

wYseDONOR

Changing lives, strengthening families, creating community



ISSUE 10, December 2013



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Carols by Candlelight

The YMCA of Christchurch has hosted the iconic Carols by Candlelight event on Christmas Eve in Christchurch for the last 66 years.

This YMCA event has always been about celebrating family and family values in a way which is true to the traditional Christmas. It is, as events go, a down-to-earth and easy event that has resisted commercialization and remained focused on the purpose - to encourage family togetherness, reflection on Christian values and the true spirit of Christmas.

Once again Nan Anderson has been pivotal to the success of the carol singing - rehearsing the many choirs involved and providing the inspirational leadership as always to singers of all ages, and the Salvation Army Band.

This year the event will again be held at the Christmas Events Hub in Latimer Square. The programme has largely remained the same over the years, last year Nan allowed us to break slightly with tradition and included Rudolf the Red Nose Reindeer and Jingle Bells – which captivated the young and young at heart.

While the event is organized and overseen by the YMCA it is not possible without the support of the volunteer choirs and soloists, Mike Yardley as MC, The Salvation Army Band, Nan Anderson and event sponsor the Christchurch City Council.

Unfortunately this year we have lost a major financial supporter of the Carols, and whilst proceeds from the song books and candles go back to the YMCA, it is still not enough for the event to break even.

If you would like to financially contribute towards the costs of staging this iconic event, either on a short term or long term basis, then please contact Mandy on 963 2829 or email mandy@ymcachch.org.nz.

WYSE DONOR CLUB

As we near the end of the year, it is good to reflect about what we have achieved over the past twelve months, but it is more exciting to look ahead and dream about what lies ahead for the Y in the coming year.

We hope you enjoy reading this wYseDONOR newsletter and enjoy a happy and safe holiday season.

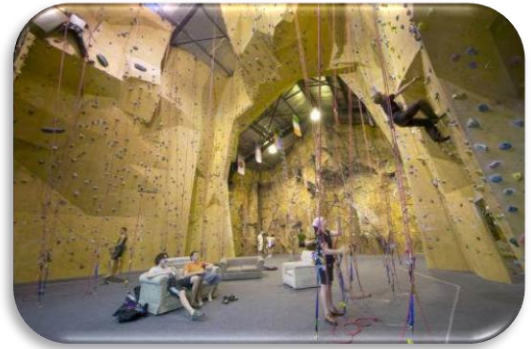
Christchurch YMCA is a Charitable Trust registered with the Charities Commission (CC32107). Donations of \$5 or more qualify for a tax rebate on production of a receipt.

YMCA Christchurch,
Since 1862.

Serving our community
for over 150 years.

The Roxx Climbing Centre

The YMCA of Christchurch is excited to announce the purchase of The Roxx Climbing Centre which includes an extensive climbing wall, bouldering wall and the extremely popular Clip 'N Climb.



The decision to purchase The Roxx has been influenced by our desire to extend our reach into the community through provision of quality recreational and outdoor education experiences – particularly for young people.

The Roxx Climbing Centre is a high class facility which attracts tens of thousands of climbers each year. Importantly for the YMCA, many of these climbers are 'first timers' – young children who are looking for something active, challenging and different as a physical pursuit outside of the usual mainstream sports.

The business also includes the very popular Clip 'N Climb franchise and brand.

The YMCA Christchurch is not a newcomer to the world of climbing having our own very large climbing wall at the Hereford Street site which has operated for decades. What The Roxx offers is scope to grow YMCA programmes – particularly with the addition of the Clip 'N Climb facilities.

We will continue to offer a range of programmes which compliment the indoor climbing activities – such as outdoor climbing trips, kayaking and tramping adventures.

Climbers should be assured that while this is a change, the spirit of the arrangement is about making climbing more accessible and better than ever for Cantabrians.

It is intended that the YMCA will continue to employ the

majority of The Roxx staff when we take over the Centre early next year.

Both The Roxx staff and YMCA staff are in heated agreement. Climbing is good for you. Climbing is fun. And most importantly climbing is great for those people who enjoy a personal mental and physical challenge alongside like-minded people.

For the competitive spirits there are also opportunities to shine: the YMCA hosted the National climbing competition recently and is also home to Canterbury and South Island Schools climbing competitions every year.

We are very grateful for the financial support we have received from the Canterbury Community Trust, who have lent us 60% of the capital at a low interest rate. We expect to have this repaid within three years.

We are very excited about the opportunity to increase the YMCA's community relevance and reach. As a charitable trust, under YMCA ownership, The Roxx will operate as a social enterprise – meaning that all proceeds will be invested back into YMCA community programmes. While we are still servicing a large debt, we are confident that The Roxx will allow us to generate more income and be more sustainable.

The goal is to be more self sustaining financially so that we can do more for our local community.



