

# **AUCKLAND WOMEN'S CENTRE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING WOMEN AND ORGANISATIONS THAT SUPPORTED OUR WORK THIS YEAR:**

## **FUNDERS**

ASB Charitable Trust  
ANZ Staff Foundation  
Auckland City  
Auckland WEA  
CLANZ  
COGS  
Creative Communities  
Department of Child, Youth and Family Services  
Endeavour Charitable Trust  
Fuji Xerox (NZ) Limited  
GABA Charitable Trust  
John Ilott Charitable Trust  
John Logan Campbell Estate  
J.R. McKenzie Trust  
Lion Foundation  
Ministry of Social Development, SKIP  
New Zealand Lottery Grants Board  
New Zealand Post  
Pub Charity Inc  
Scottwood Trust  
South Auckland Charitable Trust  
Southern Trust  
Trillian Trust  
Trusts Charitable Foundation  
United Way (NZ) Inc  
Western Bays Community Board



## **TUTORS**

Lizzie Baker  
Simone Bonny  
Lisa Brickwell  
Suzy Carryer  
Te Aorere Chan  
Bex Ellis  
Emma Farry  
Karenza Fullerton  
Roz Goodliffe  
Morgan Libeau  
Annalise Myers  
Joan Prairie  
Bernarda Shepard  
Belinda Trewern  
Barb Wallis

## **SCHOOLS**

Auckland Normal Intermediate  
Avondale College  
Green Bay High  
Kelston Girls High  
Lynfield College  
Mt Albert Grammar  
Western Springs College

## **COMMUNITY GROUPS**

Auckland Women's Refuge  
Bethany Centre  
Community Alcohol and Drug  
Family Planning Association  
Inner City Women's Group  
Lesbian Education and Support  
NOWSA  
Preventing Violence in the Home  
Raeburn House  
Rainbow Youth  
Well Women's Nursing Service  
Women's Health Action

## **VOLUNTEER SUPPORT**

UDC Finance Ltd



Auckland  
**Women's  
Centre**

Promoting empowerment  
and well-being for all women

**ANNUAL REPORT  
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS  
2004 – 2005**

**Street Address**

6/4 Warnock St  
Grey Lynn, Auckland

**Communications**

Phone number  
Fax number  
Email address  
Website

**Staff Contacts**

Anna Witten-Sage, Young Women's Advocate  
Annalise Myers, Projects Coordinator  
Elizabeth Morey, Administrator  
Leonie Morris, Centre Coordinator

**Postal Address**

PO Box 78-271  
Grey Lynn, Auckland

09 376 3227  
09 376 1817  
akcentre@womens.org.nz  
www.womens.org.nz

youngwomen@womens.org.nz  
youngparent@womens.org.nz  
admin@womens.org.nz  
akcentre@womens.org.nz

# COMMITMENTS

## Mission Statement

Auckland Women's Centre promotes empowerment and well-being for all women.

## Philosophy

Auckland Women's Centre is committed to working for change for women from feminist perspectives.

## Constitutional Objects

Auckland Women's Centre offers to:

- a) Recognise Maori as Tangata Whenua o Aotearoa. To wholeheartedly embrace and uphold the principles and spirit of Te Tiriti o Waitangi.
- b) Create an environment for Auckland women to meet for support, discussion, information, referral, learning and sharing skills.
- c) Provide information on women's rights, healthcare and issues affecting their lives from a feminist perspective.
- d) Support and assist the development of women's self help initiatives.
- e) Advocate at local and national levels on women issues.
- f) Network and campaign with other women's and community groups to promote women in society.
- g) Do all such acts or things as are incidental to or which will directly or indirectly further or be conducive to the attainment of the foregoing objects of the organisation or any of them.

## Strategic Goals

In addition, the society has committed to the following strategic goals. To:

- 1) Maintain a Centre that is relevant to women, and which is open and responsive to new challenges and initiatives.
- 2) Provide a safe environment that is comfortable, warm and welcoming to women.
- 3) Be non-discriminatory in regards to ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, income, ability or relationship status.
- 4) Provide affordable, accessible, quality services that reflect women's needs and respect their personal integrity.
- 5) Maintain a facility and resources that enable education, health and welfare or other social initiatives that respect and empower women.
- 6) Ensure effective, accountable, and transparent agency management structures.
- 7) Seek resources and opportunities that enable the on-going provision of the Centre's goals, activities and services.
- 8) Be a fair and equitable employer that provides effective support, supervision and management processes for all workers.

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Auckland Women's Centre's work is made possible through the generous support and assistance of many individuals and organisations.

