

Chapter one

THE EARLY YEARS

(with acknowledgments to Lola Bray)

“We act in faith and miracles occur”. These words of Dag Hammarskjold, a former Secretary-General of the United Nations, could very well sum up the story of the YWCA, whether it may be at local, national or world level.

The year 2005 brings with it the 125th anniversary of the foundation of the Adelaide YWCA, a century and a quarter of faithful service and action that has become wide and varied to meet the changing needs of the community.

The Adelaide YWCA was born in a Christian community and an indomitable Mrs John Colton played a key role in its establishment. Born Mary Cutting, she was the wife of John Colton, Mayor of Adelaide and cabinet minister who became Premier of South Australia in 1876 and again in 1884. She became Lady Colton when her husband was appointed KCMG in 1891, and was widely admired and loved because she was so energetic, “sunshiny” and hospitable. Historian Dr. Helen Jones has discovered Mary Colton to be one of the most remarkable persons of nineteenth-century South Australia.¹ From the early 1840s until shortly before her death in 1898, she

¹ The findings of Dr Helen Jones, a former senior lecturer in history at Magill CAE (now Uni SA), into Mary Colton’s life and work are due to be published by Melbourne University Press in October 2005 in a supplement to the first sixteen volumes of the Australian Dictionary of Biography

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taught a class of young women at the Wesleyan Sunday School in central Adelaide. She took a special interest in her 'dear girls', often walking to visit them if they were ill. The poverty and despair she witnessed in some homes prompted her lifelong philanthropy, the practical outcome of her ideals of Christian service.

Despite giving birth to nine children, Lady Colton was a tireless worker in more than twenty church and secular organisations. She served on the committees of the Boarding-Out Society and its successor, the State Children's Council (which supervised the care of neglected and delinquent children), the ladies' committees of the Servants' Home (for immigrants and others seeking employment) and the South Australian Female Refuge. She became President of the ladies' division of the Social Purity Society which, to reduce child prostitution, campaigned to have the age of consent raised from twelve to sixteen.

Lady Colton was equally successful in her work as President of the Women's Suffrage League, the Wesleyan Ladies Mission Auxiliary and the Adelaide Female Reformatory. She was one of the founders of the Adelaide Children's Hospital and long served on its board of management. She also did a great deal for the Home for Incurables (now the Julia Farr Centre), the Strangers' Friend Society, the Maternity Relief Association, blind, deaf and dumb institutions and various cottage homes organisations.

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By 1897, a similar group was meeting in the Pirie Street church under the leadership of Mrs James Tobin. It was their minister, the Rev. R M Hunter, who suggested that the two groups should merge and form the nucleus of a YWCA in Adelaide. The idea grew, and in 1880 the first YWCA in South Australia

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was established. Mrs Colton became the first President, an office she held for almost twenty years. Little did she think that from this small group of people would grow, within fifty years, an Association having 1,000 members, with contacts through clubs and classes, of a further 5,000!

In 1884 the Adelaide YWCA was incorporated into the parent organisation, the YWCA of Great Britain, on an inter-denominational basis. Rooms were rented in Franklin Street, and there the young Association began its activities, “small in number, but strong in faith in God, and large in vision”. The first recorded annual meeting was held in the YMCA on 24 November 1885. This meeting was presided over by the Hon. David Murray, with addresses given by Rev. F W Cox, R M Hunter, Dr Paton and Mr F Chapple with a musical program under the capable direction of Mr T H Jones. It is interesting to note that in the early history of this Association the annual meetings were in the hands of male members of the community.

The first Honorary Secretary was Miss Julia Stuckey, who drew up a “Basis and Rules for the Association”, with some help from various ministers of Adelaide churches. Activities for the first two years had been limited to Sunday afternoon Bible Class and Tea Social Time, but from the year 1884 the program developed rapidly. A monthly newsletter was published, eventually named *The Evangel*; later to be revamped and re-named *The Blue Triangle*, with a further evolution to *The Link*, and now in the 21st century this important means of communication is known as *Y connect*.

In the very early years personal visits were made to factories to interest the girls in the activities of the YWCA. A Flower Mission was started to help brighten the lives of old people in the Destitute Asylum (as the home for old people was then known) and patients in the Adelaide Hospital. Dressmaking

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and literacy classes were formed and following a visit from Mrs Hard, who worked at a school in Nagpor, India, the Adelaide YWCA 'adopted' an orphan from her school. This was the seed that blossomed into the World Fellowship Program which annually raised funds to support YW work in third world countries.

In the 1880s concern was felt for the girls who sold newspapers on the streets of Adelaide, a fact that is little known in the history of the state. To help them "withstand the many temptations into which their work threw them", they were often invited to tea by Mrs Colton and Mrs Robin. Other members began to take an interest in the girls and befriend them on a one-to-one basis. From this simple beginning has come the many facets of welfare work of the Adelaide YWCA over the years.

1888 marked an important year in the YWCA calendar. A visit by a Miss Faulkner of the London Colonial and Missionary Division of the YWCA inspired members to begin branches at Glenelg and Semaphore. It was the members of the Semaphore Branch who saw, and acted upon, another urgent need in the community. At that time there was an influx of young women migrants into South Australia, and the Semaphore members were concerned for their welfare and thus formed the 'Travellers Aid', meeting and boarding steamers as they berthed at Port Adelaide. Mrs J T Davies was the inspiration behind this work. Cards of welcome were printed in English, French and German and large posters bearing information and words of welcome in three languages were framed and placed in conspicuous places such as railway stations. The Travellers Aid was affiliated with the YWCA for many years, eventually having an office in the headquarters under the capable leadership of Miss C E Dixon.

As the work of the fledging Association developed, the premises in Franklin Street became inadequate, and it was necessary to seek other accommodation to suit the growing needs. On 1 September 1887, the Association moved from Franklin Street to Flinders Chambers in Flinders Street. Here, in addition to a reading and meeting room, there was a parlour, dining hall and bedrooms. During the first two months, fourteen girls made use of the sleeping accommodation, supervised on a voluntary basis by Miss Florence Frew. This was the beginning of the Adelaide YWCA's involvement with running hostels and providing accommodation for young women, an activity which spanned many decades.

But the young Adelaide YWCA soon outgrew the accommodation in Flinders Chambers and early in 1890 the organisation moved to new headquarters at the north-east corner of Rundle and Pultney Streets, over the shop known as Cravens & Armstrongs. The rooms were larger and better suited to the developing program. The official opening on 18 April was combined with a sale of work during the day, followed by a successful *Conversazione* in the evening. Many gifts were received to furnish and beautify the rooms, and new programs were started.

Towards the end of 1890, a class was formed for young girls and named The Girls Institute. From this beginning the Girls Department developed over the years to provide a wide and varied range of activities and interests.

It was, however, a cherished wish of Lady Colton to see her beloved Association in a building of its own, in which it could more effectively carry out its work. Lady Colton died in July 1897 without personally seeing her wish fulfilled.

Among the many tributes paid to her was this testimonial relating to her work for the YWCA:

“For many years she bore the heaviest share of the burden, and in times of difficulty and discouragement proved herself to be a tower of strength. Clear in judgement, prompt and decisive in action, energetic and capable, she was most of all distinguished in her true womanhood and her unfailing tenderness and sympathy. To her the Adelaide YWCA owes a debt of gratitude.”

Following the death of Lady Colton, the Committee was determined to give immediate effect to her wish by raising, as a memorial to her, the money for a permanent headquarters building. The first step had been taken in 1890 and The balance sheet for that year read *“Deposited in Savings Bank for Building Fund 100 pounds”*.

During her lifetime the sum of £416 had been raised. Now, with the memorial appeal and various fund raising efforts, that amount reached £1,363 by the end of the decade. In October 1899, the purchase price of £1,140 was paid for a site in Hindmarsh Square. The YWCA had acquired property, and steps were taken at the Annual Meeting in November of that year for the Incorporation of the Adelaide YWCA, with the necessary changes to the Rules of the Association. An architectural design competition for the new building was announced and judges appointed with Messrs G de Lacy and R J Haddon of Melbourne presenting the winning design. As the 20th century was ushered in, plans were being drawn up for the first permanent building for the Adelaide YWCA.

