

Women In Nelson Inc.

ANNUAL REPORT

1 April 2012 - 31 March 2013



Women in Nelson Inc.
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Presented to the AGM, 16 September 2013

Introduction:

This has been a year of development and change for Women in Nelson (WIN) and the Nelson Women's Centre. The Centre's name in te reo, *Te Whare Āwhina Mō Ngā Wāhine Puawai*, indicates "a supportive place where all women can flourish." This describes how we want to be with each other, and what we want this place to be for all women who come here.

Women in Nelson Inc (WIN) is the community group that owns the Nelson Women's Centre property and who coordinates the daily operation and ongoing development of the Centre. WIN employs the Women's Centre Coordinators, Carrie Mozena and Deanne Kilpatrick. They are facilitative leaders who work to keep all of the services, workshops, gatherings and events here running well; and who keep looking for ways to help address issues in the community that are important to women.

Women in Nelson currently has a annual membership of about 20 women, and is governed by a Collective. This year's Collective members were Gail Collingwood, Elena Meredith, Anna Geene, Heather Vass, Liz Price and Maree Cathcart. However in April 2013, we said a reluctant farewell to the wonderful Liz Price who retired, having served on the WIN Collective for over 9 years. Our very able Finance Administrator/Treasurer is Kathleen O'Connor.

Joint Strategy Meetings:

Throughout the past year, representatives of WIN, Nelson Women's Support and SASH have met several times to discuss ways we can work even more closely together. Two main ideas have been on the table: expanding our building in the back yard, and merging two or all three of our groups. The building extension is now on hold while we first complete a merger.

Intended Merger of WIN with NWS:

We are very aware of the changing political and economic environment in which the Nelson Women's Centre operates. Over the past several years, the international recession plus changes to central government funding priorities have impacted strongly on people everywhere in NZ and on the community sector. These changes encourage community groups to work together smarter and to find efficiencies wherever possible. Thus, after lengthy consideration, Women in Nelson and Nelson Women's Support have decided to merge into one organisation. There has already evolved considerable overlap in personnel amongst our two groups, plus we have long shared a similar philosophy, working for the empowerment of all women. WIN secured a grant from the Working Together More Fund to help resource the organisational work to finalise the merger; this work is continuing into the 2013-14 financial year. Full asset transfer will be complete on 31 March 2014.

The new organisation will be known simply as the Nelson Women's Centre/ Te Whare Āwhina Mō Ngā Wāhine Puawai. Our aim is to strengthen the Centre's governance, to clarify our public profile, and to simplify daily roles and responsibilities.

Highlights for WIN in 2012-13:

- **Participation in all of WIN's programmes and services at the Women's Centre remained strong.** Our total number of contacts for the year was 2995 (slightly down from 3095 last year). This includes Centre visits, phone calls and email queries. (We note that more contacts now come via our website, especially from younger women.)
- **49% (1459) contacts related to our SOCIAL/CULTURAL offerings.** Lots of people (individuals and agencies) enquire about our workshops; some approach us to be tutors; many attend other groups (e.g. 10-15 women and their children attend the Women Parenting Alone group every Friday).

Our **Hands-On Art and Discovery Afternoons** workshops remain popular: 381 women attended 53 workshops throughout the year. The wide variety of workshops we offer accomplish many things: they introduce women to creative arts and crafts, help them to learn new skills, enable them to get to know new people, and boost their confidence in many ways. The tutors we engage are dynamic, skilled and inspiring people to be with. Our workshops also provide many women an easy introduction to the Women's Centre, which encourages them, later on as they may need, to link with the social work, advocacy and counselling services offered by our partner agencies Nelson Women's Support and SASH (Sexual Abuse Support & Healing).

Our Hands-On Art workshop topics included: creative writing, drawing, painting, card-making, felting, pastels, rag-rugging, creative sewing, mixed media, quilting, clay-work, and ethnic cooking.