*WE WISH TO ACKNOWLEDGE WITH GRATITUDE THE FOLLOWING WOMEN:*

Members of the **Management Collective** provide AWC with guidance, governance and support within a collective framework. Members are involved in all aspects of the Centre and provide invaluable knowledge, skills and ideas. Voluntary members this year were **Alison Greenaway, Nadine Rae, Lou Renner, Abigael Vogt, Annalise Myers, Sarah Greenaway** and **Anna Witten-Sage**.

**Marilynn Johnson** continues to provide the Centre with considerable voluntary support. Her presence at the reception desk is warm and welcoming for Centre users and immeasurably helpful for staff. The Centre benefits considerably from her generosity and compassion.

**Kate Paulin** maintains our information technology systems and the [www.womenz.org.nz](http://www.womenz.org.nz) web domain. Centre workers particularly appreciate having such a patient and clever woman to look after their precious workhorses. Kate gives generously of her personal time in order to do so, and we do not know where we would be without her assistance.

**Emily Trent**, a student intern from Claremont, California, worked at the Centre from 8 June to 6 August. Emily staffed our Information, Advice and Referral Service and supported our youth development programmes. We are very grateful for her diligence, intelligence, and clear analysis and her effervescent, caring, personality.

Many other women have generously contributed their time and efforts to our crèche, mail-outs and promotions, course facilitation and library. AWC wishes to thank **Ana Ole, Camilla Hannaas, Gretchen Geraets, Katherine Bussey, Krystle Zinck, Martina Fink, Rosalynn Teutau, Rosiena White, Shubha Iyer** and **all the wonderful women from UDC Finance Limited**. We also wish to make a special thanks to **Bronwyn Banks** our talented and compassionate crèche supervisor.

*WE WISH TO ACKNOWLEDGE KERRY PERKINS COORDINATOR OF THE WOMEN'S CENTRE IN THE 1990S WHO PASSED AWAY THIS YEAR:*

Kerryn was the Coordinator of the Women's Centre when it was based on Ponsonby Road in the mid 1990s. She generously devoted many years of her life to women's welfare and worked very hard to keep the Women's Centre open during particularly difficult years for the women's movement. Her enduring legacy to the Women's Centre is the women's library which she was instrumental in establishing and the early organisation of a network of women healers. Kerryn was also a past editor of *Lesbians in Print*. Kerryn was 52 when she died peacefully on 7 April 2005 from breast cancer.

*WE WISH TO ACKNOWLEDGE THOSE WOMEN WHO WORK ALONGSIDE THE CENTRE:*

We sincerely thank the **tutors** and **facilitators** (listed over) of our courses and workshops. Their willingness to share their diverse skills and experiences with other women allows us to offer a wide variety of learning opportunities to our community.

# SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

The Auckland Women's Centre's range of activities falls broadly into the categories of health and welfare services for women, opportunities for personal growth and development, developing resources for the women's community, and advocacy on women's rights.

## HEALTH AND WELFARE SERVICES FOR WOMEN

### **Information, referral and advice**

The information, referral and advice service is the first point of contact with AWC for many women. The Centre has a great deal of information about women's health services, educational courses and workshops, maternity and mothering services, domestic violence support services, migrant resource services, women's activities and adventures and much more. We have contact details for woman-friendly doctors, lawyers, natural health practitioners and counsellors. Lesbian activities, events and services are advertised. In the 2004 – 05 financial year over 12,000 women used this service.

### **Support for women**

Centre workers provide face-to-face or telephone support to women experiencing distress and seeking assistance with immediate needs. Most frequently, this involves locating emergency housing, developing plans for women initiating separation, supporting women asserting lesbian identities, and dealing with disclosures of violence or sexual assault. Listening, support and validation are provided, information is given, and referral to appropriate ongoing support agencies is made. This financial year over 170 women received this type of support from the Centre.

### **Personal counselling**

Our professional counsellors continue to provide low cost one-to-one therapy sessions at the Centre. Women clients have a choice of counsellors, therapeutic modalities and time slots. A large proportion of counselling service users are referred to us from other community and governmental agencies. Auckland Women's Centre is fortunate to have the support of a team of top quality counsellors. These counsellors provide many women with high quality and low cost personal therapy and support. Counsellors during the 2004-05 period were **Corrine Jordan, Robyn Lawrence, Kim McGregor, Joan Prairie** and **Sarah Tritt**. We were sad to see the departure of a long time counsellor with the Centre, Kim McGregor, who has been appointed Director of Auckland Rape Crisis. Our counselling service continues to experience high demand with over 753 appointments offered in the last year.

### **Women's nursing services**

We continue to provide cervical smear tests and breast examinations to women who would not normally access primary healthcare institutions or service providers. A large proportion of clients using this service are lesbians or new migrant women. Thanks to Well Women's Nursing Services for working with us to provide this service.

