



# ANNUAL REPORT 2023



**NELSON WOMEN'S CENTRE**  
TE WHARE ĀWHINA MŌ NGĀ WĀHINE PUAWAI

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# GOVERNANCE REPORT

## **Tēnā Koutou Wāhine Mā o Te Whare Āwhina mō Ngā Wāhine Puawai**

### **Welcome to Nelson Women's Centre AGM**

You will find that the picture on our current Annual report doesn't quite match how the Centre looks today. This past year has been one of transformation, change and renewal for the Nelson Women's Centre Te Whare Āwhina Mō Ngā Wāhine Puawai. We have lost our long established funding contract with Oranga Tamariki for our Social Work services towards the end of 2022 and have worked even harder on trying to fill the gap – one of many challenges to follow throughout the year. Simultaneously, we got together to brainstorm ideas around the focus of our work in accordance with our Strategic Plan which had already been overhauled earlier in 2022. Our goal is to focus on and support "Women in Change" with change affecting any women at some stage in her life. We want to ensure that any woman in our community who goes through a new or challenging phase in her life has a place (the Women's Centre) to seek and receive the best possible support. We aim to empower all women, and provide them with options and tools to help them live their best possible lives. We do so through our Social Work and Counselling service as well as by providing food support, learning opportunities in workshops, and holding a space for women and non-binary people to come and enjoy.

Our staff and volunteers are at the heart of this service/support and our facilities are where women in change can find a safe harbour and a home away from home throughout the day. Both, NWC people and place, have gone through a lot of change over this past financial year as well. We have started extensive outside renovations, decluttered and rearranged the interior, and ended this past financial year with an entirely new team of staff and governance. We were lucky enough to receive funding for our renovation projects earlier in 2022 to make our Centre more accessible, increase useable outdoor space, future-proof the outside of the building as well as add edible and ornamental plant features for everyone to share and enjoy. We are very happy with the result that wouldn't have been possible without the support of businesses, volunteers and staff.

While project funding keeps being readily accessible to non-profit organisations like us, steady and sufficient operational funding remains of ongoing concern. To run a community centre like ours, comprising of general support, social work and counselling services as well as regular workshop offerings, takes a whole village. The upkeep of the Centre alone requires sufficient time and money, let alone coordinating and running all of our services. Due to financial constraints

and with the primary goal of keeping our doors open for women who go through change, we have cut back on staff by not replacing vacancies in this past financial year and are currently operating on 2.5 FTE over five staff. Simultaneously, we have increased our fundraising efforts and looked at different funding sources, discussed alternative approaches to operating and made decisions to enable us to continue operating.

We have big plans for the years ahead, including a bigger focus on the mental and physical wellbeing of women and non-binary people in our community. We see a gap in the current care for women's overall health and want to contribute toward closing this gap in collaboration with existing providers. We want to improve access to information and support around women's health and wellbeing in our community and aim at being the central hub for "all things women" in Nelson.

We are proud of the achievements of the whole NWC team of staff and volunteers over this challenging past year and are looking forward to new opportunities. Our heartfelt thank you goes to all of them. The ongoing support of volunteers, supporters, sponsors and funders is crucial for the future of the Nelson Women's Centre and despite a challenging global environment, we are hopeful that together we will be able to overcome the challenges and continue supporting the women of Nelson.

*"Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek." – Barack Obama*

**Arohanui.**

**NWC Governance Committee**  
**30 November 2023**

# CENTRE MANAGER'S REPORT

During the year, we have had massive changes – in particular, in terms of people involved, the looks of the Centre and our funding base. We have started new initiatives, increased collaborative efforts with other organisations and have started on improving our visibility. Over 3,300 women have visited our Centre and used our services between July 2022 and June 2023. Our Counsellors and Social Workers have helped more than 200 women improve their mental and overall wellbeing. We have held 45 workshops, spanning more than 80 individual sessions, which were attended by over 300 wāhine.

## **Te Tangata - Our People**

### **Staff**

We farewelled our previous Manager, Anna Mae, in September 2022, our Administration Assistant, Lyn, in November 2022, our Finance Administrator, Rechelle, in January 2023 and our popular Social Worker, Joanne, in her well-deserved retirement in March 2023. Most of the team have carried the Nelson Women's Centre through the challenging times of the global COVID-pandemic and we are thankful for their commitment and valuable contribution to our organisation. Carrying a community support Centre during times of increased global stress is a mammoth task.

