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**WELCOME TO
YNEWS
2ND EDITION 2015**

IN THIS EDITION OF YNEWS WE EXPLORE:

What the next generation of leaders look like, at our first *She Leads* College Conference; how to get involved in our *Respect NOW* campaign; introducing the 2015 Great Ydeas recipients; the Grand Opening of Winyu Early Childhood Service, and more!

WELCOME TO YNEWS

YWCA CANBERRA. SECOND EDITION 2015.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

It's been a very big start to the year at YWCA Canberra, with some great achievements across our portfolios.

On 5 May, we held our inaugural *She Leads* College Conference, bringing together 100 young women in years 11 and 12 for an inspiring day of leadership development. Seeing the impact of the Conference on delegate's confidence and how our speakers empowered them to think about their own leadership journeys was very exciting.

"I just wanted to say a huge thank you for having both my girls attend the conference. They came home so inspired and told my husband and I all about it with such enthusiasm and passion."

- Feedback from a parent of a *She Leads* College attendee

Continuing our commitment to fostering women's leadership, we also announced our 2015 Great Ideas grants recipients at our annual Round the World Breakfast. Congratulations to Hannah Massingham and Billi McCarthy-Price, Chiara Grassia, Rosanna Stevens, Clare Conroy and Lee Constable - we can't wait to see the impact of your projects. Make sure you read our feature in this edition to find out what our grant recipients are working on.

We are now busy preparing for this year's World YWCA Council, which will be held in Bangkok in October. We received numerous impressive applications for our five member grants to attend World Council, and are thrilled to have the following members joining our delegation:

- Samantha Betts
- Abby Thevarajah
- Heidi Zajac
- Caitlin Sandercock
- Gordana Morphett

The remainder of the delegation includes myself, Kate Chipperfield (YWCA Canberra President), Louise Billman (Manager, Early Childhood Services), Zoya Patel (Communications and Advocacy Officer), and Laura Pound (voting delegate).

We look forward to sharing the outcomes of World Council with you. In the meantime, if you are interested in hearing more, keep an eye on our blog for regular updates.

Despite these exciting initiatives, there has been a sombre tone to the past few months, as we reflect on the continuing impact of violence against women on our community. 34 Australian women have been killed to date this year, with two-thirds estimated to have been killed by a current or former partner or close relative.

Worryingly, a recent report from *Our Watch* on young people's attitudes towards domestic violence, found that 1 in 3 young people surveyed don't think that exerting control over someone else is a form of violence, and that 16 per cent of young people think that women should know their place.

The need for primary prevention programs on respectful relationships and gender equality has never been more pertinent. I urge you to support our Respect NOW campaign, and help us ensure that primary prevention is a priority for governments at both a local and national level. Read our feature for more information on getting involved.

Kind regards,
Frances Crimmins

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Welcome to second edition of Ynews for 2015.

There has been so much happening at YWCA Canberra since our last edition in February, that it's difficult to know how to capture it all!

The opening of our newest childcare facility, Winyu Early Childhood Service is particularly exciting. I was absolutely delighted to help open the centre, alongside local member, Meegan Fitzharris, ACT Labor MLA for Molonglo.

We look forward to seeing our new families settling into the Centre, and can't wait to share more about Winyu as it grows.

I also attended our annual Round the World Breakfast on 28 April, where we celebrated World YWCA Day.

As well as being positively blown away by the high calibre of our Great Ydeas grants recipients, I was very pleased that we raised \$3,500 for the World YWCA Global Power to Change fund, which supports YWCAs in developing countries.

Now we look forward to the *She Leads* Conference, taking place on 19 May at

Hotel Realm.

Last year, *She Leads* was a major highlight for all delegates and we're incredibly excited for this year's Conference where we will once again bring together the next generation of aspiring and emerging leaders. The event features some truly inspiring leading women from across sectors and industries including:

- Tracey Spicer
- Professor Gillian Triggs
- Claire Bowditch
- Stephanie Lorenzo

and many more!

Read our feature on *She Leads* to find out what's in store, and book your ticket through our website - I look forward to meeting many of you on the day.

Kind regards,
Kate Chipperfield

SHE LEADS COLLEGE CONFERENCE



SHE LEADS COLLEGE CONFERENCE – WHAT DOES THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS LOOK LIKE?

It was not your typical conference – 100 young women from years 11 and 12 filled up the Ann Harding Conference Centre at the University of Canberra on Tuesday 5 May, ready to connect with inspiring young women and discover their leadership potential.

