

My first New Zealand National Governing Body Meeting, I learnt more about the running of Inner Wheel meetings, and Carol Haskett (NZ Vice President) gave her time and ideas to help me. I realised membership growth is where my focus is needed for Inner Wheel's future, and our special character of friendship through service is vital.

I spoke about how it would be nice to **advertise on Facebook** with our **members telling their stories** of what we do best – Friendship and Fellowship. Many of our conversations about an event are over a cuppa or drink expressing real enthusiasm and connection. In my March newsletter, I asked for enthusiastic images of members to promote Inner Wheel.

There are a lot of individuals out there who do not know who we are and how our efforts help someone they know and love. I believe a **real person with a cause is identifiable and moves individuals** who are looking for something – Inner Wheel. There are a lot of lonely individuals **who want to belong, are looking for a purpose and want to give back to a cause or community.**

In 2019, last year during my District Chairman's visits, I visited the Temuka Club who gave me a special gift – a **beautiful blue Temuka Pottery Mug from President Jeannette Woodley** and her Club. So, during New Zealand's COVID19 lockdown, the thought of what can we all do to connect with Inner Wheel – fun! So, I decided to use my Temuka Mug (I use daily) and designed an image to promote Inner Wheel with a **JOIN Inner Wheel**. I posted it. I thought really ... it would be better to have Inner Wheel Members holding a teacup or coffee mug, so that someone else could connect – and the Aotea Auckland members – Brenda and Michelle jumped on board first. I am humbled.



I was super delighted when **New Zealand President Carol Haskett** said **YES WITH HER PICTURE** holding her Coffee Mug, and the interest is starting to build. I am over the moon – thrilled – when **New Zealand Vice President Dot Anderson Lee** said **YES WITH HER PICTURE** holding her Coffee Mug with her name on it! Great to have her support.

I ask our Inner Wheel Members to raise their teacup or coffee mug to celebrate all the work we do supporting many charities locally, nationally and internationally. I ask members to

send me a photo with a short story about the teacup or coffee mug and proudly be counted with all the years of your voluntary contributions.

My jaw hit my desk and my heart filled with excitement when **Linda Lovell, District A70 Chairman from Australia**, asked if Australia could participate. Oh, my goodness! I am truly honoured, and it is wonderful to see members proud to promote Inner Wheel with real people. Best part of this is the connection with members from around the globe all started through a Temuka coffee mug. It has got me motivated to want to travel to a conference and meet members abroad – *I can't believe those words coming out of my mouth ... the stay at home girl.*

Linda is fabulous! We talked about how hard the ISO role has been in our past roles to get Clubs abroad to interact and our countless letters with no replies. **Facebook Pages of Inner Wheel Clubs** lets us connect easily. I have seen more and more ideas that I am sharing to our Facebook District NZ298 Page. It is opening an entire Inner Wheel world, that I am seeing so vividly. I see **Inner Wheel Clubs from around the world** that I didn't even know I could before. If you would like to do the same ... go on Facebook and in the search bar type in Inner Club of and pick a place or look up International Inner Wheel Page. It is amazing.

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