

Ynews

YWCA OF CANBERRA  SPRING 2013

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From left to right: Mary Lee, Elizabeth Broderick, Joy Burch, Susan Brennan, Rebecca Vassarotti and Arika Errington

She Leads Diploma of Management

The YWCA of Canberra launched its new leadership program She Leads, a gender-responsive Diploma of Management. It explores the unique challenges facing young women at the early stages of their career and equips them with the skills and confidence to take on leadership roles in their workplace and community.

She Leads was launched on 17 June at an evening celebration of young women's leadership at the Hyatt Hotel. Nearly 100 guests had the opportunity to listen to the personal leadership reflections of guest speakers Elizabeth Broderick, Sex Discrimination Commissioner, and Susan Brennan, World YWCA Vice President. ACT Minister Joy Burch announced the recipients of the scholarship from the YWCA of Canberra Board of Directors and the ACT Government scholarship. The formalities of the evening were closed with the official launch of She Leads by Rebecca Vassarotti, former Executive Director of the YWCA of Canberra.

The first class of She Leads Diploma of Management was held in July. This first module gave young women students an opportunity to reflect on their ideas about leadership and explore their values, strengths and leadership potential. It also provided them with the tools to view leadership through a gender lens and explore how being a woman will affect their leadership journey.

The young women students had the opportunity to listen to Libby Lloyd, human rights activist; Virginia Haussegger, journalist; Elizabeth Williamson, Executive Officer to the Secretary to the Treasury; and Ellyse Perry, elite athlete, speak about their personal leadership journeys.

This year's class is very diverse. It is composed of 17 passionate, eager and intelligent women from diverse ages, background, sector, and leadership aspirations. This has created the perfect environment for passionate debate about many topics, including leadership, values, feminism and work/life balance.

WOMEN ACHIEVING THEIR POTENTIAL

WELCOME TO YNEWS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

It is a pleasure to be writing my first YNews Executive Directors' report since my appointment to the role in July. Having worked for the organisation for the previous three years as Director of Operations, it is a privilege to be able to provide leadership and continue working towards the implementation of the strategic directions for the organisation. The YWCA of Canberra has a long legacy in the Canberra community of services delivered across Canberra and surrounding region. The organisation is in a strong position to continue meeting key milestones in our Roadmap to 2022.

With our vision of *women achieving their potential* we were very proud to have officially launched our transformative leadership program *She Leads* in June as highlighted in our cover page story. We are very fortunate to have many inspiring women leaders both locally and interstate who have given their time to share their leadership journey and experience during the course of the program. We thank all of these women for their personal contribution to fostering and inspiring us all during the program.

As we are preparing our spring edition of Ynews we do so with the announcement of the federal election date on the 7th September. Together with YWCA Australia we held our election 'speed campaigning' event on the 19th August for members to engage in the political process and provide a forum for the female candidates to present their vision for women in our community. The start of our election focus has been to encourage young women to 'put your voting glasses on' and actively participate in the democratic process, which includes checking that you're correctly enrolled to vote with the Australia Electoral Commission. With many young women moving to Canberra for work or study opportunities it is something that is easily overlooked. We are also calling for young women from Canberra to participate in the Y Correspondent project which will work through the platform of Twitter and will involve selected Y correspondents tweeting their views, commentary and thoughts on the election issues of the day. By using the @YWCAAustralia handle and the #votingglasses hash tag you can participate.

The YWCA of Canberra has identified a number of priority issues that we are seeking major political party's engagement on. They are homelessness, housing and housing affordability; violence against women and community sector viability. The YWCA of Canberra is apolitical and looks to work with all political parties to create a more fair and equitable community for all.

We welcome the announcement of the establishment of the Foundation to Prevent Violence against Women and Children on the 26th July by the Commonwealth Minister for the Status of Women, the Hon Julie Collins MP, and the Victorian Minister for Community Services, the Hon

Mary Wooldridge, MP. The YWCA of Canberra will participate in the consultation process and will make a submission on what we see as priorities in the actions to prevent violence against women and children.

The YWCA of Canberra has invested significant resources into our primary prevention of violence program *Respect, Communicate, Choose*, which assists young people in the middle school years (ages 9-12) and our *Relationship Things* resources for high school students (ages 14-17). We see this work as vital in the prevention of violence against women and have, during 2012 and 2013, been working with schools in Canberra to deliver *Respect, Communicate, Choose* program to over 540 primary school children to date. The aim of this program is to provide tools and support to develop, promote and perpetuate equal, safe and respectful relationships, with the ultimate goal of preventing violence against women. We are calling on political parties to commit to investing in these prevention programs targeted at young people and continue to establish and foster relationships with schools to co-facilitate our programs with teachers.

