



# IWNZ Inner Link International Overview December 2021: "The Ties that Bind Us"

As I sit here writing, I am so aware of the time we find ourselves in – not being able to be with loved ones when we want to be, not being able to travel. And yet, despite the things we cannot do, it's Covid itself that has made it so very clear that we are connected globally. What happens elsewhere (hello Omicron, is that you?) affects us all, worldwide.

Quite fitting then that this is our International Edition where we have a look at how we go about meeting the third aim of Inner Wheel **Fostering International Understanding**. This newsletter doesn't only give a snapshot of what Clubs are doing, but also gives an idea of what Board Members do, and why it matters that we are part of International Inner Wheel, an organization that currently boasts over 108,614 members in 3,979 Clubs in 104 countries.

Over the years, our membership has become more diverse – for example, Eastern Hutt reported that their club has members from a number of nationalities (Irish, Italian, English, Australians, and Kiwis) and other Clubs have members who originally come from India, Iran, Bangladesh, China, the Philippines and further afield.

There is also some history to enjoy – did you know that in 2006 we hosted the International Conference? Cecile Pierce of Riccarton was intimately involved with the arrangements, and provides us with a snapshot of what happened.

Of course, there is no real way of splitting newsletter themes tidily. In the *Service Edition* that landed on your computers in September there were plenty of examples of how Clubs were serving in the International arena, and when we move on to our March edition, there will, I'm sure, be plenty of instances showing friendship across borders, and how friendship and service go hand in hand. Fairfield also reminded us of the years in which they supported the Fistula Clinic in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia between 2013-2015.

Overriding every theme and topic, is the realization that friendship is everything, the backbone of our organization, and this newsletter, as much as anything, is all about friendship.

So, make a cuppa, sit back and enjoy!

Hannie (IWNZ Editor)



OUR CAUSES	NEWS & FEATURES
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*Top to bottom:* IIW President Ebe Martines (2021 – 2022), one of the IIW campaigns promoted by President Ebe – stopping cervical cancer, and finally a list of Our Causes, taken from the IIW website.



# Why is membership of IIW Important?

**Annabelle Valentine, IWNZ Constitution Chairman, writes:**



Members often ask why International Inner Wheel is so important to us in New Zealand when we have our own National Governing Body, By-Laws and Rules. The answer is simply that none of these would be in place if it wasn't for IIW and the changes that have occurred over the past 97 years.

From its inception Inner Wheel grew rapidly throughout Great Britain and Ireland and by 1934 there were 79 Clubs and 8 District and Margarette Golding was elected the first President of the National Association of IW Clubs. At the same time, Inner Wheel Clubs had also started to spread throughout the world with the colonies leading the way – the Australian IW Club of Ballarat was founded in 1931, and our first club, Napier, in 1936. In Europe the first Club was founded in Bergen, Norway in 1935. The Club of Apeldoorn was founded in the Netherlands in 1946 and their expansion was so rapid that they

formed the first District outside of Great Britain. At that stage all Clubs and Districts were bound by the rules of the *National Association of Great Britain & Ireland (GB&I)*.

As the Association changed from a national to a worldwide organisation, the words "Great Britain and Ireland" were removed from the title in 1947 and Inner Wheel became known as the *Association of Inner Wheel Clubs*. The first steps towards creating an International Governing Body were taken in 1962 when a resolution was approved to include representatives from the Districts of the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Denmark on the Governing Body.

International Inner Wheel was formed on 1 July 1967 with Mrs. Lavender Weightman as the first President. Qualified members from any country could now become Executive Officers and the first Board Meeting was held in Copenhagen in October of the same year. At that time the board approved the concept of National By-Laws, so that all Countries, while remaining faithful to the Constitution, could interpret Inner Wheel to fit with their own culture and traditions.

The first International Convention was held at The Hague in the Netherlands in 1970 and since then Conventions have been held every three years. Christchurch, New Zealand hosted the 2006 Convention (see page 7). Attending an Inner Wheel International Convention is a great opportunity to learn more about Inner Wheel around the world and to meet members from many different countries.