Our Discovery Afternoons included a mix of personal development and life skills topics: Emotional Freedom Technique; self-defence skills; homeopathy for common ailments and first aid; building healthy relationships; job interview skills; Indian Head Massage; herbal household products; herbal lotions and potions; understanding your personality; accessing your intuition; boundary-setting and communication skills; Qi Gong; Mothers Raising Boys.

- **17% (515) contacted us for HEALTH reasons.** Many women ask us for referrals to counsellors, GP's or other health services. This is because they are new to town, on a low income, or not happy with their current health provider. We refer women to NWS and SASH for support and counselling, and we maintain a resource list of local counsellors who are full members of NZAC or NZAP. We provide vouchers for free cervical smears for women who have a Community Services Card. We also have skilled volunteers who offer gold-coin massage or Reiki healing sessions for women on low incomes.
- **16% (487) came for a TIME OUT or to visit the OP SHOP.** We are a drop-in centre where women can pop in for a cuppa, browse in our Women's Library, meet a friend for lunch, have an informal chat with someone, just hang out, or hunt for bargains in our Op Shop. This year we have seen a continuous flow of donations to and sales from our Op Shop: sales were over \$2,000. Funds raised from the Op Shop help cover the daily running costs of the Centre (such as power, rubbish, internet, milk, tea, etc).
- **3% (98) contacted us for help with INCOME.** We are a contact point for applications to the Angel Women's Loan Fund (no-interest loans up to \$1200 for women who are starting/growing a small business or doing some sort of training/ education). We get

many queries about benefit changes and often link people with BUWT (Beneficiaries and Unwaged Workers Trust), the Nelson Budget Service, and with the Fifeshire Foundation (for grants in cases of domestic hardship). Also, due to the recession, many more people now come to the Women's Centre seeking food. We often have surplus bread, meat and fish to give away to individuals and families in need. We are very grateful for regular food donations from Tozzetti's, Sealord and Lonestar Farms.

- **3% (103) were requests for help with HOUSING issues.** This includes enquiries about emergency housing, the Bond Bank and affordable rental housing.

a. Emergency Housing: The Women's Centre works closely with the Nelson Tasman Housing Trust, who have two emergency cabins at Tahuna Beach Holiday Park. Ourselves and seven other community agencies share access to this emergency housing: Family Start, Salvation Army, St. Vincent de Paul, Victory Community Health Centre, House 44, Whakatu Marae and Women's Refuge. Each year, about 80 adults and 60 children are housed for an average stay of 10 days. This emergency housing gives women and families some breathing room so that they can secure longer-term accommodation. WIN refers most requests for emergency housing to the Nelson Women's Support social workers. The WIN Coordinator actively participates in the bi-monthly Emergency Housing Committee meetings, which guide the development of emergency housing in Nelson.

b. Bond Bank: The Women's Centre Coordinator set up the Bond Bank in 2008, which is now run by the Nelson Tasman Housing Trust (NTHT). The Bond Bank is a micro-credit scheme that provides no-interest loans up to \$750 to help people pay the bond for a new tenancy. As an NTHT Trustee, our Coordinator is involved with reviewing, approving (and sometimes declining) the bond loans.

c. Affordable Rental Housing: Women on their own and families on low incomes have a hard time finding housing they can afford in Nelson. It is not unusual for people to struggle to pay rents that are well over 50% of their weekly incomes. We provide information on where and how to look for housing, refer people to the Bond Bank, and link people to Nelson Women's Support and the Salvation Army for skilled advocacy on accommodation issues.

- **8 daytime VOLUNTEERS worked a total of 251 hours** this year. We really appreciate Deb, Clancy, Rosaria and Megan who helped with many admin tasks, did spring cleaning, ran errands, cut firewood, and worked in the garden and the Op Shop. Heartfelt thanks also to Jocelyn and Linda for donating their skills with Reiki, and to Erika for donating her massage sessions.
- **VISITS to North Island WOMEN'S CENTRES :** In September 2012, I had the privilege of visiting four other Women's Centres, in the North Shore, Auckland, Lower Hutt and Kapiti. This was a fascinating and very instructive trip. Overall, our Women's Centre compares very well with these other well-established centres: ours is an attractive, well-maintained, centrally-located Women's Centre with an impressive variety of services and offerings despite Nelson's small size. Additionally, all the Women's Centres I visited share common challenges: how to meet the complex demands of addressing the many different needs for women in the community; how to secure stable funding; how to improve their facilities.