Chapter two

PERMANENT BUILDINGS AND PROPERTIES

After sixteen years in rented buildings, with three moves during that time, the year 1900 was very significant in the life of the Adelaide YWCA. Work commenced on the new headquarters building in Hindmarsh Square on 1 May and the Foundation Stone was laid on 12 July of the same year. The Adelaide Observer newspaper gave ample coverage of this event, reporting that:

“The site for the new home for the Adelaide YWCA is upon the western side of Hindmarsh Square, a little south of Grenfell Street, and upon part of the block known for so many years as Messrs Ehmeke & Gaetjens timber yard. . . . The designers show a very sensibly treated work with some feeling for the period known as Good Queen Anne.”

By the time the building was opened on 22 November 1900, a further 2,218 pounds had been raised. At the opening ceremony a dedication service was held in the Lady Colton Hall. Sir Samuel Way declared the building open :

“To the Glory of God, to the memory of your late worthy President, for the use of the YWCA and for the benefit of the girls and young women of Adelaide”.

Donations were given for the furnishings, and a concert by the YWCA Choral Union completed the day.

Within a decade it became evident that this first building was too small for the activities of the many girls who used it, and there were not enough bedrooms to meet the demand. The Committee decided the time had come to increase the accommodation by erecting a building adjacent on the south side, joining the two buildings. Initially it was planned that the new section would have four storeys plus a basement, using the upper two floors for a hostel. The estimated cost for this was approximately 1200 pounds. The adjacent block of land was purchased for 1860 pounds, but fund raising proved difficult. To add to the difficulties of the Committee, their much loved President, Mrs Charles Birks, died. She had been the inspiration behind the building campaign and her time, her energy and her money had been placed at the disposal of the Association to which she left a generous legacy in her Will.

As an alternative to the extensions in Hindmarsh Square, the Committee decided to look for a large residence “within one tram section of the city” to develop as a hostel. The story of the Carrington Street Hostel is recorded in later.

Following the purchase of the Carrington Street Residence, the intention then (in 1913) was to renovate Lady Colton Hall and convert the former bedrooms into classrooms. At that crucial moment the British Medical Association offered to buy the building. It was sold in July 1913 for the sum of £5,500. The way was now open to construct a new building in Hindmarsh Square. Mr Soward was appointed as architect and the building plan included two storeys and a basement, with facilities that would allow for expansion in activities and administration. The Governor, Sir Henry Galway, laid the foundation stone on 14 July 1914.

Mrs A H Gault, President at the time, was a moving spirit in the work involved in setting up the new building. The Assembly room was named ‘The Lady Colton Hall’ and the

Lady Colton Guild furnished the library and social room - a large, well lit area where girls could rest and meet friends. Its spirit of friendliness was expressed in the motto over the fireplace: *“Whoso shall stand on this hearthstone shall never stand alone.”*

Even though there was no specific building appeal, generous donations were received and the general feeling in the city was that the young women of South Australia really needed this building. However, when the building was officially opened by Lady Galway on 14 December, 1914, there was still a debt of £4,000 and to pay off this mortgage, friends of the Association were asked to take up ‘shares’ of 5 or 10 percent, to be paid annually for the next three years, with the result that many leading citizens of Adelaide became ‘shareholders’ in the YWCA. These payments were renewed until the last debt was wiped out.

The Hindmarsh Square building served the Association well through two World Wars and the intervening depression years. It was here that the YWCA pioneered the cafeteria type food service and the dining room at the rear of the building was geared to serving both lunches and dinners during the week. During 1942, as a result of a War-Time Service Appeal, the headquarters building was converted to a munition-workers hostel housing sixty five young women. This necessitated serving three meals a day, seven days a week – a tremendous effort for a mostly volunteer staff headed by Miss Bennell. All club activities were transferred out of the building, most of them to rented rooms the YMCA.

One of the most outstanding of the YWCA war-time activities was Open House, a club for the use of men and women of the Services. Situated on the corner of Grenfell Street and Hindmarsh Square (until recently the site of the RAA building), it was converted into a spacious and modern club

with every comfort, and facilities for social and recreational activities. Plans for this began in 1941, when suggestions were discussed for the erection of a new building or extension to the existing headquarters. Although war-time restrictions prevented the YWCA from proceeding with these plans the Commonwealth Government eventually purchased the Dunlop building, which the YWCA rented initially on a commercial basis, and in which Open House was able to be set up.

Open House was an “immediate and unqualified success”, with visitors from other states proclaiming it “the best club of its kind in the Commonwealth”. The administration however was enormous and Hostess Club of 800 business girls was formed; proving both valuable and popular. The young women served in many practical ways, organising social functions, dances, canteen and indoor sports. It was the only Service Club where men and women could meet socially and entertain their relatives and friends.

As well as the Hostess Club, there was a Women’s Auxiliary of 100 to 200 women from various women’s organisations and church guilds. Even the school children were involved through a Schools’ Patriotic Fund donation of £1,500 towards the canteen and furnishings. The cafeteria, as well as being opened to the public, catered for many service people each day. In one year, the Cafeteria served approximately 17,200 people.

Soon after the war, the decision was made to sell the Hindmarsh Square building. Minutes of the meeting held on 23 July 1946 contain the recommendation :

“That the Hindmarsh Square property be sold to the S A National Football League Ltd. for the sum of 24,000 pounds and upon receipt of this money, the mortgage of 16,500 pounds on the Open House Building be discharged.”

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With the sale of this building, the Hostel section closed on 14 August 1946. Most of the girls were transferred to other YWCA hostels.

The 1950s were years of significant property changes. In 1950 a property was purchased at 263-264 North Terrace, Adelaide, as a possible future site for the headquarters of the Association. Open House was sold in 1954 and a second property purchased at 16 Pennington Terrace, North Adelaide, initially intended for the development of a hostel for young women.

Program staff moved from Open House to a small building on the Pennington Terrace property and when the extended time for occupancy of Football House (former YWCA building in Hindmarsh Square) expired, there was an urgent need to re-house the administration. This was solved temporarily by using the lounge at Carrington Street Hostel until arrangements could be made to move into the two front rooms on the North Terrace property. But the long term needs of the Association were being assessed and the decision was made in July 1955 that Pennington Terrace should be developed for membership activities, general administration and hostel accommodation. Tenders were let for a new building on this site and the firm of Marshal and Brougham was chosen from a wide field for the sum of £73,600 .

Under the leadership of Miss Margaret Davey (President), Miss Winifred Carruthers (General Secretary) and a very dedicated staff, the work of the Adelaide YWCA continued in restricted space and scattered locations until the opening of the new building on 19 May 1958. The old house at the rear, affectionately known as 'The Cottage', had also been renovated.

Lady Slim, wife of the Governor General, Sir William Slim, performed the official opening. (At the time, Lady Slim was patroness of the YWCA of Australia.) The President, Margaret

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Davey, paid this tribute to Miss Carruthers, the General Secretary who had guided the Association through this challenging time:

“Her gifts were many, but one that was appreciated most at this time was her ability to select the people for the special task ahead and then give them the freedom to work, at the same time being available at any time for consultation, and in an almost uncanny way finding the solution to the most difficult problems.”

It was to the credit to the President, Board of Directors and many supporters of the YWCA that the building opened free of debt.

The YWCA remained an imposing building on Pennington Terrace, looking out on to Pennington Gardens, for the next thirty years. In that time it hosted clubs for all ages, courses and classes, training sessions, specialty groups, festivals, performances, public meetings, sporting groups, debutante balls and much more! The planned hostel was never built – the flight of stairs on the first floor going nowhere testified to this!

So many women - staff and volunteers - played an important part in the ever changing work of the YW carried out in and from this building.

Gene Wenham, the Executive Director at the time of the closure of Pennington Terrace, continues the story:

“During the 1980s the Board of the Adelaide YWCA realised that they could no longer afford premises on such valuable land, especially as these did not meet current requirements. There were no longer courses and classes or club activities in this central location. The spread of suburbia away from the central business district required a smaller administration centre.”

Many meetings and much soul searching was done in recognition of the grief such a change would cause the older dedicated volunteers who had worked so hard to raise money to build Pennington Terrace. Finally it was decided to engage Mr Bob Cooper, a development consultant from Sydney, to advise on future development. An approach was made to the Adelaide City Council with plans to convert the property to a multi-storey car park (much needed by both the Memorial and the Adelaide Children's Hospitals), with two storey town houses on the Pennington Terrace frontage. The reception at the Town Hall was not very helpful and we were finally refused permission for our plans."

With further help from Bob Cooper, alternatives were pursued with the Boards of the Memorial and Children's Hospitals with the idea of quitting the property. After extensive meetings with the Finance Advisory Committee, past key board members and the current Board, a decision was taken to sell Pennington Terrace for \$1,000,000. A very emotional time!

