

ALNEWZA TAURANGA –

April - June 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

OUTGOING PRESIDENT MAGGIE'S REPORT FOR ALNEWZA

As I put pen to paper for the last time as your President, I would like to say thank you to all of you for helping me fulfil my second term as President. I could not have done it without you all getting behind me.

The last few months have seen our Club hold a very successful Quiz night. Well done Sue and your team for all the hard work that went on behind the scenes. Gate Pa and Merivale Schools will benefit from the money raised from this evening. Alison and her Committee organised a great "Getting to Know You" evening at Alison's for the April Programme night. The stories told about what different members have got up to over the years calls for a repeat performance!!! Several ladies helped tidy up the garden at Otumoetai Kindergarten followed by a well-deserved coffee, cake and chat. Sorry that I couldn't attend but sadly work was calling!!

Conference has been and gone in Wellington. A memorable weekend away with lots of laughter and mixing with other Altrusan ladies. Probably made even more memorable with two of us getting speeding tickets!!

As mentioned at the AGM on Tuesday night, our service hours for the 2025-2026 years are incredible. Between us we recorded **3,726 hours given to Altrusa and the community**; an increase of **281 hours from last year**. You should all be very proud of this achievement.

I wish Incoming President Sandra and her Board all the very best for the new Altrusa year; another year full of providing service, literacy and projects in our community whilst enjoying each other's company.

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.



INSTALLATIONS AND AGM

Our Business night of 9 June was a busy night. As Sandra our incoming President had decided to follow on with Margaret Melhop and Maggie's theme of Share the Journey, the members dressed up and followed this theme with some interesting outfits.



Outgoing Board

Maggie read her report and thanked the outgoing Board for their contributions.



Viv receiving her Altrusa badge from Maggie.

The night commenced with some delicious soups made by Sue, Catherine, Sandra and Shona for our dinner.

Following that Pam conducted the installation of Viv Lile to the Club. Alison was Viv's sponsor; however, she was overseas. Viv's installation ceremony prepared by Pam, also followed the theme for the night.

Following our AGM the installation of the new Board for 2026-27 was carried out.

New Board for 2026-27 is:

- President: Sandra Bonney
- Q Secretary: Raewyn Turner
- Treasurer: Judy Thomson
- Directors: Jan Maber and Sue Amon
- Immediate past president: Maggie Dudfield



2026-27 Board (absent - Jan)



Sandra receiving her Presidents badge from Maggie

A WORD FROM INCOMING PRESIDENT SANDRA

What a great night at our AGM. Thank you for the delicious soups. Thank you, Pam, for an inspiring Initiation Ceremony. Thank you, Denise, for leading the Installation Ceremony.

As I mentioned, I will be continuing with the theme of "Share the Journey – Weaving Threads Through the Community" to support Governor Margaret.

I challenge our club to weave the threads of Altrusa through our club membership, our local community, District Fifteen and internationally by making this the focus of our committees.

We all have valuable experience, wide networks, creative ideas, and enthusiasm..... please use these to make our journey rewarding and enjoyable.

I look forward to sharing the journey with you all during the 2026/2027 year.

Sandra Bonney

FUNDRAISING AND PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

Sandjar Fundraiser



Our members who helped to put together the Sandjars from the end of year fundraiser, which raised \$1,580 for Under the Stars charity organisation

Quiz night fundraiser - Friday 27 March – Programme night

Quiz Night to support Literacy projects at Merivale and Gate Pa Primary Schools. This was our first attempt at this type of event and it proved to be extremely successful, both financially and socially. This success was due to the Fundraising and Membership committee members, all putting in an amazing amount of time and effort which resulted in a very enjoyable evening that will hopefully be repeated in the next year.

Thanks to all the committee members, your support was greatly appreciated. Also thanks to all Altrusa members for your support.

Sue Amon



President Maggie keeping score



Nicky our Quiz Master!!

Happy participants and prize winners.



Pink Ribbon Fundraiser for Breast Cancer – 25 May



What a great spread for the Breast Cancer Pink Ribbon Fundraiser. Ann and her delightful granddaughter hosted this in Ann's home. Thank you for making this a successful and enjoyable night. \$357 was raised.