The room was filled with a buzz of anticipation during the morning's opening remarks from MC Zoya Patel. After a warm welcome to country from Ngunnawal elder, Aunty Janet Phillips, the Conference delegates heard from Zoya about her own journey towards leadership, which hasn't always been a linear one, and this set the tone for the rest of the day which was about exploring non-traditional definitions of leadership, and engaging with the delegates' individual leadership qualities and potential.

Throughout the day, attendees had the chance to participate in two workshop sessions. Heather Dawson, from Roar People facilitated an engaging workshop on developing your leadership identity, which gave participants the time and space to explore their own leadership qualities, goals and potential.

The second workshop was hosted by facilitators from Young Vagabond, an independent magazine for young women that provides an alternative to mainstream media, and advocates for gender equality.

The Young Vagabond workshops explored gender stereotypes, and helped delegates to engage their critical thinking skills, and assess the way gender stereotypes impact on their lives.

After the workshops, delegates moved into the plenary session for the day, where five inspirational young women leaders shared their experiences and journeys to leadership.

Carly Findlay, blogger, speaker and appearance activist, kicked off by sharing her experiences as a woman living with Ichthyosis, and the unexpected turns her leadership journey has taken.

Next, Pia Waugh, a self-proclaimed 'geek' and 'open data ninja' spoke

about why she's passionate about technology, and gave some great advice on embracing your own individuality to be a strong leader.

Sally Moylan, one of Australia's leading cricketers, and the 2014 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year spoke about how being a leader for her means empowering other people, and being the best you can be. She also spoke about her challenges as a non-traditional leader, and someone who has multiple areas of interest.

Finally, delegates heard from the co-founders of Young Vagabond, Haylee Collins and Ashleigh Grogan, on how they came to be inspired to launch the magazine, as well as their different roads to leadership.

After hearing these invigorating talks, delegates listened to a facilitated Q & A with the speakers, led by Zoya Patel, and had the chance to ask their own questions. The conversation was robust, engaging, and a testament to the safe spaces created by YWCA Canberra for women to engage with each other.

At the end of the day, delegates left the Ann Harding Centre feeling excited, inspired, a little exhausted, and ready to ignite their leadership journeys.

2015 SHE LEADS CONFERENCE

SHE LEADS CONFERENCE – GET READY FOR A HUGE DAY OF WOMEN’S LEADERSHIP!



The *She Leads* Conference is just around the corner, and we’re gearing up for a huge day of learning and sharing with some of Australia’s most inspiring leading women from across industries and sectors.

Hosted by our MC Tracey Spicer, the day will include invigorating keynote talks from **Professor Gillian Triggs, Claire Bowditch and Stephanie Lorenzo**, as well as robust panel discussions on topics around leadership with speakers including:

- **Kate Carnell AO**, CEO, Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- **Stephanie Foster**, Deputy Australian Public Service Commissioner
- **Yamini Naidu**, Director & Chief Storyteller, Yamini Naidu Consulting
- **Michelle Deshong**, Managing Consultant, Michelle Deshong & Associates
- **Emma Bennison**, CEO, Arts Access Australia
- **Stephanie Lorenzo**, Founder & CEO, Project Futures
- **Rebecca Skinner**, Deputy Secretary, Defence People
- **Dai Le**, Founder & CEO, Diverse Australasian Women’s Network
- **Hala Batainah**, Federal Director, Microsoft

SHE LEADS MASTER CLASSES – LEARN FROM THE BEST

Our *She Leads* Masterclasses are selling out fast! Taking place on Monday 18 May at Hotel Realm from 6pm, the Masterclasses will be followed by a cocktail evening, giving you the chance to connect with fellow attendees and be part of an energising network of women.

She Leads Masterclasses topics:

- Resilience at work: three keys to thriving in the face of challenges with Jacqueline Jago
- Innovative leadership - Dr Sarah Pearson (SOLD OUT)
- How to build your profile online with Angela Priestley



**TICKETS ARE ON SALE NOW
VISIT WWW.YWCA-CANBERRA.ORG.AU
TO REGISTER TODAY**

For event and ticketing enquires contact Clare Conroy, She Leads Conference Producer at: clare.conroy@ywca-canberra.org.au

Ticket prices	Standard (inc GST)
Corporate/Government	\$748
Corporate/Government Group Rate	\$5500 for 10 tickets
NGO/Individual	\$561
Member	\$506
Concession	\$187
Master Classes (evening - 18 May)	\$99

RESPECT NOW BE A RESPECT CHAMPION!

