



Inner Wheel New Zealand Presidential History

President: Michelle Atkinson

Year: 2021-22

IIW Theme: Pink First

Governing Body Office Holders

Past President: Dot Anderson - Lee

Vice President: Alyssandra Skerrett

Secretary: Judi Newborn

Treasurer: Anne Joyce

Council Members (District Chairmen)

District NZ291: Adrienne Davies

District NZ294: Debbie Lattey

District NZ297: Barbara Chapman

District NZ298: Pam Henderson



Associate Members

Constitution Chairman: Annabelle Valentine

Membership Facilitator: Joanne Gaudin

Strategy Facilitator: Sue Taylor

Editor: Hannie De Beer

Publicist: Alyssandra Skerrett

Media Manager: Arshi Madan

National Project Coordinator: Hazel Hunter



President's Goals:

- To encourage a connected, organised, motivated team of leaders and women to move IWNZ forward to secure its future and to achieve our strategic focus targets by July 2022.
 - To be the women's organisation current and new members are proud to be part of
 - To increase awareness of Inner Wheel in our Communities
 - To set up our organisation for future growth.
- To encourage connectivity of all members through friendship, service, international understanding at Club, District and National levels by engaging in an effective communication and training plan through engagement with the national database, website, online training, speaker series, online support and using various media tools.
- To empower teams of members to be the Women in Action leading the way forward for IWNZ so that all Club, District and National roles are filled for the 2022-23 year by February 2022.

- To support and encourage IW members as Women in Action undertaking service opportunities to support women in society, promoting the IIW President theme of Women first – “Pink First” and promoting service projects in line with the IIW theme “Strong Women Stronger World”.
- To engage the Inner Wheel Community in NZ to build an effective and memorable Membership March Campaign with outreach into communities through National and Regional publicity and activities.
- To initiate the concept of Virtual Membership as a future tool to encourage membership growth.

President’s Achievements:

- IWNZ Database
- Rebuilt and updated the IWNZ website
- Google Accounts was introduced and rolled out to all Clubs
- IWNZ Part-time Administrator
- Digital Education Monthly series
- Sunday Sessions – bimonthly social connection with the themes – Meet the Team, Women In Action, International connections, Share your Inner Wheel Stories.
- Fiji and Tonga International Appeals
- 2 NGB meetings
- Regular Zoom / online meetings
- “Brew In Our Bubble” IWNZ Day
- An evening with IIW President Ebe Martines online
- Tickled Pink Campaign
- Membership March
- Woman Magazine article
- Radio Kidnappers Interview
- Guest speaking at overseas events – District 308 India, District 323 India, Bangladesh
- MG Award Presentation to Nola Moffet
- Club Birthday parties – 20th Shore City ,40th Matamata, Wellington, Tawa, 50th Oamaru, Riccarton.
- Discover INWZ Online Events
- Virtual Membership

Significant Events of the year:

- A year where events and activities were cancelled or postponed due to Covid Restrictions.
- District meetings were all held via Zoom for the President.
- National Changeover at Queenstown 28th May 2022.
- District Empowerment Days – held by Incoming DC’s with support by Vice President Alyssandra Skerrett.
- All District AGM and Changeovers were able to be held in person.

Additional Photos (with captions)



50th Birthday – IW Club Oamaru, July 2021.

Right picture– The Golden Girls of Oamaru

Left picture – Three Charter Members of IW Club Oamaru front row, with Club President Dawn Perkins, IWNZ Pres Michelle Atkinson, IWNZ Vice Pres Alyssandra Skerrett and District NZ298 Charman Pam Henderson.

