



ALNEWZA TAURANGA – January – March 2026

2025-26 Board Members:

President: Maggie Dudfield

President Elect: *vacant*

Secretary: Julie Bradley

Treasurer: Judy Thomson

Immediate Past President: Pam Hayes

Directors:

Sue Amon

Margie Robertson

Alison Ware

Committee Chairs:

Service & Literacy:

Margie Robertson

Fundraising & Programme:

Sue Amon

Membership & Communications:

Alison Ware

PRESIDENT MAGGIE'S REPORT

As President Maggie puts pen to paper on International Women's Day, I would like to share a quote from Michelle Obama *"There is no limit to what we, as women, can accomplish"*. How true is this? Perhaps something to think about for those of you thinking about going on the 2026-2027 Board.

Autumn has arrived – I love these cooler mornings and nights (I sleep far better when it's not too hot) but lovely sunny days. Sadly, Daylight Saving ends on Sunday 5th April (Easter Sunday).

As the Christmas dinner, year starter, Under the Stars and bowls night feature elsewhere in this magazine, I don't need to talk about them. All I will say about the bowls night is that I won't be throwing in my part-time job as an in-store taster and becoming a professional bowler!!

Upcoming projects include the Quiz night on Friday 27th March. A lot of work behind the scenes has gone into this project, so if I could ask you all to get behind Sue and her team, and support this – it promises to be a fun Friday night out, while testing your brain and raising much needed funds to help with literacy projects at Gate Pa and Merivale Schools.

Ladies, let's continue enjoying the company of our amazing Altrusan team whilst continuing to provide service, literacy and projects in our community.

Notice Board

'Coffee Mornings' - First Saturday of the month at 10.00am

"Book Chat" - Held at Catherine Mole's house the third Wednesday of the month every second month at 7.00pm

"Friday Diners' Group" meet at a different restaurant the third Friday of alternate month to Book Chat.



CHRISTMAS PARTY AND YEAR 2026 STARTER

Our club's celebratory Christmas dinner was held on Tuesday 9 December, at the Charthouse, in Tauranga. All members except one were able to attend, plus a number of partners and husbands. The food was wonderful and the company even better. We all had such a good time that we forgot to take any photos.



Our Year Starter was held on Tuesday night, 28 January at Kulim Park. Maggie organised and picked up our usual fish and chips. Attendance was good, and despite the cool weather, it remained dry. There again we were all too busy talking and catching up to remember to take any photos.

We will have to do better in the future!!

COFFEE MORNING MUSINGS

By Pam Hayes



A coffee morning with a handful of my fellow Altrusans—those who could take some time out of a busy Saturday morning to gather at a local café—provided a wonderful opportunity to chat and catch up on the social happenings in our lives.

The happy chatter covered a wide variety of topics. As we enjoyed our hour and a half together, we learned a little more about one another. People shared snippets of their lives—some personal, some about what's happening in the world, and, of course, a few opinions along the way. There was plenty of laughter, fun, and the sharing of information. It was all jolly good stuff.

I walked away feeling uplifted and not quite so tired, reflecting on the new insights I had gained about my fellow Altrusans. Moments like this remind me why I choose to volunteer with these amazing women.

FUNDRAISING AND PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

Sandjar Fundraiser

\$1,580 was donated to Under the Stars charity organisation from monies raised from the sale of our Sandjars.

Another successful year for this fundraising project. Ani Stace, the General Manager joined us for potluck dinner at our first Business meeting in February. Ani expressed how grateful they were to Altrusa for the work that was put in to making and selling the sandjars and donating the funds to them.




Two of our very happy customers, busy making up their Chocolate Brownies. Shona Sterritt's two cute Great Grandsons. Thank you Shona – they are very cute.



Friday 27 March – Programme night – Quiz night fundraiser

The Fundraising & Programme Committee is organising this fundraiser at the Matua Bowling Club. A lot of work has gone into organising this and look forward to members and their friends supporting this night and coming along to join in.


We look forward to hearing about this with some lovely photos to go with it.