New Zealand has provided three International Presidents, Alison Dowson 1988-89, Beth McNeil 1996-97, and Carole Young 2012-13, as well as International Constitution Chairman Shirley Hope 2007-10 and International Editors Hap Naylor 1997-2000 and Michelle Atkinson 2014-17. Since 1973 IWNZ has had ongoing representation on the International Board with District Committees putting forward suitably qualified nominations. Our National Representative is the link between IWNZ members and IIW and all correspondence from Clubs and Districts go through her.

When Inner Wheel New Zealand was formed in 1990 at the Invercargill Conference we set up our own National By-Laws and Rules. Like all other countries, we follow the basic rules and objectives of the International Constitution. Any changes to these rules must be voted on at International Conventions. Clubs all have a hard copy of both the *IWNZ By-Laws Book* (the 'Red Book') which has all the rules that pertain to IWNZ; and the *IIW Constitution*.

Another aspect that links us to IIW is the theme that the IIW President sets for her year in office, which we incorporate into our service activities. The International Board also sets a three-year International Social Project which clubs support. Many Clubs correspond with Clubs overseas and some do combined projects with international Clubs.

As members of IIW we are represented on several Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) at the United Nations and it because of this and the service projects that we undertake that we have been able to gain Charitable Status for IWNZ. Hence the need for our Service record sheets that not only are sent in to the NZ Charities Commission but also to IIW for our IW NGO representatives to be aware of how much service our members give.

I hope that the above has given you some background history and understanding in answering the question *Why is membership of IIW Important?*

## IIW at the United Nations

International Inner Wheel is a non-governmental organization (NGO), that is, a non-profit group that functions independently of any government. NGOs serve a social or political goal such as humanitarian causes or the environment. IIW has been inserted in the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) roster of the United Nations, and we have several representatives, who are coordinated annually by the current International Vice President.

The original suggestion that IIW should apply to the United Nations for consultative status came in 1970 from Mrs Legarda, a Board Member from the Philippines, and this became a reality two years later.

During the 9th Convention in Sydney, Australia in 1993, a motion was passed that International Inner Wheel would confine its involvement with the United Nations (e.g. ECOSOC and UNICEF) to being an observer on the roster with consultative status.

The appointed representatives follow and assist the work sessions of the UN commissions regarding important themes such as human rights, rights of children, conditions of woman, the family, the elderly, and drugs and they report to the International Vice-President on the activities of the Committees and Conferences. In turn, they also report what we do in Inner Wheel to the UN, providing them with copies of the annual reports of the National Representatives.

For many years now Inner Wheel has emphasised the importance of the major UN themes and has promoted their sensitisation and implementation.



Currently IW has six members accredited at the United Nation Offices in Geneva, Vienna, and New York:

- **Geneva:** Karin Rivollet (who sits on committees on the Rights of the Child).
- **Vienna:** Ceja Gregor Hu, Ulrike Nemling, and Veronique Bicu
- **New York:** Martine Gayon and Michelle Burgess

**Source:** <https://www.internationalinnerwheel.org/iw-and-the-un/international-inner-wheel-and-the-un/>

# Board Directors

## **Carol Haskett, IIW Board Director 2021-2022 writes:**



My journey with Inner Wheel began in 2003 with me joining the IW Club of Ashburton – I would never have believed that I would one day be a Board Director for IIW.

It has certainly enlightened me about all the wonderful work being done throughout the world; the dedication to Inner Wheel is strong with members giving so much in service and friendship to support woman and girls globally.

I have been assigned Non-Districted Clubs in Australia to contact and support throughout my year and report back to IIW when I am able with news from the Clubs. The IIW Board met in early October over two evenings starting at 9 pm NZ time and finishing around 1am the first night but by 12ish on the second. We were able to hear what is happening globally and to interact with the IIW Executive with time to ask any questions we may have.

Inner Wheel is continuing to grow globally with new Districts and Clubs being formed and we continue to have a strong presence at United Nations discussions with six Inner Wheel Members representing Inner Wheel.

## **Darlene Westra, IIW Board Director 2020-2021 writes:**

The main role of an IIW Board Director is to communicate with non-districted clubs around the world as allocated by the IIW Vice President and to work with the IIW VP on providing reports to enable the UN Representatives to disseminate information about the projects and charitable work undertaken by the Inner Wheel Clubs worldwide.



