

2026-27 Club Officers:

President: Sandra Bonney

President Elect: *vacant*

Secretary: Raewyn Turner

Treasurer: Judy Thomson

Immediate Past President: Maggie Dudfield

Directors:

Sue Amon

Jan Maber

Committee Chairs:

Service & Literacy:

Jan Maber

Fundraising & Programme:

Sue Amon

Membership & Communications:

Julie Bradley

Notice Board

IFF DAY – Cambridge – 26 September. RSVP and pay to Judy by 24 September, Cost \$30 and \$20 for first timers.

Frocktober fundraiser – 16 October, 6.00pm, Blackberry café, Fashion Island

Christmas Dinner -

To be held at the Charthouse on the 8 December. Costs are \$59/person for partners, with members being subsidised. Please RSVP by 27th September.

Friday Diners' Group

Meet at a different restaurant the third Friday of alternate month to Book Chat.

PRESIDENT REPORT

This year has started with much activity. We have already completed successful projects and activities, and planning is well underway for future fundraisers and projects. I am humbled by your enthusiasm and dedication to Altrusa and thank each committee chair for their leadership and collaboration.

I note that against the hive of activity there has also been more members than usual dealing with health issues. The flu has certainly taken its toll this winter and several of you have been dealing with major surgeries. It has been great to hear and see that you are checking in on each other's welfare. Please remember to reach out if you need assistance of any kind: members love to help each other.

IFF Day is coming up and I'm sure that those attending will come back inspired. It's always good to meet up with Altrusans from other clubs and to hear what projects and fundraisers they are involved with. Attending Conference is the same on a larger scale and I would like to encourage you to think about attending the next Conference in Oamaru at the beginning of May 2027. Oamaru is a fascinating place to visit, and the Oamaru club is renowned for being a good host. I know that several members are considering making it part of a South Island road trip with their partners.

With the arrival of Spring, I'm encouraged by the growth of new ideas within the club. The Santa for Seniors project is making excellent headway, external funding has been applied for to progress the Sanitary Packs for TLWV, we are accumulating much knitting to donate to Active Hearts Foundation, and we donated 76 books to Gate Pa School on International Literacy Day.

Congratulations Ladies.

President Sandra

FUNDRAISING AND PROGRAMME

Seuss Night

A busy July Business meeting, with Dr Seuss galore.....most members dressed up .

Exerts were read from The Green Pants, The Cat in the Heat, and How the Grinch Stole Christmas. Followed by a Dr Seuss quiz.



Programme Night of Knitting



The August programme night was set aside for a knitting night. Members were encouraged to bring a buddy, especially a teenager to help mark International Youth Day on 12 August. Different tables were set up to knit, crochet, learn to knit, and making flowers. Flyers were distributed around the community.

Sandra was unable to organise an article in the Weekend Sun as originally planned. However, members did practice liking and sharing our club Facebook posts to generate a wider spread and promotion of the event. We had 7 guests attend , including 2 teenagers.

We were knitting for Active Hearts Foundation..... beanies and peggy squares for a blanket. People also brought along other knitting that they had completed previously.... gloves, slippers, beanies.

Members and friends are still knitting Peggy squares so that we have enough for Alison to sew into a full blanket, The deadline is the end of October after which all knitted items will be delivered to a contact in Auckland for delivery to Nepal.

SERVICE AND LITERACY

Helping hand for Gate Pa School

An SOS was received from Gate Pa school. They had purchased 30 new Kapa Haka uniforms which was exciting, but unfortunately the uniforms shoulder straps and skirts, were both too long for the students.



Could we help with alterations? Of course we would help

A visit to the school for sizing, a group discussion - best approach? A few uniforms each and job done.

Sue Amon

Literacy Day fun at Gate Pa Primary! 📖



What better way to celebrate a love of reading than with 70+ Dr Seuss books and seven very enthusiastic Altrusans dressed up in full Dr Seuss regalia!

The Cat in the Hat, Thing 1, Thing 2 and a few other Seuss characters made an appearance, with our members bringing the stories to life by reading to the pupils.

Lots of smiles, lots of fun and, hopefully, a few new favourite books!

Pam Hayes





Literacy Blast

The success of an Altrusa Quiz night has had a real literacy boost for two local Tauranga schools who deal with many children that are not able to access many books at home. The successful night raised an impressive \$1500 to share between these two schools, each choosing a different way to improve literacy stocks to meet the individual needs of their students.