The move from the North Adelaide building was marked by an evening of reminiscing and positive forward thinking. Singer Miriam Wood gave a beautiful rendition of "Surely the Presence of the Lord is in this Place". Board member, Janet Wood, compered a presentation which highlighted the move of programs and membership activities to a new home. The stage was set with boxes denoting particular aspects of the Adelaide YWCA's work. These were collected by a person involved in that area, and figuratively carried to the new premises.

With retired engineer Bruce Wenham, Gene Wenham's husband, assisting as project manager, the YWCA moved to temporary rental premises at 10 Regent Street, Adelaide. The Association worked from these premises from 1986 to 1988. During this time Joan Grieger, a volunteer worker, proved an

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invaluable source of information. Seated in the entrance foyer she always knew where to find information or the required staff person.

Thoughts of my time at the Adelaide YWCA – Gene Wenham

“To share and work with women of common ideals in giving women the confidence to achieve; to be present and part of the closing of Pennington Terrace, and to realise the part those premises had played in so many women’s lives, clubs, programs and learning. Finally the ultimate, in joining with YWCA women all over the world at the United Nations Forum in Geneva in 1980 and Phoenix, Arizona in 1987.

I was asked to nominate to become a member of the Board in 1979. Although I was involved with other groups, I discovered the most worthwhile women I had met were with the YW, so I agreed and joined the Board.”

Gene joined the Adelaide YWCA staff in 1980 as Promotions Officer and subsequently became Executive Director from 1983 to 1988.

The search for new permanent premises then began. In December 1987 former bank premises at 320 Port Road, Hindmarsh were purchased, and a contract was let to completely alter the site to the YW’s requirements. Monday 29 August 1988, on a perfect Adelaide day, the new home was shown to the public - inside and out. The vibrant new gold and blue flag was raised to the top of the building and in true YWCA tradition, under the capable authority of Jeanette Galpin and Rae Whittington, baskets overflowing with food materialised. By late morning it was standing room only as some 200 people tested the holding capacity of the extended Board/Activity room.

Guests included the Premier of South Australia, John Bannon (who opened the building) and his wife; the President of the Legislative Council Anne Levy, Cabinet Minister Susan Lenehan, the Hon. Diana Laidlaw MLC and the Mayor of Hindmarsh Florence Pens. Margaret Brown attended on behalf of the National YWCA and the Melbourne YW was represented by their President, Moira Huggins and Executive Director, Leoni Durant. Members also came from Port Pirie, Whyalla and the Riverland, and former staff member Mildred Wilson made a special trip from Kangaroo Island to attend this significant event.

President, Margaret Smith, outlined the YWCA story, both its history and present work. She told of the deliberations and decisions of the Board of Directors concerning the future of the organisation, always ensuring that over one hundred years of valuable work in this state with women and girls would continue. Mr Bannon acknowledged the place of the YWCA in this state's history, its dedication to community work, the responsible lobbying power always in the quest for improving the status of women, the consistent demand for equal opportunity and the need for adequate and affordable child care. Janet Wood, Executive Officer of the SA Council of Churches and convenor of the YWCA Social Responsibility Committee, gave thanks to all present, for the long tradition of community caring, and for the Christian emphasis of love and commitment to justice and peace which marked our beginnings.

The Adelaide YWCA was open for business in the community of Hindmarsh.

Programs continued from these new headquarters for the next eight years, then came the night bringing disaster. Joan Snow, a long time volunteer and staff member of the Adelaide YWCA tells of the event :

“During the night of 5 November 1996, the Executive Director, Diane Morris, was rudely awoken by a telephone call from the police with bad news. There was a fire at the YWCA headquarters at Hindmarsh. This was the start of several months of hard work and heartbreak for staff, members and volunteers. Most of the front of the building had been destroyed, along with a lot of records and valuable historical papers.

While the clean up and re-building proceeded, the staff were housed in a transportable building situated on site, in the rear car park. Although this was cramped and uncomfortable, at least the work could continue, but it was a nightmare! Programs and activities had to continue along with the preparation of the annual report and planning for the AGM in April of the following year.

In the middle of all this, there was also the 4-yearly National Convention to be held in Darwin to prepare for, also early in April, which all made for a very trying time. Eventually we all headed off to Darwin for a very successful convention, and on our return, held the AGM in rented premises. The renovations and repairs to the Hindmarsh building were completed in due course, and we were all very pleased to be back in our sparkling new building.”

The sadness of this event still reverberates in the memories of club members and individual members who had given photographs and other documents to the YW, only to have them destroyed along with so many other valuable pieces of memorabilia.

President, Ros Wilson, in her annual report, commented that 1997 had been *“a year of challenge and achievement”* with

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staff maintaining programs despite working from “*cramped temporary accommodation while refurbishment of our fire-damaged building took place.*”

The YWCA worked from the Port Road building for almost a decade. However, it was decided in 1997 that this venue had not delivered the programs and community contacts which were initially hoped for. The decision was made to move the headquarters of the Adelaide YWCA back into the central business district. A property at 17 Hutt Street was subsequently purchased in 1998 - a smallish cottage, originally a private home, then Saltash College followed by architects' offices and finally the Adelaide YWCA. Although space is limited, it is nevertheless cheerful, with walls brightly painted and a large sign with new modern logo in front of the building, advertising the YW's presence in this new city location.

With its new premises, new logo (a bright pink elliptical pattern with splashes of golden yellow, dramatically different from the original blue triangle), new programs, and new emphases, the Adelaide YWCA moves confidently into the 21st century.

Chapter three

ADELAIDE YWCA HOSTELS

Accommodation for Women and Girls

YWCAs throughout the world have had a reputation for providing pleasant, safe, affordable and clean accommodation for women and girls. Since 1887 the Adelaide YWCA has, at various times and places, followed this trend and gained a reputation recognised by the community and governments alike.

The first hostel type accommodation was provided by the Adelaide YWCA at the premises in **Flinders Chambers** where, in addition to a reading room, there was a parlour, dining hall and a few bedrooms. Limited sleeping accommodation was also available in the Adelaide YWCA's first 'permanent' home in **Hindmarsh Square** during the first decade of the twentieth century, but this proved inadequate to meet the needs of young women, especially those from the country, coming to work in Adelaide.

Initially the Committee planned to extend their facilities in Hindmarsh Square, but then the decision was made to seek a large established residence within easy reach of the city centre. The choice fell on the residence of the late Dr Paterson at 410 Carrington Street, Adelaide – a fine house standing on an acre of land, with garden and tennis court. The purchase price was 4,500 pounds. It was decided to add a wing with twenty five single and double bedrooms. The cost seemed prohibitive, but

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thanks to the generosity of Dr J C Verco, who promised 1,000 pounds if the building was opened free of debt, the new wing was built and the hostel was opened in September 1913. Various towns in South Australia furnished a room, which then carried their name.

Over the years **Carrington Street Hostel** catered for a cross section of women and girls in the community, the majority being business girls, students and teachers. The girls assisted with fund-raising for renovations and the surfacing of a new tennis court in the grounds. The YWCA Hostel Committee met with the girls regularly over dinner, thus keeping in touch with their problems and needs. Free hospitality was given to unemployed girls through the depression years, and during World War II the hostel was made available for munitions-workers who were drafted from country areas for this purpose. It was also used by women from the Forces during the war.

Early in 1940 the verandahs were enclosed through a generous gift of £1,018, thus providing much needed additional accommodation. Demand for hostel accommodation continued after the war and a new wing was added in 1951.

Muriel Barrington, known widely in YW circles as a “cake icing and decorating teacher *par excellence*” also worked at Carrington Street Hostel. She recollects :

“Somewhere in this time of mine at the Y, they wanted a relief cook at their Carrington Street Hostel and so I volunteered. Some of the highlights were when the girls came in late at night. I would wait for them and listen to all their excuses. Some of the girls used to climb up the outside drain pipe. There was no end of the tricks they used to get up to.

One of the girls from Ceduna had her engagement party at my home because she could not get home and back in time for college, and her boyfriend in time for work."

Former President Alleyne Womersley recalls that in the late '60s and early '70s, when she was associated with the Hostels Committee, the matter of financing much needed refurbishment, and the maintenance of an ageing building became a financial drain on YWCA funds. There was also a change in social and economic factors. Even if young people started the year at a hostel, they soon moved out into flats shared with others.