We now move forward with a new dynamic team of Manager, Maria, who joined us in October 2022; our Centre Support Admin and Project Manager, Tara, who is on board since November 2022; our Social Worker, Dana, who joined NWC in May 2023 (and Nita from Nov 2023) as well as our Counselling Coordinator, Cath, who has been with us since 2021 and our Cleaner, Lisa, who is our longest-standing staff member of 13 years, as well as our hardworking volunteer Counsellors and other Volunteers. All staff and volunteers go above and beyond their time commitment and duties to ensure that the Women's Centre continues to be a place of support and empowerment for Women across our community.

### **Governance**

The Nelson Women's Centre is governed by a committee of a minimum number of 4 non-paid members (as of June 2023, a minimum of 6 members up until June 2023).

Over the past year, a few governance members have left the team due to a variety of reasons, including ongoing health concerns. We have managed to fill the gaps and are very pleased to move forward with a mixed Governance Committee, including: Jo Simpson (who is leaving,

sadly), Clare Fairbrother, Jan Henderson, Angela Tait, Laurie Knight, Liz van Beek and Caitlin Chapman.

We farewelled Laura Tinnelly, Kate Morrison, Penny Molnar, Maree Dunlop, Becs McEwan and Astrid Sayer (our Youth in Governance member). We particularly enjoyed having Astrid as a youth representative on governance and we are hoping to reconnect with the Youth in Governance programme in the future. We are very grateful to our Governance members, past and present, for their continued investment in and dedication to the women in Nelson.

### **Members**

We have continuously improved our newsletter and online presence (facebook and website) to reach an increasing number of community members and have extended our offerings for our members. Members of the Nelson Women's Centre are not only eligible to participate in decision-making processes at our collective meetings (AGM and SGM's) but also receive special discounts on workshops and get the first draw to other special offerings of NWC. We are very proud of a 200% increase of our membership base over the past year from around 50 to over 140 members.

Our members are the foundation of our organisation and it is important to us that we continue to be as responsive to them and our community as possible. We held a well-attended **Special General Meeting in June 2023**. It was a lovely evening sitting around the fire: a great way to encourage new thought and strategies, and also to get to know each other. Members were able to raise issues, discuss matters as a group and share ideas. We discussed many issues, such as how to encourage more members to make the Centre more visible and to celebrate our relationships with other groups. We approved Constitutional changes: reducing the minimum numbers of Governance members and the quorum required for meetings, and a small change to the Centre's name to comply with legal requirements. We also discussed a proposed increase in membership fees and a tiered approach, which will be implemented in 2024. A Special General Meeting is a way for all members to raise any suggestions they may have to strengthen our Centre as a vibrant place for all women.

### **Social Work and Counselling**

Over the past financial year, we have reorganised our Social Work service. We started with two Social Workers and one Social Work student in the middle of 2022 and have finished the past financial year with one part-time Social Worker (due to funding limitations). Our Social Work support is now appointment-based with time allocated depending on the presenting issue and recurring individual work available.

We were fortunate to have 9 volunteer Counsellors offering their services to women needing counselling support over the course of the year. Counselling sessions were offered at \$5 per session for up to 10 sessions per person. Most of our volunteer counsellors are NMIT students during their 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year of studies, some have already finished their studies and donate their time to NWC. Our Counsellors and Social Worker(s) work closely together to offer the best possible wrap-around service and ensure that clients are matched with the appropriate support.

### Te Whare Āwhina – Our place

True to our mission: “To create a place where all women in Nelson Whakatū-Tasman can connect, celebrate and participate in a safe and supportive environment.” we have upgraded our Centre over the past year. Thanks to funding from the Rātā Foundation, the Lotteries Commission, Nelson and Tasman District Councils, the Soroptimists and individual supporters, we were able to put parts of the landscape plans that were donated to us by Meadows Landscape into practice. Local businesses, including RenovateMe, Brumwell Painting, Dean’s Nursery and Zones Landscaping supported our outdoor and home improvement project and showed a great commitment to community collaboration. The re-planting of our garden beds was only possible with the help of many volunteers and the engagement of one particular wāhine: Ami Kennedy. Ami has put hours of free work into the planning and implementation of our new garden planting. The result is a well-rounded mix of semi-formal plantings in the front of our property including a corner of flowers to be picked throughout the year, a native garden and veggie and herb beds in the private area of our garden space. We hope that generations to come will benefit from these new developments.