40th Birthday Celebrations
with IW Club Matamata,
IWNZ Pres Michelle with Club
President Vera Farmilo, 10th
July 2021

I te Whakahoahoa, In Friendship,

Michelle Atkinson

Michelle Atkinson

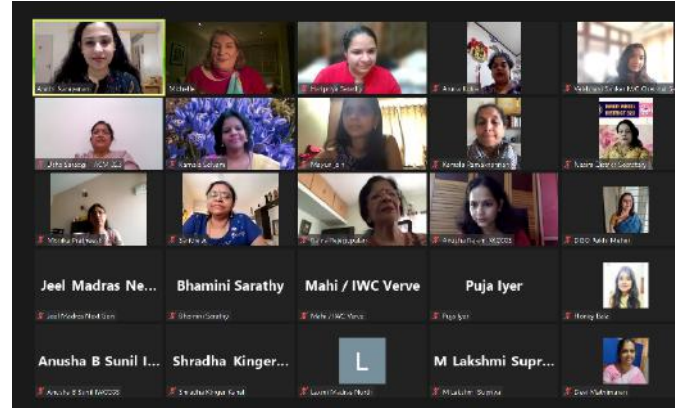
Inner Wheel New Zealand

National Representative & National President 2021-22





National Exec meeting held at President Michelle's Home prior to August 2021 NGB meeting.
Judi Newborn, Anne Joyce, Michelle Atkinson, Dot Anderson Lee, Alyssandra Skerrett.



Online Presentation – IRIS – with IW District 323

Inner Wheel New Zealand Day 1st September 2021



IWNZ Day – 1st Sept 2021
“Brew In Your Bubble”



Monthly Digital Education Series – Online learning 1st Wednesday Monthly



Online meeting with the IW Club of Ambala in India, District 308

An evening with IIW President, Ebe Martines.



March 2022 NGB meeting Wellington, a chance to socialise..



March 2022 NGB meeting – In person in Wellington and Online.



Membership March – Tickled Pink Campaign & Woman Magazine Article March 2022



It's easy to forget how many of the world's good deeds happen behind the scenes. No big to-do's, no flash photography, just ordinary people banding together in extraordinary service to their communities.

But at the same time, we all love a good "good sort" story. A peek behind the scenes to recognise the people doing the fundraising, the baking, the neonatal bottle-knitting – and in more recent times, the digital outreach and connection. So, pull back the velvet curtain and meet some of the amazing women of Aotearoa creating lifelong friendships while making a difference.

When Michelle Atkinson returned to New Zealand at 35, after spending years overseas, she felt like the proverbial square peg in a round hole.

"It was difficult as a single person trying to fit back into life in Auckland. Most of my childhood friends had married, had children, or moved away. So trying to re-settle in the city was hard," she says. But a suggestion from her mother led Michelle to connect with Inner Wheel New Zealand (IWNZ), where she found women keen to connect and opportunities to support those in need.

Today, Michelle is still part of the same Central Auckland IWNZ outpost – the Inner Wheel Club of Aotearoa – and what's more, she's the organisation's current National President. Even with the restrictions of Covid lockdowns over the last two years, she feels that the friendships she has made through IWNZ – locally, nationally, and even internationally – have continued to strengthen.

"The ability to keep connected via online tools has played an important part in making me feel part of something much bigger than myself. Inner Wheel has become an essential part of my life."

At a time when many Kiwis abroad are making the decision to pack up and head home, stories like Michelle's are food for thought. Organisations like IWNZ can provide a rewarding and purposeful way to build new friendships when you're at a home end and looking for a path forward.

Michelle's immediate predecessor, Dot Anderson-Lee, lived in England in the mid-2000s and was involved with a women's organisation. Returning to Aotearoa, she joined the Inner Wheel Club of Invercargill North and jumped right on in. "It wasn't like Women's Institute, but it was just as friendly, and so I quickly became a member."

Ladies take the wheel

Members of Inner Wheel New Zealand tell us how the organisation has helped them feel a sense of connection and community at a time when we need it most.

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Her commitment rapidly led to a range of opportunities – from Club President to managing IWNZ's website. "With each position I took on, I felt like my confidence grew." Her digital experience gained as a webmaster proved useful for things to come under her tenure as National President in 2020 and 2021, with Covid forcing a shift to digital for both the World Convention and the National Conference.