I encountered some difficulty getting replies from my emails to my 4 allocated clubs in Kenya and Portugal presumably in the case of Portugal as a result of the language barrier. I did attempt two emails in Portuguese with the help of Google, but to no avail! At least my 5 Australian clubs were more responsive. However, one club in Kenya did respond with news of 10 water wells they had commissioned in various villages. I ensured that these were featured on the IIW Facebook page and in the IIW e-magazine.

I am proud of my part in the team of four IIW Board Directors set up to promote a worldwide fund to raise money for disadvantaged people in various countries to receive the Covid 19 vaccine. This fund is still ongoing and is now overseen by Board Directors of the current year.

Because of Covid 19, the scheduled IIW Board meeting in Manchester in October 2020 was cancelled and the IIW Convention in Jaipur, India originally scheduled for March 2021 was held virtually. However, many zoom meetings kept me in touch with my colleagues usually starting at 10 pm NZ time and in the case of the very successful virtual convention, from 7.30 pm to 3.30 am over two nights. Most of the convention was pre-recorded but I had to be “live” at 2.30am to speak to a proposal I was presenting on behalf of IIW.

Some long meetings late at night, but a wonderful, productive year and many “virtual” friends made.



# Making the Most of International Experiences

## **President Michelle writes:**

Internationally, Inner Wheel has offered me so many experiences and opportunities. I have been honoured and excited to hold a wide range of roles within the organisation. This year I hold the dual role of National President and National Representative.

As National Representative, it is my responsibility to communicate directly with International Inner Wheel on any IW matters and be the primary communication link between NZ and the International body. Therefore, as your National Rep, it has been a delight to correspond with IIW President Ebe Martines, as we planned and arranged the online meeting held on 21st November.



From 2014-17, I had the privilege of serving IIW as the IIW Editor/ Media Manager. During this time, I made connections with a wide variety of IW Clubs. members and leaders. I made a vast array of friends, experienced various opportunities, and developed a wide range of skills. They were three hectic and exciting years.

Attending two IIW Conventions in Copenhagen and Melbourne has been a highlight for me too. The opportunity to meet up with IW friends from all over the globe in a face-to-face setting is incredible. In 2015 the experience to be IIW Editor/ Media Manager at Convention was one of the most amazing experiences of my life. In Copenhagen, I overcame my fear of public speaking when I addressed an auditorium of over 2000 people. It is indeed a memory I will cherish.

Through my International connections, I have made many connections with members and friends through social media. Facebook friends and building a community of Inner Wheel friends make the world accessible to all and allow friendships to blossom.

In August 2021, as Chief Guest at District 323, India's online membership training event for new generation members of the District was another International experience for me. With over 70 members present, I shared my experiences of being a younger member and integrating the



generation gaps between members. It was a great time to shine and share ideas of what has worked for us as IW members in Aotea and hear about the issues affecting young members in India. I enjoyed discussing with them and the opportunity to play some games and participate in a Zumba class and Bollywood dancing lesson online. Unfortunately, it was very late for me here in NZ, as the time difference between India and NZ does not make it easy. You can see my presentation online at <https://www.innerwheel.org.nz/Presidents-Post>

I encourage you all to reach out and connect with Inner Wheel members across the globe. You never know where your friendships may lead you and what opportunities may come your way!

*(I would have appreciated a picture of that Bollywood dancing lesson! Maybe you can show us some moves at the next Conference President Michelle! Editor.)*

# Attending a Meeting with IIW President Ebe

On Sunday 21 November 2021 49 members of Inner Wheel clubs throughout New Zealand gathered on Zoom for a very special meeting – ably hosted by President Michelle, where we met International Inner Wheel President Ebe Martines. Our four District Chairmen presented on behalf of each District. Zoom is Covid’s silver lining! Without this new technology, few of us would have been able to attend a meeting such as this. The top screenshot shows all the attendees, and the smaller images below show President Ebe, President Michelle and Board Member Carol; District NZ294 Chairman Debbie, President Ebe and President Michelle; and District NZ297 Chairman Barbara. Have a look at our Facebook page for more photos of what was a unique meeting!