YWCA CANBERRA IS COMMITTED TO CREATING A WORLD FREE FROM VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN.

May is Domestic Violence Prevention Month - a time when we can reflect on the impact of violence against women and children on our community, and strive to do better to end this epidemic.

Over the past several weeks, we have been shocked with the number of women who have been killed as a result of domestic violence, with 34 Australian women killed to date, and an estimated two-thirds killed at the hands of a partner, ex-partner or close family member. This number is horrifying, and further emphasises the need for primary prevention to be implemented into schools now, so that future generations do not suffer this loss.

That's why it's more important than ever that we continue to promote Respect NOW, and push for Respect, Communicate, Choose, our primary prevention program for young people aged 9-12 to be funded immediately.

We are excited to be joined in this campaign by our Respect Champions - prominent women who are passionate about ending domestic and sexual violence against women in our community.

Our Respect Champions are:

- Julie McKay, Executive Director of UN Women Australia
- Darlene Cox, Executive Director of Health Care Consumers' Association
- Captain Jennifer Wittwer, Director National Action Plan for Women, Peace and Security, Office of Chief of Defence Force

Read their profiles on our blog to find out why they're supporting Respect NOW. If you, or someone you know, would like to become a Respect Champion, please email zoya.patel@ywca-canberra.org.au.

We are very close to 1,000 signatures, and with your help, our petition can make more of an impact and help secure funding for Respect, Communicate, Choose.

You can continue to support Respect NOW by:

- Sharing the petition with your networks, and helping us get to 1,000 signatures. <https://bit.ly/ywcarespectnow>
- Joining the conversation online, using #RespectNOW



A HOST OF GREAT YDEAS

YWCA CANBERRA'S GREAT YDEAS SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM PROVIDES FUNDS TO LOCAL WOMEN AND GIRLS TO PURSUE A PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY, PILOT A PROJECT, BUSINESS IDEA, OR ADDRESS A NEED IN THE COMMUNITY.



2015 Great Ydeas recipients (left to right) - Lee Constable, Rosanna Stevens, Billi McCarthy-Price, Chiara Grassia, Hannah Massingham & Clare Conroy

The program was launched in 2010 in celebration of the organisation's 80th anniversary. Since then, more than 30 women have received grants of up to \$2000 each.

We were very excited to announce our 2015 Great Ydeas recipients on 28 April at our Round the World Breakfast.

2015 GREAT YDEAS RECIPIENTS

Hannah Massingham & Billi McCarthy-Price

WomenCANPlay is an inspiring web-based not-for-profit project that attempts to increase female sports participation by providing information on the opportunities available for sport participation, including up-to-date contact details; by connecting young women with a welcoming network of sportswomen; helping their participation through scholarship opportunities; and increasing the understanding of contributing factors to low sport participation through research.

Chiara Grassia

Girls Rock! Canberra is a school holiday program that aims to empower girls aged 8-17 through music, encouraging creativity, and fostering teamwork and leadership skills. Chiara will use the grant funding to travel to the USA in June-July to volunteer at two Girls Rock! camps, before returning to run the inaugural Girls Rock! Canberra at Ainslie Arts Centre in January 2016.

Clare Conroy

The Women Talk Work podcast will feature interviews with women in a range of jobs and at a range of levels, to get an insight into what the working lives of Australian women are really like. The interviews will explore what an average day/week involves, the interviewee's highlights, frustrations and future aspirations, what success in this particular job looks like, and

what makes work interesting and enjoyable - or not. Importantly, the interviews will also discuss why women have made certain choices regarding their work and how work fits within the broader context of their lives.

Lee Constable

SoapBox will be a radio program that provides a platform to local people to discuss their social justice passions. It will be produced and broadcast on local community radio station 2XXFM, and re-broadcast on national digital youth broadcaster SYN Nation. Soapbox will be a weekly interview presented live, of those who are involved in initiatives and projects which make the Canberra community more sustainable and equitable. It aims to inspire listeners to consider social equality and environmental sustainability, and will promote services and initiatives available within our community.

Rosanna Stevens

Rosanna is an accomplished young Canberra writer who wrote a popular essay on the social abnormalisation and normalisation of menstruation in 2014, published by The Lifted Brow. Now, with the support of publishers, Rosanna is embarking on research to turn the essay into a nonfiction book. The book will make commentary on how the world perceives, treats, shames and celebrates menstruation. Rosanna will travel to Cusco in Peru to participate in a five-day intensive about Peruvian and shamanic women's knowledge around menstruation, providing an adventurous and multicultural tone to her writing.