Even moving to the other end of the South Island hasn't dampened Dot's involvement. "I think I will probably remain an Inner Wheel member for a long time. I can always be counted on to assist with projects, help out for fundraisers or charities or just be a friend to our members."

Alyssandra Skerrett is frank about why she threw herself into the organisation with such enthusiasm. "Honestly, as a stay-at-home mum with two young daughters, I was itching for some much-needed adult conversations, soak up community activities, and be a part of something just for me. I joined Inner Wheel and discovered a women's group that has contributed so much to my personal, community and international growth."

"This organisation is worldwide and actively working to make a difference in our communities around the globe with women in focus."

Alyssandra's next big challenge to tackle is the role of National President, which she steps into later this year.

IWNZ has been a family affair for Joanne Gaudin, who acted as National President in 2006-2007. Back in 1970s Napier, her father joined Rotary while her mother joined Inner Wheel – and Joanne would often tag along to meetings when visiting home.

When she found herself moving back to Napier in 2002, she joined herself. "I already knew how inviting, caring and supportive the members were at the Ahuriri Club – but I also wanted to connect with the community I was living in."

Through IWNZ, Joanne found her place and power in her community. Like so many of the other women in the organisation, she gets as much as she gives – friendships, skills and confidence being a few of the perks that come as a result of pitching in.

Connecting with a local community of women was what drew Carol Haskett into Inner Wheel. Working from home for her family's business meant she had limited opportunities to socialise. When she was invited to an Inner Wheel Club meeting by a friend, she leapt at the opportunity. "It was the ideal way to work with others to make a difference, to connect

with women and form friendships with like-minded women."

She may have joined with the intention of making new friends and helping her community, but her involvement has given her all that and more. In addition to serving various roles at district and national level, she's currently International IW Board Director. Through those achievements, her IWNZ friendships have only grown stronger.

"When you get involved beyond your club, you gain the gift of wonderful friends throughout New Zealand and the world."

These women are just five of the 1400 IWNZ members throughout Aotearoa serving their communities and building friendships. With each of New Zealand's 40 clubs given free rein to support charities of their choice, the possibilities are boundless. In 2020-2021, IWNZ members supported 260 charities with more than 62,000 volunteer hours and \$380,000 in donated funds and goods.

There's an inherent drive to support organisations that help women and girls at the heart of IWNZ, with projects including fundraising events for Look Good Feel Better and bracing for Operation Uplift.

Founded as an organisation for female family members of Rotarians, Inner Wheel is now its own NGO, represented in 134 countries and at the United Nations. The pandemic has provided new challenges – and as a result, they are launching a virtual membership category, with a cross platform approach allowing members to engage in a way that works for them.

Become empowered amongst friends

If you want to learn more about IWNZ membership (including the virtual option), discover IWNZ events are being held online on Thursday, March 10 at 7pm; Tuesday, March 15 at 7pm; Sunday, March 13 at 4pm; and Saturday, March 19 at 10am.

Register on innerwheel.org.nz to secure a spot – you'll have the chance to meet new people and see how your passions could align with local IWNZ projects. And as an added bonus, if you register before May 27, you'll go in the draw to win a Tickled Pink deluxe weekend holiday package at the Hilton Resort and Spa in Queenstown!

In trying times, community connections can be tested. Organisations like IWNZ show that, together, we're better at weathering life's challenges. As these presidents of present, past and future show, IWNZ can change your life for the better. Are you ready to take the wheel? **W**



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National Changeover May 28 2022
Hilton, Queenstown



Below: Thank you for 4 years of service on National
Constitution Chairman, Annabelle Valentine.
National Secretary, Judi Newborn
National Treasurer, Anne Joyce



Outgoing 2021-22 National Team



Incoming 2022-23 National Team

