

March 2026

District Service Bulletin



Greetings and welcome to 2026. Like everyone else, I am in disbelief at how quickly the first weeks have gone.

I hope you all had a lovely summer break and are feeling refreshed and revitalised and ready to face another busy year.

As I read the newsletters that are produced by our Clubs, I often come across words that I feel I need to repeat. I could not say this better, so I send you the words of Linda Phillips, Hawera Club President:



“As we move into the months ahead, I encourage each of us to remain mindful of the impact, both big and small, that our service creates. Together, through kindness, commitment, and connection, we continue to strengthen our community and live the values of Altrusa.

Thank you for all that you give, your time, your energy, and your heart.”

We have all just received the first issue for 2026 of the **Altrusa Compass**.

There is so much useful information here, it is a must read for all Altrusans. I would like to remind you of our International Presidents challenge for us all to add just one more member to our Altrusa community. Her “Be a friend, bring a friend” challenge, asks you to invite a friend along to a meeting, or to a service activity, and you never know they might just get the bug.

Now is a good time to do this, with membership fees being half the annual fee from December.

Better still, get your Club to organise an activity where you can invite others to join you. April is “**Add an Altrusan month**”. There is a good reason for adding a new member in April – when they pay their dues, that payment carries them through the following year, so they get 14 months for the price of 12!

Conference is rapidly approaching. Please read the article on Conference later in this issue and remember to get your registrations in by March 14 to receive the discounted price.

The deadlines are looming to get your **award entries** in. Please remember to use the new forms that have been updated recently on the website. They have “revised Jan 2026” at the end of each page. If you have started your entry on the old form, you will need to copy and paste on to the new one, to be eligible for judging.

I do hope we get some candidates for the **District Fifteen Leadership award**. These entries are due March 25 and need to be sent to me. I know there are so many members out there doing wonderful things in their communities, both as Altrusans and as members of other organisations too. Club Board members, don't forget to acknowledge the work they do through this award.

Remember you can find all the information you need on the District Fifteen website.

Our leadership team have started the programme of President training. I would like to remind you all that although this information is aimed directly at our incoming Presidents, there is a lot we can all learn from this. Presidents,

please share the information that comes to you over the next months with all your members. It may just help you to find the next President -Elect, as members find out more about what it takes to be a President, and the help that is out there to get you through. Being a President of your club can be a challenging experience for some, but it can also be a very rewarding experience when you reach the end of your term and see how much you have learnt and achieved.

Lastly, another reminder that the application deadline for **Foundation grants is March 15**. Use this link to find out more about how the grants programme works and access the application forms.

<https://foundation.altrusa.org/project-grants/>

If you have any questions, our Foundation Committee Chair, Susi Chinnery-Brown, is here to help. You will find her contact details in the District Directory, sent out to all Clubs earlier this year.

Best wishes for the coming months. I am looking forward to seeing many of you at Conference in Wellington.

Margaret

Communication's Chat

Our Altrusa story is waiting to be told and how we do this will vary from club to club. Communication has evolved over time from the early rock drawings, the first printing press, telephones, television, faxes, computers, tablets, iPads, cell phones, the list goes on.

Living in an age of techno age comes social media – face book, Instagram, TikTok etc which means news from anywhere is everywhere with a press of a button! Scary?

Do we ignore or do we embrace it? And if that isn't enough, we can enlist the help of AI, Chat GPT, Copilot to help us tell our story. Have you ever tried using this to write something?

I asked Copilot a question – In 50 words how can clubs use social media for impact?

'Clubs can spark real impact by using social media to tell compelling stories, highlight member achievements, share community events, and showcase their values. Consistent posts, engaging visuals, and interactive content help attract new members, strengthen community ties, and build a vibrant, recognizable presence that inspires participation and support.'



Exploring AI Together: Altrusa Embraces Innovation with Heart - page13 in the latest Compass [Vol 8 issue 2]

Jenny Bevin - Timaru



Foundation

And suddenly its 2026. Hope you all had a great Christmas break, now it's time to dust off the cobwebs and get back into gear, Conference will be upon us before we know it!

The Wellington venue is very small and display space very tight, so the Board have asked for the Foundation Raffle to be run a little differently this year. Further information will be sent to Club Presidents and liaison officers shortly.



