host clubs has been reduced).
4. Do you have any prospective members that might be interested in attending a casual membership event to find out more about becoming a part of our amazing club.

## Committee Reports

### Service Committee Report – Paula



A big Thankyou to all those who helped with the Christmas Hampers. I'm looking forward to repeating it all again next year - feel free to join us and be part of a truly humbling experience. Anne, Beth and I joined this committee earlier in the year as Altrusa reps. and the

16th Dec was the culmination of the years' work and fundraising! 146 hampers were packed with food and a gift for each child in the family then delivered. The gifts were amazing and showed the generosity of our wonderful community with many local people and businesses donating boxes of toys and food.

It all seems so worthwhile when you hear stories such as this from a Dad who was just out of hospital after receiving chemo. He was very moved and grateful to have gifts for his children.

### Membership Committee Report: Leanne



Just a short report from membership this month. We held a successful social BBQ on the 17th of Jan. A big thank you to Vicky for opening her home and lovely garden to us for the evening! It is always nice to have a simple social catch up. We will now begin planning for the Garage Sale (with proceeds towards our conference fund).

This is a great way for members to declutter in the new year while raising funds to support members attending conference and growing our leadership skills. We were looking for a date in February but with a number of other committees having events in February it is looking more like a March event. We are looking forward to welcoming a new member Mirren hopefully at our February meeting (if the stars align).

### Literacy Report: Shona

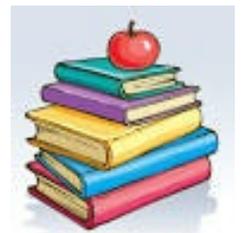
The Literacy Committee held a meeting in December. We are continuing with the Bright Boxes and Books for Babes. We are also looking at recommencing the Book Awards back into the schools. There will be four schools included in this Project:

TA Primary, St Pats, TA Intermediate and Pekapekarau.

Robyn has suggested we send out a letter to the schools in the New Year outlining what the awards involve.

BLIND DATE PROJECT.

We are having a working bee at Tania's work this month. Just waiting for a convenient date for Tania. We will need to change the date as StoryTeller couldn't accommodate us on the date we had chosen. StoryTeller is happy to advertise the event on their web page.



### Fund Raising/Garden Ramble Committee:

#### Robyn A

Nothing from the Garden Ramble Committee this month (a well-earned break!!).

#### Keto Chocolate Crunchy Bars

Altrusa International of Te Awamutu Inc altrusata@gmail.com

Here is a recipe for one of the many items that graced the table at our Social BBQ. Try it out – it was YUMMY! Thank you, Helen Appleby, for sharing....

#### Ingredients:

1.5 cups of unsweetened chocolate – I use noshu 97% sugar free dark choc baking chips  
1 cup of nut or seed butter – I use crunchy peanut butter from Bin Inn with no other added ingredients  
½ cup of keto maple syrup or other low sugar maple syrup  
¼ cup of coconut oil  
3 cups of nuts and seeds (I use ¾ cup of sunflower seeds, ¾ cup of pumpkin seeds, ¾ cup of chopped walnuts and anything for the remaining such as pecan nuts, shredded coconut etc. I even throw in cranberries if they're lurking in the fridge 😊)

#### Method

1. Prepare your 3 cups of seeds and nuts
2. Line an 8" x 8" baking tin with parchment paper
3. In a large microwaveable bowl, add the chocolate, nut butter, maple syrup and coconut oil then microwave for 1.5 mins. Take out of the microwave and mix everything thoroughly together until chocolate melts
4. Add in nuts and seeds and mix then pour into baking tin and put in fridge.
5. When solid (takes only an hour or so) then cut up and eat or leave it in the fridge or freeze in a good container.

You now have a dessert, afternoon tea, a slice or morning tea treat for the team.





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)

<b>Friday 1 May 2026</b>	
12 – 2pm	Past Governors Lunch
1pm – 4pm	President & Leadership Training
4pm	First Timers Session
5.00pm	Optional Event: Embassy Theatre Movie Night
<b>Saturday 2 May 2026</b>	
7am - 8.30am	Leadership Breakfast (invitation only)
9am	Opening Ceremony, Keynote Speaker Business Session
Noon	Luncheon (Presentation by Wellington City Mission) & Interclub Challenge All of Conference Workshop
2pm	Share the Journey workshop
6pm	Governors Banquet & District Awards
<b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May</b>	
8am	Memorial Service
9am	Breakfast
9.45	Guest Speaker
10.30 - 12noon	Final Business Session

## 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](#)

## 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 keynote 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.