- **CLUSTERING and COLLABORATION:** these are common buzzwords in the community sector. It is important to recognise that here at the Nelson Women's Centre we are a "cluster" and we have been for almost 20 years. The three groups based here, Women in Nelson, Nelson Women's Support and SASH, share use of the whole facility and share many related expenses, thus reducing duplication and saving money. We all share the broadband account, the new VOIP telephone system, all printing/copying, drinks and cleaning supplies, plus the costs of power, firewood, the security alarm and insurance. We look forward to many more years of working well together.

Financial Summary:

Women in Nelson has built up a diverse mix of funding sources. We are especially grateful for the ongoing support of NZ Lottery Grants Board, Canterbury Community Trust, COGS and Nelson City Council. We also really appreciate the community support that makes our fundraising events successful.

WIN's total income for the year was \$71,379 and our total expenses were \$70,024. This resulted in a modest surplus of \$1,355.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the WIN Collective Members, Gail, Anna, Elena, Heather, Liz and Maree for their support. I also want to thank my co-workers Deanne, Kathleen, Lyn, Christine, Sarah-Jane and Sinnet for their heartfelt work and good humour this year. We all of us make the Nelson Women's Centre a good place to be.

Please see the attached charts for further information on WIN's finances for the year.

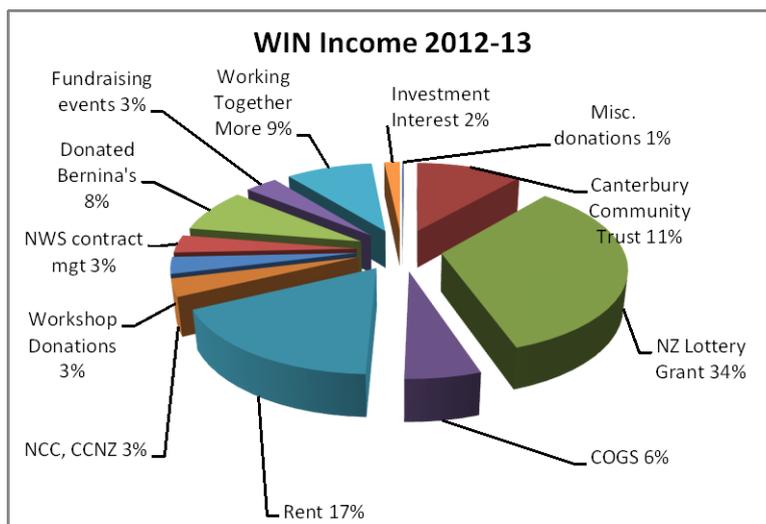
Submitted by:

Carrie Mozena
Coordinator, Women in Nelson
at the Nelson Women's Centre

Women in Nelson Funding Summary 2012-13

Income:

Lion Foundation	-\$ 120
Canterbury Community Trust	\$ 8,000
NZ Lottery Grants Board	\$ 24,000
COGS	\$ 4,000
Rent (from SASH & NWS)	\$ 12,480
Workshop Grants: NCC, CCNZ	\$ 2,350
Workshop Donations	\$ 2,238
NWS Contract Management	\$ 2,400
Value of donated Bemina's	\$ 5,908
Fundraising Events	\$ 2,443
Working Together More Fund	\$ 6,500
Investment Interest & WIN subs	\$ 1,180
Total Income:	\$ 71,379



Expenses:

Wages (incl Kiwisaver)	\$ 50,736
Overheads	\$ 8,671
Workshops: tutors/materials/adverts	\$ 3,639
Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 1,922
Fundraising Expenses	\$ 1,071
Depreciation	\$ 1,900
Supervision, Training, Travel	\$ 2,085
Total Expenses:	\$ 70,024
Surplus (Deficit) for Year:	\$ 1,355

