

2023 - 2024  
**ANNUAL  
REPORT**  
THE YWCA OF HAMILTON



# 23-24

# Strategy 2022-2025

Every Woman in the Waikato is confident, connected to opportunities, and supported to be the best version of themselves.

## Who we will reach

### YOUNG WOMEN AND THE COMMUNITY

Including high school and tertiary aged girls, young women in the workplace, young mums, LGBTQIA+ community, ethnically diverse women.

### PEOPLE WHO USE OUR SERVICES

Including people who use our accommodation services, meals, and venue hire.

### OUR PEOPLE

Including Staff, Board Members, Members of the YWCA Hamilton, Volunteers and other stakeholders.

### WOMEN WHO NEED OUR SUPPORT

Including women who experience gender bias and or are unfairly prejudiced.

## Outcomes

### OUR PEOPLE WILL BE:

Confident  
Connected  
Resilient

Have Opportunities  
Treated fairly  
Supported

## What We Do

### CONNECT

Collaborate with others to offer activities for young women and services for people to be all they can be.

### CREATE SPACE

We provide a space, both virtually and physically, where people can come, find inspiration, and feel safe and supported to freely express who they are.

### AMPLIFY VOICES.

Listen, advocate for, and amplify the voices of women in the Waikato.

### LEAD BY EXAMPLE

We embody our values and empower others to do the same. We want to operate in a Te Tiriti honouring way, modelling the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi.



# 23-24

# Staff & Board

As of 30/06/2024



## PERMANENT STAFF

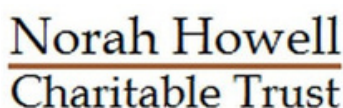
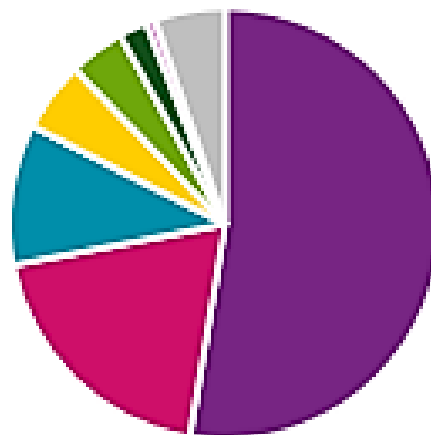
- Riikka Anderson - General Manager
- Hema Palapallil - Social Enterprise Manager & Financial Coordinator
- Olivia-Leigh Mehrrens - Activities & Communications Coordinator
- Paula Johnson- Mobile Meals Coordinator
- Cassidy Vander Westhuizen - Chef
- Bronwyn Pene - Cook & Duty Manager
- Allie Gray-Ure - Duty Manager
- Dreshyamol Nidhin - Duty Manager
- Aimee Constable - Duty Manager
- Josie Frankhouse - Housekeeper
- Ruth Davis - Housekeeper

## BOARD

- Jenni Scanlon-Murphy - President
- Roxanne Holdsworth - Vice President
- Tarran Frost - Treasurer
- Lisa Curtin
- Shinae Teao
- Jahvaya Wheki
- Jaime Lomas
- Charlotte Mitchell
- Ehlana Blissett
- Annika Van Driel - Board Intern

# Funders

- Lottery Community
- Trust Waikato
- WEL Energy Trust
- Hamilton City Council
- Sky City Hamilton Community Trust
- Norah Howell Charitable Trust
- COGS
- Waikato Wellbeing Project



# President's Report

23-24

Jenni Murphy-Scanlon



My first year as President has been a challenging one as we have endeavoured to respond to significant changes in our operating environment.

The post-Covid economic boom has most definitely subsided with the economy slumping but costs remaining relatively high. Changes to the Incorporated Societies Act are forcing organisations like the YWCA to review our structure and activities.

In March we held our annual strategic planning day and looked carefully at these and other changes in our environment, as well as defining what the YWCA here in Kirikiriroa Hamilton should look like in the future.

We are still working through clarifying some of these ideas and considering, with our employees, how to implement them.

An unwelcome realization from our review was that our Mobile Meals service was not viable to continue. Set up over 30 years ago as what we might now term a 'social enterprise', it was unfortunately no longer creating surpluses to fund our core activities and was unlikely to in future. In August we stopped supplying meals, with some of our customers now being looked after by the hospital Meals on Wheels service.

The most difficult part of the decision though, was the resulting disestablishment of roles. I want to sincerely thank Paula, Cassidy and Bronwyn for their stellar service and commitment to providing nutritious meals for the community and wish them all the best with their future ventures.

They were all highly valued members of the YWCA team, with the meals receiving consistently positive feedback from our customers.

An organization like the YWCA cannot function without support from a range of sources. I'd like to acknowledge our awesome staff who work hard to keep our organization running, providing a safe place for people to stay and live in our hostel, and ensuring there are activities and support available to enhance the spiritual, physical, mental and cultural well-being of young women in our community.

I also want to thank our Board members who volunteer time and energy to maintain good governance. There are many people and organisations in the community to whom we are grateful for support and encouragement, including our funders and donors without whom we could not operate.

Undoubtedly the next twelve months will provide new challenges and opportunities. We are excited to develop further our strategy and gradually implement this. We look forward to hearing from young women in our community about what they need, through the Huber Social research we recently commissioned, and finding ways to collaborate with like-minded organisations to respond to this in effective and empowering ways. You can be sure that we will continue to work hard to secure a vibrant future for the YWCA.