The vacancies were hard to fill, and this had an impact on the financial viability of the Hostel. Carrington Street was therefore sold in 1971 and the Board paid tribute to Mrs Luke and her staff for their years of service to the YWCA though Carrington Street Hostel.

Accommodation of a different kind was provided at **Holiday House** which the YWCA had purchased in 1920. This fine old home at Mount Lofty was to be used mainly as a Camps and Conference Centre. However, for part of the year it would be available as a boarding house or hostel where girls might spend a week or two of their holiday time. During WWII Holiday House was a venue for service women on leave and later became emergency accommodation for evacuees from Darwin. For two months in the later stages of the war, Holiday House was used by military authorities to billet eighty men of the fighting forces, returning temporarily from overseas service.

During WWII the housing of munitions-workers was of paramount importance, and the YWCA, because of its long experience in administering hostels, was asked to undertake this task and at the same time, negotiations were in progress for the establishment of hostels at Woodville and Hindley Street to house 200 and 160 munition workers respectively.

The Woodville Hostel was set up in 1942 in a large modified private residence leased by the YWCA. Facilities included a dancing and games hall, a number of small lounges, outdoor recreation areas, tennis and basketball courts, all of which were well used. During twenty seven years of its operation, thousands of young women lived at this residence. It was originally established to accommodate munition workers, giving particular attention to the shift work nature of their work. As fewer young women were employed in industry in subsequent years, the nature of the residence changed. Designed to house 220 women under war-time conditions, over the years this form of accommodation became unsuitable for young women seeking more sophisticated living space. The Hostel closed in 1969.

The **Hindley Street Hostel** also opened in 1942. The old 'Coffee Palace' was converted into a residential hostel and recreation centre for women war workers. In 1946 part of the top floor was set aside for transient guests, with the entire hostel providing accommodation for a total of 110 permanent residents and forty transients. It continued to serve the public until June 1956 when the building, owned by the Commonwealth Government and leased by the YWCA, was sold.

Sisters Mrs Edna Redman and Mrs Dorothy Menzies (nee McDonald), who lived in the hostel from 1946-1950, share their memories:

“Many an evening we adjourned to the balcony after we’d finished our evening meal to watch the crowds lining up for [West’s and Metro] theatre tickets and to watch for any young men driving down the road in snappy red sports cars. We also had lots of time in the evenings to do knitting or crocheting.”

Leave House, financed by the Australian Comforts Fund and administered by the YWCA, opened on Pennington Terrace, North Adelaide, in 1943, for the benefit of women in the Services. Many service women had previously been accommodated for short periods in the various YW hostels for 2 shillings per night, bed and breakfast. Leave House closed in May 1946, then re-opened again as a YWCA Hostel for permanent residents, catering for students and ex-service women. Because of its limited accommodation it proved difficult to balance the budget, and so it closed again in 1954.

To meet an increasing post war demand for teachers, the State Education Department, with funds made available from the Schools Patriotic Fund, purchased a property at 28 Dequetteville Terrace Kent Town, to provide accommodation for country students. The YWCA was invited to administer this hostel, to be known as **Adelaide Miethke House** in honour of Miss Adelaide Miethke, an Inspector of Schools and an organiser of the Schools Patriotic Fund. She had also been an active member of the YWCA. The hostel opened in March 1951 with fifty girls in residence and an annex being built to accommodate a further twenty. A Consultative Committee, with representatives of the Education Department, Teachers College and YWCA, was responsible for the management of the buildings however in 1965 the Government no longer wished to continue this responsibility and generously donated the property to the YWCA with the proviso that the name 'Miethke House' be retained, and that priority be given to student teachers.

At the 50th Reunion Celebrations of Miethke House Girls in 2001, some of the first residents reminisced on the way they were packed into the Ball Room, with six or more beds along the walls, and how upstairs balconies were enclosed to accommodate more beds - accessible only through one of the other rooms.

In 1977, with assistance from the State Unemployment Relief Scheme, the whole building was restored, with advice from National Trust Architect, Mr Stewart Game. The balconies were opened up, and standard of accommodation upgraded. The Ball Room was made into a study area, and a single room at the top of the stairs (the Blue Room) was redecorated and set aside for transient guests, particularly those from overseas. The restored building was opened by the then Premier, Mr Don Dunstan, in August 1977. The cost of renovations was \$11,885 provided from funds of the Association together with the substantial assistance through the State Unemployment Relief Scheme.

In the late 1960s, **Duncan Court**, a block of fourteen self-contained flats was built on tennis courts at the northern end of the Dequetteville Terrace property, thanks to the energetic support of Miss Margaret Davey. The flats were opened on 28 September 1969 by the President of the Association, Mrs Horton-Evins, and dedicated by the Rev. J C Miller. The flats were named in memory of Miss I C Duncan who had bequeathed her Nailsworth house to the YWCA in 1943. The house was sold in 1963 and the proceeds used to help finance the flats. In the beginning the flats were earmarked for women tenants only, as a transition from hostel type accommodation. However, by 1981 it had become illegal to discriminate on the grounds of sex, and when the cost of refurbishing equipment became prohibitive, the flats were duly sold in July of that year.

Despite the upgrade of Adelaide Miethke House, reduced numbers of residents and the cost of maintenance made its financial viability questionable, and in 1979 the YWCA Board made the difficult decision to sell Miethke House.

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The changes in social and economic conditions had affected the hostels as young women sought a more sophisticated and independent style of accommodation.

Upon learning that the YWCA was intending to sell Miethke House, several members of the YW met with men from the Education Department. The latter wanted the YW to return the building to the Education Department. In the ensuing discussion the women were left with the impression that they, the men, considered themselves more competent in the situation. Not so, this was the emerging feminist era, and these women were confident and aware of the rights of the YWCA. When it was suggested by the Education Department that it could be useful for the YWCA to obtain legal advice, the men were advised that one of the women already present in the discussion group was a lawyer. The proposed 'gift' to the Education Department was quashed following a telephone conversation between the Education Minister and Alder Hall.

Money from the sale of Miethke House was set aside in the hope that the Adelaide YWCA would eventually be able to provide motel type accommodation, in the tradition of YWCAs around the world. This dream has not yet been realised.

As in the other hostels, it was a great team of workers who served at Miethke House over the years. We remember with gratitude the indispensable hostel directors, those three or four gentlewomen who supplemented their pension by doing night duty from 5.30 to 8.30pm, the all essential cooks and the faithful Italian housemaid who could turn her hand to anything in any emergency. Without this loyal band, the Association could not have provided the 'home away from home' that Adelaide Miethke House was for so many country girls.

The YWCA was also involved with **Luprina Hostel**. Situated in Dudley Park, it was a hostel for young employed Aboriginal women. This had been built by the Department of Aboriginal

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Affairs in 1971, and the YWCA was asked to administer it. However, too few young aboriginal women wanted the type of single rooms offered. Alleyne Womersley remembers doing a tour of the building before it was occupied; she realised there had been little consultation beforehand with any of the parties concerned. Aboriginal girls were not used to sleeping on their own and no provision had been made to leave one light on in the corridors at night. With only one switch it was a case of all on, or all off,— neither economical nor practical.

Administration continued in 1972 on a different basis, with a social worker to work full time with the residents, however, the venture was not a success, and Luprina Hostel closed soon afterwards

Chapter four

FINANCING THE ADELAIDE YWCA

As a non-profit organisation, the YWCA, since its inception, has needed to raise money from the community to enable it to continue its programs. Women and girls have achieved outstanding results with hard work, determination, creativity and dedication with Male friends and husbands often supporting their efforts.

Activities and events were courageously large and sometimes intimately small, both innovative and daring or 'tried before'. Most were financially successful, some not and many were an opportunity to place the YW and its work in the public arena. Through each endeavour members' generosity and loyalty towards the Adelaide YWCA ran strongly.

Ongoing and larger events were the Button/Badge days, the Christmas Festivals, conceived and convened by Margaret Davey, and the Charity Card Shop, for which Joan Grieger was an indefatigable worker. Badge Days were discontinued in the 1990s because of a lack of volunteer sellers.

Over the years other events included: film mornings and fashion parades, quiz nights and raffles, garage sales and lamington Drives, dinners and luncheons, a chocolate drive and a hot-cross-bun sale, trading tables and Christmas cake stalls.