*(For me, the biggest takeaway of the night was President Ebe reiterating that it is the friendships that enable Inner Wheel to achieve what it does. Editor.)*



# IIW Convention – Christchurch, 2006

## Cecile Pierce, Riccarton, remembers:

The 13th IIW Convention was held in Christchurch in April 2006, and following the Opening Ceremony, six doves to represent Peace were released by Board Directors from the four corners of the Inner Wheel world – shown here, Cornelia Heims from Germany. The other doves were released by representatives from Sri Lanka and Iceland and by IIW Pres Erna, Past IIW Pres Janet and myself. A beautiful poem had been written and was read at this occasion by Past District NZ291 Chairman Annette Wilson. (A copy of the poem is printed on the final page of this newsletter. Editor.)



The committee, shown below, dedicated three years of their lives to planning and implementing this Convention for more than 1600 Inner Wheel members and their partners. Every Club in the country contributed in some way to make this Convention such an amazing success and one we were very proud to host.



From left back row: Andre Hay, Colleen Payne, Myra Brown, Suzanne Whitty, IWNZ President 2005-6 Carole Young, Shirley Hope, Almond Royds  
Front: Cecile Pierce, IIW President 2005-6 Erna Fandel (Norway), IIW Vice President 2004-5 Janet Day (UK)

## Carole Young, IIW President 2012 – 2013 remembers:

The first face-to-face Convention of International Inner Wheel I attended was in Christchurch in 2006 when I was on the organising committee (as IWNZ President and National Representative). This was a huge undertaking for a country of our size and a huge portion of the credit must go to the Christchurch members of the organising committee under the leadership of Cecile Pierce. People from all over the Inner Wheel world still say to me that it was the best Convention that they have ever attended. It is interesting to look back at photos taken at the 2006 Convention and see the people from other countries that I went on to meet again in international positions. These friendships and connections remain forever. *Inner Wheel friendship at its best.* (Seven years later, Carole would go on to attend four other conferences. Shown here, two of her PowerPoint slides of her President's Report in Copenhagen May 2015 which so beautifully summarises what Inner Wheel is all about. Editor)



## Attending International Conventions

Many of our members have attended International Conventions over the years – Carole Young (see previous page) from Opotoki and Lyn Jensen from Fielding and many other attended Conventions in Kota Kinabalu (Sabah, Malaysia) in 2009, Istanbul in 2012, Copenhagen in 2015, and Melbourne in 2018.

Plimmerton remembers that District NZ294 had a large number of attendees at the Melbourne Convention – in addition to a full business day with proposals and voting, they fondly remember the Gala Dinner with a "Melbourne Cup" theme and a live band. A chance to dress up and another evening of good food, wine and friendship!

The Convention in 2021 was to be held in India but was cancelled as a result of the pandemic – they did hold a Zoom conference which was well attended – even though the times were difficult for New Zealand.

Here are three lovely personal stories about attending International Conventions to inspire us all to start saving to attend the 100 year celebration in 2024!

### **Jacqueline Sandford, Marlborough writes:**

I have attended International Conferences for over 20 years and at my second Conference met Grethe and Karin from Norway. We have always kept in touch and their IW Club of Brummeddal is a link club of ours. When 4 of us from Marlborough attended the Melbourne International Convention in 2018, we wandered off to a nearby shopping mall after registering. As we walked through the main entrance doors, we heard whoops of delight and saw Grethe and Karin (shown here with Jaqueline and her husband) rushing towards us, arms extended for hugs all round! We all dined together and caught up on personal and Club news. At the end of the Convention, Grethe and Karin flew to NZ to stay with us for a week. Since then, they have hosted Keith and I at their farms in central Norway. All this because I belong to the wonderful international club of Inner Wheel, whose aim is to foster international understanding!!



### **Shore City reports as follows on their attendance at the IIW Convention in Istanbul in 2012:**

In 2012 four IW North Shore members, Maureen Kearney, Margaret Moorhead, Ann White and Nancy Nielsen attended the IIW Convention in Istanbul, followed by a 14-day coach tour of Turkey for 45 Kiwi members. We named it the Turkey Trot, covering many kilometers, visiting historical sites, staying in a cave hotel and hot air ballooning. The highlight of the tour for Margaret and Nancy was to be at Anzac Cove for the Dawn Service, as Margaret's father had been there in WW1. The photo shows the Kiwis bedding down for a long night in preparation for the Dawn Service.

