



# Governor's Newsletter



Hi Altrusans  
**Convention**

What an awesome Convention for District Fifteen! It was great to have so many of our district members present to support Leanne taking on the role of International President.

I'm sure that there will be plenty of photos and comments from our members in the upcoming DSB so I will just mention a few aspects here.

Some of the very special moments for me included carrying our Flag at the opening banquet as the District members gathered to sing our National Anthem. And then again the next day

when I carried our district Banner!

We listened to some informative and inspiring speakers and had a wide range of workshops available to attend. We attended some great banquets and District Fifteen gained some awards! We had three of our clubs Oamaru, Taieri an Te Awamutu gain placings in the three main awards!

I'm hoping that you will hear more about some of the speakers and workshops and memorable events in the next DSB. I have also written a lengthy piece so I don't want to repeat myself too much here.



## **District thoughts and news After Conference**

I had a few items to share with District after Conference but as it was less than a month that had passed it seemed too soon and the first DSB was due. Thus I thought I should wait until after Convention. But then July disappeared with an amazing holiday in Jamaica on the way to some awesome moments at Convention.

Thus I returned home to work, family and Altrusa.

### **IFF Days:**

Your four Board members are in the process of organising the I.F.F. Days –

Area 1 – Marvynne Ashley

Area 2 – Alison Burr

Area 3 – Ming-chun Wu

Area 4 – Maria Mackay

Thank you to the clubs who are hosting these days and organising venues, lunches and speakers. These are always great days to catch up with Altrusa 'news', hear speakers, partake in workshops, meet up with other Altrusans and share ideas on projects and activities. I encourage you to go to the one in your area. Three of our Board members are organising their first I.F.F. day and it can be a little daunting. I had a few things go 'not according to plan' at my first day and drove home thinking that I would not be doing another day! However.....

We have a raffle on the day and I asked clubs for suggestions re a District Project and had one suggestion – The Assistance Dogs N.Z. (Trust Purpose bred & trained assistance dogs, to meet the unique needs of each individual client and family living with disabilities). Thus this years raffle profits will go to this cause.

### **International Project:**

It appears that most clubs have an International Project that they like and support.

However, at Convention “Days For Girls International” (Empowers women and girls around the globe providing sustainable feminine hygiene solutions and health education), was voted the choice for the Altrusa Organisation to support. Many of District Fifteen’s Clubs are already organising ways of supporting this organisation through financial donations and making the kits.

One of my Goals for this year of my Biennium is to have every one of our District Fifteen Clubs support this organisation in some way!

I would like to call this Goal “**Common Threads**”

How can you contribute to “Days for Girls” (If you are not already doing something).

- Making the kits
- Making part of a kit for another club
- Collecting material – perhaps through a ‘Fabric Bazar’ or just a club collection and sorting out the suitable materials which you could send to a neighbouring club to sew with.
- Doing a Fund Raiser and making a donation to the cause

N.B. Any surplus material i.e. and not suitable, could be given to another organisation, “Threads across the Pacific” originally developed as a response to the losses suffered by the Women of Vanuatu in Cyclone Pam, March 2015. Donations provide sewing machines, kits, fabric & sewing equipment along with sewing workshops for unemployed Women & girls of Vanuatu.

### **Membership:**

I would like to share some exciting news regarding one of our Clubs. Leanne Milligan, Rosalie Rae and myself attended a meeting in Rotorua where FIVE members were inducted! One was a returning member, Cynthia Clark (Who has been living elsewhere, and has been a District Treasurer).

How did a club of less than ten active members manage this?

About eighteen months ago at a Club visit it was mentioned to me that they had been offered a stall for three days at The Rotorua Home and Garden Show but didn’t have enough active members to ‘man’ it for three days. I suggested they ask a neighbouring club (e.g. Te Awamutu) to help out and thus:

- They applied and received a revitalisation grant.
- In January they sent an email to Te Awamutu for members to help at the Show –and they did.
- In February they set up an amazing bright, colourful and informative stall at the show covering a variety of aspects of Altrusa. There were also give-aways for children and a free raffle that contained people’s information and possible interest re hearing more about Altrusa.
- Then they followed some of the member possibilities up and invited them to attend ‘part’ of their meeting i.e. the meeting, dinner, or speaker and socialising. Some chose the ‘speaker’ part for their first attendance.
- And in August inducted five members!!

Congratulations and well done Altrusa Club of Rotorua!!

Best wishes to all.

*Christine Melville*