A new venture of selling cut Advertiser sheets for use at the Central Market added more to the coffers in the early days. For

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many years members rallied to help in the catering for those who attended the Anzac Day Service in Pennington Gardens. This was seen to be a rewarding activity for the volunteers and was appreciated by the public, especially the ex-service men and women. Thanks were recorded to the Bank of Adelaide, North Adelaide officials, for the use of their premises for three second hand clothing shops during the years 1962/63.

Appearing in *Link*, the October 1968 edition, an advertisement:

“Urgently wanted !!! Two groups are planning to hold Monster Jumble Sales. All goods, household furniture, kitchen and gardening equipment, clothes- all sizes and kinds. No shoes please. Goods may be left here by October 15 please. Spring Clean Now.”

Fundraising events over the years at club level and on a larger organisational scale demonstrated always the ingenuity, perseverance and courage of YWCA members, their friends and families. However in the latter years of the 20th century, the task of raising significant amounts of money demanded new direction. In the annual report of 1997, Executive Director Diane Morris states:

“We were sorry to farewell our fundraising committee in August 1997 and thank them for their many years of dedicated hard work organising ...the many functions which not only brought the membership together, but also raised many thousands of dollars”.

One source of finance for the YW has been the generous bequests received over the years in particular the Joyce Schultz and Jan Snowden bequests.

Joyce Schultz joined the YW to attend millinery classes during WWII. Remembered as a kind and generous woman and, as well as working tirelessly on Badge Days and Anzac Day catering, she gave several bequests during her life-time – one was for a fire curtain at the Pennington Terrace Hall and a further donation of \$50,000 to the Adelaide YWCA and an equivalent amount to the Red Cross. There is a plaque commemorating her work with the YW at the Elizabeth Community House with which she was also involved.

Jan Snowden attended Methodist Ladies College in Adelaide, and continued with her studies at Adelaide University, where she completed an Arts Degree followed by Honours in Geography. In addition, she completed a Diploma of Physical Education.

Jan played A grade hockey and inter-varsity women's cricket. She taught at Walford School (Adelaide) for one year, after which she left for Canada in her early 20's.

Jan Snowden was a leader with the Girl Citizens in Adelaide and was passionate about her work with this club and obviously a Y person.

Jan is remembered by her friends for her great honesty and integrity.

Community organisations and State and Federal governments have also assisted with the work of the Adelaide YW through grants for specific projects. This has called for new and specific skills from Executive Directors and staff members namely in the tendering for new projects, writing of applications and demonstrating accountability to the financing body and in the event of government funding coming to an end, the accessing of community sponsors to enable valuable programs to continue.

In October 2003, a bold venture was undertaken with a view to advertising the YWCA to the wider corporate community. The event was also planned as a major fundraiser. A lavish evening of high profile and successful women speakers, a popular music group and an attractive venue, achieved the first

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objective, but not the second. Another profile raiser, was a highly successful lunch organised by Board member Susan Ashby, held at the Adelaide Town Hall for over one hundred guests drawn primarily from the business community, with discussions on the demographic changes in the State and their impact on communities.

A second ‘corporate’ dinner was held in 2004. This was once again a superb evening of good food, great speakers, fun, music and lots of talk and laughter. Although a larger profit was made on this occasion, the amount was not a significant addition to the Adelaide YW’s bank balance, and hence contribution to the costs of conducting its programs.

Such functions showed the true essence of the tenacity, determination and faith of members in the work of the Adelaide YWCA currently and in the future.

Fundraising is hard work!

Chapter five

SPORT AND RECREATION

Sport and recreation has always played an important part in the overall program of the Adelaide YWCA. Physical exercise took many forms from penny hikes and folk dancing in the junior groups to competitive tennis and netball/basketball for older girls. Women's clubs often included a period of exercise before their club session.

The beginning of the physical culture and sports department was heralded by the formation of club swinging classes in 1895. Club swinging for young women was a physical exercise which involved the swinging of clubs in graceful and often complex circular movements.

In the 1930s the Sports Department of the Adelaide YWCA was very strong, with tennis, archery, badminton, table tennis, swimming, hiking and cross country walking all having YWCA teams. At this time the YW was fielding three cricket teams in the Adelaide Women's Cricket Association and it was through the combined work of Mrs Miller and the YWCA Sports Director, Ann Stanton, that the first of the Women's Interstate Cricket Carnivals was held in Adelaide "having a most stimulating effect on women's cricket in South Australia" (media report). At least 80 per cent of the state team came from the YWCA.

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By the late 1930s the YW yearly program included Sports Days, Swimming Carnivals and regular basketball matches. During the war years, Mrs Hilda Wyrill and later Mrs Lett Stacey Waddy conducted keep fit classes for munition workers. Eight basketball teams were maintained and affiliated with SAWBBA (South Australian Women's Basketball Association) day competition. Night teams were organised to cater for shift workers' hours.

Pat Weeks (then Bennett) was a member of the YW between 1944 and 1949. She remembers:

“Playing tennis on Saturday afternoons at a court in either Cohen Drive or Peacock Road in Adelaide. I remember there being a cricket ground nearby which was lit at night. I also played basketball (now known as netball) in winter. I played for just one season, as the courts were in Woodville, a good distance for me to travel and transport wasn't easy”.

Work continued to expand during the 1950s. Three tennis courts were purchased opposite the club centre at Helmsdale, and the Adelaide City Council approved the laying of four additional basketball courts in the South Parklands. The need for this was great as the YW was now fielding forty basketball teams and had to turn away numbers of girls through lack of facilities. Although basketball was the 'top favourite' activity in the late 1950s, a number of other forms of recreation also took place. Keep Fit and badminton for secondary and primary schoolgirls, a junior tennis club commenced and a court cricket competition for Reserve Girl Citizens was held and three teams were fielded in women's softball.

By 1960 forty two teams played basketball at the Goodwood Road courts, business girls hockey started and a table tennis club formed. Physical Education classes were held for schoolgirls, business girls and women's clubs. A judo club

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began and a ju jitsu class commenced but did not continue due to the lack of instructors.

The change from basketball to netball occurred in the late 1960s and basketball continued as International Basketball Rules. A Table Tennis coaching clinic was conducted for eight weeks during the winter months and there was a physical fitness group and two yoga groups.

During National Fitness Month in 1969 and again in 1970 the YWCA offered tennis, archery, swimming, slimnastics and jazz ballet. In February 1970, Pat Anderson was appointed as Sports Secretary replacing Elvie Richardson. There were ninety four netball teams, an amazing number, testifying to the YW's popularity as a host organisation and also to the YW's administrative skills. Swimming lessons and tennis coaching sessions were held, and the YWCA netball teams were competing interstate.

The strong sports and recreation program continued in the 1970s, providing school holiday programs, keep fit with a crèche, a Sportathon for girls and boys and the government funded 'Life Be In It' program. A State Government grant of \$5,000 was given for lighting of the YWCA courts in the South Parklands.

In 1982 a report reads "The court lights have been stolen again." The recurring replacement cost of \$1,800 was a frustrating and unnecessary financial burden on the YW and when the lights were again stolen in 1984, a decision was made not to fund their replacement as money was needed elsewhere.

Times were changing and the profile of sport with it. Both softball and tennis numbers declined in 1983 and with reference to the latter, Pat Anderson observed, "areas which receive sponsorship can offer much more exciting programs than us."

As Sports Secretary, Pat worked with the Youth Department of the YW to “bring youngsters back to Pennington Terrace”. Gene Wenham, Executive Director, stated in the Annual Report, that “declining numbers and the proliferation of indoor stadiums forced the closure of the Sports Department”.

Pat Anderson was farewelled after sixteen years of service to the Adelaide YWCA and was commended for her unfailing enthusiasm and hard work for the sports department of the YW and the hundreds of young people who benefited from her expertise and encouragement.

In the 1990s different forms of sport and recreation activities were offered by the YWCA. Under the leadership of Deborah Downes, Coordinator of Women’s Projects, self-defence classes were conducted. The YW combined with Women of the Wilderness for the Healthy Wealthy and Wise Expo and five women abseiled down the front of Harris Scarfes, a feat which had never been done as a publicity exercise by women before.

During the 1990s a new initiative was tried. This took the form of several short-course women’s triathlons, to enable women who were not up to a full length triathlon to try-out in a fun and non-competitive way. Designed as a fun event for individuals and teams, participants were met with rain and a “howling gale”. Despite this, most finished the course. Thanks were given to Foundation South Australia for sponsorship and practical assistance.

