



empowering women

NEWS AND STORIES FROM THE YWCA AUCKLAND

125th Memorabilia Item



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As a keepsake for our 125th year we have decided – (rather tongue in cheek) on a tea towel, featuring two vintage covers from the 1920s YWCA Auckland newsletter.

- 100% unbleached cotton, hand screenprinted in NZ
- beautiful retro images
- great for a gift
- large size 70 x 50cm

\$12 each

\$22 for both

If you'd like to order our beautiful tea towels, please use the order form on the back of this newsletter.

2010 is a significant year for the YWCA Auckland as we mark our 125th anniversary.

Our extraordinarily rich history is a fascinating time-capsule of the lives of women in Auckland during the last century and a quarter. Most of Auckland's early feminists and some of the city's most outstanding women were connected to the YWCA. Thanks to you and all of the women who have supported the YWCA during the last 125 years we have continued to empower women and girls in Auckland.



We would love you to join us as we celebrate our 125th.

125th Anniversary High Tea

3rd June 2010. Government House, Auckland 2:30pm - 4.00pm.

Our birthday will be celebrated with a High Tea at the beautiful Government House and gardens in Auckland. We will be hosted by Her Excellency Lady Susan Satyanand who is the patron of the YWCA of Aotearoa New Zealand. This event will be a great opportunity for past and present members, supporters and friends to get together, share stories and reminisce about their connections and memories of the YWCA.

Race for Leadership

Saturday, 26th June. 12.30pm – 6pm

At the beginning of Leadership Week the Future Leaders Mentoring Programme will be holding their annual Leadership Challenge. Up to 30 teams of Future Leaders, their mentors and some surprise celebrities will take part in the Race for Leadership around Auckland's CBD. This fun event will be action-packed and fast-paced, a celebration of women's leadership and the history of the YWCA featuring significant feminist sites and some interesting challenges along the way.

Gala Dinner

11th August 2010, Langham Hotel

The highlight of our anniversary year will be a black-tie Gala Dinner at the Langham's newly refurbished Grand Ballroom. Our guest speakers will be Rt Hon Helen Clark in conversation with an international business woman. This celebration of women's leadership will feature amazing entertainment plus live and silent auctions of spectacular products. Mark this date in your diary, tickets will be out soon.

Keep an eye out for an Auckland photography competition in October!

The YWCA is part of the largest women's organisation in the world, active in over 125 countries, uniting more than 25 million women. The World YWCA works for social and economic justice through development and advocacy programmes. YWCAs around the globe are making a difference for women everywhere.



CEO's report

The year races along. We're 125 years old and the first of our Anniversary Celebrations is next month.

We are looking forward to engaging with all of you again over our three major events - by attending you enable our team to carry on with the amazing work they do. We are all very proud of the results our work is achieving and that is all possible thanks to your support; friends, donors, supporters and partners.

Our work is achieved by a talented and dedicated group of staff; and we welcome new staff members Edward Duff (Finance Manager), Liz Henry (Fundraising), and Katrina Mika (Future Leaders).

We acknowledge with pride all those who work with us on our programmes; the students, mentors, schools and families on our Future Leaders programme; our many Encore coordinators and participants and our friends and colleagues in the sector with whom we are developing strong relationships which further benefit our stakeholders.

We'd also like to say thank you to YWCA Whangerei for taking over the management Future Leaders Far North.

We're loving our new logo, once again adorned with the traditional YWCA triangle, and please have a look at our re-vamped, dynamic website (www.akywca.org.nz).

On top of this very big year the YWCA team and board have supported my acceptance onto the Leadership NZ Programme for 2010; it's a great development year for me which will benefit the YWCA and I personally thank everyone for making the space for me to do this and being so generous and positive in my participation.

125 years - it's an achievement! We carry with us the mantle of all those fabulous women who went before and paved the way for the YWCA Auckland to still be here and be contributing to empowering women in 2010.

Thank you everyone!

Hilary Sumpter

And the winner is...

Nive Sharat Chandran - recipient of the YWCA Board Tertiary Scholarship of \$2500 and ex-officio on the YWCA Board for 2010.



Nive is a brilliant example of a young woman demonstrating leadership in her community - thanks to the Future Leaders programme, which Nive graduated from in 2008.

She has just been voted Chairperson of Auckland City Council's Youth Council and is studying for a BHS-LLB at Auckland University.

Stepping Up

At our 2009 Kathryn Wilson Shoe Auction our website designer, bka interactive, won the bid to design their own pair of shoes with Kathryn Wilson. The pair (pictured) were inspired by the director's love of heels and feature the bka colours.



Bka who have been long-time supporters of the YWCA Auckland have decided to display the shoes at their studio in Arch Hill. In total the Kathryn Wilson Shoe Auction raised over \$3000 for the YWCA Auckland Future Leaders Programme.

