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### CHAIRMAN'S CHAT SEPTEMBER 2019

District Secretary  
Laurie Breadmore  
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DEAR MEMBERS,

So much has happened this month. I thought I'd be writing and posting photos (now on the new IWNZ District NZ293 Facebook page, thanks Joanne Gaudin) I had an amazing time in the Hawkes Bay, being wonderfully hosted by Ahuriri President Esther and speaking at their Club meeting on **1<sup>st</sup> August**, then meeting with their committee for a great discussion on the **2<sup>nd</sup> August**. On **3<sup>rd</sup> August** I enjoyed dinner at Past President Shirley Findlay's home. **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> August**, I met and spoke at a lunch meeting at IW Club of Napier, a very welcoming group of ladies. This Club was the first to form in New Zealand in 1936. Their lectern was a wonderful piece of history, donated by founding member Laura Holland, complete with IW Logo.

**On August 13<sup>th</sup>** I met with five past District Chairmen all from one IW Club, Fairfield. How amazing is that! We met for coffee and discussion before the Club meeting. I really welcomed their input because I was at a loss to know how to proceed having no one wanting to step up for all the District positions for 2020-2021, despite my urgings. We agreed that Disbandment of District NZ293 sadly was inevitable. I then got in touch with Annabelle Valentine, Chairman of the IW Constitution Committee who has been so helpful guiding me through the correct procedure and forming the motion you as Clubs will vote on. (See explanation letter and voting motion letter attached)

**On 15<sup>th</sup> August** The District Executive met in Rotorua to formally minute that we will put forward to the October 5<sup>th</sup> District Meeting a motion for Disbanding the District.

**16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> August** I flew to Wellington for the National Governing Body Meetings. What an amazing experience! Great to hear how other Districts are going forward. Plenty of robust discussion, motions to pass, many decisions to make, updates on Project Revive and how much we want to grow the membership of Inner Wheel. I have so much to report back to you all but don't want to bombard you with too much at once. Will save till next month's newsletter. NGB are very saddened that we are facing Disbandment of our District.

What I have learnt from all this is that not only are we all about "True Friendship" in Inner Wheel. When we join we agree to encourage the "Ideals of personal service". This can be as small as helping out with a fundraiser or saying yes to being on your Club Committee. In the past I didn't think I could be an office holder at Club level but gave it a go. Help and mentoring is always available along with guidelines online [www.innerwheel.org.nz](http://www.innerwheel.org.nz). You never know what you are capable of until you try.

If there is a lesson to be learnt from our District facing Disbandment it is to make sure at Club level, you have succession for Club roles. Not just asking for volunteers at the last minute. I'm a believer in explaining what roles are about, giving members time to think and question.

My Dad was always telling us to "Give it a go" when we were kids. I would often say, "I can't" He would insist "there's no such word as can't!" He's now 96 yrs old in a retirement Village at Thames. He drove to Matamata this week and very excitably told me he has a new hobby. Its Worm Farming!. He evidently has 10,000 of them in the garage and was explaining how he grinds up their vegetable scraps, adding silverbeet from the garden to feed them and he even gives the worms a bath. So, there you are. One is never too old to learn and be involved in life. Enjoy your September meetings. In Friendship, Vera