The triathlon was repeated in 1995, with approximately seventy women competing in the event in wonderful weather. About twenty volunteers assisted on the day, saying they had such a fun day marshalling the event that they wanted to compete the following year.

Joan Snow, staff member of the Adelaide YW, gives a vivid picture of the first triathlon:

“The first of these was held at Glenelg on the wettest day imaginable. A trading table of cakes and other goodies was washed out, along with the participants - the swimmers were as wet before their swim as when they finished. In later years, they were held at West Lakes in much better weather and were highly regarded in triathlon circles. They were greatly enjoyed by all who took part.”

Joan Snow's story with the Adelaide YWCA is both extensive and inspiring. She joined the YW in the early 1960s as a teenager and was a member of the Y-Teens Club and also a leader with the Reserve Girl Citizens on Saturday mornings. As a young mother Joan joined Oleander Club where she took the role of President, Secretary and Treasurer at various stages.

As a member of the Board of Directors in the late 1970s, she was the Board representative at YWCA of South Australia State Council meetings. In 1983 Joan joined the Adelaide YW staff working with Y-Women's clubs. She was the instigator of the Adelaide Y-Women's clubs annual camp at Cooranga campsite.

Diane Morris, in her Executive Director's report , 1999, shares her thoughts: *“For me, the biggest change was the decision by Joan Snow to retire at the end of the year. Her personal support and friendship over the past ten years – her amazing knowledge of everything and everyone associated with the YWCA – her dedication, efficiency and diplomacy – her quiet sense of humour and fun – for all these wonderful qualities, she will be greatly missed by me and other staff. Thank you Joan, for a job well done”.*

Involvement in WomenTrek in 1994 was an experience that won't be forgotten. Men, women and children participated in the exercise which took place in October on the Heysen Trail

north and south of Adelaide. Over seven hundred participants took part with back up support of some one hundred women volunteers. The venture was the brainchild of Deb Nanschild, then owner of the company Women of the Wilderness. Working with her were Chris Hales from the YW and Roz Daniell who, as a computer whiz, kept track of both the walkers and the extensive program. Kim Robertson-Emslie, Young Women's Development Officer of the YW reported, "*We all shared a very special bond walking, cooking, sleeping and sitting around the fire together*".

Following the success of WomenTrek, the YWCA of Adelaide leased the recreation business, Women of the Wilderness (WOW) to enable the Adelaide YWCA to continue to offer recreation to women and girls of South Australia. A Recreation Co-ordinator continued the tradition of offering fun and challenging events, canoeing, sailing, abseiling and cycling. These events were conducted by experienced women leaders.

Another program conducted was 'Wisemove'. This was designed for women who did not participate regularly in physical exercise. The recreation program included looking at body image, nutrition, exercise, self-confidence and goal setting as well as beginning a gentle exercise program based on walking. The majority of participants noticed an improvement in general health.

Two hundred and twenty women and girls joined in recreational activities through the WOW program. This program continued in 1997 and 1998 until 1999 when it was reported by Margo Stroud the co-ordinator of women's programs that, due to the net cost to the YWCA of Adelaide of running the program, it had to be discontinued. Thanks were given to Margo Stroud for her creativity and enthusiasm for the program and to the Office of Recreation and Sport, for their support.

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Other activities enjoyed that year were a five-day walk in Katherine Gorge with thirteen women participating in a walking program, a mother and daughter rock climbing day and mangrove paddling.

In October 1999 the Office for Recreation and Sport, commenced funding for new internet information and referral service 'WoWW' (What's on Where for Women) aimed at facilitating greater participation by women in a variety of enjoyable physical activities with the potential to improve their health, fitness and general well-being. This activity continues to be conducted in 2005 by Nicole Kinnear as the program coordinator. Judging by the number of daily 'hits' this program is receiving, it is reaching its market.

Chapter six

CLUBS

Throughout its history, the clubs of the Adelaide YWCA have remained the backbone and enduring thread of the Association. While other important programs made their mark and were then discontinued, clubs and clubwork have prevailed, albeit in different formats, always moving and changing with the demands of the community of the time. In the early years of the 21st century, it is the women of these groups who have carried on the work of the Association as a membership organisation.

YWCA clubs began in 1880 with two small groups of young women brought together by Mrs John Colton and Mrs James Robin. In 1918 Miss Mildred Sheard was appointed Girls' Department Secretary, the first appointment in that office. There were 278 girls under the age of twenty years, and a central committee of leaders was formed. Clubs were formed and each under the supervision of a voluntary leader, planned and carried out its own program.

Girl Citizens commenced in Adelaide in the early 1920s and members of this vibrant, secondary schoolgirl group were to be seen in their club uniform of white shirt, blue tie and blazer and grey pleated skirt. As a national group, membership gave girls an opportunity to travel to other states to meet and work with young women of their own age and interests. A Mothers' Club

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was formed and a highlight of the program for the 'Girls Cits' was an annual Mother and Daughter Banquet.

In the 1930s the club work was growing rapidly. In 1933 several conferences were held, including the National Girls' Work Conference at Scotch College, Adelaide. In 1939 a Business Girls' Lyceum was formed, and the Girls' Department adopted the 4H program centred around Head, Heart, Hands and Home. A special program, Reserve Girl Citizens, was formed for primary school girls and a mothers' auxiliary was soon established. This group was still functioning strongly in the 1960s. Programs at this time included large group activities such as group singing and folk dancing as well as small groups, each with their own leader, learning handcrafts, participating in penny hikes and acting in group devised plays. The enthusiastic young women in their late teens and early twenties, who led both the Reserve Girl Citizens and the Girl Citizens clubs, derived much pleasure from their experience whilst developing valuable leadership skills.

In the early 1960s, Miss Pat Orchard as Chief Counsellor of the Girl Citizens, four leaders and nineteen Girl Citizens, attended the National Girls Citizens' Conference in Melbourne. Sadly, this was to be the last conference of this style because of changes in social conditions and developing demands upon young women of this age. Schooling especially was requiring more and more time as young women remained at school into higher grades with the goal of achieving tertiary entrance or satisfying employment.

The Yambi Yaminga Club operated in the late 1930s and early 1940s. From the Minute book of 14 March 1941:

"The findings of the Committee and Council were discussed. The following are suggestions for program which came forward. On 19th April to give boys from the Methodist Children's Home, Magill an outing to the

Gardens if it is fine. This was put to the meeting and approved.”

New clubs were formed in the latter years of the Second World War – a club for wives and fiancés of service men, the Combined Secondary Schoolgirls Old Scholars’ Dinner Club and the Junior Hostesses’ Club. In 1949, the Halcyon Club of younger married women, sponsored a club for British migrant women known as the Wattle Club and continued for many years until members became truly a part of their community.

For young women who had completed school there were teenagers’ clubs and in May 1959, Wonder Y Club reported that it had welcomed many new teenagers, their membership now being thirty eight. Keep-Fit, table-tennis, amateur dramatics, record evenings and sports practice were but a few of the many activities offered by YW Clubs.

While clubs for the younger women remained strong into the 1970s, by the 1980s large club work for girls and young women had become inappropriate for the current social and economic climate. Girls, staying at school until they were seventeen or eighteen, were faced with more demands on their time. Other youth organisations such as the YMCA opened up their clubs and activities to young women. Their activities differed from what the YW offered. In the mid-1980s, the large facility on Pennington Terrace was sold as it was no longer appropriate for the needs of the Association.

The generosity of spirit of YWCA members towards women from other countries and cultures has been, from the Association’s beginnings, an important aspect of the work. The Four Corners Club was an example of concern demonstrated towards people from countries other than Australia. The founder of the Four Corners Club was Mrs Violet Coomarasamy, who was with the Adelaide YWCA for training.

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She later became General Secretary of the YWCA of Malaya.

The aims of the club were to spread mutual appreciation and better understanding of the peoples of different countries of the world, to help speed the assimilation of immigrants into the community of their new homeland and to provide a means of contact between overseas students studying in Australia and local Australians. Although the club was part of the YWCA, it had little active association with the general work of the YWCA. Committee members did represent the Club on the Senior Council of the YWCA and members also assisted with Anzac Day morning tea and with Christmas Festivals. The Club, founded in 1963 continued until 1975.