Foundation Grants Cycle 2

A friendly reminder – **The deadline for applications is March 15th**. I hope that whoever is responsible for writing your Grant applications managed to attend the informative Zoom Meeting on February 13

Grant funding is **limited** and awards are based on:

- * The **quality** of the submissions
- * The **number** of applicants
- * **Available funding** for the cycle

Applicants should consider these factors when planning service projects and identifying **alternative funding sources**.

Look forward to seeing you all at Conference in Wellington

Yours in service

Susi Chinnery-Brown - Morrinsville

DISTRICT FIFTEEN FOUNDATION CHAIR

Leadership

Mamie Bass' vision for Altrusa had 3 parts: provide service in our communities, develop women as leaders, and encourage friendships among women.

With the first half of the Altrusa year already gone, I'm sure you have your service commitments well underway. Incoming Board members will be starting to think about their new positions and the responsibilities they are taking on. Remember that there is lots of information and support to get you started, both within your Club and on the District Fifteen and International websites. Ask questions, watch and observe how your Club runs and get involved.

Your Leadership Team is gearing up to provide training for the President Elect officers and support for the Treasurers is also available. Please contact our Team if you would like more information.



Anne McElwain – Taieri



Membership

Club Revitalisation:



Bring Fresh Energy and New Ideas:

Is your club feeling a bit dull?

Revitalisation means more than just increasing numbers; it's about reigniting the heart of the club.

Revitalise your meetings with innovative themes, themed events, impactful projects and fresh project suggestions.

Revitalisation doesn't mean overhauling everything; **celebrate what's working.**

It's about reigniting our enthusiasm and recalling the rSeasons we joined Altrusa, helping members feel valued and engaged.

This month, introduce a new idea into your club and see how a small change can ignite fresh energy!

Rosemary Moore, Ashburton
Membership Development Chair.



Submission Dates for Kiwi Altrusan

15 May 2026

15 August 2026

15 November 2026

In Memory of



Tricia Wallace

It is with sadness that the Te Awamutu Club heard of Tricia Wallace's passing just prior to Christmas. Tricia was a past president of the club, our third, and had been an Emeritus member for a number of years. As a charter member of our club she held various leadership positions and went on to be New Club Building Chair for District back in the 1990's. Tricia was a regular attendee at Conferences and attended the Christchurch Convention. She became an Emeritus member when illness meant she was unable to attend meetings but she remained a staunch supporter of fundraisers over the years and attended our club's 30th Birthday celebrations in December 2024. Tricia will be missed.

A Tribute to Elizabeth Robertson – Loyal Altrusan and Friend

In Memory of *Elizabeth Robertson*.

A member of 34 years. Past President. Lamplighter. Loyal Altrusan and friend.

Invercargill club was shocked and saddened to lose Elizabeth Robertson quite suddenly on Dec 1st 2025. Elizabeth held many roles in the club, but her forte was membership, welfare and organiser of social events. She was organized. When members were asked for memories of Elizabeth some of the thoughts were; "very organized" "a sense of humour" "a wee smile and wink when she was having someone on" "very caring of others" "Oh, the long chatty phone calls" "yelling at the TV as the armchair ref, particularly netball games" "never a hair out of place"

Elizabeth was loyal to Altrusa and its ideals and was always involved in whatever the club was doing even if it was a little outside her comfort zone. She was there. She embodied the Altrusa Pledge.

Invercargill Club misses her, along with many in the Invercargill community, as her involvement in clubs and organisations went far and wide around the city.

Rest well Elizabeth after a life well lived.

The club would like to acknowledge the messages of condolence and support we received on Elizabeth's passing. It was very much appreciated.



Cambridge Club: Community Kindness Shines Bright

The generosity of our community residents was once again overwhelming. So much thought, and research had obviously gone into finding "the suggested gift" on the gift cards.

Large Christmas hamper boxes and bags, full of "goodies" ranging from toiletries to chocolates and biscuits (and homemade shortbread). A couple had included a Christmas card with a small message adding a lovely personal touch. We had 42 recipients - 10 who live alone in their own homes - the other recipients in Residential Care. Here is a message we received from the gentleman who delivered gifts to those living in the community.

"Wow the gifts I delivered and the reception I got was quite over whelming. Each one had tears in their eyes". For us, the months of November and December are very busy co-ordinating the project; but it is the generosity of our community that makes it the success that it is.