In one case, the purchase of two extension reading kits to challenge and improve student achievement in the upper levels of this primary school has meant challenging students to gain more knowledge and test their skills in different ways.



For the other school, it was the newer students, often from immigrant families, who are the recipients of Phonix bags. These bags, both made by Altrusans and supplied with articles across 12 bags, each contain letter to article match, so an oral to visual match. This allows the students to hear, see and match to reinforce their alphabet knowledge as well as having something practical to recall and associate sounds in different contexts. Job well done Tauranga Altrusa!

Claire Spiers

LITERARY CORNER

Book Chat



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

Book Review - A Different Kind of Power

Jacinda Ardern

I've just finished reading Jacinda Ardern's *A Different Kind of Power*, and I found myself reflecting quite a lot on my own experiences of leadership.

What really resonated with me was Jacinda's belief that **kindness, empathy and compassion are not weaknesses — they can be a different kind of strength.**

Throughout my own working life, I've always tried to lead with kindness and to put myself in the other person's shoes. At times, that was interpreted as being "soft", and I was even told I needed to "harden up". But I never really believed that being tough meant losing sight of the person in front of you.

That's what I connected with in Jacinda's story. Whether you agree with her politics or not, she demonstrated that leadership doesn't have to be about being the loudest voice in the room or having all the answers. Sometimes it's about listening, understanding, showing compassion and making difficult decisions while still remembering the human impact.

The book also gives a fascinating and very personal insight into some of the most challenging moments of her time as Prime Minister, including Christchurch, Whakaari and COVID-19, as well as the pressures that ultimately led her to step away from politics.

For me, the title says it all. **There really is a different kind of power — and I believe kindness can be one of the strongest forms of leadership we have.**

★ 4 out of 5 — a thoughtful, honest and very worthwhile read.

Pam Hayes

MEMBER PROFILE

Sandra Louise Bonney (nee Coventry)

Birth – 5 years

The eldest of five (two sisters and two brothers) I was born on 7 February 1963 in Invercargill, where I lived until I was nearly 3 and my parents decided to move back to Christchurch where they both grew up and where their families still lived.

6 – 20 years

I spent my primary school days at Merrin School and received my secondary school education at Burnside High where I was in the debating club with John Key for a year, was head girl in seventh form and met my future husband.

Three years at Christchurch Teacher's Training College.

Cub leader 15- 20yrs, played netball, tennis, squash and softball

23 – 27 years

A year teaching at South Hornby Primary, where my claim to fame was teaching Bic Runga maths. Then two and a half years teaching at Sumner Primary before resigning to follow my boyfriend to the Cayman Islands. Daryl had already been there for eight months working as an auditor for KPMG and when I arrived, I got a job at the local Catholic preparatory school...one year as a kindergarten teacher and two as the remedial reading teacher. We got married a month after I arrived and had our first child, Samuel, while living there.

28 -34 years

When Sam was three months old, we returned to NZ and lived in Wellington where we had our second child, Matthew. Two years later we moved to Tauranga where we completed our family with the arrival of Laura. Daryl and I had agreed that I wouldn't return to work while the children were young, so I made friends and satisfied my need to be involved in the community through involvement with Plunket, Kindy and an establishment School Board. Laura was in a backpack as I walked over the horse paddocks that were to become Selwyn Ridge Primary School.

35 years onwards

When Laura was about 2 ½ Daryl started his own accounting business and I began my second career as an office administrator. Owning our own business afforded us the luxury of being able to take time off

to be involved in the lives of our family...attending school assemblies, class camps, sport tournaments, music lessons, sewing endless costumes for school and dance productions, Science Fair, Friday night cupcake baking to sell at the Farmers Market to fundraise for FPS competitions in the US....and I do recall Laura volunteering me to suck in and wear my wedding dress to school when her class was learning about Celebrations!

We're still working in the same business and the freedom to take time for family never stopped, as we continued to prioritise the needs of aging parents, our children, their partners and now our grandchildren.

Passions

Being with my family

Reading, knitting, sewing, being active (walking, biking, hiking, gyming), gardening, music

Experiencing new places and revisiting those that I particularly enjoy

Organising events

Service in the community

Liquorice especially liquorice allsorts

Roses, daffodils and freesias

Wearing earrings

Sunny days with clear skies, the doors wide open, the sounds of bees buzzing and native birds flying in and out of the trees by our kitchen

Notable events

Living in the Cayman Islands was a fantastic experience. We made many friends in the large expat community, played squash and learned to scuba dive and used it as a base to spend my long summer holidays travelling to Europe, the USA and Canada. It made us independent being in the days of fax machines and telephone calls, and no family close by. Scuba diving provided the scariest moment of my life....getting stuck while diving in a cave that was only as wide as my body and having to back out.

