

Governor's Message

Kia ora koutou katoa

As we move in to Spring and look forward to warmer days, we can be motivated by the fresh colours of Spring and the promise of good things to come as our gardens flourish. Clubs are already active with fundraising and Service projects taking place. You will see the impact these are having in our communities later in this bulleting, as each Club reports on what they are doing.



The upcoming IFF Days will provide some added impetuous to the Club activities you already have planned. There will be new people to meet, new ideas to share, and a fun day out. It is worth the effort required to get there, so consider seriously adding this to your calendar. You never know what new opportunities might arise from the sharing of information that occurs at these days.

The new Strategic Plan has been released by the International Board. Again, top of our minds is the impact the reduced membership totals are having on our organisation. While we are predominantly a service organisation, we also need to focus on what sets us apart from many others and use this to attract new members. At Altrusa, we don't just focus on service, we provide ways for our members to develop leadership skills and grow as individuals, but mostly we provide fun and the possibility of developing new friendships. Remember the time you spend having fun together is as important as the Service you do. Plan activities together, an Altrusa picnic, a night out at the movies, start a walking group, start a Book Club, and of course, those regular meetings for a coffee. Conference is something more that Altrusa offers, and another way we can get together to have fun and learn. Start planning for a trip to Oamaru next year. Starting from 1.00pm Friday, it promises to be fun unfilled weekend, taking advantage of all that Oamaru has to offer.

Thank you for all fabulous work you do in the name of Altrusa. I look forward to reading your stories in this bulletin and seeing many of you at the IFF Days.

Nga mihi nui

Margaret

Communications Chat – Jenny Bevin - Timaru

Tips and Tricks for Effective Emails

Writing emails is easy, getting people to read them and reply is the hardest
How do we make it easier?



- Subject lines should be concise and reflect the topic.
- Your email needs to make sense for the recipient.
- Keep emails brief – most people don't read them, they skim.
- Keep your message focused – limit to one main topic.
- Personalising your message shows that you care who you are talking to.
- Being professional doesn't mean sounding cold and robotic.
- Proofread before sending.
- Choose an appropriate sign off to fit the tone of the email.
- Emails often get missed so follow up after a few days if a reply was required.
- Always acknowledge an email received
- Use **BCC** when emailing a large group – no one wants to scroll through half a page of email addresses before getting to the message

Abridged from influno.com/effective-email-communication

The bottom line is that effective emails are simple, focused and human!

While emailing is an effective tool for communication, nothing beats a phone call, a visit or snail mail!

Yours in Altrusa,

Jenny

Jenny Bevin (Timaru)
Communication Chair



Foundation Committee

A friendly reminder to all clubs and grant writers: ***the DEADLINE for International Foundation Grants, Cycle 1 is September 15th 2026.*** If you are applying, please ensure your application is completed and submitted by September 14th 2026. I recently attended the Foundation Grants Zoom Workshop on August 1st and one important change to note is that ALL grants awarded will now be US\$2500 (until the allocation runs out) If you are unsuccessful in Cycle 1, your club can resubmit the same application for Cycle 2 (deadline 15th March 2027) ***Updated Grant Application forms & resources have already been emailed to your club Foundation Liaisons on 11th August to share with you.***

A total of US \$200,000 will be awarded in the 2026-2027 financial year to support impactful Club and District educational initiatives, literacy programs, community outreach efforts and other projects that advance the mission of the International Foundation. Good luck with your applications.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to email or message me and I'll be happy to help.

Yours in service
Susi Chinnery-Brown (Morrinsville)
District Fifteen Foundation Chair



Nominations Committee

Nominations for Office to the District Fifteen Board of Directors for the Biennium 2027 – 2029 will be accepted from all Clubs, District Officers and Past Governors. Nominations must be forwarded by email to the District Nominating Committee Chair, Tui Hunter, by **Friday 11th December 2026** nominations@altrusa.org.nz Any queries should be directed to her or call her on mobile as per the District Directory.

To be eligible for election for any District Fifteen Office, members must be an active member in good standing. Based on the role, the rules are:

- For **Governor-Elect** you should have previously served a full term on the District Fifteen Board
- For **District Treasurer**, you must have been a Club President or Club Treasurer OR be serving in one of these roles at the time of the election and, have a general accounting knowledge or experience.
- For **any other Office**, you must have completed a full term as Club President OR be serving as Club President at the time of the election.