Another example of a special interest club was the YWCA Music Lovers Club which was formed by Alan Leane in 1950 in Hindmarsh Square. YWCA member Miss Margaret Altman contributed much to the success of the club for many years. Miss Vivienne Langley became the Musical Director after Mr Leane's death and continued in this role until she retired in 1975 after which time the club disbanded. Young aspiring musicians – mainly from the Elder Conservatorium, plus professional Adelaide musicians, contributed to the program on a voluntary basis. The Club assisted many charities, the National Music Camp project and musicians who went overseas for further study. The program provided a platform for the talent of Jane Peters, the world renowned violinist who, as ten year old, played to a capacity audience in the Pennington Terrace YWCA hall one memorable evening.

The 1960s saw a major growth in women's clubs. Here women could socialize with other women, learn new skills, and in the early days, have time without children. An important element of the clubs for young housewives and mothers was the provision of a crèche. Many club programs had, and still do

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have, a strong social conscience element. The name Y Wives was chosen for these clubs. June Fletcher, the then President writes:

“Golden Circle had its beginnings, from what records are available, in the Warradale Scout Hall approximately forty two years ago, with a large membership of some eighty ladies attending. The hall was located within easy access for most of us to either walk, wheel a pram or pusher, or ride a bike.”

Warrina Club, Northfield sponsored the Evergreen Club for elderly citizens, the latter meeting weekly in the Club Centre.

In 1962 an impressive group of clubs was meeting :

In Headquarters, Pennington Terrace – British Women’s Club, Cooranga Club, Halcyon Club, Blue Triangle Club, Wednesday Wives

Extension Clubs –

Golden Circle – Warradale,
Good Companions – Woodville,
Evergreen Club (over 50) – Northfield,
Y’s Woman – Helmsdale

For Women and Men – Music Club, Pennington Club (18-25 years), International Sunday Club, Four Corners Club.

There has been a lively continuation of women’s clubs throughout Adelaide and areas south and north. Clubs meeting on a weekly basis, are Breakaway (Holden Hill), Karuna (Morphett Vale), Golden Circle (Warradale), Kotara (Rostrevor), Maggies (Semaphore), Loxton, Modbury, Wednesday Wives (Adelaide), Workara (Morphett Vale), Y Rosettes (Elizabeth Vale).

Workara (Down South) Club began its life in June 1971, due to the efforts of Joyce Smart, a Golden Circle club member, her daughter Dianne Stevens and her circle of friends. They started meeting at Christies Uniting Church hall using the Sunday School rooms for its crèches. It quickly grew to fifty six members with many children needing crèche facilities. There were three crèche rooms available to cater for babies to four years.

Workara 2002

In joining Kotara we develop friendships, share our concern and worries, learn new skills, contribute in a worthwhile way to our community and overall develop as a person.

Kotara Club August 2002

Maggies Club, now meeting in the Semaphore RSL experienced a rather unusual first election of officers. The club started in 1984 and met in the old Customs House on the corner of Semaphore Road and the Esplanade.

“The 22nd August was a blustery day. Because our meeting place was on the Esplanade, we were at the mercy of the elements. The front door would not unlock because the timber had swollen. Therefore, we entered by the back door where there were no facilities. Our election was conducted standing up without a cuppa, as the inner doors were locked and the three elected were the only ones present apart from Joan Snow and other staff members of the Adelaide Y.”

Val Brokenshire – President

Most of the clubs survived through great change in society and are proud of their success ; child care in the early days was an essential addition for the young wives of the new suburbs. Programs have ranged from speakers to outings, training in meeting procedures to enthusiastic support for general YWCA

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activities and fund-raising events. Membership of the women's clubs is vastly different from the early days. Younger women are now often in the workplace and the current trend offers support and a social outlet for older women.

A topical comment from the Barjai Club – Link 1987:

“We meet every week even during school holidays. For this period we try to arrange a program of crafts, games or outings, where school-going grandchildren can join us”.

This comment highlights the ability of women's club members to adapt to new demands and social changes in the community. It also points to the growing demand within our community for grandparents to act as carers for their grandchildren, either on a full-time or part-time basis. The changes in club membership are put succinctly in a letter from the Y Rosettes Women's Club, Elizabeth Vale :

“Our club has changed somewhat from its inception; the club I remember in the nineties was one of mixed ages from Mums of thirty something to Grans of fifty something; now our average age is mid sixty. This was not by design, rather by the changing face and needs of Elizabeth. Also the Community House now has programs that fulfill today's needs of the younger Mums in Elizabeth. So now our objective is to attract members in their forties and fifties if we want our club to continue as a healthy and vibrant club.”

Wednesday Wives which commenced in 1961 “for the fellowship of women, to help the needy and support the YWCA” still have these as their club goals.

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Regarding membership, Blanche Harvey states of her club, “We found that women were going back to work as children were off to school. Today we have retired women mostly”. In 2004 these women’s clubs are still strong in their support of each other and in their membership of the Y.

Representatives from each club meet regularly to share ideas about programs and to discuss the wider work of the YWCA, local, international and world-wide. Regular contact of staff and Board members with club members is strengthening the Adelaide YWCA as a strong membership organisation.

Shirley Rowe of Wednesday Wives tells her story:

In 1962 I was introduced to the YWCA movement by a friend Yvonne Slipper; instead of just sitting back and going along each week, I involved myself in the fundraising activities within the YWCA, events like Fashion Parades held in the hall at Pennington Terrace, North Adelaide, Garden Parties, Luncheons at different members’ homes and Mystery-Basket Auctions. These helped to raise funds for local and overseas YWCA projects.

During my working career whenever possible on my days off I would attend Wednesday Wives club meeting and outings. On my retirement I was able to give the YWCA my full attention. For the past six years I have been president of Wednesday Wives and enjoy the company and friendship of the ladies, and working with the committee. I am the Connection representative and report the business discussed back to the members. I was privileged to attend the World Council in Brisbane in 2003.

Elected as the Getaway Club convenor, I was responsible for bringing all the club members together once a year on a weekend, either at the Salvation Army Camp, Victor Harbour, Girl Guides Association Camp Douglas Scrub McLaren Flat or the Baptist Camp at Mylor. Due to cost increases and a lack of interest we renamed the club – YWCA Travel Club. This allows all our Seniors to utilize travel vouchers. Our first trip was to Broken Hill in October 2004. Thirty-five members had a great time.

Chapter seven

COURSES, CLASSES, INTEREST GROUPS AND PROGRAMS

Since the very beginning in 1880 the purpose of the Adelaide YWCA has been to provide appropriate and useful services to women and girls in the community.

An examination of the Courses and Classes, Interest Groups and Programs during the last century and a quarter in the life of the Adelaide YW highlights the creativity and resourcefulness of the Association as it strove to remain relevant and 'to keep in touch' with the changing needs of women.

Speaking at the centenary celebrations in 1980, Jennifer Adamson, at the time Minister of Health and Tourism, commented on the broad base of activities for women, observing that the vast variety:

“...reinforces the reputation of the YWCA as a broadly-based, immensely practical organisation which is in tune with its times and responsive to the needs of all women, not just young ones.”

As early as the 1880s the establishment of dressmaking and literacy classes is recorded and a choir was formed.

During the late 1920s and 1930s, when times were described as black and full of personal despair, Lady Kidman, President of the Adelaide YWCA and Miss Irene Glasson, the Executive

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Director, opened an Employment Bureau. Many young women gained employment, and those unemployed were given free lodging at the YWCA hostel. A 'Domestic Training Scheme' commenced together with dressmaking classes, English and literature groups. In co-operation with the YMCA, Sunday afternoon discussion groups were held. Pat Bennett (now Weeks) remembers these:

"I remember meeting at Y headquarters every Sunday around 5pm. At these meetings passages from the Bible were read and discussed along with singing hymns. After these meetings dinner was provided. I remember this happening during the war as there were a number of American Service men in Adelaide at the time."

The 1950s/1960s

World War II having ended, women were encouraged to involve themselves in a domestic lifestyle, to be the home-makers while men re-entered the job scene. Many families could afford time-saving devices like washing machines, money was more plentiful and certain foods and ingredients were available again after war time rationing.

Constructed in 1957, the YWCA Pennington Terrace became the centre for courses and classes to cater for the needs and interests of women. Pennington Terrace was a large, imposing building on the edge of the parklands in North Adelaide with a large airy hall as the venue for concerts, girls' club activities and fund-raising events. Smaller rooms were well suited for the myriad of courses and classes which were on offer and eagerly snapped up. Dressmaking alone attracted 208 participants in the early 1960s.