The birth of my children

Being diagnosed with bowel cancer when I was 43

Our daughter being diagnosed with Hodgkins

Lymphoma in 2018 at the age of 23

Designing our current home and having it built

Having Julie and John Bradley as neighbours for almost 12 years

Joining Altrusa and meeting a group of women I would otherwise probably not have met, and being inspired by their capacity to give and the way they live their older years

Watching our children become the personalities they are now

Physically helping our son and his partner build their home in Rotorua

Watching our children find their partners and attending their weddings

Becoming a grandparent. Wonderful to have those precious little ones in my life but also full of pride as I watch my children taking on the role of parent.

Bucket List

To sky dive

Become proficient at backing a trailer

Experience Christmas in Europe.... Christmas markets, snow, gluhwein

Make a quilt....I have so much fabric, it's just waiting to happen

See all my grandchildren finish secondary school



First Saturday of the month at 10.00am

October 3rd	Le Chat Noir	144 Chadwick Rd Greerton
November 7th	Décor Gardens	165 Moffat Rd Bethlehem
December 5th	Pacifica Home & Garden Store	112 Tara Rd Papamoa
January 2nd	Oscar and Otto	51 the Strand, Tauranga

BUSINESS MEETING SALES TABLE

A reminder that at the September Business Meeting we decided to rest our raffle and have a Sales Table instead, to raise funds for Conference.

Bring anything surplus you that you think someone else might like to buy..... preserves, plants, flowers, baking, produce.....



Price it and put it on the Sales Table when you arrive. An honesty box will operate.

If you know what you are going to bring, please let Raewyn know the Thursday before our meeting so that she can advertise it in her meeting reminder email.

Sandra Bonney

BIRTHDAYS

Denise Bean – 10 August
Margaret Robertson – 3 October
Barbara Reeve – 8 October
Ann Fulcher – 18 October

Nicky Treadwell – 21 October
Sue Amon – 23 October
Glenda Lowe – 23 October
Shona Sterritt – 31 October



Best wishes to all the members with October birthdays and belated wishes to Denise for her August birthday.



Having been away for 10 weeks in the UK staying with my daughter Kristie and two granddaughters, Lila and Asha in Chorleywood, Hertfordshire; it has been hard catching up with all the activities the Club has been busy with. They have certainly achieved a lot.

We had a wonderful time and were able to celebrate Asha's 8th birthday with her and see Lila off to secondary school. As well as a lovely weeks holiday with them in the Cotswolds.

I also came home with a suitcase of very good second-hand books that the girls had finished with, that I hope we can find some recipients for.

Looking forward to the next couple of months and seeing what exciting activities have been planned.

Next newsletter will be the October-December issue. Deadline for items will be 16 December.

Julie Bradley

SERVICE HOURS

Do not forget to send your monthly Service Hours for Altrusa and your "other" service hours each month to Catherine Moles.

It is not too late for anyone who has hours not yet recorded for the past 3 months to send them. Also, any books you may have donated and the number of distraction packs for the past 3 months.

All service hours are now counted in one combined category - including Club service projects, fundraisers, and time given to Clubs and Districts as an Officer or Chair; planning and working on Altrusa projects; and Volunteering in your community.

CLUB COMMITTEES AND RESPONSIBILITIES 2026-27

Foundation Liaison: Pam Hayes

Alnewza Editor: Julie Bradley

Sunshine Lady: Raewyn Turner

Archivist: Alison Ware / Marg Beswick

Service Hours collector: Catherine Moles

Coffee Mornings: Alison Ware

Dinners: Ann Fulcher / Glenda Lowe

Facebook: Jody Pena

Library: Catherine Moles

Raffle: Catherine Moles

Tale Twister: Maggie Dudfield

Service & Literacy:

Jan Maber (Chair)

Ann Fulcher

Pam Hayes

Jill Irvin

Glenda Lowe

Margie Robertson

Judy Thomson

Raewyn Turner

Fundraising & Programme:

Sue Amon (Chair)

Marg Beswick

Maggie Dudfield

Viv Lile

Catherine Moles

Claire Spiers

Nicky Treadwell

Membership & Communications:

Julie Bradley (Chair)

Jody Pena

Barbara Reeve

Shona Sterritt

Shirley Vanstone

Alison Ware

DATES TO REMEMBER

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