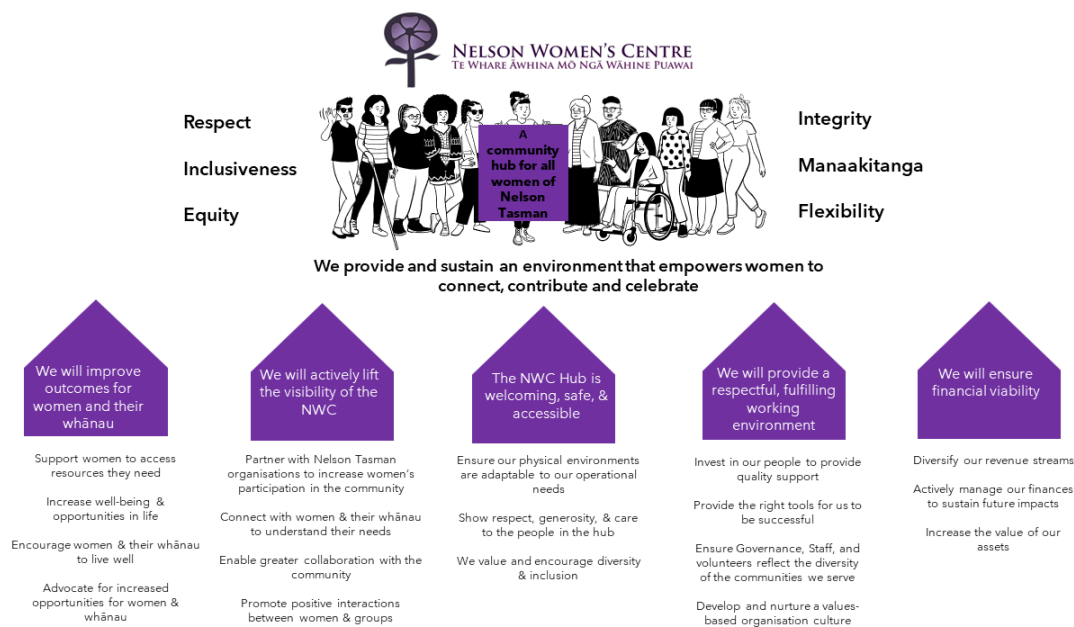
Our new

spacious back garden will allow for more women and their children to enjoy some time out in a

safe and welcoming environment. A paved area under our feijoa tree will round off the exterior renovations in early 2024.

We are planning on updating the interior of our whare Āwhina as a next step to improve access to toilets, and maintain a healthy and positive environment for staff, volunteers and visitors.

## Te mahere rautaki – Our strategic plan



Our Strategic Plan is alive and well. We use our Strategic Plan to guide us in moving forward and to keep goals in our sights. For this reason, we held several workshops to streamline and enhance our Strategic Plan. In the first half of 2022, under Maree Dunlop's guidance and with a professional facilitator, we had a fantastic day at the Mosaic Theatre in the Hub, Tahunanui. About 30-40 women attended and our Strategic Plan began its journey. Following on from this day, Jo Simpson generously gave her time for three workshops for all members to attend to those never-ending questions: "why are we here", "what do we want to achieve", and the big question, "what do women want to see happening at the Centre" to ensure that our mission and our operations are in line with current needs. Big thanks to Jo for bringing her inspiration, professionalism, generosity and tireless energy to our shores.

## Manaakitanga – Hospitality & Events



### **Clothing Sale**

We held a Boot Sale in Richmond in July 2022. Many thanks to Philippa Orphan who spent a lot of time mending garments, cleaning shoes and coming up with bright ideas for the sale. Great networks were formed as many women came to us speaking about how the Women's Centre has helped them over the years.

In September last year, alongside a rugby match at Trafalgar Park, we held a Monster Sale of clothing in our garden. It was great fun. We used our brand new BBQ – thanks to Mitre 10 and the chefs, Anna Mae and her husband – and had a coffee cart.