### **And last, but not least, Carole Haigh, Fairfield reports:**

It was a privilege to attend the IIW Convention in Copenhagen in May 2015 as I was an International Board Director at that time. It was a wonderful experience to rejoin the 15 other Board Directors and to be recognised as part of the International Board at the Opening Ceremony. We took part in many activities including a Hospitality Evening at different venues (mine was at Dragor Fort which was on an artificial island) and the Gala Dinner which was held in a unique hall in the Old Cattle Market! We also voted on the best photo that depicted the theme of the year *Light the Path* and it was a real thrill to learn that the prize went to the Invercargill North club in New Zealand.



# Celebrating International Inner Wheel Day

Most clubs annually celebrate International Inner Wheel Day – remembering the founding of our organization on 10 January 1924 in Manchester, England – with a walk and talk, followed by a cup of coffee at a local café; or perhaps, if the weather is kind, with a longer walk and a picnic.

Plimmerton sent through photos of their celebrations on Inner Wheel Day – where food and fun predominate! And I don't know how Eastern Hutt celebrated the day – but they look very happy in their photo!



Plimmerton celebrate their International Inner Wheel day with an annual *Pizza and Plonk*. A lovely afternoon of fun and friendship combined with good food and wine. Together with a few games and a chance to feed the eels, they report that it was a perfect afternoon.



The photo here shows Eastern Hutt meeting on International Inner Wheel Day. They reported that their Club has members from a number of nationalities (Irish, Italian, English, Australians, and Kiwis). Not that you can tell them apart in this photo!

(They didn't tell me what they did on that day – although they did report that they always celebrate International Month with a shared meal.)



## Pen Friends

Over the years both Clubs and individuals have written newsy letters to Clubs elsewhere. These days, of course, communication is far more likely to be by email. (Much as I enjoy getting emails, something in me pines for a letter. A real letter, with a stamp, and everything!)

It was so lovely to hear that some clubs have kept up a correspondence for years – and that some members have managed to catch up with their penfriends all over the world. My favourite story in this round of news starts this section – great job Matamata, what an awesome thing to do!

Matamata corresponds monthly with a number of overseas clubs in all corners of the world – as well as a number here in New Zealand. Singapore is always quick to reply and sends newsy letters detailing their activities; and, although not yet able to meet physically, planned a virtual meeting to celebrate the club's 75th Birthday on November 17. So – Matamata decided to send their Singapore sisters a personalised message and this photo tells the story. In response, Singapore invited Matamata President Vera Farmilo and two other Inner Wheel members to attend their birthday meeting, which they duly did – such a thrill!



It's not about winning, but if we were running a competition for the club communicating with the most overseas Clubs, Christchurch West would easily win. They have truly enjoyed hearing of the ways these clubs have coped during the Covid disruptions as they communicate with eight different clubs: Sapporo Japan, Beaune France, Letchworth Garden City UK, Cairns Queensland Australia, Lismore NSW Australia, Bendigo VIC Australia, Port Elizabeth South Africa, and Flin Flon Canada.

Feilding reports that they have corresponded with the IW Club of Kettering, UK, for quite a few years. Their continuing newsletters, especially during their long period of lockdown from Covid, were very entertaining with jokes, stories and poetry. They are quite an amazing group of people during tough times hosting many Zoom meetings!

Parahaki of Whangarei have just opened up a correspondence with a new club in the Punjab, the club of Chandigarh, and Shore City are also sending mail to India, corresponding with a club in Mumbai.

And of course, as we delight in news from overseas, they delight in receiving our news, as this clip sent in by Ashburton shows!



**Our International Club Correspondent Meryline has had news from Ashburton IW Club, NZ. Their Inner Wheel New Zealand Conference was held in May and their Club won the trophy for the most new members (6) inducted in any district in NZ – well done Ashburton Club!**

## Meetings with an International Flavour



In the Deep South, it was all about South America: In Invercargill North (*left*), Adriana and Cinthia from Mexico shared their stories of coming to live in Southland and a little about their lives, education, food and customs. The Club hopes to contact an IW Club in Mexico with the help of these two ladies!

Invercargill East (*right*) heard Andrea Murrell, a Columbian immigrant, tell of the Migrant and Refugee charity she established to support the Columbian refugees who have come to Invercargill. The members were treated to some spirited dancing in Columbian native costumes.