And, you should also know that:

- No person serving as Governor-Elect or Treasurer shall be elected to the same office for two successive terms.
- Directors may be elected to the same office for two consecutive terms.
- No more than two (2) elected officers shall be from the same Club during any terms.
- Nomination forms will be available on the District Fifteen Website [check under Resources]. All Club Presidents, District Officers and Past Governors will be emailed a copy of the nomination forms by 1st September 2026. There are three forms to complete for each nomination:
 - (a) Nomination Form;
 - (b) Biographical Form;
 - (c) an Open letter.

As outlined above, please send nominations by email to nominations@altrusa.org.nz
The Nominating Committee is looking forward to receiving your nominations by the due date.



Tui Hunter (Chair) (Levin), Gaylene Cumpstone (Te Kuiti) and Sandra Bonney (Tauranga)
2027-2029 Nominating Committee

Service Committee

On the 11 August District Fifteen ASTRA Chair Lynette and I visited New Zealand's one and only ASTRA Club which is situated at Waitaki Girl's High School in Oamaru.

Two Y12 students Abby and Shire lead this wonderful bunch of 20+ girls, ably supported and advised by Oamaru Altrusans, with member Liz Ballantyne at the helm, as they serve their community.



Current projects they have on the go are Distraction Packs, plus making little woolly Christmas decorations that will be filled with chocolates and delivered to rest home residents at Christmas – this craft idea came from Conference in Invercargill!!

Finances in the club are tight, so a \$100 supermarket voucher from Timaru Altrusa was gratefully received and will go towards their next baking project or the Christmas chocolates required. They also received a cash donation from the District Fifteen Service Chair as a contribution towards Pins or Distraction Pack items.

It was my pleasure to present two girls with their ASTRA pins, which I know they will wear with pride.

These are potentially our next generation of community volunteers, so let's do our best to support them as they develop their skills. Any clubs wishing to support ASTRA with monetary donations or vouchers can do so contacting Liz through Oamaru Altrusa.

Karen Liddy (Timaru)
District Fifteen Service Chair



by

Crafting Comfort and Community: Taieri Steps Up Again

Taieri members have once again made a meaningful difference in the community through practical support and service.

A sewing bee was held to complete several projects. Contact with NICU had identified several needs they had. Members made scented hearts, quilts, sheets, blankets, knitted singlets, and muslins to the required specifications, using fully donated materials. A range of new and repurposed backpacks, with advertising removed where needed, was also prepared for charities including Foster Hope.

The annual Altrusa Garage Sale saw the enthusiasm of both volunteers and shoppers and the sale's relaxed 'make an offer' pricing approach move items quickly.



Three members supported Taieri's 4th Annual Rangatahi Youth Hui in April. Their role was to circulate, engage with young people, and help ensure a safe, inclusive, and welcoming environment.

Donations to the community have continued, including packs of Books for Babies, 200 generic Smarty activity bags for children visiting the Emergency Department, 100 bags delivered to ICU, and additional items provided to the Men's Night Shelter.



On ANZAC Day, 600 biscuits were distributed at the Mosgiel service and to the RSA afterwards. Altrusa is now a recognised contributor to this important local commemoration.

Counting the Impact: District Fifteen 2025 – 2026.



“Sharing the Journey” – the collective impact of District Fifteen.

We don't all do the same thing, but we do have a common thread that binds us together into District Fifteen. Below are the figures gathered for the combined effort of our Clubs in 2025 – 2026.

Use this information in your publicity material and in the stories, you tell others about Altrusa; Who we are and What we do.



Ashburton's First Smarty Bag Roll-Out a Big Success



Ashburton Altrusa has launched a new community initiative with the purchase of 500 Smarty Bags — colourful distraction packs designed to support young children in stressful situations. At a recent business meeting, members agreed this would be a valuable service for the community, and each bag was carefully labelled with an Altrusa Ashburton sticker before distribution.

Made from 100% recycled paper, Smarty Bags are filled with simple activities to keep children busy, calm, and entertained when they need it most. This is the first time our club has distributed the packs, and they have already been welcomed with great enthusiasm.

Bags were delivered to a wide range of local services including He Waka Tapu, Community House, Presbyterian Support, St John Ashburton, Police, Hospital, Salvation Army, Ashburton and Rakaia Fire Brigades, Methven St John, the Marae, and Tinwald Medical Centre. Every organisation expressed sincere appreciation, noting how helpful the packs will be for children in their care. St John commented that donations like these are “exceptionally helpful in situations when children are present.” Rakaia Fire Brigade shared their thanks and confirmed the packs will be carried on both their Fire Rescue Appliance and Medical Ute.