Thanks to Raewyn for helping to entertain us with her quizzes. These were fun although not very high scores were achieved!



Also, thanks to all members who participated and provided some wonderful food for us – all be it far too much!! Lovely to see Catherine and Jill's daughters attending as well. All and all, it was a fun and successful night.

Several members were asking Sandra for her Pavlova Roll recipe, so I have included it below.

Sandra's Pavlova Roll Recipe

3 egg whites	1 cup sugar
1 tsp vinegar	1 tsp vanilla
Coconut	

Beat egg whites stiffly, add sugar slowly and beat well.

Add vinegar and vanilla.

Spread on greased luncheon paper in an oblong shape and thinly sprinkle with coconut.

Bake at 160°C for 10-15 minutes.

Turn on to greaseproof paper and roll up. Cool.

When cool unroll and spread with whipped cream, then carefully roll up again.

Serves 6-8



SERVICE AND LITERACY COMMITTEE

THE GREEN PARTY (not the political one!!)

At 9am (ish) on Saturday 9 May about seven hardy Tauranga Altrusans took to their forks and pruners at Brookfield Plunket. Even our newest visitor Viv came to lend a hand. The garden is pretty tidy these days and it does not take long to give it a spruce up.

We donned our pink vests and took photos (courtesy of Alison as Raewyn's phone is misbehaving in the camera department). We also trialled the new 'grubber' that Altrusa District Fifteen is selling as a fundraiser.

About 10 o'clock we packed up and headed to Hey Jude for a coffee. Judy and Sue headed off to other commitments, but we were joined by other Altrusan's at the café. We spent about as much time chatting over coffee as we did gardening. It was just a lovely time spent connecting with each other.

Thanks ladies for your work 😊

Raewyn Turner

MEMBERSHIP AND COMMUNICATION

April Programme Night "Getting To Know You"

As the title suggests our Programme Night event this month, hosted by the Membership and Communication Committee was a chance for us to learn more about each other from our embarrassing and/or hilarious moments, fun activities we had taken part in, coincidences that had occurred in our lives, strange or scary events that had happened and adventures while travelling.

We began the evening with some small pre prepared ice breaker items where the object was to guess who these had happened to. Here are a few of the printable ones:

Flying over an active volcano on the Big Island in Hawaii in a helicopter with 4 others. The doors of the helicopter had been removed prior to take off to enhance the experience!

Who used to be a volunteer SPCA Inspector and at one stage had to pick up a large dead horse and dispose of it?

I have been inside Government House in Wellington.

I have stayed in a house owned by the New Zealand Government in New York.

I have been inside the White House. Twice!

I once told a girl with Autism, who I had been working with, that my croaky voice this morning was because I had woken up with a frog in my throat! Her face looking at me was horrified!!

I entered a Celine Dion competition, having seen a sticker on a CD and won it!! The prize was a trip for 2 including airfares, 5 night's accommodation at Caesars Palace, Las Vegas, and tickets to one of Celine's live concerts. She performed at Caesars Palace. What a show! What a prize!!!

The follow-up discussion from these was a lot of fun with extra information being provided.

We then moved on to some oral reminiscences. We certainly learned a lot more about our Altrusa colleagues and confirmed our impressions that we are a fun-loving group with a highly developed sense of the ridiculous and a touch of the dare-devil. New experiences - we are up for them!

P.S. We were having so much fun we forgot to take a single photo!

Alison Ware



TWENTY CONFERENCES ON — AND STILL INSPIRED

As a Past District Governor, attending the 42nd International District Fifteen Conference in Wellington gave me another chance to reflect on why these weekends continue to matter. I've probably been to around twenty conferences now, and each one has offered something different — new ideas, new challenges, and renewed purpose.



With no club stepping forward to host the 2026 conference, the Past District Governors took on the task and chose Wellington as the venue. I volunteered as Registration and Credentials Chair — a steep learning curve, but a satisfying one. My heartfelt thanks go to my club members **Margie, Sue, Jan, Sandra and Maggie**, who managed the registration desk magnificently in a very confined space. Their support meant a great deal to me.

