

WHAT IS ALTRUSA?

Altrusa International was founded on 11 April 1917 in Nashville Tennessee, and is an organisation actively involved with community service and literacy throughout the world. The name Altrusa comes from ALTR for Altruism and USA for the United States of America. The organisation now has over 380 clubs and 10,000 members in 13 countries around the world. Clubs are organised regionally into Districts. There are currently fourteen districts.

New Zealand - District Fifteen

Altrusa clubs first became established in New Zealand in 1966, and we became a District in 1985 with 21 clubs now forming a network throughout the country. The operation of the District is overseen by a District Board, assisted by the District Programme Committee.

District Fifteen is a registered charity.

District Board

The District Board is made up of the District Governor, Governor-Elect, First and Second Vice Governors, District Director, District Secretary, District Treasurer and the Immediate Past Governor. The Board meets pre and post the District Conference in May and again in October. This Board is elected for a two year period at a District Fifteen Conference.

Board members are appointed as Area Representatives for clubs throughout the District. In this role they are a central point of contact for club presidents and also undertake club visits. During the biennium each club is visited at least once by the Governor and once by their Area Representative.

DISTRICT PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

Altrusans from Clubs around the District are appointed by the District Governor into various positions on the District Programme Committee. These committee chairs are available to assist with the development and maintenance of healthy clubs and to help the Governor and her Board achieve the biennium goals.

The programme committee is made up of the Service Committee (Service, Foundation, ASTRA and International Relations), Communication Committee (Communication, DSB Editor & Reporter and Website Co-ordinator), Membership (Membership, Revitalisation, New Club Building & Media Relations), Leadership (Leadership, BRR Chair and Vice Chair) and Support Services (Supplies Officer, Historian, Legal Advisor, Parliamentarian and Financial Advisor).

District Strategic Plan

The District has a strategic plan which outlines goals and strategies relating to membership development, community service, communication and leadership. This is in line with the International strategic plan and clubs are encouraged to align their own plans to the District and International plans so that we work together towards our goals.

DISTRICT SERVICE PROJECTS

Over the years a number of service projects have been organised at a District level with most if not all clubs participating.

Literacy 05-07

This nation wide Altrusa project involved book give aways during September on the Classic Hits Radio Station "That's the Story" programme. Clubs were also encouraged to organise other literacy projects in September as part of the project.

Nepal

Club collected books and stationery which were donated to a school in Nepal.

Madras

The District supported the Altrusa Club of Madras (India) through IFF Day fundraisers. The money sent helped Madras Altrusans provide service in their community.

Walk for Literacy

At District Conferences a fun walk is sometimes organised with Altrusans sponsored to raise funds for a literacy based cause. Past recipients have been Literacy Aotearoa and Dyslexia NZ.

Gilgil Project

In 2008 District Altrusans agreed to make quilts for the beds of students attending the Kivuli Special Needs Hostel in Gilgil, Keyna. Well over 100 quilts plus many other items have found their way from our clubs to this Hostel.

The Altrusa Great Read

From 2010 to 2012 the Altrusa Great Read was held on Sept. 8th, International Literacy Day, encouraging all New Zealanders to read for at least 10 minutes between 1pm and 3pm that day. In 2010 over 16,000 people took part.

AIKYA Project

In 2014 clubs agreed to raise NZ\$3600 to pay the salary of another teacher for a year at the AIKYA School in Chennai, India. This is a school for children with special needs led by an Altrusan, Parvathy Vishwanath

Altrusa Foundation

At District Conference a Silent Auction/Raffle is held with clubs donating items to raise funds for the Altrusa International Foundation. Grants from the Foundation may assist clubs with special projects, or may assist in times of hardship or disaster such as the Christchurch earthquake.

DISTRICT EVENTS

District Fifteen organises a number of events during the year providing opportunities to make new friends and to learn from each other.

District Conference

This is held on the first weekend of May each year (from Friday noon to Sunday noon). The conference is organised by the District Governor and her board with the assistance of the host club conference committee. Attending Conference is a great way for you to experience Altrusa as it will include guest speakers, workshops, business sessions, fun events, the presentation of District awards and dinner events. You are never too “new” to come and experience Conference.

IFF Days

IFF stands for Information Fun and Friendship. These are regional days held in four areas around the country once a year (usually between August and October). These action packed fun filled IFF Days provide a great way to meet Altrusans from other clubs, share ideas and get to know more about Altrusa.

President Elect Training

This training is provided as a pre-conference event providing incoming presidents with a tool kit to help them in their new role as Club President.

DISTRICT DUES

Part of the membership dues you pay to your club is forwarded to the District as District dues. This provides funding to allow for training and revitalization, club visits by District Board members, the organization of District events and the Production of District Communications.

District Dues are currently \$23.50 per member.

COMMUNICATION

District Fifteen communicates with clubs and assists interclub communication through a number of publications -

District Service Bulletin (DSB) - Altrusa Down Under is our District magazine. This is produced four times a year and distributed to clubs by email who then pass this onto their members. The DSB includes reports from District Officers and Chairs, news about upcoming District Events and information about what our clubs are doing around the country .

Governor's Newsletter - Also an email publication produced 4 to 6 times a year. It provides the Governor with an opportunity to directly communicate with clubs and provide updates on what is happening in the District.

Website - The District maintains a website at www.altrusa.org.nz. The website provides information on Altrusa and our clubs, club contact details, upcoming events, recourse material and forms, and guidelines.

Facebook - There is also a District Fifteen Facebook page

You can find out more about Altrusa at:

District Website: www.altrusa.org.nz

International Website: www.altrusa.org

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Altrusa International Inc District Fifteen



Leaders in Service