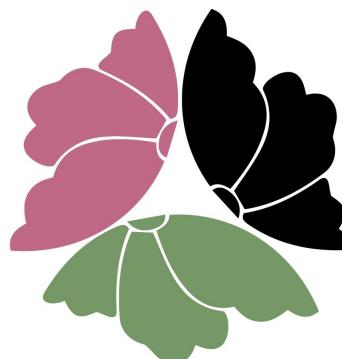


Te Wāhi Wāhine o Tāmaki Makaurau

AUCKLAND WOMEN'S CENTRE



**Promoting equity, safety
and well-being for all women**

Annual Report 2021

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Commitments



Vision

A society which has achieved equity for women.

Mission Statement

Te Wāhi Wāhine o Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland Women's Centre enables the well-being of women, especially women's empowerment and safety.

Philosophy

We recognise Māori as tangata whenua, and are committed to working from a feminist perspective that understands that different systems of oppression intersect.

Our values-based culture

We are committed to good practice, high ethical standards, collaboration, community development, evaluation and sustainability.

Te Wāhi Wāhine o Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland Women's Centre is:

- ◆ A friendly place to get involved and to belong
- ◆ Open to women of every ethnicity, income, culture, sexual orientation, age and ability
- ◆ Responsive to today's challenges
- ◆ Trusted in your community for over 40 years

2020 - 2025 Strategic Directions:

1. **Whakatoa (Empowerment)**

All women become more able to speak up for themselves and participate in community, enhancing their wellbeing and improving social equity. AWC models organisational empowerment and inclusivity of all women in its internal decision-making and activities.

2. **Kia whakanuia ngā tāngata whenua (Recognising tangata whenua)**

Māori hold unique status as first peoples of Aotearoa. Our work with wāhine Māori will address persistent inequalities affecting Māori communities.

3. **Kia haumaru te noho, wāhine mai, tamariki mai (Safety)**

New Zealand has unacceptable rates of violence against women. We facilitate women's safety at the individual, cultural and legislative levels.

4. **Kia whakanuia ngā take wāhine (Raising awareness)**

Our work sparks community conversations about experiences of inequality and about diverse visions of social and gender equality, including the experiences and aspirations of Māori, Pasifika, migrant, disabled and Rainbow women.

Governance Board Report

By Katherine McAlpine, Chair

We began the year with some sense of security by having an effective governmental elimination strategy and a delightfully free summer twelve months ago. The short sharp shut down in March took us by surprise but we were through it in seven or so weeks and the centre staff already had skills to nimbly shift service online. As you know Delta had other plans for us.

Through 2021 and all its zoom meetings and virtual pivoting, the board has worked on two key areas, a new format for senior leadership at the centre and continuing our Tiriti journey in earnest.

Our centre manager Leonie has lead us for two decades now and is responsible in many ways for the solid ground the centre stands on and its significant ongoing contribution to the women's sector in Tāmaki Makaurau and Aotearoa. She is heading towards retirement and reducing her workload to 20 hours per week. We welcome Kaitlin into the new role of Programme Manager, expanding our management capacity. I want to acknowledge the gracious way Leonie is supporting us into a new era, transferring her immense institutional knowledge to the staff and board and ensuring we continue to be strong and sustainable as we evolve.



Katherine McAlpine

Tauwi staff and board members began the year with a Tiriti o Waitangi workshop with Catherine Delahunty – a history lesson, some myth busting and some brave questions were had. Next the whole staff and board workshopped with Haua Partnerships who supported us to create a kākahu (cloak) to represent our values in action. We then drafted an action plan, a living, evolving document which outlines tangible priorities, actions and projects we will commit to in this journey, and can be held accountable to. The year ended with an in-depth evaluation of our Tiriti journey to date by Resonance Research. Some hard truths and positive, exciting opportunities were revealed in this evaluation.

These three comprehensive documents, gifts to the board, will guide our strategic direction in 2022, as we establish relationships with Māori organisations and understand clearly what tangata whenua need or want from us, turning our good intentions into concrete actions.

I could not be more grateful for the wisdom, experience and support both external consultants, our generous funders and our outstanding Māori board members and staff have given the board. Really understanding and actioning what it means to be a culturally safe and welcoming place that is inclusive of wāhine Māori and all women is our number one priority for 2022.