Hannah Massingham & Billi McCarthy-Price with Former ACT Senator, Kate Lundy.

SHE LEADS GOVERNANCE WORKSHOP

ADVANCE YOUR SKILLS AT OUR SHE LEADS GOVERNANCE WORKSHOP ON TUESDAY 16 JUNE.

Our She Leads Workshops (formerly known as Women Out Front) are designed to address the under-representation of women on boards, and provide participants with practical skills to prepare them for taking on board directorships.

The Governance Workshop provides an overview of the roles and responsibilities of board and committee members, different governance models, how boards operate, and an outline of the legal responsibilities of board and committee members.

The workshop will be facilitated by our immediate-past President, Jane Alver, our current President, Kate Chipperfield and our current Vice-President, Caitlin Sandercock.

When: Tuesday 16 June, 5:30pm-8:30pm

Where: Bright Consulting Building, Level 5, 161 London Circuit, Canberra

Cost: \$30* (members) or \$40 (non-members)

RSVP: Register online - ywca-canberra.org.au/events by COB Friday 12 June, places are limited.

**Become a member today to receive this discounted rate*



SHE MEETS - INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY AND THE CSW

JOIN US FOR OUR MONTHLY MEMBER MEET UP, SHE MEETS, DISCUSSING INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY AND THE CSW ON TUESDAY 26 MAY.

For our May She Meets event, we're lucky to have the Canberra members of the YWCA Australia delegation to the 59th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) share their experiences with us and engage in a broader discussion around international advocacy and gender equality.

To get a flavour for the conversation, check out this blog from Jane Alver, immediate-past President of YWCA Canberra and one of the delegates to the CSW.

This event will take place in the YWCA Canberra boardroom, and you are encouraged to bring a plate or snack to share.

When: Tuesday 26 May, 5:30pm

Where: YWCA Canberra, Level 5 Bright Consulting Building, 161 London Circuit, Civic.

RSVP: Register online at ywca-canberra.org.au/events



Jane Alver - Immediate-past President of YWCA Canberra

MEET A MEMBER: ASHA CLEMENTI

THIS ARTICLE IS PART OF OUR MEMBER PROFILE SERIES ON OUR BLOG. OUR MEMBERS TELL US THAT ONE OF THE THINGS THEY REALLY LOVE ABOUT BEING PART OF OUR COMMUNITY IS GETTING TO KNOW LIKEMINDED WOMEN.

Asha Clementi is a year 10 student at Canberra Girls Grammar School. She moved to Canberra from Sydney a little over a year ago, and is originally from Tennessee in the USA.

You in a nutshell:

Bibliophile, dancer, ailurophile (cat lover), singer, tumblr addict, and chocolate lover.

What was your highlight of 2014?

The highlight of my year was definitely being accepted into UN Youth Australia's Pacific Project. In June/July of this year I've been selected as one of 12 delegates, from all around Australia, traveling to East Timor to explore sustainable aid in developing countries. I am super excited for this trip and I'm really looking forward to the experience.

What's an achievement you're proud of?

I have to admit that I am really proud of being accepted into the Pacific Project because there were over 100 applicants from all over Australia in years 10-12, and I was one of the final 12 selected for this opportunity. I made it through two essay application rounds as well as an interview for the project. This is an achievement that I am extremely proud of and has meant that I get the chance to learn about another country.

What's on your playlist?

Basically everything from musical theatre to pop songs to indie rock. I've been listening to a mix of songs from Jamie MacDowell and Tom Thum's album Pirates and Thieves, as well as songs from Legally Blonde - The Musical.

Why did you join the Y?

I joined the Y to try and help support and learn about women's issues, not only in our community, but in communities all over the world. I also joined to create more connections with women around Canberra, and get more involved in the community.

Who inspires you?

One of the women who inspires me most would have to be Marie Curie. She was so passionate about what she did and continued to make incredible discoveries in the world of science, even when there were so many telling her she couldn't because she was a woman.

What's the change you want to see in the world?

I want to see total equality all around the world. Not just gender equality between men and women, but also the equality of intersex people. It would be fantastic if there could be equality throughout all races, religions, and the LGBTIQ community. Whether or not this is just the idealistic dreaming of a teenage girl we have yet to see, but that doesn't mean we can't try to take steps in the right direction.