Quiz Night - Fundraiser

Friday 27 March, - 7.30 — 9.30 p.m
(doors open at 7.00pm)

Matua Bowling Club, 108 Levers Road, Matua

- * Raising money for Gate Pa and Merivale Primary Schools Literacy projects
- * Put together a team with friends, or meet new friends. Come along for a fun Friday night.
- * Cost \$20 per person — 6 to a table. Don't be shy, we can join smaller groups to make a team.
- * To register a team or individuals, please email the team name or individual names to - president.tauranga@altrusa.org.nz - and pay into the Bank account below by the **20th March**. If you have a team, we would prefer one payment per team.
- * Spot prizes and prizes for winners. 
- * Cash bar. Nibbles provided.

Payment — Altrusa International of Tauranga
Bank A/c — 06-0433-0706068-00
Reference: Quiz - Team or Individual name

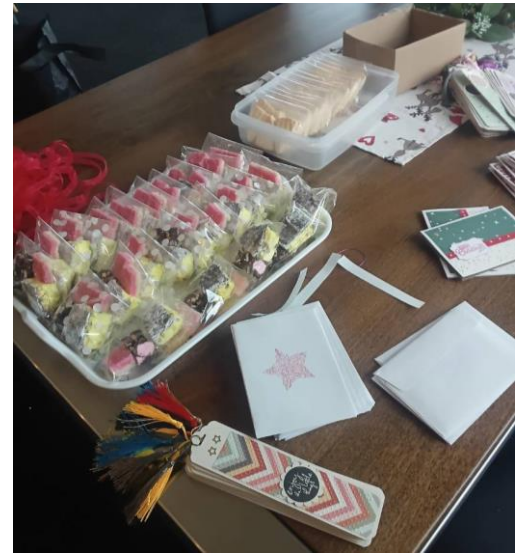
Altrusa International of Tauranga is a group of like-minded people who aim to make a positive difference in the community through service, leadership, friendship, and specific projects, with a special emphasis on Literacy.

SERVICE AND LITERACY COMMITTEE

The Service and Literacy Committee finished the year with Ann Fulcher completing the Christmas Bags with some lovely treats as well as the Bookmarks and cards that members had made at programme night.



The bags went to pensioners on the Super Support list at Foodbank, managed by Age Concern. The lady who took the bags was very grateful and said these people are largely forgotten and would appreciate the gesture. Thank you to Ann for all your time spent on this project.



Togs and Towels

The year has started with the purchase of 56 pairs of togs and 56 towels to be donated to Merivale Primary. They have all been named and placed in containers ready for each group within the school.



Shortbread



The Shortbread made by club members were delivered by two of our members to the Tauranga Hospital kitchen to go out with the pre-Christmas Meals on Wheels. As always, they were gratefully received.

It is always satisfying to receive the thank you emails from recipients. It makes it all worthwhile.

Easter Eggs for Meals on Wheels

ALL THAT GLITTERS..... by Raewyn Turner

Organising 400 Easter Eggs to be donated, packaged and delivered sounds like a huge task, but it's actually no big deal. The Warehouse Fraser Cove was quick to reply positively to our request for 400 eggs. Then it was a matter of buying enough bags, cutting a few more ribbons, and printing and sticking labels on the bags. After that it was all downhill!

We spent a fun 20 minutes or so on Tuesday night, bagging and tying up our bags for 100 Meals on Wheels recipients and voila – job done.

The bags look fantastic and will be delivered to the Meals on Wheels coordinator the week before Easter, for delivery to Meals on Wheels recipients.



1 Finished product - a Banana box full!

We're so grateful to The Warehouse for the Eggs, making this a super easy 'good deed' to do in the community.



2 Lots of eager beavers working away.

MEMBERSHIP AND COMMUNICATION

The Membership committee organised (*well mostly Alison's organisational skills to be honest*) a fun bowling night at Matua Bowling Club for our February Programme night on the 24th. This was enjoyed by 12 of our members and a couple of husbands. Funny but true, the three husbands that joined us, were all named John!

Thanks to Richard and the barman from Matua Bowling Club for his patience and instructions.



