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Days for Girls Sewing Bees

During July we held 3 sewing bees to help support Days for Girls which is Altrusa District Fifteen’s International project for 2018.

Days for Girls is a worldwide organisation that provides menstrual kits to women in regions where they don’t have ready access to feminine hygiene products which can stop girls from attending school. We got together to help sew shields, liners and the bags that carry the kit. Over three Sundays in July we made 41 shields and 32 bags.

We had a range of members help from experienced sewers to pressers and ribbon threaders. We had lots of new visitors attend the sewing bees and a special thanks to Susanne, Diane and Sally from the Wellington days for Girls sewing team who came along and helped to oversee and give advice as well as provide excellent quality control. They also hosted Julia, Francesca and Lorene for a morning instruction workshop before we held our own sewing days to get us up to speed.
More photos from July’s sewing bees and training day

Little Sprouts Collection

We held another of our regular information evenings on 18 June, this time promoting Little Sprouts - an entirely volunteer run charity who give free life-changing baby boxes to babies in need.

It was a successful information evening with members and visitors learning about Altrusa, a bit of what we do and also collecting this amazing range of brand new clothing including merino in the much needed 3 to 6 month size range, books, baby sunscreen and more.

Our members also have an opportunity to help out by giving our time as helpers at Little Sprouts upcoming art auction fundraiser at Pataka art gallery on Saturday 27 October.

Alternatively if you would like to attend the Art auction tickets are available for $40 each from eventbrite.co.nz.
On August 13 we held one of our most successful movie nights as a fundraiser for Kids Can. The event was a sell out and members also contributed items to a delicious looking food treat hamper that was raffled off on the night. The evening was a pre-release screening of the film “Book club” and was held at Penthouse cinema in Brooklyn.

We raised $650 which will be donated to Kids Can to support the amazing work they do helping Kiwi kids living in hardship reach their full potential. Our new president Julia also made amazing cupcakes in four different flavours for each guest to take into the film which was a lovely touch.
Sileni Estates fundraiser

Earlier in the month we held a wine tasting evening at the Greek community centre. It was a fun evening with friends and food made by our members to go along with the sample tastings of a range of six Sileni Estate wines that are now available to order for delivery next month. We are fundraising to help with the publishing costs of a new children’s picture book “I’d rather be a football star” aimed at helping children to understand and be supported through a cancer diagnosis of themselves or family members. The author is the young and talented Petra Kotrotsos who previously wrote and published “I’d rather be a fairy Princess” as a young girl about her own experiences with cancer, which is a book we have been helping to promote and donate to schools around the Wellington region.

Wine can be ordered by the bottle or case, and $40 from each case we sell will go towards this fundraiser. Please contact us via email if you would like a copy of the wine order form - it’s a great time to stock up for Christmas gifts while supporting a good cause.

Upcoming events:

Monday 1st October – Business Meeting
Saturday 14th October – CAN Challenge
Saturday 27th October – Volunteering at Little Sprouts Art Auction
Monday 5th November – Business Meeting
Monday 19th November – Programme planning session
Presidential Pondering

It’s been a busy winter for Altrusa International of Wellington. Since becoming president at the end of May, we’ve held a successful information evening while collecting much needed donations for Little Sprouts, learnt how to make Days for Girls kits with the local Days for Girls volunteers and held three weekend sewing bees for them and held a pre-release screening of the film “Book Club” as a fundraiser for Kids Can which sold out. Over the past few months we also sold 19 Entertainment Books as a fundraiser for Parent-To-Parent’s SibShop events and donated four copies of the “I’d rather be a Fairy Princess” book to local schools and education libraries.

On Saturday four of our members attended IFF Day (Information, Fun and Friendship) in Palmerston North, which was a great way to hear about what clubs in Hawera, Levin, Palmerston North and Ohariu have been doing. Sessions included using a SWOT analysis for service projects and a simple but effective marketing tool for our club, which I look forward to sharing with members at our upcoming meeting.

Our upcoming events include selling Sileni wines as a fundraiser for the publishing of “I’d rather be a Football Star” which we’ve included more information about in this newsletter, collecting non-perishable food for the City Mission with the annual CAN Challenge and volunteering at an Art Auction fundraiser evening for Little Sprouts. In November we’re holding a planning session to choose activities and organisations to support in the first half of 2019, so members please have a think about any ideas to bring along to the session.

The 2020 District 15 Conference will be held in Wellington and Tricia will be the conference coordinator. She has been asking members for ideas for different aspects of the conference at each business meeting and planning is starting to get underway for this exciting event.

Membership wise, Louise Turnbull and Lynley Wilson have recently joined our club. We have also had a few other visitors and hope to welcome them as members in the near future. Lyn Coutts has recently moved back to the Te Awamutu club and we look forward to seeing her again at the District 15 conference being hosted in Te Awamutu next year. Three members have also moved to a new club which is being started in the Ohariu area. Our past president Vanessa is travelling the world with her partner and we hope to see her home in Wellington in a few months. Thank you to all our past, current and future members for their generous contributions to our club’s activities.

I look forward to catching up with Altrusans at our upcoming events.

Yours in Altrusa,

Julia Stevens
President, Altrusa International of Wellington
Members of our sister club in Champaign-Urbana made an impressive effort donating a large amount of school supplies to two local schools in need.
In July they took 37 children from migrant summer school shopping with a $25 budget each to select book(s) of their choice.
They also held their largest fundraising event of the year, a fashion show and luncheon that raised $5,700 for their upcoming projects.
Keep an eye on their Facebook page to see more of their amazing service work.

Clubs around New Zealand have been busy with a variety of activities, including various sewing bees for Days for Girls and fabric bazaars. Pictured on the right are members from Queenstown volunteering as marshals for the Lake Hayes Duathlon and Triathlon, and pictured below are members in Levin sewing for Days for Girls.

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