I say farewell to some wonderful people, three board members Margo, Charon and Tenisha, thank you so much for your service to the centre, you have put in long hours and worked with much heart and intelligence. I am extraordinarily proud of the work Gabi and Kiriataahua have done establishing and developing the rangitahi engagement project, Tuia Te Papa. To take us from having no youth presence to a thriving and admired program, centred on hauora and manaakitanga, supporting the next generation of feminists in Auckland high schools, is a legacy that leaves the centre in stronger position than you found us.

I have great admiration for our staff who, under trying circumstances in 2021, not only maintained their jobs but continued to improve and develop their projects. Staff of this calibre enable us to be future facing and sustainable. We are heading into 2022 with some exciting new energy and steady foundations thanks to exceptional work done by previous staff and board members.

Services and Activities

This year's activities fell broadly into the categories of:

- ◆ health and welfare services for women
- ◆ personal counselling
- ◆ community education
- ◆ support groups
- ◆ rangatahi outreach
- ◆ partnering with other agencies to provide a voice for gender equity
- ◆ providing community forums
- ◆ support for lesbian and rainbow women.

Health and Welfare Services for Women

Women's Support: Support, Information, Referral and Advice

Supported 3,084 women

Intensive support for 76

This year over 3,000 women from all over Tāmaki Makaurau have sought assistance from this

free service available to all women. Women have made contact by phone, email or in person about: domestic and sexual violence support, women's health, housing, food banks, redundancy, mental health, relationship break-up, single parenting, sexual harassment, educational courses and workshops, counselling support, budgeting resources, migrant support, support and events for lesbians and rainbow women, and much more.



Women's Support Coordinator Kaitlin Henderson

In 2021 Women's Support provided **intensive support** to 76 women. Working from a strength-based approach, Centre staff and volunteers provided intensive face-to-face or telephone support to women experiencing major distress and seeking assistance for immediate needs. Empathetic listening, and validation are provided. Information is given, and referrals are made to specialised crisis care services for ongoing assistance.

Personal counselling

The Centre has benefited from its experienced and skilled counsellor, Jane Tyrer, a fully qualified member of a professional association who receives clinical supervision.



Counsellor Jane Tyrer

Therapeutic massage

Affordable massage for benefit recipients and other women on low incomes is available at the Centre. Our masseuse is highly skilled, making this service very popular. Bookings have to be made well in advance.

Community Education

We are proud to provide a women-centred community education programme in a supportive environment: a space where people can gain new skills, build their self-confidence and increase their feelings of belonging to their community.

We have had another successful year delivering our **well-attended and highly praised classes**. Despite Covid disruptions we offered a total of 18 courses/workshops delivered on 16 topics. Due to Covid we again held some online classes: some women, particularly those with children, prefer online classes because it's easier for them to attend.

Course satisfaction was high, and tutor feedback demonstrates the high quality of the instructors we contract.

Respondents agreed:

98% "I would **recommend** the course to a friend"

96% "I **enjoyed** the course"

94% "the course is **good value**"

"My tutor was
knowledgeable 94%
professional 98%
friendly" 100%.

We were delighted to offer these popular classes again this year:

Aroha Dance

Rosanna Marks

EFT: Tapping for Women (online)

Robyn Shepherd

Get Knitting: Beginners

Barbara Woodman

Girls' Self Defence

Morgan Libeau

Women's Self Defence

Julie Poirier

Menopause Information

Robyn Fausett

Memoir Writing

Maria de Jong

Positive Change

Anna Keyter

Questioning

Cissy Rock, Ellie Lim and Carol Davey

Free Anxiety Workshop

Anxiety NZ

Regenerative Yoga

Amanda Hookham-Kraft

Te Reo Māori me ona Tikanga

Kahurangi Apiata and Tutira Williams

Learn and Create

Lucie Blaževská

Mindfulness through Meditation

Emma Farry

Connecting to Your True Self

Joanna Walden

And we also ran a new workshop, Painting for Beginners, where participants had fun learning new techniques with art teacher, Rebecca Isemonger. Rebecca is a friend of the centre, attending many of our knitting courses in the past. We were stoked to have her contribute to our community education program this year!