A portrait of Riikka Anderson, a woman with short, light-colored hair, wearing a red jacket over a patterned top and a necklace. She is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera.

# Manager's Report

23-24  
*Riikka Anderson*

Kia ora,

There is no denying that this has been a tough year for the YWCA of Hamilton: we closed down our meals service after 30 years of operations. It was the right decision for the Y, but that didn't make it any easier.

Letting go of two highly valued staff members and saying goodbye to our amazing volunteer drivers was hard.

However, good things happened as well: I am super excited about our collaboration with Huber Social to measure the subjective wellbeing of young women and non-binary people in the Waikato.

This project fits in well with our purpose of enhancing young women's spiritual, physical, mental and cultural wellbeing. The results will feed into our new strategy that will guide our work for years to come. The project has been funded by the WEL Energy Trust, Trust Waikato and the Waikato Wellbeing Project.

In addition, we have established the Y as the conveyor of organisations that work with and for young women and non-binary people in the Waikato. We carried out a survey to find out what is happening in the sector and where the gaps are. We had the first networking meeting where we explored ways how we can better collaborate for greater impact.

One of the gaps identified in the sector-wide survey was the lack of time referring to both organisations themselves but also the target audience.

This has been a challenge for us as well, as we have struggled to attract participants to our events and workshops. I hope that by basing our activities on identified needs of our target audiences and by collaborating more with others we will overcome this challenge.

I would like to acknowledge staff members who have moved on from the Y during the past year:

- Paula Johnson and Cassidy van der Westhuizen from Meals,
- Julia Roughton and Annika van Driel from Young Women's Activities,
- Sarah Phillips and Aimee Constable from Hostel and
- Lana Twizell, who oversaw our finances.

Hema Palapallil took over the finances in addition to her role as the Social Enterprise Manager.

Bronwyn Pene moved from Meals to Hostel. We have welcomed Olivia-Leigh Mehrtens (Liv) to Young Women's Activities and Dreshya Nidhin to Hostel.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our staff, Board, volunteers, funders and all others who support our work. Together we are making a difference in the lives of hundreds of people in Hamilton and the wider community.

Your contribution matters. Thank you.

Ngā mihi nui,  
Riikka Anderson, General Manager

### 100 Episodes!

Our podcast's special 100 episodes, 100 voices dinner event featured Hamilton City Mayor Paula Southgate and was a monumental celebration of women's voices!

### IWD 2024

In 2024 we celebrated IWD at HIVE11, uplifting a panel of local wahine who spoke to a full room of gathered Hamiltonians about systemic issues facing women today.

### Self Defence

This year, our partnership with Mindset Self Defence has continued to provide Hamilton wahine the chance to empower themselves through free, accessible workshops!

### Recreate & Connect

While our partnership with the Recreators reached its end this year, we finished it off strong with a variety of engaging workshops that upskilled local young women.

### Podcast

This too reached its end this year. We've since celebrated the legacy of the podcast every Friday by highlighting stand-out interviews and shouting out Julia and Shivali.

### Retreats

We've run three amazing retreats this year, each inciting a generous outpour of phenomenal feedback from attendees who's lives were positively touched by going.

### Girl's Night

The YWCA Girl's Night Activities series has created opportunities for local wahine to connect within various niches - from a Barbie watch-party to D&D workshop!





## Mobile Meals

The YWCA Meals service cook and deliver fresh and frozen meals to customers across Hamilton. Our clients want to stay in their homes, but cannot cook for themselves. The majority of our customers are elderly or have access needs. This includes mental health supported clients, Te Kohao Health funded kaumatua/kuia and people recovering after hospitalisations.

### 20328

Fresh frozen meals



## Hostel

The YWCA of Hamilton Hostel continues to provide safe and affordable accommodation close to the CBD for women and men for short, medium and long term. The YWCA is the permanent long-term home for many single residents

### 22917

Total bed nights



## Venue Hire

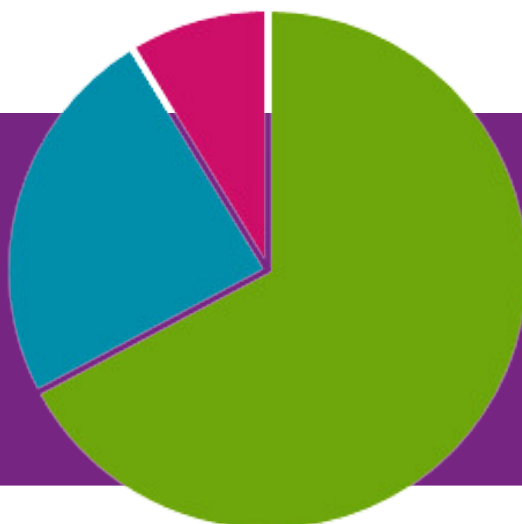
The YWCA Hall and Chapel complex is used daily. Regular hirers include, Zumba, Yoga, and Church groups. When we aren't using the commercial kitchen for the meals service, it is hired out to food start ups. Our permanent kitchen hirer Rhea Goble (Pinoplus) hires the kitchen three to five days per week.

### 2897

Hours used

## 23-24

# Revenue



Mobile Meals

Hostel

Venue Hire



# Contact Us

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