We need to acknowledge the tremendous support from the Staff of Unichem Pharmacy - Victoria Street. They had the Christmas tree at the store entrance, and talked with townspeople while choosing a gift card. This support ensures our senior residents receive gifts that are suitable to them.

CHRISTCHURCH CLUB: SPREADING JOY, ONE BAG AT A TIME

Wow – what an incredible effort from our Christchurch members, who poured so much heart (and hard work!) into preparing Christmas bags packed with wonderful treats.



The Hoon Hay Foodbank and the Salvation Army Foodbank each received 25 children's bags plus extra Christmas goodies, while the Christchurch City Mission Women's Night Shelter and Women's Day Programme were

thrilled to receive 62 beautifully prepared bags. These organisations were genuinely delighted, and we're proud of the strong, ongoing connections we've built with them year after year.



And we're not slowing down. Our first Literacy Project of the year is just around the corner – the always-popular **Books and Bubbles Stall** on Children's Day, March 1st. We'll be giving out free books to families and sharing the joy of reading with our community.

Hamilton Club – Summer Gatherings and Community Giving

Hamilton Altrusa members and friends started the year with a relaxed January BBQ at Wayne and Kathryn Turner's home – a lovely chance to reconnect after the holidays, share stories, and enjoy each other's company.



Before Christmas, two key projects were completed. Jenny Wright-Gardner purchased teenage clothing for the Salvation Army Christmas Loft, helping families choose meaningful gifts for their young people. Funds came from a successful Bunnings Te Rapa sausage sizzle, where members sold **400 sausages** and raised around **\$600**. Meanwhile, Diane Murray, supported by her daughter, led the shopping for Christmas presents for **Kin Carers Connect**, which were later distributed at their festive event at Hamilton Gardens.

February brought our first Business Meeting of the year, where we planned the next three months and confirmed a shift to meeting on the **third Tuesday** of each month. Throughout February we're also collecting children's books for **Books for Babes**, supporting local birthing centres with early-literacy resources.

Several members attended the Connect Hui on 11 February – an inspiring opportunity to share ideas and strengthen community relationships. This has already sparked new connections, including Jenny's link with Volunteer Waikato, as we continue working to grow our membership and raise Altrusa's profile in Hamilton.



Hawera Christmas Homes Event – A Sparkling Success



Hawera was buzzing on 29 November as more than **366 visitors** streamed through Linda and Chris Garrett's beautifully decorated home for the Christmas Homes Event. The atmosphere was magic – sunshine, great company, and the wonderful voices of the **Taranaki Women's Singers** drifting through the garden.



Our Altrusa promotional display drew plenty of interest, with many visitors stopping for a chat, asking questions, and sharing stories about people in the community who might benefit from our support. It was a lovely chance to showcase who we are and what we do.

The rock-decorating table was a hit with both children and adults. Some proudly carried their creations home, others left them for us to distribute, and many walked away smiling with a little gift bag of home-baked treats.

A heartfelt thank you go to the Garrett family for opening their home and giving Altrusa Hawera such a special opportunity – not only to raise awareness of our work, but also to connect with people who may one day join us or know someone who needs a helping hand.

Levin Club: A Holiday Break, a Hurricane, and a Lesson in Communication

Having had the Christmas holiday break, my Altrusa activities also had a rest. So I'd like to share a great lesson in communication – even animals have their own way of “talking” to us . . . asking for help . . . sharing their feelings . . . simply communicating.

I experienced the hurricane winds at Tokomaru for 3 days before New Year, with my daughter and our 2 dogs. Rather frightening when you see the ranch sliders bowing a good half inch. We pushed the lounge suite up against them – for 3 days. No power, no water, just constant gales reaching 246kph at its greatest, levelling down to 193kph! These are hurricane force winds in Florida. Even the shower drain plug was dancing. Fortunately no house damage, just gardens obliterated. The dogs were quite uneasy too. My little one disappeared – I think she's trying to tell me something, don't you?

“ ... Mum – I wanna go home . . . “



Morrinsville Club: Community Spirit in Full Swing

The final months of 2025 were wonderfully busy for Altrusa Morrinsville. October saw us out in the sunshine at the Morrinsville Kiwiana Fun Day, where our popular “chill zone” offered families a welcome break. Children coloured, browsed, and chose from more than **150 free books** – a fantastic way to share our love of literacy and raise our profile in the community.