## COMMUNITY LEARNING AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Initiatives in 2004–2005

Over this year we concentrated on offering our most popular courses and workshops to a wider community and thereby attracting more women who have never taken a course at the Centre before.

This year we added a Beginners Clowning workshop to our programme exploring the art of clowning and having fun in a non-threatening environment. Lisa Brickell, our tutor, studied clowning in Paris, has taught extensively around the world and was highly praised by the women who attended her workshop. In May we offered a “Stage 2” Creative Writing course for the first time which was much appreciated by eight of our graduates from our beginners course. For the first time this year we shifted our teenage self defence out of its school holidays slot. This has proved to be a much better time to attract participants and this workshop is now an on-going part of our programme.

Our ever-popular courses include Walking Back to Happiness, yoga, the Art of Happiness, Creative Writing, self defence for girls aged 7 to 12 years, teenagers and adult women, Te Reo and Tikanga Maori for beginners, and lesbian identity issues. Our evaluation process shows us that women enjoy being in an all-female environment and benefit in many ways from their participation in our community education programme.

### Programme of facilitated support groups

The Centre has sustained the increased number and diversity of support groups it offers. Groups regularly provided include women’s self-esteem, lesbian identity, women and anger, mothering alone, young mothers, and post separation support groups. All support groups are professionally facilitated and enable women to learn skills and grow support networks in a safe and supportive environment. This year over 140 women benefited from a personalised support and skills building experience.

## RESOURCES FOR THE WOMEN’S COMMUNITY

### The women’s library

With the assistance of Camilla Hannaas the library has been fully reviewed. The fiction section has been thoroughly culled and many new books have been added. We have focused on quality modern women authors and established feminist novels. The non-fiction section has been reclassified under the categories: health and wellbeing, feminist analysis, women in society and women's lives. We are making good progress toward rejuvenating these sections with new publications. Thanks to Ana Ole and Shubha Iyer for staffing the library on the first Saturday in each month and to Elizabeth who continues to run the library with great efficiency.

### [www.womenz.org.nz](http://www.womenz.org.nz)

Visitor numbers to the [www.womenz.org.nz](http://www.womenz.org.nz) web site continued to increase over the 2004-2005 financial year. The AWC secured a grant from the Auckland City Community Groups Assistance Fund to overhaul the site and this large, but exciting project is underway. The womenz domain continues to host sub sites for the Women's Studies Association and Journal, and the Tamaki Makaurau Lesbian Newsletter as well as directories of women’s places and events. Thanks very much to Kate Paulin who works voluntarily maintaining and updating our web site.

## Young Mother's Project



The Young Mother's Project continues to be a significant part of our work at the Centre. Our Young Parent Resource Book continues to receive overwhelming praise from the community. The Young Mothers Support Group runs regularly from the Centre. It is a seven-week programme incorporating support and education, and activities for young mums. Based on a risk minimisation and resiliency building model it offers teenage mothers the opportunity to participate in a 'youth in development' programme that takes account of their age, their parenting role and their gender. From August 2004 Annalise Myers began tutoring the YMSG bringing with her an in-depth knowledge of young women parenting.

## GOSSIP – our quarterly newsletter

GOSSIP is mailed to over 1,500 individuals and organisations each quarter and is our primary vehicle for keeping in contact with the community. We let women know about the services and activities of the Centre, feature some discussion on women's issues and provide a space for others to promote woman-centred events. Volunteers help us with the labour of mailing out GOSSIP and the course brochure. Thank you to those women who give their time and energy to the women's community in this way.

## Auckland Women's Centre postcard

This year we produced this attractive promotional postcard designed to reach out in to the community and inform more women of our services and projects. New signage incorporating our new logo was also erected around our building.



## ADVOCATING FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS

The Auckland Women's Centre made a submission against the Social Security Amendment Bill 2005. This Bill aimed to increase the amount of money that is deducted from a DPB recipient's benefit if they do not name the father of their child. Sixty-six percent of solo mothers already live in poverty in New Zealand and we felt that the main impact of this Bill would be to make poor families even poorer. When we made our submission to the Parliamentary Select Committee, some solo mothers and their children from our Solo Mothers Support Group came with us. They really appreciated being involved in the democratic process and two of them took their own initiative and followed up this work by writing letters on the matter to their MPs.

We also supported a Bill to Parliament allowing flexible working hours for parents. Many mothers who utilise our Centre find juggling full-time work and parenting is exhausting. This Bill is based on successful UK legislation. Since the flexible working hours law was introduced in the UK, one million parents have made a request to work flexibly under the legislation and eight out of ten requests have been granted. The New Zealand Bill has yet to come before the House.