From Garage Sale Triumph to Literacy Celebrations: Cambridge in Action

Cambridge Altrusans were delighted with the success of our recent garage sale, which drew steady support from friends, neighbours, and our wider Altrusa family. The teamwork, good humour, and generous donations made the day both enjoyable and rewarding, and we extend a heartfelt thank-you to everyone who contributed their time, goods, and encouragement.

Meanwhile, our Literacy Awards project is well underway, with nominations already arriving from 12 primary schools across Cambridge and the surrounding districts. It's wonderful to see such enthusiasm from teachers and students alike. We look forward to visiting each school during the final week of term, where we'll present the awards at their assemblies and celebrate the achievements of these young readers and writers.



Christchurch Celebrates 60 Years of Service, Fellowship & Impact

Altrusa Christchurch celebrated a remarkable milestone on Sunday 14 June, gathering at the Commodore Hotel to mark our 60th Birthday in true Altrusan style. As the first club in District Fifteen to reach this significant anniversary, the occasion carried a special sense of pride and history.



Altrusans past and present joined together for a joyful afternoon of lunch, speeches, shared memories, and of course, the ceremonial cutting of the cake. We were honoured to welcome Governor Margaret, three Past Governors, and Altrusans from Ashburton, Timaru and Oamaru, whose presence made the celebration even more meaningful.

The event offered a wonderful opportunity to acknowledge the dedication, hard work and generosity of countless members over six decades — women who have given their time, skills and compassion to support organisations and communities throughout Christchurch. Their service has shaped our club's identity and strengthened its impact year after year.

A heartfelt thank-you to everyone who came to share this special day with us. Your support and friendship made our 60th Birthday celebration truly memorable.

Altrusa Christchurch — 1966 to 2026 and still going strong.



Hamilton Kicks Off the Year with Flavour and Friendship

To start the Altrusa year in June we had an Asian Infusion two course dinner with the most exotic dishes and flavours. This was catered by Jenny Wright-Gardner in Jenny and Tonys beautiful home in Matangi.



This was a social/fundraiser. Members, guests and some Altrusan's from Te Awamutu, Cambridge and Morrinsville joined us to make this a very special event. Funds raised from the evening will go towards projects to assist Orange Sky.

Members have continued to collect blankets to recycle into baby cot blankets. We have working bees at Heather de Groens home to overlock and sew them. Heather works hard for the preparation prior to the working bees. Eighteen blankets were delivered to Waterford and River Ridge birthing centres. As part of our ongoing literacy project Claire had collected 40 books for babies to River Ridge. They were received with much gratitude.

Hawera Altrusa Spreads Joy, Farewells a Treasure, and Celebrates Future Talent

Hawera Altrusans have recently distributed 200 distraction packs to various local organisations, the recipients of which were so enthusiastic and grateful. The recipients included two local funeral services, Awanui & hospital Med lab, Emergency Department, Pediatric nurse, Police and St Johns. For us it was a small gesture to help children through a difficult experience, but for the adults dealing with these situations it was obvious the packs held a great deal of value.

A surprise Hawera Altrusan gathering at Alison Sayers was to say farewell and thank her for 32 years of contribution to the Hawera Altrusa club and community, after her resignation in June.



We are sad to see her leave as all those years of experience, and time as President and on committees, she has been respected for her knowledge and friendship.



The annual Hawera Altrusa Medical Scholarship was awarded to Sam Landers. Sam is studying to be a Doctor in Dunedin. He was brought up on a farm in Manaia and attended local schools. We are hoping he will return to Taranaki as a much needed GP in the rural sector after he completes his many years of study.

Books, Bears and Big Smiles — Invercargill on the Move!

The Invercargill Club has been out and about this month, spreading joy — and plenty of books — across the community. Our first outing was a lively Give-Away Day, an event open to the public offering free haircuts, donated goods, and a welcoming space for families to pick up essentials. Altrusans were kept busy as people flocked to our table, and by the end of the day we had given away **around 220 books** to delighted readers of all ages.

Hot on the heels of that success came **Teddies Day Out**, held at the mall in support of Ronald McDonald House. Once again, Altrusa was



invited to set up a stand, and our members created a cheerful activity centre where children could colour, craft, and cuddle their favourite teddy. The book table was a hit, with families returning again and again — and by closing time, **another 230 books** had found new homes.

It has been a busy and heart-warming month of literacy outreach, and we're not slowing down yet. We're looking forward to hosting the **IFF Day** at the end of the month and continuing our mission of sharing stories, smiles, and support throughout the community.

