ALTRUSA International | Leading to a Better Community® Hamilton

What's the Buzz?

November 2026

Introduction

Where has this year gone, I can't believe it's Christmas next month! As I was pulling What's the Buzz together I felt very proud of everything we have done over the last couple of, what have been, a very busy few months. What a great contribution you have all made towards Community Groups both locally and overseas (Active Hearts). Congratulations to each and every one of you for your help & enthusiasm.

September Meeting

Debbie Wilson, Manager for the Hamilton Christian Foodbank, was our guest speaker for the September meeting.

The Foodbank is a collective made up of people and organisations who are committed to addressing the root causes of food-related poverty and to working together to create a food secure New Zealand.

The Foodbank provides free 3-day emergency food parcels and specialized meal support across Hamilton.

Members of the Hamilton Altrusa Club donated a large number of nonperishable food to the Foodbank.



October Meeting Report

The guest for our October meeting was Jude Bartrum from Orange Sky

Jude thanked Altrusa for our donation of 40 of each, Beanies, scarves, gloves, tooth brushes, toothpaste, deodorants and combs which were well received and very much appreciated.

She described her role as a Volunteer for Orange sky, giving us an insight into the services offered free to those in need. A shower, laundering of clothes and most importantly a safe place for Korero, helping them access services and support within the community.

Certainly, a very humbling informative view into the life of those doing it tough.

Accent for the October Meeting

12 Things to Remember

The past can't be changed
Opinions don't define your reality
Everyone's journey is different
Judgements are not about you
Overthinking will lead to sadness
Happiness is found within
Your thoughts affect your mind
Smiles are contagious
Kindness is free
It's ok to let go and move on
What goes around comes around
Things always get better with time

Active Hearts

One of the Club's recent projects was donating over 100 beanies to the Active Hearts Foundation. Members spent a happy few hours sewing motifs onto the beanies to personalise them. It was great to receive the following message of appreciation from Active Hearts.





Namaste Margaret,

We wanted to share a little update from our recent visit to Sewak Nepal. It was such a wonderful day, and so special to spend time with the children again!

We spent a few hours at Sewak, catching up with the children and seeing how everyone is doing. The children were in great spirits, and it was lovely to see them all so happy and full of energy. The new building is looking incredible, and as always, everything is so beautifully cared for.

One of the most special moments of the day was being able to tell Kobita in person that Altrusa New Zealand has generously agreed to support her university education for the coming year. She was absolutely thrilled and so grateful! It was a really touching moment, and we felt very lucky to be able to share the news.

We also delivered the donations from Altrusa NZ for the children, which I'm sure will get plenty of use! It was an extremely special day all around.

We've also shared the wonderful news with Sewak about Altrusa's generous donation towards new library books. We're also happy to share that AHF has decided to match Altrusa's donation, and together we hope to fill the new library shelves with plenty of wonderful books for the children to enjoy.

Thank you so much to you and the entire Altrusa team for all the time, effort, and generosity you've put into supporting Sewak Nepal and Kobita. It really does make such a meaningful difference, and we are so grateful for your partnership.

I've attached some photos from our visit, along with a short video from Kobita. Please feel free to share the photos and video with the wider Altrusa community!

We'll continue to keep you posted as things progress.

Thank you, Beth

Nice to see recipients wearing some of our donations!





International Fun & Friendship (IFF) Day

Marg, Clare, Jenny, Jane, Diane & Kathryn represented The Club at IFF day in Cambridge.



IFF DAY was co-ordinated by "two locals" in September at Cambridge, a very good number of members from our Clubs. We are very fortunate in Area 1 to have two Directors who put together the programme for the day, Jenny Wright-Gardener (Hamilton) and Megan Apperley (Morrinsville). It was a full day with great handouts, discussions, fun, laughter and a very nice lunch provided by Cambridge and neighbouring Clubs.

The focus of the day was "Hygiene Kits for Youth", attendees had been asked to provide toiletries for these bags, they were assembled at the end of the day. A Guest speaker from Park Run (parkrun.co.nz) told us how this group was established, aim to run 5 kms weekly, there are a large number of locations in many parts of the world. Several groups established in Waikato.

The Active Hearts "gold coin" trail concluded the day with over $100 donated. Hamilton Club had recently donated 100+ beanies to this Project for children in Nepal - this is an Altrusa National Project.

"Sharing the Journey" - a very informative document with a collection of ideas from Altrusa District 15 to support Clubs. Hamilton Club is very active in many ways. Our weakness - we don't have an IT GURU to assist with the promotion of the Club. Volunteers welcome!

Contributor: Diane Murray

A busy, interactive & fun day was enjoyed by all



Sausage Sizzle & Cake Stall

Just three of the helpers at the Sausage Sizzle, Clare, Kathryn & Jenny. Special thanks to Kathryn for organising this successful fundraiser & the other members who also took part.



Members of Altrusa Club of Hamilton had a busy day at Bunnings Te Rapa on Saturday 31 October. We had a sausage sizzle and sold 380 sausages and 24 drinks. There were lots of shoppers getting things for their gardens who couldn't resist the smell of sausages cooking. This was a great opportunity to share what Altrusa is all about.

We also had a cake stall on the same day. The baking was amazing and special thanks to members for their contributions. This was our first cake stall at Bunnings and there was high interest in what we were selling. Margaret Donaldson and Jane Sandelin did a great job displaying and selling the goodies. Special thanks to Jane for providing an eftpos machine at very short notice. We now have to arrange our own technology for phone and card payments. We are needing to provide for a cashless society. Bunnings no longer provide that service.

Marg & Jane managed to sell every last cake (thanks mainly to Jane's sales skills!) and the wonderful bakers we have in the Club.



Youth & Young Citizen Awards 2026

The 40th Young Citizens Awards were held 28 October at The Chartwell Room at Hamilton Gardens. Compere, Susan Law read the citations and certificates and book voucher were presented by Paula Southgate.

Eighteen Year 8 students were selected by the Hamilton schools to receive this award. The Awards recognise and acknowledge students who are selected by their schools for courtesy, attitude, initiative, sportsmanship, community work, leadership and application to their school and the community. Paula congratulated the students on their achievements and contribution. Our photographer, Chelsea, from Jeremy Ward photography captured the presentation. Afternoon tea and drinks were served after the ceremony.

The Youth Awards were held 29 October at the same venue. Compere Susan Law read the citations and Emma Pike, Councillor from Hamilton City Council presented the Year 12 certificates and book vouchers. Emma congratulated students for their achievements and sent the Mayor's congratulations and best wishes.

Guest speaker was Indiana Williamson who shared his journey through school and his journey to where he is now. He is completing a music degree at Waikato University. He ended his presentation with a violin recital.



Jeremy Ward took the photos and we concluded with drinks and afternoon tea. This was catered for by Altrusa members.

Altrusa Club of Hamilton are so proud to acknowledge and celebrate our Youth and Young Citizens in our Hamilton Schools. Sincere thanks to members for making this event possible.

Memories from this special day.

Paula Southgate presenting Young Citizens Awards to Year 8 recipients



Emma Pike presents Youth Awards to Year 12 recipients,

Susan Law read the citations.



A few of the behind the scenes helpers



Birthdays



September	**Clare**
October	**Anne**
November	**Lyn**

Next Business Meeting

- Tuesday 18th November, 2026
- 5.30pm Hamilton Working Men's Club
- Organisers: Kathryn Turner, Maureen Speedy

What's The Buzz

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