

In this Issue

Conference 2018

I'd rather be a fairy
princess book

Cooking for Ronald
McDonald House

Entertainment Book
Fundraiser for Parent to
Parent

Baking for volunteers

Upcoming events

Presidential Pondering

District Fifteen News



District 15 Conference 2018

During the first weekend of May, a group of six Wellington Altrusan's attended the annual District 15 conference, which was this year held in Ashburton.

Over the weekend we heard from three great speakers – Jessie Chan-Dorman who spoke about Leadership starting with Love, Sarah Clifford who spoke about her experience with cancer and how that inspired her to begin the Caninspire Charitable Trust, and crowd favourite Sam Johnson who created the Canterbury student volunteer army after the Canterbury earthquakes and is now works for Mycare. Sam had some great ideas about communities and volunteering.

There were three workshops, including a wonderful presentation from our members Merridy and Katrina about how our clubs communicate and how to use Trello, and a hands-on service project with Sarah Clifford from Caninspire, preparing beads for jewellery workshops. Members were impressed by the idea of communicating via Trello as a central point of communication instead of too many emails, and it was great to help CanInspire out – if anyone has spare beads, beaded jewellery or products that they no longer need, send them to CanInspire for upcycling!

District 15 Conference 2018 continued

A highlight for our club at conference was when Katrina was awarded a Foundation Lamplighter pin for her amazing work with Altrusa International, both locally and especially for her work on the District and International Altrusa websites. This award is a huge honour in Altrusa and recognises that the District have made a US\$500 donation to the Altrusa Foundation in Katrina's name to be granted around the world for use in service projects. Congratulations Katrina, your commitment to Altrusa and the number of hours you put into Altrusa projects is amazing and we appreciate all of the fabulous work you do. Visit www.altrusa.org to see the wonderful website Katrina has created.

This was my first time attending an Altrusa conference and a great experience, especially as we begin planning to host conference in Wellington in 2020. A big thank you to Ashburton for all of their efforts organising this conference, the venue, meals, décor and hospitality were fantastic. On Friday night we attend a dinner themed with "a little bit of Irish", hence the room full of green in the photo below. Wellington members dressed as the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow and stood out from the crowd. The Governor's banquet on Saturday night was also good fun, and I enjoyed being seated next to members from other clubs and getting to know them more and hear some new ideas. The president elect training I completed was great in preparation for becoming club president, and I also enjoyed hearing more about the projects other clubs have completed in the past year and taking inspiration from these.



I'd rather be a fairy princess



Earlier in the year our club were lucky to meet Petra Kotrotsos, the inspiring author of I'd Rather Be a Fairy Princess. Petra wrote this story of her journey with cancer when she was six, and now as a young adult has had her story illustrated and published. Tricia spoke about the book at conference and sold a number of copies, and our club are looking at providing a copy to a number of schools around Wellington to help children understand what cancer is and how it affects a person, particularly a child, in case they know anyone affected by it.

The book can be purchased through the Kilbirnie Children's bookshop instore or online.

Cooking at Ronald McDonald house

During April members of our club spent an evening preparing a dinner for around 50 guests at the Wellington Ronald McDonald house. We made roast chickens with roast vegetables, broccoli and cauliflower with cheese sauce, and rice stuffing, followed by Stella's famous apple and blueberry shortcake for dessert.

It was lovely to take some time out to cook for and speak with the families staying in the house.



Entertainment Book Fundraiser

Our club are once again selling Entertainment books for the 2018/2019 year, this time as a fundraiser for [Parent to Parent](#) Sibshop events. SibShip is a one-day workshop where trained facilitators work with the siblings of children with disabilities to discuss their experiences.

The Wellington/Wairarapa book is just \$65 and includes hundreds of discount vouchers including 25% off and 2-for-1 mains. There is an option to buy a physical book or a digital membership. I personally highly recommend the digital membership – it's super convenient and we've discovered lots of new restaurants using it and saved lots of money, definitely making the purchase price worthwhile.