Rebecca Isemonger

Community Education continued



Julie Poirier

We partnered with Wahine Toa, the Women's Self Defence network to deliver our adult **Women's Self Defence** classes and also ran specific workshops for migrant women. We are thrilled with the feedback from these workshops including the emotional shifts for many women from feeling power-less to powerful. We are grateful to be working with a wonderful tutor, Julie Poirier, described as "informative, knowledgeable and friendly."

Te Reo Māori me ona

Tikanga: Tutira Williams and Kahurangi Apiata brought humour, kindness and generosity to their teaching and again received outstanding feedback from course participants.

It was a delight to have Emma Farry facilitate our **Mindfulness through Meditation** course. The classes taught women the skills needed to slow



Emma Farry

down, breathe and connect with themselves in order to be more present. Emma is an incredible tutor, who was described as "authentic, open and honest".



Tutira Williams and Kahurangi Apiata

Our **Memoir Writing** course was a big hit this year. Biographer Maria De Jong ran a series of workshops that taught women how to find their own voice and writing style, begin the process of writing their family history, and improve writing and literacy skills.

Participants called Maria "open, validating and encouraging", and said the course was "more than they hoped for".



Maria De Jong



Ellie Lim

This year Cissy Rock, Ellie Lim and Carol Davey delivered our **Questioning** course, offering women a supportive space to talk about same-sex attraction. Cissy is a leader in the rainbow community and runs her own facilitation company Community Think. Ellie has previously worked at Rainbow Youth and is our former Women Support Coordinator. We love that she still lends her lively and creative presence to WWTM. Carol is a full-time teacher and former participant of the group. Her insight and experience as a more newly out member of the rainbow communities adds value to the conversations.

Thank you to all our incredibly skilled and passionate tutors! We have the privilege of working with wonderful tutors who understand how special it is to run groups in a women's space. We cherish their input in growing women's resilience, power and self belief. All the tutors are listed on page 14, along with the many agencies we partner with to improve outcomes for women. We also acknowledge and thank our funders whose generosity enables us to provide a wide range of services in community education.

Support Groups

Sole Mums on Sundays

Our Sole Mums on Sundays group meets monthly and provides an opportunity for sole mums with preschoolers to talk together and connect in a non-judgmental space.

Being a solo mum is isolating and stigmatising. [Attending the group means] I feel less alone and more 'Normal'. It's such an important resource. I only wish I could attend more often.

—Attendee Mum

Children attending are welcomed, and occupied and engaged in play by childcare workers, providing some space for both mums and children. KiwiHarvest provide kai for mums to take home each month easing the financial pressure of running a single income -household. New attendees are welcomed. This year we have had 16 mums attend, with a core group of 12 māmā coming along regularly. We also run special Christmas and Mother's Day events, to make space for our mums to feel treasured and cared for.

In surveying the group's impact on the mums who have attended, it was reported that:



- ◆ Sole mums value the space, resources and childcare provided.
- ◆ They feel the coordinator communicates well.
- ◆ Most women felt less alone after coming to the group.
- ◆ The wellbeing of most women improved after coming to the group.
- ◆ Many were able to cope better with life's challenges.

*It has made me feel **empowered** and not alone* —Attendee Mum

During lockdown, support has continued to those attending – through zoom sessions, email check ins and the delivery of foodboxes. We are fortunate to have received full funding for a new year of Single Mums on Sunday through the Grassroots Giving Programme, administered by the Auckland Foundation.



2021 Sole Mums Christmas party

Supporting Rainbow Communities

Providing support and connection to rainbow communities is an important part of our work. As well as the **Questioning** course (see the Community Education section), our monthly **Rainbow Social Nights** run this year by the wonderful Sharon Bolderson alternate between a DVD night and a Board Games night.

These nights are a fun, inexpensive, relaxed way for lesbian, bisexual, takatāpui, trans and queer women to connect outside the bar scene. It is a culturally diverse group with 16 - 30 women attending each time. For some, being accepted within this community feels like coming home, easing tension they weren't always aware they were carrying.