YWCA Canberra member - Asha Clementi

“ I want to see total equality all around the world. Not just gender equality between men and women, but also the equality of intersex people. ”

YWCA ROUND THE WORLD BREAKFAST



ON TUESDAY 21 APRIL, WE WERE EXCITED TO HOST OUR ANNUAL ROUND THE WORLD BREAKFAST TO CELEBRATE WORLD YWCA DAY, AT THE LOBBY RESTAURANT IN PARKES.

World YWCA Day is recognised every year across 120 countries. The Round the World Breakfast provides an opportunity for YWCAs to come together to honour the contributions of women leaders in their communities.

Over 120 of our members and friends braved the beautiful but brisk autumnal morning to arrive for breakfast. Many friends greeted each other, and new friendships and connections were made, with the room humming with excitement.

Our Executive Director, Frances Crimmins, welcomed guests and gave an inspiring and empowering speech about the work of YWCA's around the world, and here in Canberra.

Ms Crimmins took the opportunity to urge the ACT Government to take real action to prevent violence against women, saying, "The need to address gender inequality and change the current paradigms of power and control in intimate relationships is critical if we as a community want to stop counting dead women".

She encouraged guests to join our RespectNOW campaign, seeking funding for respectful relationships education in ACT primary schools, by signing the petition.

Ms Crimmins also urged guests to give generously towards the Global Power to Change Fund.

Former ACT Senator, the Honourable Kate Lundy, gave the keynote address, impressing guests with her relaxed and down-to-earth delivery.

She related her earliest, hesitant ventures into the union movement, motivated by the dangerous and uncomfortable work she was doing on a construction site at the tender age of 16 - scraping asbestos off the National Library!

Ms Lundy emphasised her leadership pathway had been made possible thanks to the strong and stubborn women who had gone before her, advocating for equal opportunity. Thanks to the influence of women, the ad she replied to for that first job specified 'men and women may apply'. She said she would not have applied if it hadn't specified women were welcome to apply - and the whole course of her life would have been different.

She also paid homage to the people along the way who had given her access to leadership, saying, "I owe my whole life experience to people who gave me a push - the rest is almost history."

Our Great Ydeas Grants recipients were also announced at the breakfast - read more about them in this newsletter.

All in all, it was a wonderful way to celebrate World YWCA Day. Best of all,

the event raised over \$3,500 for the Global Power to Change Fund - over \$1,000 more than last year. An incredible result!

We would like to acknowledge all the businesses and individuals who donated the great prizes this year:

- Kate Luke from Kate Luke Photography
- Simon Le, from Simon Le Coaching
- Julie Okely from Dilkara Essence of Australia
- Janine Yokom - YWCA Canberra Member
- Erin-Claire Barrow from Erin-Claire Illustrations
- University of Canberra Capitals
- Betty Ferguson - YWCA Canberra member

We would also like to acknowledge our supportive corporate and community friends, who purchased tables:

- Griffin Legal
- JB Were and NAB
- EY
- Westpac
- Catholic Super
- YWCA Australia

WINYU EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICE GRAND OPENING

WE WERE THRILLED TO HOLD THE GRAND OPENING OF OUR WINYU EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICE ON THE EVENING OF THURSDAY 30 APRIL.

The service has been purpose built, within the design of Winyu House an impressive and innovative new ACT Government building in Gungahlin.

Senior staff in our Children's Services portfolio have worked closely with designers and builders to create an early childhood centre that provides a calm and inviting space, conducive to learning and play.

The hard work paid off at the Grand Opening, when invited guests were joined by ACT MLAs Meegan Fitzharris and Yvette Berry for the official opening ceremony.

Aunty Agnes Shea provided a very warm welcome to country. Our President Kate Chipperfield spoke about the successful process of working closely with the ACT Government to bring our expertise and innovation in the children's services sector to this unique project. Member for Molonglo, Ms Fitzharris, stood in for Chief Minister Andrew Barr and gave a very effusive speech about YWCA Canberra and our approach to early childhood education and care, before cutting the ribbon.

The service opened to children on Monday 4 May.

We have already held a very successful open day on Saturday 9 May, with around 80 people taking the opportunity to view the centre. We have decided to have another Open Day on Saturday 30 May, 1pm - 3pm. Come along and see what all the fuss is about!



Kate Chipperfield, Megan Fitzharris, Bernadette Carbin and Frances Crimmins officially opening Winyu Early Childhood Service!

2015 *SHE LEADS* COLLEGE CONFERENCE

BELOW ARE SOME GREAT PHOTOS FROM OUR FIRST *SHE LEADS* COLLEGE CONFERENCE ON TUESDAY 6 MAY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CANBERRA.