Bracelets, Banter & Big Achievements: Levin Marks 15 Years of DFGNZ

As Days For Girls is celebrating 15 years in NZ, we decided, as a service project, to make bracelets to hand out at an information kiosk in the Palmerston North Mall and to distribute at a luncheon for all those who have been involved in DFG in the local area. Levin Altrusans had 4 sessions of bracelet making. Over much chat, many mistakes, coffee and cake, we succeeded in making 300 to give away.



The bracelets feature the orange and white colours of the DFG logo,



as well as letters depicting DFGNZ.

Decades of Dresses and One Extraordinary Jar: Morrinsville's Fundraiser Triumph

This year we tried a new fundraising idea submitted by one of our members, Megan. It was a wedding dress fashion parade. This idea grew into an amazing event that sold over 90 tickets. It became "Wedding Dresses through the Decades". Once the message got out that we were having this event people from around the Morrinsville area supplied us with the wedding dresses. We had 18 dresses to be modelled for the parade and 4 of the most delicate and vintage dresses went on display. The dresses aged from 1927 through 2026. In Morrinsville we are fortunate to have an Art Gallery that had an amazing space for our parade of dresses.



One dress went viral on social media. We were given Anne Adams "Dress in a Jar" to display. This dress was from 1948, Anne the bride/dressmaker kept it in an 'Ajar' for preservation. Megan was given the permission to remove the dress and videoed the process. Her daughter, Joy, had never seen it out of the jar and was at the gallery for the removal. Once posted on social media the video went worldwide. Even Seven Sharp wanted to air the infamous dress in a jar.



Glitches Fixed, Halls Sparkling and Food Sorted — Ohariu on a Roll!



Kiwi Community Assistance (KCA)

Three of our members visited KCA's warehouse and braved the cold sorting donated clothing. KCA supports many organisations such as soup kitchens and food banks around Wellington and Porirua, distributing 1000 boxes of food and 66 boxes of nonperishable items a month. The club plans to support KCA further by holding a movie fundraiser in October.

Ete Fixes the Glitch

As part of our last Foundation Grant, we have been busy disturbing *Ete Fixes The Glitch* books around 43 North Wellington and Porirua primary schools. This book

written by a local Porirua author celebrates her belief that representation matter, when Pacific kids see themselves as innovators, they believe they can lead in tech too.

We were proud to help support her mission to ensure this book reaches every primary school across Aotearoa.

Spring Clean for Local Guide Hall

Four members spent 11 hours cleaning up a storm to make the guide hall spic and span...just in time for Katrina's brownie sleepover the next week!



Ayrburn After Dark: Queenstown Lights Up Our Programme Meeting

Our Fellowship Committee organised a mid-winter Programme Meeting on 22 July at Ayrburn, and twelve of us — including two Altrousers and Deborah's daughter — gathered at the Bakehouse around 5pm. It was the perfect spot for a drink, a bite to eat, and a good catch-up while we waited for darkness to fall. Thankfully Ella had booked a table, as the restaurant was buzzing with people keen to see the light display.





Around 6pm, after a delicious meal, we headed outside to explore the winter wonderland. The light installations were beautiful, and the ice-skating added to the festive atmosphere. It was lovely to wander at our own pace and take in all the displays — definitely worth a visit.

A few of us ducked into Billy's Restaurant for a look, with two staying behind to enjoy dessert. Several members carpoled out to Ayrburn, and by about 7pm we were all heading home after a fun and relaxed evening together.

Rotorua Club in Action: Helping Kids Shine at School and Beyond

The Rotorua Club has enjoyed a wonderfully active few months, with members pitching in across three projects that continue to make a real difference for tamariki in our community.

Granny Reading Programme: During Terms 2 and 3 at Aorangi Primary School, our new Granny Reading Programme has been running every Monday and Friday from 9:00 to 11:00 am. Five club members completed New Zealand Police Vet clearance and now deliver the programme with enthusiasm. The children's excitement and engagement make this a truly rewarding project for everyone involved.



Distraction Packs Contribution: Our commitment to supporting the Police Victim Support team continued in July with another **50 distraction packs** delivered and gratefully received. Every member plays a part in this project — from cutting and sewing the bags (electric scissors and overlockers at the ready!) to sourcing items, collating supplies, and packing everything for delivery. It's a real team effort.

EquiSucceed for Aorangi School Children: After last year's success, particularly in boosting children's confidence and positive behaviour, the club has chosen to continue supporting EquiSucceed. A donation of **\$1,000** has been

made to ensure children can participate in the programme over the next two terms.