High School Peer Support Project - Tuia Te Papa

Tū toa mana wāhine, kia kaha, kia māia, kia manawanui.
Stand victorious, be strong, be brave, be unwavering

Ka rere ngā tai o mihi ki a koutou katoa te whānau o Te Wāhi Wāhine o Tāmaki Makaurau, aroha mutunga kore.

It has been another rewarding year working alongside rangatahi across Tāmaki Makaurau! In our programme Tuia Te Papa, we were able to facilitate some beautiful wānanga a kanohi, including a session with over 90 students from Auckland Girls Grammar, and a hui with the feminist group at Western Springs College. We also worked with staff at Kaipara College to set up a Wāhine Toa group at Kaipara College for 2022.



Wānanga a kanohi with Kiriataahua & Gabriella (on the right)

During the lockdown, we connected with various schools online, and shifted our focus in engagement to hauora (health & well-being) and the importance of self-manaakitanga. Social media activity increased: @tuiatepapa now has over 2,730 Instagram followers.

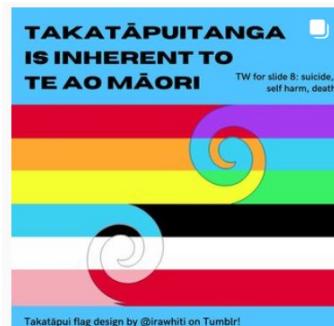
At the start of 2021, we attended an incredible wānanga on violence prevention for rangatahi Māori which connected us to two amazing youth organisations - Maranga Ake (Korowai Tumanako) and Te Kaha o Te Rangatahi. We also focussed on strengthening the kaupapa Māori foundations of Tuia Te Papa with Haua Partnerships and our whānau, to better understand the purpose of our work and its impact for rangatahi Māori. We've also worked under the guidance of Maggie Jakob-Hoff and Stacey Porter to develop an evaluation framework and were paired with two incredible Māori supervisors, Ngārimu Waru and Lizzie Strickett. Ngā mihi rangatira ki a koutou!

- ◆ *Thank you for this, love your mahi and the importance of this kōrero*
- ◆ *This karakia reminds me to be mindful in the moment & to appreciate nature!*

— Tuia Te Papa feedback

We also acknowledge and say a huge mihi to all who have supported and encouraged us along the way, especially to our whānau, ka nui te mihi rangatira ki a koutou katoa. To Foundation North, ngā mihi nunui for supporting this important mahi with our rangatahi. We are sad to be leaving WWTM at the end of this year, but we are excited to support the new rangatahi coordinators in continuing this important mahi.

Ngā manaakitanga
Gabriella Brayne māua ko Kiriataahua Pene



Social media post

Fundraising

As always, we ensured our fundraising activities were not only about ensuring our sustainability as an organisation, but were also about spreading the word about equity and having fun together as a community.

We had a great start to the year in March, after being accepted to be part of the wonderful **10x10** fundraising event. The whole process from start to finish was so fantastic, not only “the feels” but the insight into how crowdfunding events can connect us in to other incredible on-the-ground, grassroots charities. Ellie Lim represented us and of course did an amazing job! 10x10 have continued to support us

throughout this challenging year and they have helped us gain a lot of new, wonderful followers. We are so grateful for this experience.



Ellie in storytelling mode at 10x10



LtoR: Tanea Heke, Nicola Kawana (WWTM Board), Leonie Morris, Desire'e Andrews (WWTM Board)

kaupapa. We loved this movie - how incredible to watch a movie, made in Aotearoa written, directed and portrayed by so many talented wāhine toa!

What an amazing line-up our favourite feminist storyteller Michele A'Court pulled together for **Feminists Are Funny** in August. Each and every person who donated their time, energy and jokes for us was incredible. We had a full house at The Classic and we just can't thank enough the comics, the sponsors and all who came to enjoy the night. It was a night of fun, with a live auction, silent auction and so much aroha from our supporters and everyone who donated big and small. See our website for pictures from the night. Ngā mihi nui!



Feminists Are Funny line-up

And once again Michele A'Court stuck her hand up to be front and centre of our **Donate A Kate** campaign for Suffrage Day. Ngā mihi aroha to every single supporter who donated. Our goal is always safety, equity and wellbeing for all women.