Quick Draws

Lead climbing is a climbing technique used to ascend a route. This technique is predominantly used in rock climbing and involves a lead climber attaching themselves to a length of climbing rope and ascending a route while periodically attaching protection – quickdraws – to the face of the route and clipping into it. The lead climber must have another person acting as a belayer

A quickdraw (also known as an extender) is a piece of climbing equipment used by rock climbers to allow the climbing rope to run freely through bolt anchors or other protection while leading.

Ordinarily a lot of energy is expended by the lead climber moving the quickdraws around the route, however thanks to a very generous anonymous donation by a regular climber, we have been able to install permanent quick drawers into our climbing wall!

This means that our climbers will now be able use more precious energy on actually climbing!



Gift Giving the YMCA Way

Do you feel like you are going through the motions at Christmas time, buying unappreciated gifts for friends and family?

How about making a meaningful gift for a disadvantaged student, a child in need or an adult living with an intellectual disability instead? Send a YMCA gift card to your family member or friend to let them know that you have made a gift on their behalf, and the difference it will make to someone in their community.

The YMCA Christchurch now have gift cards available for you to purchase and give to your nearest and dearest. While these are perfect Christmas gifts, they can be given at any time of the year.

The money raised through the sale of these gifts cards will be put directly into our scholarship fund, which helps break down financial barriers to participation.

The purpose of this fund is to:

- allow young people to participate in after school recreation programmes, like gymnastics and basketball
- assist young people to experience a holiday programme or camp
- support young families
- help people realise their fitness goals
- support disadvantaged students as they endeavour towards meaningful qualifications
- provide intellectually and physically disabled adults an opportunity to meet and socialise weekly outside of their residential care

Each card has a theme relating to one of the scholarship programmes and contains a testimonial from a previous recipient of the fund, to show how much this assistance has helped them in a difficult time.

You choose which theme you would like and how much you would like to donate, there is also space for you to write a personal message.

To get hold of one of these gift cards, you need only to go onto our website (www.ymcachch.org.nz), select which card you would like, and pay through our donation page. Alternatively you can pop into the City Y or the Bishopdale Recreation Centre and purchase one at reception.

Thursday Club

The Thursday Club is a social get-together for intellectually and physically disabled adults which runs every week during the school term. All kinds of activities are organised for participants such as swimming, arts and crafts, movies and indoor climbing.

We also go on field trips to various venues around the city. This term we have been to the Airport and Garden City Bowl.

For many of the participants this is an opportunity for activity and socialising and is the highlight of their week. Testament to this is the fact that many of the participants have been coming to the YMCA for many years.

Participants have the opportunity to learn new skills, gain confidence, face creative challenges in a safe and friendly environment, but most of all – have fun!



Special Acknowledgements

The Christchurch YMCA gratefully acknowledges the generosity of the following donors over the last three months which enables us to build strong people, strong families, strong communities:

The Canterbury Community Trust



Also to the following who responded to the last wYseDONOR with kind donations:

Martie & Rhonda De Gouw
 Marilyn Mercer
 May Campbell
 A B Hille
 Stan Batchelor
 Reg Middleton



Events

YMCA Youth Talent Quest

An amazing array of talented young Cantabrians performed at the YMCA Youth Talent Quest on the 28 September at the Celebration Centre in Wainoni. Yet again we were blown away by the depth of talent there is out there in the community, and it was wonderful to be able to provide a platform for these young artists to show their skills.

Singer/songwriter Jaz Paterson, from Geraldine, took out first place with her original song "Freedom", finger guitarist Joseph Balfe was second, and dancer Natasha Boon was third. "Harmoniboxer" Aidan Jackson took out the prize for People's Choice and Danika Carne won a recording session for Up and Coming Artist.

YMCA 5th Value Photograph Competition

Honesty, Caring, Responsibility, Respect and ??? How would you capture an image of what our fifth value could be?

We would love to receive your submission for the YMCA 5th Value Photo Competition. For more details please go to our website—www.ymcachch.org.nz/home-page/talent-quest/—**this competition has now been extended so that you have plenty of time to snap your photos over the summer holiday period** – a new exhibition date will be advertised.

There will be prizes for the top three photos as selected by an esteemed panel of judges, as well as a Youth (age 17 and under) and a People's Choice prize.

Christmas Members and Donors Event

Unfortunately as the Photography Exhibition is not going ahead until next year, supporters and members are now invited to the YMCA Bishopdale on **Thursday 5 December 5:30pm to 7pm** for drinks and nibbles. Please RSVP to Bishopdale reception on 359 8320 or email mailto@ymcachch.org.nz. We would love to see you there!

Opus Survey

Thank you to those who took part in an innovative survey on central city living held here at the Y. The survey was developed by Opus Research in partnership with Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority (CERA) and Christchurch City Council (CCC).

The survey used computer assisted personal interviewing method that took you through scenarios of central city living and took about 25 minutes to complete.

Not only did you have your say in how the central city may be developed, but you also took part in this fundraising initiative that raised almost \$3000!

Results will be reported to public stakeholders and Opus experts involved in the rebuild (Planners, Transport engineers, Urban Designer, Architects, and so on).

YMCA of Christchurch

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