Bags of Hope Art Exhibition

The Bags of Hope Art Exhibition was a one-of-a-kind event at the Golden Centre in Dunedin over the last weekend of the school holidays.

The Cancer Society has teamed up with 20 schools with Year 7 and 8 students to create works of art to encourage and support patients at Otago and Southland Oncology Units. Each masterpiece is attached to a bag for patients to use for their clothes while undergoing treatment. This amazing display of practical support, compassion and community spirit by young people has created much discussion in the treatment rooms and among families, moving many patients to tears.

This project has also provided the students with a meaningful purpose for their visual literacy studies, as they learned about cancer and its impact of family and friends.



Altrusa Taieri is proud to support the Cancer Society through their Bags of Hope initiative with over 1500 bags being given out each year.

Sew Much Fun, So Much Literacy



The past three months began with great gusto as we welcomed a new member before our AGM, then celebrated our Board changeover with a fun Travel theme to remind us to *Share the Journey*.

Since then, Tauranga has been buzzing with sewing and literacy projects that make a real difference. Our July Programme night became a full-scale Sewing Bee: some members stitched bags for upcoming Distraction Packs, others made bags for Phonics Kits for a local primary school, while another team altered kapa haka costumes for the same school. Needles, fabric and teamwork everywhere.

August brought a burst of colour with our Dr Seuss-themed business meeting. Members arrived dressed as their favourite characters and “paid” for dinner with a Dr Seuss book. We shared readings, formed quiz teams

and enjoyed plenty of laughs. We now have a wonderful stack of books ready to donate when we visit a local school for International Literacy Day in September.

We’ve also been learning new skills—this time digital ones—by practising how to promote our club through liking and commenting on Facebook posts. Turns out posts aren’t just for reading; they’re for cheering each other on too.

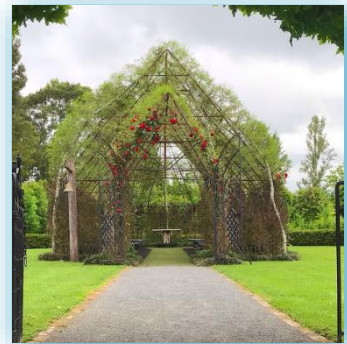


Serving and Rambling

The Te Awamutu Altrusa Club have been busy with our existing literacy projects, topping up books for our Books for Babes and Bright Boxes projects and planning our upcoming projects. We are reviving our Book Awards and looking at doing another Blind Date with a Book and Coffee project with a local café,



Our community group helped out with morning teas for the "I am Me" project. The 'I Am Me' is a structured programme created in Cambridge to support women who are victim-survivors of family violence was run in Te Awamutu.



Our Garden Ramble team have been busy organising our Home and Garden Ramble. Tickets go on sale on 1 October 2026 on our website. This year we have the Tree Church as one of our venues and we will also be serving morning tea there.

Always Work for our Hands to do

The Te Kuiti Altrusa Club has been busy this last month preparing the Rocket into Reading book packs that we donate to every new entrant at our local schools. The pack contains stationery items as well as information about the Altrusa club. The children get to choose a book to take home from the range we provide. We have eight primary schools in our area, and we deliver twice a year so that we cover all new entrants throughout the year. We have delivered 83 packs this year. It's always

great to see the delight on the children's faces as they receive their packs.



At our last meeting we agreed to make our regular overseas donation to the Kailakuri Health Care Centre in Northern Bangladesh. This center was founded in 1983 by New Zealand doctor Edric Baker who is the brother of one of our current members. The rural center trains local villagers as paramedics and provides much needed medical care to the poor at very low cost. Their motto is 'health care for the poor, by the poor'.

We are proud to be supporting this venture which has expanded over the years and is very successful.

Pots, Paint and Plants

At Timaru's July programme meeting eighteen members arrived to find paper covered tables arranged with four at each table.

Each table had paint brushes, paint and pots ready to be painted and sold at a garden stall the Service Committee are planning for November.

Thanks to all for contributing to an enjoyable evening painting and catching up with each other and taking home a pot or two to plant and care for.



Saving the best for last -Welcome to new members...



Altrusa Te Awamutu welcomed at our August meeting Jo Douch to our club. Jo is a retired school teacher and has already become actively involved in our activities, volunteering as a reader/writer at our local college, and manning a stall at our local Daffodil Day



Submission dates for December 2026, March 2027 and June 2027 Kiwi Altrusan

15 November 2026

15 February 2027

15 May 2027