A huge thank you to this long list of Feminists Are Funny supporters and donors
in no particular order:



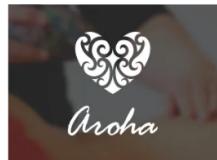
JETSETBOHEMIAN



CURIONOIR

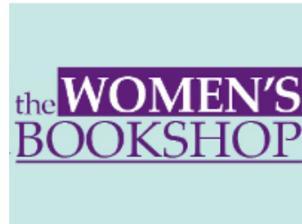


COMENSA



KATE SYLVESTER

DALSTON



ripe
del!



RAW ESSENTIALS

Hihi
Herbal



A Voice for Women's Equity

Te Wāhi Wāhine o Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland Women's Centre is a leading champion of women's rights, providing independent, constructive commentary and also supporting others to reduce intersectional inequity.

As Chair of the **Coalition for the Safety of Women and Children**, WWTM Centre Manager Leonie Morris gave feedback on several iterations of **Te Aorerekura - the National Strategy and Action Plan for the Elimination of Family Violence and Sexual Violence** - over several months. Leonie and the Coalition also met with **Marama Davidson**, the Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence and Sexual Violence, successfully highlighting the need for a gender analysis of violence in Te Aorerekura. Our calls were informed by the paper we had earlier prepared "A Way Through The Thicket: Why Understanding Gender & Colonisation is Key to Eliminating Family Violence in Aotearoa New Zealand," on [our website](#).



L-R: WWTM Rangatahi Coordinator Kiriataahua Pene; Qiane; Stacey; WWTM Centre Manager Leonie Morris

In May's Wāhine Toa Kōrero public forum, **Qiane Matata-Sipu** gave a masterclass in storytelling-for-change, sharing with **Stacey Daniels** about the successful campaign she co-led with her cousins to protect their ancestral whenua at **Ihumātao** and her current **NUKU movement**, amplifying the voices of "kickass" Indigenous wāhine. She says: "*I hope indigenous wāhine really understand how powerful they actually are*".

Then in June, AUT's Associate Professor **Khylee Quince**, first Māori Dean of Law, had a kōrero with Stacey. Khylee mixed humour with straight-talking to offer a reality check on the country's shocking Indigenous incarceration rates as well as advice for change-makers in all fields.

We were honoured to welcome Minister for Women **Jan Tinetti** to the Centre in May, and were heartened to hear about her ambitious work programme toward equity, including a women's employment action plan, oversight of compulsory consent education and enabling gender self-identification on birth certificates.

WWTM is a member of the **Gender Justice Collective**, which in 2021 has been [advocating](#) for an Inquiry into Women's Health Needs and a **National Women's Health Strategy**.

Through our **Quarterly** newsletters, we kept women in the know about issues such as the urgent need for more government funding for HPV self-testing (now agreed to by 2023); the effect of lockdowns on women in Tāmaki Makaurau, the Feminist Green New Deal, Gender Gap Facts and positive news such as ACC coving more parental childbirth injuries.

Huge thanks to Kaitlin Henderson for creating [our beautiful new website](#), complete with accessibility options, helping people to find our mahi and learn more about women's rights.



L-R: WWTM Board Chair Katherine McAlpine; Kiriataahua; Stacey; Khylee

Thank You!

AWC gratefully receives support from many different volunteers, agencies and funders.

We owe a huge vote of thanks to members of the Governance Board who provide AWC with big picture thinking, strategic guidance and support within a collective framework. We wish to especially thank our wonderful Chairperson, Katherine McAlpine. Sincere thanks are also due to Jo Elvidge (Secretary), Charon Leesing (Treasurer), Tenisha Kumar, Nicola Kawana, Desire'e Andrews, Margo Athy and Ginnie Denny for their invaluable knowledge, skills, and lateral thinking.

Sadly, several of our Board members are not standing again next year. We will miss Charon Leesing, Tenisha Kumar, and Margo Athy. Thanks very much to these amazing women for generously giving their time, skills and energy to the Centre.