### **55+ group & Wāhine connect**

In early 2023, we established a regular offering for women 55 years and older, led by our Social Worker, Joanne. The group went to different places throughout our region to explore, exchange and actively engage in new activities with other women. The 55+ group has led to the establishment of the wāhine connect initiative – an opportunity for women to meet and connect over a shared activity, such as walks, guided tours or talks. Due to short staffing in consequence of limited funding, we had to put a hold on our regular wāhine connect meeting but will be back with new initiatives in 2024.

### **X-Mas Lunch 2022**



More than 20 women gathered in December 2023 to enjoy a shared lunch and celebrate the Christmas season.

### **International Women's Day**

We celebrated International Women's Day at the Centre on March 8, 2023. It was a day to reflect on women's achievements, celebrate together and gather around some shared kai.



We announced the new names of our rooms after New Zealand women who have impacted the history of our country with their meaningful contribution. Members had previously voted on who to choose out of a number of fantastic women. The winners include Jacinda Ardern, Helen Clark and Georgina Beyer and others which can be seen when visiting the Centre or booking a room with us. We have also updated our room hire policy, terms and rates and installed a lockbox outside of the Centre for easier and longer access.

### **Quiz Night**

Our friends from the Nelson Soroptimists organised a fun quiz night to raise funds for us on March 8, 2023 in celebration of International Women's Day. The well-organised and highly entertaining event was sold-out within a very short period of time. Raffles, spot prizes and a lovingly assembled catering complemented a night to remember which raised \$6,061.27 to support us with our costs. We are extremely grateful for all the support the Soroptimists have given us over the years and in particular in 2023.

### **NWC Book Club and Rebel Knitters**

Our Centre is open to different groups of women throughout the year – individual rooms, the garden space and/or the whole Centre can be booked for gatherings of different sorts.

One of the regular groups using our space is the **NWC book club**. The book club, coordinated by Hilary Mitchell, meets monthly to discuss books that have a set monthly topic.

At the start of the year, we hosted the **Rebel Knitters** – an initiative to form connections over the shared enjoyment of knitting. The weekly meetings were part of the 3<sup>rd</sup> element project, initiated by Stef Naldi and Linda Dimitrievska.

## **Ā Pūtea – Our funding and future plans**

### ***Funding***

Of course, we are not able to provide our services to members and others without a solid financial base. The past financial year had a significant funding cut in store for us. Our long-established contract with Oranga Tamariki has been discontinued and the Covid-subsidies that bridged the Centre over the past few years has run out, all while a global economic recession has led to increased costs for everyone. We have undertaken efforts to stabilise our funding base and save costs in all areas. However, the funding landscape is not likely to improve substantially over the coming months, leading us to rethink the way we run the Centre.

### ***Op Shop closure***

Limited staffing due to limited funding was one major factor in our recent decision to close the Op Shop. This was a difficult decision to make, as many hours of hard work by many volunteers have kept the Op Shop going over the years. It was initially set up to outfit women about to embark on careers. We used to love fitting women out in suitable attire to enable them to embark on new chapters in their lives.

We would like to thank volunteers, past and present, for their enormous help in keeping the Op Shop operating. Phillipa Orphan and Maryanne Cairns spent many hours in the Helen Clark Room emptying dozens of bags and sorting items. Maryanne gave us shelving and Peter Chapman manufactured the gorgeous bright pink 'coat hanger stand' which stands proudly in the Op Shop. However, the Op Shop produces an average income of only \$60 per week, and there is now a surplus of secondhand clothing stores in Nelson. It has been decided that we should earn more income from renting out this great space to a tenant with a small business that is compatible with the Centre's values.

### ***Mental and physical wellbeing focus***

We have been committed to supporting women from all walks of life with their mental wellbeing and towards achieving their goals and aspirations. We have also noticed that there is a gap around the physical health aspect for women, such as information around hormonal changes within the female body, prevention of and care after disease and everything in between. We are aiming to collaborate with other organisations and individuals to inform, educate and raise awareness and help women access information and knowledge around their physical wellbeing.

Despite the financial struggles, we are committed to continuing to provide the best possible service to the wāhine of Whakatū Nelson. Our newly expanded dynamic Governance and our hardworking Management team are looking forward to making great things happen, increasing fundraising efforts and ensuring we are visible in our community.