The programme was packed with excellent speakers. Professor Bev Lawton (Kiwibank New Zealander of the Year 2025) brought passion and humour to her mission of improving women's, maternal and child health. On Sunday, political commentator and designer Claire Robinson challenged us with two memorable questions: *Are you a good girl or a gutsy girl?* and *What are you waiting for?* Her message lingered long after she finished.

Friday night's Mix and Mingle at the Embassy Theatre, followed by *The Devil Wears Prada 2*, was a fun alternative to the usual music and dancing — despite some catering hiccups. As a "host", I did my best to make sure my fellow club members got something to eat, even if the caterers had other ideas. A brisk walk home helped me forget my empty stomach.

The Leaders Breakfast at Lola Stays was lively and thought-provoking. One piece of advice stood out: as President, you are *first among equals* — never alone, always supported. A personal highlight was a fellow

Altrusan, Ann, noticing my struggle to hear in the noisy café and urging me to see my audiologist. Thanks to her guidance, I now have almost full hearing again.

Saturday's business sessions ran smoothly, and the Wellington City Mission speaker reminded us of the impact our donations make. Our club's creative dry-goods construction — thanks to **Ann's** preparation a few nights earlier — was a proud moment. I understand the City Mission representative could barely fit everything into her car.

Workshops followed, including Pauline Courtney's insightful session on having difficult conversations, and the Board's polished *Absolutely Positively Altrusa* workshop, complete with resources already delivered to clubs.

The Governors Banquet was a standout. Hearing about the service behind the Mamie L Bass, Letha H Brown and Nina Fay Calhoun awards left me inspired for next year. The emotional high point was the Margaret Inch Leadership Award presented to **Kay Edwards of Queenstown** — her humility and service moved many of us to tears. Lamplighter Chips were also awarded to Past Governors **Jennette Borell and Leanne Milligan** for extraordinary leadership, especially during challenging times.

Sunday began with the Memorial Service honouring eight Altrusans, including our own **Lesley Stanley**, beautifully acknowledged by Catherine Moles. Claire Robinson then lifted the mood again, reminding us of the richness of our diverse perspectives and why we should ask ourselves, 'are you a good girl or a gutsy girl?'

As conference closed, I was reminded why I keep coming back: inspiration, renewed friendships, and a refreshed sense of purpose — as an Altrusan, a friend, a mother, and everything still ahead.

Pam Hayes

LITERARY CORNER

Book Chat



Book Chat nights were held on March and May at Catherine's home

An interesting quote from Catherine from a book she had just finished:

It's the extremities that are important.

Hair and shoes but mostly hair.

Women are held hostage by their hair and shoes, but few of them realise it.



I have included this – just because I liked it:-

"Sometimes," said Pooh quietly, "we spend so much time thinking about what went wrong that we forget to see all the little things that went right. The sun still rises. The tea is still warm. A friend still sits beside you. And that's enough, really. Life isn't meant to be perfect — it's meant to be lived. So forgive quickly, hold on gently, love deeply, and keep walking forward with a thankful heart. The world feels kinder when you choose peace over pride, and smiles over arguments."



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BIRTHDAYS

Margaret Beswick – 5 June

Happy birthday Marg B!





Another Altrusan year is completed, and I am stepping away from the Secretary role. Not because I don't like doing it but because it is time and I am off for two months to visit my two delightful granddaughters and family in the UK. Thanks to Raewyn for stepping up as Secretary – you will be great!

Looking forward to attending meetings and seeing the new Board in action. I am sure they will do a great job under the guidance of Sandra, as the past Board has for the last two years under our lovely Maggie.

I am happy to continue as the Editor, however there may be someone hiding in the wings who has a burning desire to take this on. Don't be shy, give it a go! Some new ideas would be good.

Look forward to hearing and seeing photos of what has been happening while I am away in July and August.

Next Alnewza will be September – so plenty of time for members to gather the info and send to the Editor **by 10 September 2026.**

Julie Bradley

DATES TO REMEMBER

23 June	Mid year Club celebration and Dinner
12 August	International Youth Day
8 September	International Literacy Day
16 October	World Food Day
24 October	United Nations Day
25 October	Make a Difference Day
25 November	International Day for the elimination of violence against women
10 December	Human Rights Day

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