



CANTERBURY WOMEN'S CLUB INC.
Est.1913

Newsletter September 2019

This letter is being sent to you as someone who we think may have some interest in the Canterbury Women's Club.

We know that we may seem to have been very quiet over the last few years but that does not mean we have disappeared. The Executive Committee has continued to meet monthly and are working hard, if somewhat frustratedly, towards ensuring the building is repaired appropriately and we can again use the rooms and the hall for the range of events and connections we would like to make possible for women in Canterbury. We need to have repairs of earthquake repairs done. Anyone with any experience of rebuilding after the earthquakes in Christchurch will know this can be a real challenge and we have all learned a lot more structural and legal jargon than we ever thought we needed to know.

We are working towards getting the building and especially the hall up to 67% of the building code so we can again welcome people and make the most of the space we are so lucky to have so close to the city. We have very much missed not being able to make use of this space and to host programmes and support the women of Canterbury as we used to.

Some things have continued. We have continued to host a post-graduate women's group at the University of Canterbury, providing an opportunity for young women to meet, network, present their research work and discuss opportunities and topics of interest. We have also hosted a traditional Strawberry Tea each year and have appreciated the gardens and homes which have been opened to us for these events.

We are working on a new website which will tell our current and future story and we hope to include on that information of other relevant events which are happening in Christchurch and elsewhere which we think may be of interest to the Women of Canterbury. So much is happening in this city as it comes alive again, and it is easy to miss things. We would welcome your suggestions of things to include on this site.

We also want to become more visible to a wider age group and to that end are working on using a range of social media platforms. Being in touch with people or the audience you wish to contact is not just about saying the right words, it is saying them in the right places.

One thing we can do while we are unable to use the building is to ensure we are treasuring our history. We have been in existence for more than 100 years and while some of our archives have been lost, we do have some resources stored at the heritage libraries in Christchurch and many boxes we are currently working through. We know that some of the "real treasures" are the memories our older members still hold, and we would love to be able to contact as many of these "living treasures" as possible. We need your support in this, as while we have some names and contact details, we know we are missing many. If you can help us collating stories, talking to past members or those who have a story to tell or in any other way we would value your support and assistance. We would very much appreciate you contacting us if you can help us in this memory gathering project in any way.

Like many similar organisations we rely on donations and volunteer support to fulfil our purpose and once our building is repaired, we want to be doing so much more, still with the same basic goals, but

involving as wide a group of Canterbury women as possible. We are currently supporting a group travelling to Kabul to establish 51 new small projects honouring 51 lives. We see this as a practical as well as symbolic way of supporting this part of our community.

We hope that many of our former members, current members and new members will join us when we are really open for business again and will help us reignite as a space for Canterbury women to relax, learn, and work together to build a revived Canterbury Women's Club in the centre of this city.

If you would like us to keep in contact with you and let you know of any events we are organising or involved with, please let us know.

Email us on canterburywomen@gmail.com

or **mail** to 190 Worcester St, Christchurch 8011

or **phone me** at 0275185217, or **post to me**, Wendy Butcher at 3/107 Holmes Road, RD2 Christchurch 7672.

If you want to be taken off our mailing lists, please contact us in one of the above ways to let us know.

Warm Regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Wendy Butcher". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Wendy Butcher,

President,

Canterbury Women's Club.