3 Getting our instructions



4 President Maggie performing a shot



6 Alison - not sure what she was up to!



7 One of the Johns



5 Jill had a go too

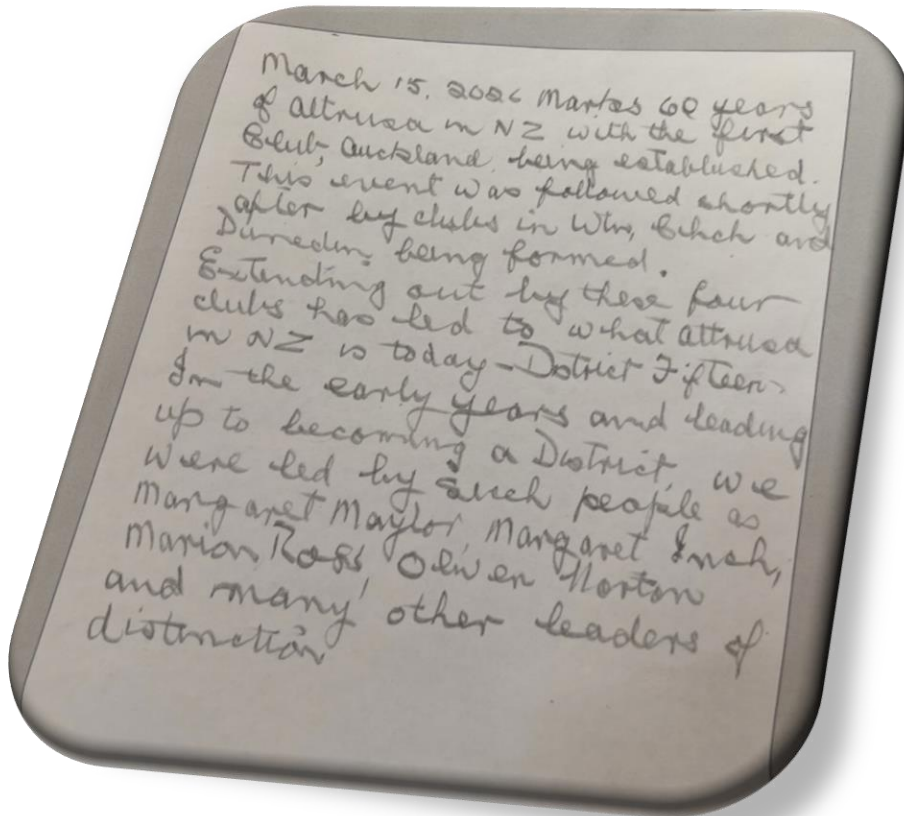
Afterwards the group enjoyed a meal at the Turkish Restaurant in Cherrywood.



8 Pam looks like she knew what she was doing

60 YEARS OF ALTRUSA IN NEW ZEALAND

March 15, 2026, marks **60 years of Altrusa in New Zealand**, celebrating the establishment of our first club in Auckland in 1966. This milestone was soon followed by the formation of clubs in Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin. From these four foundations grew the vibrant network we know today as **District Fifteen**.



In the early years — well before New Zealand became its own District — leadership was guided by remarkable women such as **Margaret Maylor, Margaret Inch, Marion Ross, Dot Haliday, Olwen Norton**, and many others whose dedication shaped the character and direction of Altrusa in Aotearoa.

New Zealand's contribution to Altrusa International has been significant. Two of our own have served at the highest level:

- **Margaret Inch – International President, 1995–1997**
- **Leanne Milligan – International President, 2019–2021**

Their leadership on the world stage reflects the strength, commitment and service ethos that reflects the strength, commitment and service ethos that were established by our earliest leaders and carried forward by generations of members.

*The handwritten note above was created by **Dot Haliday** during a recent visit I had with her. Dot, one of New Zealand's first Altrusan, will celebrate her **100th birthday in October** — a remarkable milestone.*

Personal Reflection

In 2003 I was invited into the living room of an Altrusan in Auckland. There I had the privilege of seeing the first Altrusa club in New Zealand in action. Twelve remarkable women were gathered, planning their next fundraising activity and carrying out their usual Altrusa business. I remember wondering how I could possibly make any meaningful contribution to such an accomplished group.