In Motueka Annette Sirak (*left*) spoke about her experience as a volunteer for the Refugee resettlement programme describing how she and fellow volunteers organise a rental, set up house, meet the sponsored families at the airport and then help them integrate into the Nelson community.

It's fun to read about meetings held to celebrate International month – usually in October (but nobody is complaining if you celebrated in September)! It's the way we learn about the lives of others! Speakers have literally come from all over the world; you also shared memories of travel in strange places, and then there was the food, oh, the food ....

I thought Opotiki had a very interesting take on International month with their Paupers Dinner – read all about that on the next page.



Palmerston North's speaker was Orphee Mickalad (*left*), who came to NZ as a teenage refugee in 2006, fleeing war-torn DR Congo with his family. With minimal English language skills, he overcame many obstacles to obtain two degrees at Massey University. He ran for the office of Palmerston North city councillor earlier this year and won the election. A truly inspirational story.

Staying on the African continent, Riccarton hosted Emma Rissel from Malawi (*right*), who told us of her life as a child in Malawi, the family moving to Canada, her University years in Edinburgh where she met her husband from Germany, and emigrating to New Zealand with her own young family.



Opotiki were thinking internationally when they hosted a 'Pauper's night' - paupers and the poor are found all over the World. They had newspaper table cloths, weed flowers, only used ingredients from their pantries, wore aprons and talked about a time in their lives when food was scarce. Quite a thoughtful evening, they reported. On the menu: mince, corn fritters, toad-in-the-hole and coleslaw.

*(Opotiki also reported how they missed their usual fare now that we are in lockdown – usually they celebrate International Night with a feast! Good cooks, Inner Wheel women!. Editor)*



Feilding (*left*) encouraged members to bring along items collected from overseas and to speak briefly about them. It does show that New Zealanders are travellers and willing to explore the world.

Tawa (*right*) couldn't celebrate New Zealand Inner Wheel Day on 01 September, but they did meet in October to remind themselves how the day was initiated and why it was special. The walk was not possible, but the talk was great! And at the end every member left with a rather gorgeous cupcake.



**Auckland East** hosted Amanda McKay who works with the Firefly Children's Home that cares for Nepalese village children whose parents have either passed away, disappeared, are imprisoned or are too poor to feed them. The children are educated to give them a better chance in life.

**Kapiti** had multiple speakers: Judy Canvin spoke about her time in Perth and the clubs she was able to visit while she was there. Ruthann Doyle spoke about her time in Papua New Guinea and how she was introduced to Inner Wheel along with other social clubs. Marion Patchett spoke about her special time on the International Board and being able to visit India where one of the Board meetings was held. They also inducted a new member, Caryl Ann Jobard, who along with her husband and 2 children emigrated to NZ from India. Their tables on the night were adorned with items from countries around the world where Inner Wheel Clubs exist, and the meal was French.



Christchurch West listened to their youngest member, Naz Mansouri (*right*), who is originally from Iran. She illustrated her talk with a lovely PowerPoint presentation with fascinating photos of the area she grew up near Tehran and of the foods and culture of Iran.



# Friends Around the World

In this season, catching up with friends made internationally has been by email or Facebook– so, for this section we are depending on memories. And what memories you shared! Feilding’s Lyn Jensen fondly remembers Ashnadelle Hilmy-Mortagy (Egypt), a friend she made through Inner Wheel – they met up again in Cairo in January 2020.

Hazel Hunter, Auckland East, summarizes how many people feel about the friends they made: “These ladies, their friendship, commitment to IW and their culture has enriched my life. Inner wheel has given me the opportunity to have this amazing International journey.” There is a snippet of Hazel’s story and some of Hazel’s photos of her Indian IW friends to enjoy below.

## Hazel writes:

I have had the privilege of meeting and making Inner Wheel Friendships with many International IW members, including my dear Indian IW Friends. Ruby Madan, of the IW Club of Shimla, and myself have visited each other’s homes – and have exchanged club banners, and her daughter Arshi (*currently the IWNZ Media Manager, Ed.*) is now a member of Aotea.

*Left:* Ruby and Hazel exchanging club banners with Auckland East.  
*Middle:* Ruby and Hazel in Shimla.  
*Right:* Exchanging club banners with Aotea.