Others generously contributed time, skills and effort to our crèche, mail-outs, forums, garden, posters and newsletter design, fundraising, Women's Support, research, writing and our library. These volunteers include:

Anoushka Maharaj, Aorewa McLeod, Barbara Thomborson, Christine Horne, Devina Ramlu, Ellen Michie, Gay Harvey, Jenny Collins, Jenny Naea, Jolene Parker, Julie Thompson, Kathleen Ryan, Katrina Wolff, Liv Roe, Lucie Blaževská, Lucy MacKenzie, Maggie Jacob-Hoff, Maria Boow, Mina Patel, Nora Davis, Orfhlaithe Mulhivill, Pauline Pope, Raine Shirley, Ruth Jackson, Stephanie Xie, Tessa Morgan and Toni Chase.

We would particularly like to express our thanks and appreciation to our amazing Patron, Dr Judy McGregor, who works tirelessly for women's rights. Not only is she doing a sterling job of chairing the Waitematā DHB, Judy contributes hugely to our Centre.

We supervised two students this year Mele Fifita who contributed her compassion, and social work skills, and Tatiana Biggeman whose entire placement was in lockdown where she learnt much from her lecturers about ethics, advocacy and self-care.

We also wish to express our special thanks to The Women's Bookshop for kindly donating books to our Women's Library. We sincerely thank the tutors of our courses and workshops, listed on the following page. Also listed on the next page are our funders whose generosity enables us to provide a wide range of services and programmes to women.



Our Board, clockwise from top right: Charon Leesing, Desire'e Andrews, Ginnie Denny, Tenisha Kumar, Margo Athy, Nicola Kawana, Jo Elvidge. Centre: Katherine McAlpine.



The Auckland Women's Centre would like to thank the following funders, tutors and organisations who supported our work:

FUNDERS

ANZ Staff Foundation
Auckland Foundation –
Covid-19 Community Response Fund
Auckland Foundation Grassroots Giving
BlueSky Community Trust
Blue Waters Community Trust
COGS
Dragon Community Trust
Foundation North
Four Winds Foundation
John Ilott Charitable Trust
Lion Foundation
Lottery COVID-19 Community Wellbeing Fund
Manatū Wāhine, Ministry for Women COVID-19 Community Fund 2021
Maurice Paykel Charitable Trust
NZ Lottery Grants Board
New Zealand Community Trust
One Foundation
Pub Charity Inc.
Rule Foundation
Sir John Logan Campbell Residuary Estate
The ProCare Charitable Foundation
The Trusts Community Foundation Ltd
Trillian Trust
Waitematā Local Board

TUTORS

Amanda Hookham-Kraft
Anna Keyter
Barbara Woodman
Carol Davey
Cissy Rock
Danielle Turnbull
Ellie Lim
Emma Farry
Joanna Walden
Julie Poirier
Kahurangi Apiata
Lisa Dudson
Lucie Blaževská
Maria de Jong
Morgan Libeau
Rebecca Isemonger
Robyn Fausett
Robyn Shepherd
Rosanna Marks
Tutira Williams

ORGANISATIONS

Anxiety NZ
Auckland Lesbian Business Association (alba)
Auckland Sexual Abuse HELP
Auckland Women's Refuge
AWA Associates
Barnardos
Belong Aotearoa
Breast Screen NZ
Business and Professional Women, Auckland
Charlotte Museum
CADS
Citizen's Advice Bureau
Dayspring Trust
Eastern Women's Refuge
Family Works Northern Framework Trust
Grey Lynn Community Centre
Grey Lynn Library
Hearts and Minds
Human Rights Commission
Inner City Women's Group
KiwiHarvest
Leys Institute Library
Lifewise
Living Wage Movement Aotearoa NZ
National Council of Women
New Zealand Family Violence Clearing House
NZ Pacific Women's Watch
North Shore Women's Centre
Oranga Tamariki
OUTline NZ
Rainbow Auckland
Rainbow Youth
Rape Prevention Education
Salvation Army
Shakti Asian Women's Centre
Shine
Stop Demand
Te Rito Rodney
Te Wharepora Hou
The Women's Bookshop
Tū Wahine Trust
Violence Free Waitakere
Women's Health Action
Women's Centre Rodney
Women's Centre Waitakere
Women's Studies Association
Working Women's Resource Centre
Youthline
YWCA, Auckland
Zonta Club of Auckland

2021 has been a year with both ongoing and unexpected challenges and we would like to thank all of our funders for choosing to support us. We are incredibly grateful that you continue to support improving the lives of women and children.