Providing quality and affordable community based child care in Canberra has long been a goal of the organisation and significantly contributes to organisational goals of women's economic participation. In addition to our long established employer based Family Day Care Scheme and After School Care programs we have been delivering quality long day care in Canberra for over 20 years. We were delighted to move back into our Campbell Cottage Child Care Centre after an extension and refurbishment of the centre. Campbell Cottage now presents as a modern child care facility and meets the new National Child Care Framework Guidelines. As well as welcoming back families that have been using the centre while it was relocated we are welcoming new families in our extended baby rooms and our toddlers and preschool room. The increase in capacity and upgraded facilities for children, families and staff was officially recognised and acknowledged in a ceremony during August. I would like to personally thank the families and staff who were very flexible while the centre was operating out of different premises. Children's Services is an important stream of the operational work we do in the Canberra community and the provision of quality child care needs to continue to be a shared priority and value to governments, service providers and the community.

Frances Crimmins, Executive Director



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It feels strange to be writing for the 'Spring' edition of the Ynews on a cold and drizzly Canberra day, when I'm longing for my ugg boots and a cup of hot tea. But this week I have spotted jonquils and daffodils and adorable ducklings, so it's easy to believe that warmer days are getting closer. It also feels like Spring because we have so many new beginnings and new opportunities happening at the Y.

At our latest board meeting we were excited to welcome Frances Crimmins to her first meeting as Executive Director. Recruiting an Executive Director was a major task for the Board this year, and it's fantastic to have appointed someone so committed to the values of the organisation and so enthusiastic about our vision for the future of the Y and the Canberra community. Frances has been with the Y for three years in the role of Director of Operations and in that time has strengthened business and organisational processes and led a range of initiatives. We look forward to working with Frances in her new role, and to the many exciting plans for the organisation in the coming months.

Another sign of Spring is our preparations for our Annual General Meeting (AGM) in October, which marks the start of a new board year. As a membership organisation, members are pivotal to the way we operate – we are accountable to our members' and the AGM is a chance to share our activities and our achievements. At the AGM, the membership also elects members to join the board and to take on office bearer positions (President, Vice-Presidents and Treasurer). Importantly, the AGM is a great chance to meet other members and to feel

part of the Y, not only as part of the Canberra community but also as part of a national and international movement of women and girls.

Finally, we've had new beginnings through the start of our leadership program, She Leads. This program is a transformative leadership journey for young women or those looking for a renewed learning experience and support in their leadership journey. The ten month gender-responsive program will explore the topics of Leadership and Me, Leadership in the Workplace, and Leading Change. The program is based on a combination of theoretical frameworks, analytical thinking and practical skill development.

I have been so proud to see such amazing women getting involved with the YWCA of Canberra, joining our community and taking important steps on their leadership journey.

Ruth Pitt, President



CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR SPRING 2013

Thursday 10 October

Film Screening of 'I am a Girl'

Friday 11 October:

International Day of the Girl Child

Sunday 13-19 October:

Anti-Poverty Week

Monday 21 October:

Annual General Meeting

Friday 25 October:

Reclaim the Night

Friday 25 October- 8 March 2014

Summer of Respect

Friday 25 November:

International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

For more details of these events visit: www.ywca-canberra.org.au/upcoming_events

SOCIAL MEDIA

Join us on Facebook and Twitter to keep up to date with all our activities and events, advocacy campaigns and current issues.



@YWCACanberra



YWCA of Canberra

Acknowledgement of Country

The YWCA of Canberra proudly recognises the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to own and control their cultures, and pays our respect around these rights. The YWCA of Canberra acknowledges the need to respect and encourage the diversity of Indigenous cultures and aims to respect Indigenous worldviews, lifestyles and customary laws.

GREAT YDEAS PROJECTS

WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP

Claire, Alisa and Elaine are committed to achieving social reform and have spent time volunteering in the community sector, with a focus on criminal justice. Receiving a Great Ydeas Small Grant provided the opportunity for two women to attend the Australasian Youth Justice Conference, 20-22 May 2013.



From the 20–22 May, we attended the Australasian Youth Justice Conference (AYJC) held at the National Convention Centre, Canberra. The conference brought together some of the brightest minds in youth criminal justice from Australia and the Pacific. As university students, attending a conference of this magnitude and importance was an amazing experience, and only possible with the generous support of the YWCA of Canberra's small grant.

For three days, we listened to, and participated in a wide variety of lectures, seminars and workshops, on topics ranging from risk factors leading youth into crime, how they should best be handled once they have come into contact with the criminal justice system and the latest ideas on how to encourage desistance from criminal behaviour.

During the breaks, we had the opportunity to engage with individuals on their presentations and experiences working with young people in the field, or on their research.