A real success story for Encore

Jane Bissell is a breast cancer recoverer and writer. She is a trained Encore Coordinator and this is an excerpt from a recent letter to Marlene Sorby the National Encore Manager...



"All the ladies enjoyed their programme and one of the greatest joys for me is when one or two ladies really blossom...I don't know if you recall Susan (name changed) but she is quite frail-looking with glasses and a bit wobbly on her feet at times, I would have to help her in both floor and pool - well, she just "grew" so much during the course - really came out of herself - and yesterday she came in with a new hairdo and colour job, nice new outfit - all buzzing with energy. Compared to the Susan who began the course, the change was quite striking, both in her mobility and her personality. A real success story."

"It is so heartwarming for us to deliver a programme that really works so well, makes such a difference for women attending - one of the true measures of the success is the enjoyment and confidence these women get from the course. It's so good to see them laughing and having fun after enduring so much difficulty and emotional trauma ...wonderful!"

Jane Bissell

Taking the lead with your help

Worknesh Dinkayehu is a Future Leader. She was selected for the YWCA programme this time last year and says it's changed her life.

In Future Leaders, young women are paired with mentors who act as a friend and guide through fun activities and community work to prepare them to become a leader in their communities.

"I've got loads of advantages and experiences that I wouldn't have otherwise," says the 16-year-old.

"We went on a camp trip last year. It was exciting meeting the other girls and it was the first time I'd been away without my family."

"My mentor, Roz, is really cool, she helps me with lots of things like cooking. When we meet she takes me to places I've never been, which is really exciting."

The programme encourages the girls involved to achieve by setting goals for themselves. Worknesh has a very clear plan. "I want to help people. I want to be a doctor so I need to go to university. Future Leaders is helping me, my school work is improving and I'm not scared to talk in front of people anymore."

Worknesh is not alone in her aspiration, over 80% of girls who complete the programme go on to tertiary study, most of them for the first time in their families.

Worknesh has had that goal since I met her," says Roz Palmer, Worknesh's mentor. "She works very hard, and if that's what she's bent on, I'm sure she'll get there."

Roz Palmer speaks very fondly of the young woman she's mentoring. "I think I'm very lucky. Worknesh is a very positive young woman. She'll try anything and do anything. I think by the end of the four

years Worknesh will be like one of my family.

"She has been to every event put on by the YWCA for the programme. I think it's important for the age groups to mix together. For the younger girls to see the confidence and presentation skills of the older girls, it gives them something to aspire to."

The importance of support from both the YWCA and from the families of the girls involved was stressed heavily by Roz Palmer but what came across the most was how much she believes in the programme.

A note to our mentors:

these young women would not succeed without your help, we are grateful for the time and effort that you put in.

"You're not there to take over the girl's whole life, you're just adding support. I think it's great because it stretches their self-confidence and belief in themselves by doing things they would never ordinarily do."

Worknesh can't recommend Future Leaders strongly enough. "Before I started the programme I thought it would be scary but it's not, it's great."



Article and photo by kind permission of the Aucklander, writer Katherine Astley and photographer Amos Chapple

What we do...



The YWCA hostel is in Vincent Street in central Auckland. It is a 162 room hostel for both males and females with two women-only floors. The hostel supports the programmes and activities of the YWCA Auckland.



The YWCA Future Leaders Programme provides mentoring, practical support and skills development to young women from decile 1-4 schools. This life-changing programme is provided free to participants.



The YWCA Encore programme assists women who have had breast cancer surgery regain their mobility, flexibility and self-confidence through gentle exercise and support. This is a free eight-week programme run nationally.

Bequest that keeps on giving

In her youth Ailsa Nicholl enjoyed the YWCA beach camps so much that she wrote them into her will.

In 1999 Ailsa left a large sum of money to the YWCA Auckland. The interest is used annually to fund YWCA camps for the Future Leaders programme. Ailsa wanted to make sure that future generations would always be able to access the famed YWCA camps.

If you would like to help young women gain access to the same opportunities that you have had in your life then maybe leaving a bequest in your will is something to think about. It's a way of supporting the YWCA into the next 125 years that won't affect your cash flow today.

Please tick the bequest box on the reply slip if you'd like us to send you more information.



We gratefully acknowledge the support of the following donors over the last 6 months:

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We are supported by our hostel, this means that



We acknowledge the following gifts in kind:

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We are grateful to have received grants from the following trusts and foundations over the last 6 months:

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Yes, I would I like to support the YWCA Auckland.

Please send me information about making a bequest.

I would like to make a donation \$

I would like to buy a memorabilia item:

Tea towel A B @ \$12 \$

(please circle)

Both designs @ \$22 No. \$

Total \$

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