In November, our members rolled up their sleeves for a record-breaking **cake stall**, one of our key fundraisers that helps power so many of our local projects. The community support was incredible.



December brought two special annual events. Susi and Janet catered the **Age Concern Christmas Lunch**, a smaller gathering this year but warmly received and full of festive spirit. That same afternoon, Heather hosted our **Literacy Awards**, where two students from each local school were recognised for their progress in reading or writing. Each recipient selected **\$40 worth of books** from Paper Plus – the smiles said it all.

We launched 2026 with a sewing workshop for local tweens, a group with limited holiday activity options. It's a gap we're excited to help fill as we continue supporting young people in our community.



Oamaru Club Shares the Spirit of Giving



Pictured: Altrusa's Norma Dovey & Jenny Cleland

Santa to a Senior

Altrusa International of Oamaru Inc, organised a Christmas tree at the Oamaru Pharmacy, adorned with tags listing requested gifts, for the community to help brighten the holiday season for senior members in local rest homes who don't have family or friends who can purchase a gift for them for Christmas.

The tags are taken and once the gifts have been purchased and collected, members of Altrusa wrap and deliver the gifts to rest homes in time for Christmas.

Newest member and Christmas Party

Our Christmas meeting was held on the Monday 15th December at The Galley Cafe. The evening started with the installation of our newest member, Jeanne Brown by the Membership Committee. Jeanne received her Altrusa Pin from her sponsor, Helen Newlands.



Pictured: Helen presenting Jeanne Brown with her Altrusa Pin

A beautiful meal of hot ham, Chicken wrapped in bacon, crumbed fish bites, new potatoes & salads, followed by cheesecake, pavlova & fruit salad.

Secret Santa gifts were found by finding the matching piece of the card at our place setting, concluding another wonderful Christmas party with members & partners.

Altrusa Ohariu in Action: From Christmas Markets to School-Supply Impact

Leading into Christmas, Altrusa Ohariu jumped into the festive spirit at a local market, raising our profile with a colourful stall full of home-made goodies and sweets. It was a fun, friendly way to chat with locals, hand out flyers, and spread the word about our stationery-recycling initiative.



Christmas Dinner – Vicki, Maureen, Barbara

We wrapped up the year with a lovely dinner at a local restaurant, and in place of Secret Santa, our members generously donated **over five large bags of toiletries** to the Wellington City Mission – a gesture that felt truly meaningful.

Throughout December, we partnered with community centres to act as drop-off points for unused or reusable school

and office stationery.

By January, we were sorting through **more than 500 donated items**, which we then redistributed to **seven very grateful primary and intermediate schools**.

As always, the *Independent Herald* – an online community newspaper reaching more than 26,000 Wellington households each week – was wonderfully supportive, helping promote both our club and this initiative. Their coverage continues to help get the Altrusa name 'out there' in our community.

IFIEDS – **Herald**



Altrusa's school stationery drive

Altrusa Ohariu is once again running its end of year school stationery collection for redistribution to around 10 to 12 schools in January. "If anyone has school kids finishing for the year, we'd appreciate any supplies that could be reused by next year's pupils or teachers," Altrusa Ohariu says. The items it particularly needs are pens, pencils, felts, coloured pencils, glue sticks, unused school books and L. pockets. The collection points this year, during opening hours, are: • Charlton Park Community Centre and Tawa Community Centre – up to 18 January; and • Khandallah Town Hall – to 19 December. People who have any questions can email altrusaohariu@gamil.com or message them on Facebook. Altrusa Ohariu is seeking new volunteers to join the club and make a difference. Their members are from varying occupations and lifestyles, all sharing an interest in community service and enjoying the friendship, fun and satisfaction that comes from working together for the benefit of others. For more information or to join the club email altrusaohariu@gmail.com.

Queenstown Club: Style on the Runway, Heart in the Community



In October Queenstown Altrusa held its annual Fashion Show. This was its third held at Arvida Country Club who generously loaned us their spacious members' rooms for the evening.

The sold-out show enjoyed the wares of seven retailers, generously gifted goodies from the community for raffles and live auctions, delicious food was prepared by some of our lovely Altrusa ladies and, of course, there was a bar frequented by many after their complimentary glass of bubbles.