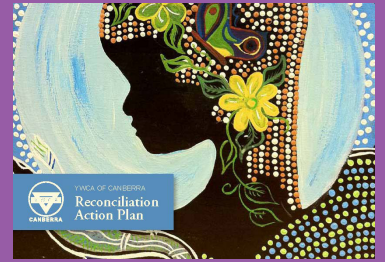
A personal highlight was talking with the New Zealand contingent (including Justice Becroft – the Principle Youth Court Judge of New Zealand) about the differences in management of youth offending in Australia and New Zealand. One of the complications Australian presenters often raised was the issue of clashing state policies, and the need for a unified approach. In New Zealand,

there is no state system as in Australia, and so their centralised policies greatly enhanced service provision to young people. This seemed especially pertinent to the exponential rise in young women offenders.

Since attending the AYJC, we have shared our experiences with the Australian National University Prisoners Advocacy student group and Prisoners Aid ACT. The networking established through socialising with ACT based groups has opened doorways for our legal careers. We look forward to working with the YWCA of Canberra in the future.

Australasian Youth Justice Conference -
Claire Natoli, Alisa Draskovic and Elaine Li,
2013 Great Ydeas recipients.

OUR RAP JOURNEY



The YWCA of Canberra has been committed to reconciliation throughout its long history.

As we come to the end of our second Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), staff across all program areas will take time to reflect on how they are working towards reconciliation within their programs. Staff teams will also identify priorities for how they can continue to integrate the vision for reconciliation into the work of the organisation.

We are excited about the next phase of our RAP journey, and look forward to sharing our new RAP with members, supporters and the Canberra community in 2014.

BREAKING THE CYCLE

Breaking the Cycle is a program that works with families who access the services of the YWCA of Canberra's Housing and Social Inclusion Unit. The program offers specialised support, provided by Children's Behavioural Worker, to children and parents experiencing homelessness and responds to issues such as trauma, family breakdown, family violence, mental health issues and substance abuse.

The Breaking the Cycle Program has developed and facilitated a ten week program called "Understanding Parenting". The program combines the attachment theory of Circle of Security Parenting and practical strategies and techniques to assist with every day parenting issues. This program has been run five times since the beginning of the program. Two of the groups were run in collaboration with the Northside Women's housing program, and the Gugan Gulwan Indigenous Woman's Group who provide support for disadvantaged young mothers.

We look forward to continuing building strong community networks with Child and Family Centres and health agencies such Therapy ACT, Community Services, Child Care providers, Schools, and Youth Support Services to assist families who are at risk of homelessness to reconnect with their community.

VISIT FROM YWCA ARGENTINA

WORLD YWCA

The YWCA of Canberra was pleased by the visit of Silvina Gerbaldo from the YWCA Argentina and Juliana Chat Agurto from the YWCA Chile. For three days in May, we shared our experience working with the Y and the communities we belong to.

My days in Canberra turned out to be an incredible experience. I visited the different programs the YWCA of Canberra runs and learn't about its management. From the first day I was impressed by the amount of people working in the organisation, their warmth and solidarity, the office they have, the distribution and management of tasks, and most of all, the successful programs they implement.



Thieu Hue Lam, Board member and Ernst & Young staff member

I really felt welcomed by all the staff at the YWCA of Canberra. We had time to meet the Board members, staff members and volunteers, and were able to exchange experiences and share the different realities of countries as diverse as Argentina, Chile and Australia.

In my country, 100 per cent of the work is voluntary, which is why we face multiple challenges. However, I learnt in Canberra that there are many ways to generate mechanisms for self-funding and income, including partnerships with the Government and other civil society actors. I also gained skills on how to involve the bigger community through various programs, focusing on different age groups and community needs.



Silvina Gerbaldo pictured left with Lina Silva, Corporate Relations Manager

I learn't about the many different programs the YWCA of Canberra runs such as the Reconciliation Action Plan, *Respect, Communicate, Choose*, the Older Women's Life Stages, Encore, She Leads, and the Great Ydeas Small Grants program. I also heard about all the services offered to children from an early age to primary school, and participated in the Planting Day, a gardening event at Lady Heydon House in Spence, a suburb of Canberra.

The most amazing program, and the one I admired the most, was the Mura-Lanyon Youth and Community Centre for the amount of services it offers to the community, all integrated and delivered in one site.

I deeply appreciate World YWCA for the opportunity I had to visit the Y of Canberra. I would like to thank all the staff at the YWCA of Canberra for opening the doors of their fabulous organisation to me and demonstrate that it is possible to make things happen when there are ideas – big or small, drive, leadership and management.

Thank you for being my mentors to help the YWCA of Argentina grow with new projects.