During a 2017 trip to India we were guests of Manisha and Neeraj Jain Garg. Manisha is a member of the IW Club of Ambala. What a wonderful gathering in their garden with some formal greetings, song and dance in our honour. The next day were taken on a tour of IW and Rotary projects related to local hospital and facilities. What amazing work they do in assisting women in their community!

We also visited Azhagu Annamalai. When I was IIW Board Director 2015-16, Azhagu Annamalai was the IIW Treasurer and our friendship started during that time, and just grew from there.



Cathy Burns of Howick visited Croatia and while there met up with then IIW Media Manager Sandra Neretljakovic. A very generous lady, Cathy reports, who showed us around the town center.



Marlborough ladies enjoying a sing-along with Jacqueline's Norwegian friends, see page 8 for her story of International Friendship.



**Joan from Invercargill South writes:**

It's the "internationalness" that I enjoy. It's been great catching up with Inner Wheel friends from other countries and renewing friendships made over the years. You also have interesting chats with strangers! I remember standing in line in Orlando and a member from England noticing my name badge, asked "tell me, is Garston still written in stones on the bank at the school?" (Garston is a very small settlement in Southland). She had been sent there to live with an aunt for safety during the war! The start of learning about a whole different experience of wartime for children! Casual conversations with women from all different backgrounds is so rewarding!.



Photo shows friends Solveig, Joan, Dilruba, Carole and Beth from Sweden, Malaysia, Australia and New Zealand.

*And how could I resist this final photo of Jacqueline from the club of Marlborough – "We make friends with everybody!" (Ed)*



## Poem for the 2016 Christchurch Conference

Go forth white doves  
Go forth to every corner of the globe  
Take, on your graceful wings  
The gift of friendship  
Help us unite the world and send peace to troubled lands.  
Search out the lonely and bereaved  
And let them know friends.

Take also the service of this special band of women  
That pain may be eased, need fulfilled  
And opportunity experienced as a better future unfolds  
Lead the gift of service to distant shores  
And bring comfort.

Your flight will spread International understanding  
As you battle stormy seas  
And fly through the dust of deserts.  
Fly on, white doves, fly on  
And take with you the joy of this convention.  
Go forth and fly.....

## And Finally ....



From my house to yours – I wish you a very Merry Christmas! As Stoke reminded me – they didn't get to meet for International Month, but they do celebrate Christmas, and that is celebrated internationally! So, in keeping with the spirit of this newsletter (and courtesy of a Google search) ...

Gëzuar Krishtlindja, Eguberrri on, з Калядамі (z Kaljadámi), Srećan Božić, Nedeleg Iaouen, Bon Nadal, Nadelik Lowen, Sretan Božić, Veselé Vánoce, glædelig jul, prettig kerstfeest, Ġoġan Kristnaskon, Hyvää joulua, Joyeux Noël, Fröhliche Weihnachten, Καλά Χριστούγεννα, Boldog karácsonyt, Nollaig Shona, Buon Natale, Schéine Chrëschttag, Среќен Божиќ), god jul, Wesołych Świąt, Feliz Natal, Crăciun fericit, с Рождеством Христовым, Nollaig Chridheil, Mutlu Noeller, Nadolig Llawen, , عيد ميلاد مسجيد , Hnit thit ku mingalar pa, 聖誕快樂, शुभ बड़ा दिन, selamat hari Natal, メリークリスマス, វិក្ការយថ្ងៃបុណ្យព្រះអរ, 즐거운 성탄절, ಸುಖಸುಖವರ್ಷಿಂಸುಖಾಂ, Selamat hari Natal, ميلاد مسيح مبارك باد , සුභ නන්තලක්, Wilujeng Natal, Maligayang pasko, கிறிஸ்துமஸ் நல்வாழ்த்துக்கள், ಸುಖಸುಖವರ್ಷಿಂಸುಖಾಂ, Mutlu Noeller, کرسمس مبارک , Chúc mừng Giáng sinh, Geseënde Kersfees, khrisimasi yabwino, Heri ya Krismasi, uKhisimusi oMuhle, ԾԾԲԴ ԼԻՈՆԻԲԶ, Juullimi pilluarit, Jwaye Nowèl, Mele Kalikimaka, Yá'át'ééh Késhmish, Manuia le Kerisimasi, Meri Kirihimete