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Presidential Pondering

"Consciously or unconsciously, every one of us does render some service or other. If we cultivate the habit of doing this service deliberately, our desire for service will steadily grow stronger, and will make, not only for our own happiness, but that of the world at large." ~ Mahatma Gandhi

I'm sure Altrusa members can relate to the above quote, as we all share a passion for making our communities better through service and enjoying the friendship, fun and satisfaction that comes from working together for the benefit of others.

Although I had my installation as President in May, I have only just officially started my duties, and would like to thank the very capable Ming Chun Wu for continuing as President until July when I returned from enjoying some sunshine in the U.S, Ming Chun is now serving as a Director on the Altrusa District Board and the club wishes her well in this role.

As we approached the cold winter during the first weekend in May a group of Wellington Altrusans attended the District Fifteen Conference in Tauranga, where we were treated to an excellent dinner at the Classic Flyers Venue as part of the Flying in the Future conference theme, and learnt about the important work being done by Assistance Dogs https://assistancedogstrust.org.nz/. We were inspired by the the hands on service project we took part in at the conference, which involved making laminated picture books for dementia patients and carried out this worthwhile activity with our own club.

With three of our members recently away celebrating the 100 Year Altrusa Centenary in Nashville, we combined a membership evening with an activity to collect toiletries for Foster Hope, an organization that provides a bag with toys, pajamas and hygiene products to children entering the foster care system to make their transition a little easier www.facebook.com/fosterhopewellington/ I would like to thank our club members and 10 visitors for their generous donations. The club has also held some sewing bees to make draw-string bags which are desperately needed by the organization.

In September we intend to hold our annual movie night fundraiser, where we will this year donate the proceeds to the Cambodian Community Dream Organization, who work to improve conditions in villages surrounding Siem Reap by implementing four main programs including one focused on education. We are also planning a digital literacy project for schools with Edison Robots and have several other projects in the pipeline.

I look forward to my term as President, and the Altrusa Club of Wellington doing what we can to help make our community better.

Yours in Altrusa,

Vanessa Palmer
Foster Hope presentation and Altrusa information evening

During July the Wellington Regional Manager from Foster Hope, June Matthews, came to talk at our programme meeting about the work their charity does and how our club can help them. She gave us an interesting insight into the foster system in New Zealand and what Foster Hope does for children entering foster care. Foster hope provide a backpack with essentials to each child entering foster care. We established they were having trouble sourcing affordable well-sized toiletry bags, which inspired us to hold two weekend sewing bees during August to make approximately 100 toiletry bags. Thank you to the members who hosted and participated in these sewing bees. We are also collecting toiletry donations for Foster Hope, so please feel free to bring any items along to our next meeting or another drop off point listed on their website - http://www.fosterhope.org.nz.

Clockwise from top left:
Toiletry donations collected at our information evening,
members and guests mingle at our information evening,
Ming-chun and Julia with June from Foster Hope, a selection of completed toiletry bags,
members working hard at our latest sewing bee.
Altrusa International of Wellington
invite you to attend a charity screening of
Victoria & Abdul

Monday 18th of September
$20 per ticket
Arrive 6pm; 6.30pm screening
Lighthouse Cinema Cuba

RSVP by email to
president.wellington@altrusa.org.nz
Payment is by internet banking with your name as a reference
03-0502-0011375-02

This event will support the
Cambodian Community Dream Organisation
to purchase books for schools in Cambodia
Te Omanga hospice

For our August programme meeting, Lesley Slieker from Te Omanga hospice came to speak to us about her challenge of raising $10 million to rebuild the hospice within the next 12 months and the services the hospice provides. I’m sure we all found Lesley’s speech emotional but inspiring, and learnt about the happy memories that the hospice helps create for their patients and their families.

Pictured on the right our president Vanessa presents Lesley with a cheque for $400 that we raised through our sales of Entertainment books earlier in the year.

Find out more about the hospice at http://www.teomanga.org.nz.

Alzheimer’s memory book project

Inspired by an activity some of our members participated in at the District 15 Conference, in June we created laminated pages of magazine pictures that are used by an Alzheimer’s organisation in Hamilton to help with their patients memories. Pictured below are some of our members hard at work and some of the finished pages.
District 15 Conference

During May many of our members attended the District 15 Conference in Tauranga, where the theme was “Flying into the Future”. Activities included making memory books for Alzheimer’s patients and learning about assistance dogs.

A selection of photos from the conference are below. Congratulations to our immediate past-president Ming-chun Wu who was elected as a Director on the District 15 board.

Clockwise from top left: Wellington members at the Governor’s dinner, members dressed up in their interpretation of the “Flying into the future” theme, the five awards our club won at the conference.

Upcoming meetings and events:
Monday 4th September – Business meeting
Monday 18th September - Movie fundraiser
Monday 2nd October – Business meeting
Sunday 15th October – CAN Challenge
Monday 16th October - Programme meeting
International News

During July three of our members, Janne, Tricia and Sue, attended the Altrusa centenary celebration convention in Nashville. Pictured below they’re enjoying lunch with members from our sister club, Altrusa International of Champaign-Urbana IL.

This year’s convention was particularly special, as Leanne Milligan from Altrusa International of Te Awamutu was installed as the International President for the next two years. She is pictured below with the New Zealand members at convention.