After all costs were covered, a little over \$12,000 was raised and gifted to Queenstown's Basket of Blessings – a wonderful, but sadly desperately needed, Charitable Trust and volunteer organization that provides and distributes over 500 gift baskets per year and up to 3000 frozen meals per month.

As you will all know a considerable amount of preparation goes into an event such as

this, in the weeks leading up to and on the day. Our head honcho organised things so well that the night went smoothly despite her being rushed to hospital in an ambulance while on route to the venue. I can safely say she is fit and well. We are most relieved.

A big thank you to all who contributed.



Rotorua Club in Action: Packs, Bags, and Big Smiles

'Distraction Packs' for Rotorua Victim Support

In 2025, our club prepared 185 activity packs for Victim Support, with 94 delivered in December. Each pack included a donated BK Beanie Kid bear, a book, a tennis ball, and other small comfort items. We distribute these on an as-needed basis through regular contact with Victim Support, ensuring they reach children during difficult and often distressing times. The positive feedback we receive reinforces the value of continuing this meaningful project.

'Christmas Bags' for STAND Children

After hearing from Toni, Manager of STAND Tū Māia, about their trauma-informed,

bi-cultural support for

tamariki and whānau, our members were inspired to prepare Christmas Bags for 22 children. The cloth bags included a book, a BK Beanie Kid, bubble wands, and other small treats. Staff were delighted with the donation, and the gifts were shared with children at the recent STAND Christmas party.

'Reindeer Bags' for St Francis Pre-school

We also donated 45 Reindeer Bags to St Francis Pre-school. The children's excitement as each name was called created a joyful moment shared by tamariki, parents, and our members – a simple gesture that brought smiles and lasting memories.



Taieri Club: A Season of Giving and Community Joy

The lead up to Christmas was busy for the Taieri Club. A Christmas function was held with partners and friends at The Topiary Café with magnificent food and the best company!



The Literacy Committee provided stocking fillers for the Mosgiel Food Bank with a literacy theme. The Food Bank had 180 Christmas Hampers to make and 90% of the recipients had children between the ages of 1 and 16. Hopefully there were lots of smiles on Christmas Day.

In the first week of December, Mosgiel held its annual A Very Taieri Christmas. Altrusa participated in two ways, providing Santa and his helper at the Christmas Grotto, along with a stall providing over 200 free books to children in the local community. The baking stall raised \$275, which was donated to the Night Shelter Trust along with toiletries and blankets.

Another wonderful project completed prior to Christmas was the funding of 40 children's grief books donated to the Dunedin Public Hospital ICU. These books will be given to children who are bereaved after losing a loved one in the unit.

The free book and Christmas themed stall

Toiletries and blankets donated at A Very Taieri Christmas to the Dunedin Night Shelter



Tauranga Club: Three Months of Projects, People, and Plenty of Heart

The past three months have been wonderfully busy for our club, with members rolling up their sleeves for a wide range of projects. We assembled more distraction packs for children and teenagers, donated literacy prizes for Gate Pa Primary School's prizegiving, baked and delivered bags of shortbread to Meals on Wheels for their Christmas deliveries, and prepared bags of goodies for Super Support recipients.



We also organised **56 pairs of togs and 56 towels** to be donated to Merivale Primary School in February – a project that always brings smiles.

Our annual **Sandjar fundraiser** in November was another success, enabling us to donate **\$1,580** to Under the Stars for their kitchen project at our February Business Meeting.



December's Business Meeting was replaced with a festive Christmas dinner at The Charthouse, where members and partners enjoyed a delicious two-course meal. No photos were taken – everyone was far too busy enjoying themselves! The same happened at our "year starter" in late January: fish and chips at Kulim Park, lots of laughter, and again... no photos.

President Maggie and Secretary Julie also represented us proudly at a morning tea for International Volunteer Managers Day on 5 November – a lovely opportunity to fly the Altrusa banner.

Te Awamutu Club: Adult Literacy – Blind Date with a book



With the assistance of one of our local eateries, we held a Blind Date with a Book and coffee.

This was a combined adult literacy outreach and an Altrusa information event.

We sourced and wrapped 44 books with tantalizing blurbs about them to tempt our target audience (anyone who could read and drink coffee) to take them. We included a voucher for \$2.50 off their cup of coffee and included a \$40.00 prize voucher for Paper Plus. This was one by a young lady who had just finished cancer treatment – she was very happy.