Of course, all of that is now history. To this day, I count most of those women among my dearest friends. —

By Pam Hayes

ALTRUSAN TRAVELS – OR - “AL-TRAVELERS”

By Julie Bradley and Marg Beswick

As there is always a member off somewhere on their travels at sometime during the year, whether it be in New Zealand or overseas travels, I thought it could be a nice way of sharing a little bit of these with members. We often do not always get to hear about these.

This came about when Marg Beswick sent me some photos, (in case I was a bit short of articles for this newsletter) – so Marg you are the first. I hope many other members will share a little bit of their travels with us as well. Marg and her husband Russell have been travelling around the South Island in their campervan.

They went from Wanaka where they had completed the Abel Tasman walk to Cromwell. Marg has shared some lovely photos of their ride on the Dunstan cycle trail from Bannockburn to Clyde.



Abel Tasman Coast Track		
Onetahuti Camp	← 3km	1hr
Tonga Quarry	← 4.1km	1hr 20min
Bark Bay	← 8.2km	2 hr 45min
Awaroa Hut & Camp	→ 5.3km	1hr 45min
Totaranui	→ 12.4km	4hr



9 On the Abel Tasman walk



11 At the start of the Dunstan Trail



10 Morning tea break



DISTRICT FIFTEEN NEWS

An article taken from the recent "Compass" by Chris De Vieger, the International President.

"Be a Friend – Bring a Friend"

Just in time for Valentine's Day, we are launching our first membership challenge entitled "Be a Friend – Bring a Friend."

It's the perfect time to put two words of my biennium theme to life...LOVE and LEGACY.

I invite you to ask someone to attend a meeting with you, participate in a service project, or - best of all – become an Altrusan. Show them the love that comes from being part of our organisation and dream with me about the legacy we can build by expanding the service we provide in our communities.

What do you need to do for the "Be a Friend – Bring a Friend" challenge?

- Recruit at least one new active (not dual) member between February 14th and March 14th.
- Ensure the new member is entered in Group Tally during this period, and that their dues are paid.
- Before April 1st, Altrusa International will draw five winning clubs, each receiving \$100 to use for a membership event, a service project or where it is needed most.

*While we are a little late for Valentine's Day, it is something to remember and do at any time of the year to help grow our membership. **Bring a friend along!***

LITERARY CORNER

Book Chat



First Book Chat night
Wednesday 18 March,
7.00pm at Catherine
Moles place.

Some "good read" recommendations would be great for the next newsletter for those who do not always get to attend these get togethers.

BIRTHDAYS

To the seven Capricorns and Aquarius who celebrated their birthdays in January, I hope you enjoyed every minute of the day. (Jill, Judy, Maggie, Julie, Pam, Raewyn, Claire)

Birthdays for February - Sandra on the 7th and Alison on the 13th, with two in March - Catherine on the 11th and Jan on the 22nd. I am sure you all enjoyed celebrating with your family and friends.





Another year underway and its March already.

We are getting a little better as a Club in remembering to take photos, but still room for improvement. Me included!!

As some of you probably know John and I have sold our house and will be couple of gypsies for two months until our next place is ready at the end of May.

Now that doesn't let you off the hook though!!

Even though I won't be around, I will still be looking forward to receiving photos and articles for our next Alnewza newsletter – the April-June edition. Due date for submissions will be **15 June**.

Don't forget to share a little about your travels too.

Julie Bradley

DATES TO REMEMBER

- 20 February World Day of Social Justice
- 8 March Women's Rights Day
- 7 April World Health Day
- 28 April Programme night – "Getting to know you" organised by Membership & Communication Committee
- 1-3 May District Fifteen Conference, Wellington – Absolutely Positively Altrusa.
- 15 May International Day of Families
- 26 May Programme night – "Pink Ribbon" fundraiser dinner – venue tbc
- 23 June "The Great Altrusan Scone Bakeoff" organised by Membership & Communication Committee

Links for your information:

District Fifteen Website

www.districtfifteen.altrusa.org

[District Fifteen Facebook page](#) Altrusa

[International of Tauranga Facebook page](#) –

Altrusa International Website

www.altrusa.org