Please support our club and buy your book/membership at <https://www.entertainmentbook.co.nz/orderbooks/104983k>



Baking for community volunteers and Christine's visit



During March we were lucky to have Governor Christine Melville visit us for our programme meeting. We met at the Greek Community Centre and baked lots of fudge, afghan biscuits and ANZAC cookies which were bagged up and donated to a number of community organisations around the Wellington region to thank the volunteers for their hard work. We also formally welcomed our first male member, Jeffrey Azzato, to the club. It was lovely to spend an evening in the kitchen together and to hear an update from Christine.

Christine spoke to us a bit more about the Altrusa International service project, Days for Girls, which was also discussed at conference. All clubs are encouraged to take part in this project, and our club are planning to do this by holding three sewing bees during Sunday afternoons in July – keep an eye out for more information about these soon.

Upcoming events:

Monday 21st May – Board changeover dinner

Monday 4th June – Queen's Birthday public holiday

Monday 11th June – Business meeting

Monday 18th June – Programme meeting – possible information evening

July – dates TBC – sewing bees for Days for Girls

Presidential Pondering

How did it get so late so soon? It's night before it's afternoon. December is here before it's June. My goodness how the time has flown. How did it get so late so soon?

~ Dr. Seuss

My year as President has flown by, and already, and during my term as President Altrusa Wellington accomplished some impressive fundraising and service projects. We combined collecting toiletries for a foster organization (Foster Hope) with an information evening, which helped us welcome four new club members, including our first male Altrusan. We continued our efforts for Foster Hope making 186 toiletry bags at several seeing bees.

We held a successful movie night, screening the film Victoria and Albert, which not only provided movie-goers with a light-hearted night of entertainment, but helped raise money for the Cambodian Dreams Organisation in Siem Reap Cambodia to purchase educational books for children at their school. It was great to later receive pictures of the children enjoying these books.

In September a group of six club members considered "younger Altrusans" held our first Facebook live chat to discuss attracting the next generation of Altrusans. I hope we were able to provide other clubs with useful ideas for expanding their membership.

In October our annual can collection at a local supermarket netted 18 banana boxes of cans and other items for the Wellington City Mission. During November we drew the winners of a pamper raffle that raised nearly \$800 for international literacy projects, and saw eight lucky winners receive some fabulous prizes thanks for local businesses who kindly sponsored the cause.

The year ended with our annual Christmas Tree Project, where we decorate a tree at the Kilbirnie Children's Bookshop and ask members of the public to buy and donate a book for a child at Women's Refuges during the holiday season.

in 2018 Altrusa International of Wellington has been busy baking goodies for volunteer emergency services personnel and delicious food for deserving families at Ronald McDonald House.

This month in May six Altrusans from our club attended the national conference in Ashburton, where we were inspired to contribute to Altrusa's international service project Days for Girls, and recycle beads, allowing people suffering illness to make their own original jewellery,. Tricia took 16 copies of a book we are promoting I'd Rather Be a Family Princess to conference. The book details the journey of a child undergoing cancer treatment, and is a resource for children or their families going through similar challenges. Tricia sold all 16 copies and took orders for several more. The conference highlight was Katrina Clokie receiving a Lamplighter Award to recognize her efforts redesigning the international and District 15 websites.

I am proud of our clubs accomplishments over this past 12 months, and would like to thank everyone for their time and effort. I know Julia Stevens will be a very capable President and that the club will continue making a valuable contribution to the community.

Yours in Altrusa,

Vanessa Palmer - President, Altrusa International of Wellington

District Fifteen News



Here are some additional photos from the 2018 District 15 conference which 115 members from around NZ attended, including at least one from every club within our district. Pictured above, Silvia Silverman shared an update from International, below right is Governor Christine Melville in front of the Altrusa map of NZ, at the bottom is everyone enjoying Friday night's dinner, and on the left is the amazing Ocean Waitokia, who at just 15 years old has an amazing voice and entertained us all at the Governor's banquet on Saturday evening.



Keep up-to-date with the latest news from Altrusa Clubs around New Zealand by liking the [District Fifteen Facebook page](#)