## SPECIAL PROJECTS

### SKIP - POSITIVE PARENTING PROGRAMME

Auckland Women's Centre participated in round one of the SKIP Local Initiatives Fund with a Mothers Parenting Positively Project focussed on finding ways of engaging teen and lone mothers with positive parenting messages and information. In that round we achieved two primary aims. First we established a conduit between the Auckland City community sector and the SKIP initiative for the dissemination of positive parenting information and resources. We successfully engaged many Auckland community-based social service providers with the SKIP project and supplied them with SKIP parenting pamphlets and promotional resources.



In addition, we brought together other social services working with teen and lone mothers to define effective, community-based initiatives that can deliver positive parenting information and education to as many teen and lone mothers as possible in Auckland City. This aspect of the project involved a detailed analysis of the parenting skills and information that teen and lone mothers request or need, the barriers that exist to them receiving those skills or information and the actions that can potentially overcome those barriers.

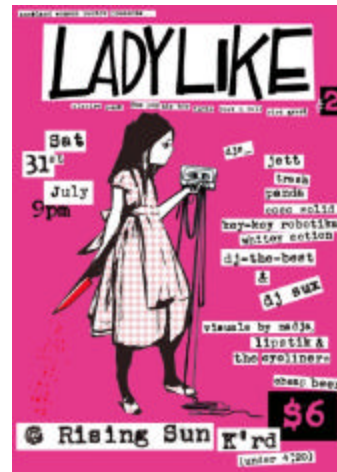
Working with the SKIP team, which is part of the Ministry of Social Development, has been an excellent experience. In all their dealings with us they have been respectful and supportive which has added considerable value to the project.

### JANUS WOMEN'S CONVENTION

In June, Alison Greenaway from our Collective and Paulette Benton-Greig, our Centre Coordinator represented the Auckland Women's Centre at the Janus Women's Convention. They were inspired by the young women who attended and made themselves very visible, articulating a list of issues that they said were relevant to them, for example, domestic violence, rape, accessible education, poverty, reproductive rights, homophobia and racism.

### LADYLIKE #2

A showcase of young women DJ's, LadyLike #2, was held in July 2004. Many of the women who took DJing courses at the Centre through our Fairplay project were involved in this event, giving them the opportunity to plan, participate and enjoy an event dedicated to showcasing their passion and talent. It was a successful community building exercise with a contemporary feminist spirit and a DIY approach.



## REPORT FROM THE COLLECTIVE

The Auckland Women's Centre Management Collective is pleased to be able to report on another successful year. We continue to focus on building our organisational capacity and delivering productive outcomes that will improve the lives of women through social change. We distributed our Young Parent Resource Book throughout the Auckland region, and it has been warmly received by both young mothers and the community sector. We have improved our Young Mothers Support Group Project, expanding the content and integrating the philosophy of the crèche into the project.

We constantly work on improving all our projects and support groups to ensure that they more closely meet the needs of our client group. Our reputation for being proactive, creative and committed to making our mission and philosophies work continues to grow and over this year there has been a consolidation of our value and our place in the community sector.

Four of our current Collective members – Alison Greenaway, Nadine Rae, Lou Renner and Abigail Vogt – have served on the Collective since at least November 2002 and this stability has greatly benefited the organisation, as well as entrenching the Collective's chosen governance model. These able women were joined this year by Sarah Greenaway, whose areas of expertise includes reducing alcohol-related harm for young people and theoretical issues in relation to rape prevention, and Annalise Myers, Programme Coordinator at the Bethany Centre.

The Collective wishes to thank its very able and hardworking staff members.

**Anna Witten-Sage** joined the Centre at the beginning of 2005 year as our Young Women's Advocate. Anna brings with her a younger perspective, a keen intellect, and an outstanding ability to relate to and assist women of any age. Anna's main area of work has been the Young Mothers Support Group Project and providing individual advocacy for young women, especially young mothers.

**Elizabeth Morey** continues to do a great job of Centre administration; she keeps the accounts perfect, ensures funding applications and reporting are accurate and timely, and maintains our in-house manuals and communications systems – amongst other things.

**Leonie Morris** goes from strength to strength with the community learning and support groups programmes. Increased promotional opportunities and structured programme planning are creating increased demand for places in our courses and groups. Leonie also makes significant contributions to the management and operations of the Centre.

**Paulette Benton-Greig** continued to lead the Centre with enthusiasm, flare and professionalism. Paulette excels at project development and articulating them verbally and as written proposals. She has extended the high profile and excellent reputation of the Auckland Women's Centre throughout the Community.