Silvina Mariel Gerbaldo
YWCA Córdoba
ARGENTINA

CAMPBELL COTTAGE

Children's Services

Over the years Campbell Cottage has had its share of challenges. There was the time that Kevin Rudd came to visit with only 45 minutes notice. And the time our next door neighbour accused us of playing loud and inappropriate music for the children, when we were only dancing to Bob the Builder.

But by far the biggest challenge that the children, families and educators of Campbell Cottage have had to face has been the extension and renovation of our beloved centre, and our relocation to a number of temporary facilities throughout 2012/13.



During the last 15 months, we have faced it all. Two winters without appropriate heating. Swarms of bees and ants invading our yards and play rooms. Delay after delay and move after move after move. And sadly we also faced the loss of one of our smallest and, tragically, terminally ill children.

But on Thursday the 15th of August, this chapter in Campbell Cottage's history drew to a close as the children and families, educators and friends of the Cottage came together to celebrate the 20th anniversary and re-opening of our centre. The night was amazing and enjoyed by all! Kerrie Heath, a parent who has had four children at the centre over the past 15 years delivered a beautiful and emotional speech. Frances Crimmins

Photos left and top right :Campbell Cottage Educators and children; bottom right: New Campbell Cottage facilities



reminded us all of the importance of early childhood education and care with her supportive and inspiring words. We came together to celebrate all that we have achieved, share in the centre's history and look forward to the future in what is most definitely a beautiful new centre.

Many thanks need to be given to YWCA of Canberra board and management for the unwavering support we received during the last 15 months. Thanks also to the Community Services Directorate and to Capital Projects for our amazing new centre!



Most importantly, thank you to the children, the families and the educators who, despite difficult times, have remained positive and supportive throughout it all. I hope you are as excited about the future at Campbell Cottage as I am.

Erin Cooper,
Campbell Cottage Director

RECOGNISE

Recognise is a peoples' movement to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in our Constitution.

Recognise is part of Reconciliation Australia, and is governed by the Board of Reconciliation Australia.

As part of Canberra's community sector, the YWCA of Canberra supported the Recognise movement by hosting a panel discussion of impressive local women who are passionate about the cause:

Recognise's Misha Schubert, Director of Communications and young campaigner Charlee-Sue Frail.

For further information about this movement, please go to

www.recognise.org.au



TAKE ACTION

Join us now. Support, lobby, donate or volunteer. Get involved!

SPEAK OUT

The YWCA of Canberra is vocal and active on issues that are important to women and you can be too.

SPEAK UP

Contribute your ideas for creating social change and improving services and opportunities for women in the Canberra community.

SUPPORT AND EMPOWER YOUNG WOMEN

The YWCA is one of the oldest and largest women's organisations in the world and has been a driving force in creating opportunities for young women in Canberra since 1929.

SUPPORT OUR WORK IN THE CANBERRA COMMUNITY

We believe all members of the community have the right to contribute and share equally in the benefits of the community's social, cultural and economic development.



WANT TO KEEP RECEIVING YNEWS?

Then please ensure your membership is up to date!

PERSONAL DETAILS

Name

Address

Ph Home

Ph Work

Fax

Mobile

Date of Birth

Occupation

Email Address

DIVERSITY

The YWCA of Canberra is committed to ensuring the diversity of our membership and responding to the specific needs of our members. If you identify as a member of one or more of the following groups we invite you to share this information with us.

Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander

Person with a disability

Person from a culturally or linguistically diverse background

MEMBERSHIP DETAILS

New Member

Renewing Member

1 Year Membership

2 Year Membership

FULL VOTING MEMBER (per year)

AFFILIATE MEMBERS (per year)

Women 18 +

\$35

Men & Women

\$25

Concession*

\$15

Membership Payment: \$

* Concessions are available to health card holders, students, pensioners and seniors.

DONATIONS

Your tax deductible donation (\$2 or more) will assist in the work of the YWCA of Canberra.

Donation: \$

PAYMENT AND DECLARATION

Cheque or money order made payable to the YWCA of Canberra

In person at the YWCA of Canberra Central Office

Credit Card

Mastercard

Visa

Card Number

Expiry Date

Name of Cardholder

I apply for membership of the YWCA of Canberra. I accept the aims and objectives of the association and agree to be bound by the terms of its constitution, which is available upon request. The YWCA of Canberra's membership is renewable on 1 July each year. Applications received after 1 April each year will be applied to forthcoming financial year.

Signed

Date

This document satisfies the requirements of a valid tax invoice once payment is made. Please keep a copy for your records. All amounts are GST inclusive. YWCA of Canberra ABN: 48 008 389 151

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YWCA of Canberra

GPO Box 767, Canberra ACT 2601

Fax to:

02 6175 9991

Or join online at www.ywca-canberra.org.au/membership