We are grateful for all the support we receive from so many individuals and groups which helps us help others.

**Ngā manaakitanga (with best wishes),  
Maria Busching (Centre Manager) & the NWC team**

# TREASURER'S REPORT

## HIGHLIGHTS



## Statement of Financial Performance

### Nelson Women's Centre Te Whare Āwhina Mō Ngā Wāhine Puawai Incorporated For the year ended 30 June 2023

	NOTES	2023	2022
<b>Revenue</b>			
Donations, fundraising and other similar revenue	1	178,362	111,132
Fees, subscriptions and other revenue from members	1	1,049	335
Revenue from providing goods or services	1	28,259	37,460
Interest, dividends and other investment revenue	1	1,521	765
Other revenue	1	959	78,247
<b>Total Revenue</b>		<b>210,150</b>	<b>227,938</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Volunteer and employee related costs	2	157,979	181,323
Costs related to providing goods or service	2	78,863	37,431
Other expenses	2	6,711	7,631
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>243,553</b>	<b>226,385</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year</b>		<b>(33,403)</b>	<b>1,553</b>

## TREASURER'S REPORT CONTINUED

## Statement of Financial Position

### Nelson Women's Centre Te Whare Āwhina Mō Ngā Wāhine Puawai Incorporated As at 30 June 2023

	NOTES	30 JUN 2023	30 JUN 2022
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Bank accounts and cash	3	107,614	70,421
Debtors and prepayments	3	14,658	316
Other Current Assets	3	34,022	58,350
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>156,295</b>	<b>129,087</b>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>			
Property, Plant and Equipment	5	320,396	322,159
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>		<b>320,396</b>	<b>322,159</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>476,691</b>	<b>451,246</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Creditors and accrued expenses	4	3,131	10,076
Employee costs payable	4	7,710	15,083
Grants in Advance		109,879	36,713
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>120,720</b>	<b>61,871</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>120,720</b>	<b>61,871</b>
<b>Total Assets less Total Liabilities (Net Assets)</b>		<b>355,971</b>	<b>389,375</b>
<b>Accumulated Funds</b>			
Accumulated surpluses or (deficits)	6	(6,656)	26,747
Reserves	6	362,627	362,627
<b>Total Accumulated Funds</b>		<b>355,971</b>	<b>389,375</b>

## TREASURER'S REPORT CONTINUED

## Statement of Cash Flows

### Nelson Women's Centre Te Whare Āwhina Mō Ngā Wāhine Puawai Incorporated For the year ended 30 June 2023

	2023	2022
<b>Cash Flows from Operating Activities</b>		
Donations, fundraising and other similar receipts	240,847	147,805
Fees, subscriptions and other receipts from members	1,049	335
Receipts from providing goods or services	28,259	37,460
Interest, dividends and other investment receipts	597	791
Cash receipts from other operating activities	959	78,247
GST	(9,690)	7,964
Payments to suppliers and employees	(247,068)	(214,838)
<b>Total Cash Flows from Operating Activities</b>	<b>14,954</b>	<b>57,763</b>
<b>Cash Flows from Investing and Financing Activities</b>		
Receipts from sale of investments	93,200	-
Payments to acquire property, plant and equipment	(2,695)	-
Payments to purchase investments	(68,265)	(791)
Cash flows from other investing and financing activities	-	-
<b>Total Cash Flows from Investing and Financing Activities</b>	<b>22,240</b>	<b>(791)</b>
<b>Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash</b>	<b>37,194</b>	<b>56,972</b>
<b>Bank Accounts and Cash</b>		
Opening cash	70,421	13,449
Net change in cash for period	37,194	56,972
Closing cash	107,614	70,421

# THANK YOU



## 2023 Donors and Supporters

- Community Action Nelson**
- Dean's Nursery**
- Fresh As Bakery**
- Fresh Choice Nelson**
- Global Soap**
- Good Bitches Baking**
- Kai Rescue**
- Kmart Richmond**
- Tincan Wines**
- Library Knitters**
- Lone Star Farms Ltd**
- Mountain Warehouse**
- Nelson Tasman Methodist Parish**
- Rachel Hampton Fine Art**
- Soroptimist International Nelson & Waimea**
- The IT Department**
- Victory Community Centre**
- Zones Landscapes**