Twenty-four blind date books walked out the door and we hope they were all enjoyed and while we haven't had any feedback from the display about Altrusa we hope some seeds of interest were planted.



Altrusan's Shona H and Vicky A helping set out the Blind Date Books

Timaru Club: Christmas Kindness in Action

In the lead up to Christmas, the Altrusa International of Timaru club enjoyed spreading some

Christmas cheer in our community. Our “ Be a Santa to a Senior” project meant a number of senior citizens in rest homes and in community groups received gifts this year. Members of our generous community chose a wish from our Christmas tree at the local library and then purchased the gift. Our club members then wrapped the gifts beautifully and enclosed cards made by some members. We are sure these gifts brought a smile to many people in our community.



The Service Committee prepared 30 goody bags full of “Santa's Tasty Treats" and delivered them to Family Support in time for Christmas. Some of the bags were decorated by those attending IFF day in September and were finished by our members.





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. Walk the **Wellington Waterfront** from Queens Wharf to Oriental Bay. Visit the **Wellington Botanic Garden**, accessible via the Cable Car. Visit **Red Rocks** and, in winter, see the fur seal colony. Tour **Parliament Buildings**, including the famous Beehive. Visit **City Gallery Wellington** for contemporary art exhibitions. Take a guided tour of **Old St Paul’s**, one of NZ’s most beautiful heritage churches. Visit the **Hannahs Laneway** food precinct for chocolate, peanut butter, and boutique eateries. Catch a performance at the **St James Theatre**. Whether you’re here for food, film, or fresh air, Wellington delivers an unforgettable experience.

Conference Programme (Outline)

| | |
|--|---|
| Friday 1 May 2026 12 – 2pm 1pm – 4pm 4pm 5.00pm -8.00pm | Past Governors Lunch President Elect Training First Timers Session Optional Event: Meet, Greet and a Movie |
| Saturday 2 May 2026 7am 8.30am 9am Noon 2.30pm 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

There are no rooms left at the Copthorne hotel for our conference dates. An alternative hotel is just down the road at the Bay Plaza Hotel. This is another great option that is budget friendly and less than 5 minutes walk away.

[Bay Plaza Hotel](#)

Friday Night Optional event: Meet, Greet and a Movie



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. It is the home of all the Movie Premiers such as “Lord of the Rings” and “Avatar.” Enjoy some pre-movie nibbles and catch up with old friends. Take time out to relax and watch the movie, and if you want, the 8.00pm finish will still give you time to party afterwards, or go out for a light supper together. Watch out for more news on this.

Guest Speakers

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

We have an exciting partners programme being developed for Conference weekend. This includes a visit to **Te Papa** - New Zealand’s national museum is home to over two million objects across art, natural history, New Zealand histories, mātauranga Māori (Māori knowledge), and Pacific cultures. World-renowned for its commitment to biculturalism, Te Papa is TripAdvisor’s top tourist attraction in New Zealand.

And then we are off to a unique and often missed Wellington feature – the **Wellington Maritime Museum** - Housed in an 1892 heritage building, it features extensive exhibits on the city’s maritime history, ships, and harbour, alongside social history.

After a break for lunch we are looking at a tour of an iconic building and centre of government – **Parliament Building**. We have to sort out a tour time so will reach out to Partners who will be coming to organise the finer details with this (we have to book!).

There are also other tours that will be available for Friday afternoon or Sunday Morning if people are interested to **Zealandia** and **Wētā Workshop** if there is interest.

Register your partner and we will reach out and make contact with them.





Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is dedicated to inspiring a love of reading by gifting books free of charge to children from birth to age five, through funding shared by Dolly Parton and local community partners in the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Australia and Republic of Ireland.

PARENT READING TIPS

AGE 0-1

- Point at objects and name them (dog, cat, house)
- Talk back and forth with your baby
- Play games with them while you are reading

AGE 1-2

- Smile and answer your child's questions
- Encourage them to point at objects and name them
- Have them help turn the pages

AGE 2-3

- Ask them questions about the book
- Talk about the pictures and what the words mean
- Let them pick out the book they want to read
- Reward them and set goals for reading

AGE 3-4

- Point out letters and numbers
- Look at pictures and make up stories about them
- Talk about the different characters
- Ask them their take on the story

AGE 4-5

- Have your child tell the story
- Encourage writing and drawing
- Ask them about the characters
- Have a conversation about what the words mean