Members remember with affection, the Cottage, a smallish building built of bluestone, which snuggled in behind the

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modern glass and steel structure of the new building. Classes and club sessions were held here where once babies cried when it was part of a private hospital and schoolgirls sighed over their books when it was part of St. Peter's Collegiate Girls' School, before the school sold to the YWCA and moved out to its current premises in Stonyfell.

Floral art, millinery (hats were a must and expensive to buy), Charming Hostess, etiquette, interior decorating and home furnishing were all skills women were keen to master. Morning, afternoon and evening classes were offered, with total enrolments exceeding 800 in the early 60s.

Cake Decoration with Muriel Barrington was an enormous success during this period attracting around 300 enthusiasts each year. These classes remained immensely popular for many years and Muriel describes how the generosity and willingness of both staff and students of the cake decorating classes contributed to the success of YWCA festivals:

“Mrs Leske was the house and kitchen person when I was there at the Y, and at one or two Christmases, or more, she made over one hundred Christmas cakes all sizes and shapes, and the cake decorating classes would ice and decorate them.”

These cakes were sold at the Christmas Festivals.

Mrs Doreen Leske was the Building Administrator at the Pennington Terrace Headquarters of the YW in the 1960s. Small in stature, she was competent and efficient, and despite her height commanded a definitely strong presence. Young staff members were a little in awe of her air of authority, “beware any leader who left dry plaster of paris on the tables in the Cottage after Saturday morning Reserve Girl Citizens! – it was so difficult to totally remove too”. Despite her determined air, Mrs. Leske was kind and generous, accepting the foibles of the young staff members with a bemused smile.

In 1964 the YWCA offered some new courses, as young women tended to remain in the workforce, commanded more money and became more independent. 'Passport to Travel', 'Women and Finance', 'Women and Mechanics' and 'Replanning your Career' were examples of new relevant courses now on offer. In the late sixties such courses as Slimnastics (always a popular subject), 'Recreation for Housewives', 'The Handy Woman' and 'Contract Bridge' were also presented.

The 1970s

These years brought special occasions like the seminar 'Y-Wives Talk In' and interest groups and courses, of which there were twenty three with a total of 1,800 participants.

The United Nations International Women's Year was held in 1975 with the theme, 'Equality Development and Peace'. The Adelaide YWCA presented two seminars : 'Women and the Quality of Life' and 'Changing Roles in Society' – examining relationships between men and women and parents and children. These seminars were arranged by Irene Scholten, a staff member with imagination and integrity and a penchant for determination and hard work. Irene also conducted a course entitled 'Lifeskills for Women' the idea of which she brought from Canada. This course was presented to women from the YW clubs as well as the wider community. Further courses were held in the Adelaide Women's Prison and in women's shelters. A manuscript for the Australian edition of Lifeskills for Women Manual was completed by Irene.

Other programs in a lighter vein were '*WOMANARIUM*', an evening of fun and presentation of talents to honour women, and a Carnival, held in Pennington Gardens, which raised \$1,100 for World Mutual Service. Some will remember the I.W.D. (International Women's Day) Photographic Exhibition.

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This was a National YWCA project funded by the Australian Government and displayed in many venues around Australia.

In 1977 the 'EASY' Project, (Emergency Accommodation for Youth) commenced. This program aimed at providing accommodation in a family situation for up to four nights for young people in distress. The program was officially launched in May 1978 and the total number placed by January 1979 was 239, most coming as referrals from State and Commonwealth Social Service agencies. Sixty four volunteer families were involved in the project with Velvy Holden as the staff member co-ordinating the program. Many of the families were connected to the now Pilgrim Uniting Church in the city. Unfortunately, in 1983 the YWCA had to discontinue the EASY program owing to the introduction of new Government requirements for people fostering young people, making it impossible to find enough homes able or willing to comply with the stricter criteria.

The United Nations Year of the Child in 1979 created the impetus for programs emphasising the needs of children. One seminar was entitled 'Feeling Good About Parenting' and others relevant to the task of parenting were also presented. Ever mindful of other social issues within the community, the Adelaide YW offered innovative programs for refugee women, single people and homeless youth.

The 1970s were indeed significant and important times in social history as many women began to strongly assert their individuality and place within the social, family and economic fabric of society. This movement became an integral part of the Adelaide YWCAs orientation and programs. Women declined to be referred to using their husband's initials – in YW circles, Mrs RWL Crosby became Mrs Heather Crosby, Mrs Alleyne Womersley changed from Mrs HBS Womersley. Members of the History Group smiled when they remembered that some of

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the YW staff were concerned with this approach, thinking that “the young people won’t respect us!”

The assertion of independence was evident when YMCA (Young *Men’s* Christian Association) representatives, approached the Adelaide YWCA with a suggestion that the two organisations consider amalgamating. The YW’s response that this organisation always placed the needs of women and girls at the forefront of any program, indicated to the men of the YMCA there would indeed be no joining. The discussion had its intense moments, Alder Hall, Executive Director at the time remembers with glee, both parties glowering at each other over the table. Never take a woman for granted!

Several YW women were manning a stall advertising the YWCA at a community occasion in the Pennington Gardens. Some youths in their late teens, wishing to ‘get a rise’ out of the women asked somewhat cheekily, what the difference was between the YW and the YM. Alder’s prompt reply was that if they didn’t know the difference between men and women, she would draw it for them! The young men disappeared rapidly.

The 1980s

In the early 1980s Alder Hall was conducting a course entitled ‘Not Just a Housewife’. With more opportunities for women outside the home, the course centred on choices women could make. Alleyne Womersley, President at the time, remembers one woman, her baby with her, saying, “It’s all very well for you, but you don’t have to go to the factory gate to collect the pay packet, so you can feed the children”. Alleyne comments that this was a learning experience for her. Although opportunities and choices were opening up for some, not all women were able to take advantage of the changes.

Alleyne Womersley tells her story.

"My first introduction to the YWCA activities was in New Zealand when as a recent postgraduate I was invited to help with a camp for girls 12-14, at Browns Bay near Auckland. A great learning experience as we patrolled the camp site after lights out, to make sure none of our charges slipped out to meet up with the boys they had met on the beach that day!

This was followed by a stint on the Wellington YWCA Board, before I married in 1950 and moved to Adelaide. Eventually when the boys were older and I had finished with Kindergarten

Committees, School Mothers' Clubs and School Council, Heather Crosby invited me to join the Program Committee of the Adelaide YWCA in the late 1960s. Thus began a long and interesting association full of challenges and opportunities through YW Board and the management committee of Adelaide Miethke House, the presidency and various committees from Finance to Human Rights to Social Response, meeting many wonderful people along the way and learning many new skills. I had the privilege of working along side such Executive Directors as Hilda Wyrill, Heather Crosby, Elizabeth Sloniec, Alder Hall and Gene Wenham. National Board meetings were a wonderful way to meet up with people from all around Australia."

Craft classes were again introduced by Alder Hall. However financial constraints dogged much of the program area now under the auspices of the Purpose and Concern Committee. Different opportunities were opening up for women and other forces were beginning to make an impact on the work of the YWCA including the YMCA conducting classes which were also open to women.

Community attitudes and a changing philosophy of the Adelaide YWCA led to a phasing out of courses and classes and a move towards a greater emphasis on community work with young people. An innovative program called the Big Sister Program was introduced in one school in 1984, and in 1985 the program was accepted by a further seven High

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Schools. Janet West was funded as a worker in schools, with Maggie Kirkpatrick in charge of the training and the overall running of the program in 1985. The total number of Big Sisters reached thirty seven. The goal of the program was to link a younger student to an older student; the older girl would be a friend and mentor to the other.

By 1985, as the emphasis of the YWCA's work changed, the large hall and many smaller rooms of the Pennington Terrace property were no longer adequate. Over the years, many attempts had been made to make the property commercially viable with little success, and thus, after much soul searching, the asset was eventually sold to the Children's Hospital. The YWCA continued its work, with Gene Wenham as the Executive Director, using a rented building in Regent Street, city, and later at the new headquarters on Port Road, Hindmarsh.

In 1987 the course 'Young Women in the Eighties' took place in February and March and sixteen students from three city schools, Adelaide High School, St. Aloysius College and St. Mary's College participated in this joint venture of the YWCA and the Second Storey Health Centre. In a set of six discussion groups the young women covered topics such as building a positive self image and what it means to be part of a community. Feedback was very positive and the Adelaide City Council committed to funding a repeat series in 1988.

The Big Sister Program expanded to incorporate a Big Brother Program. A one off grant of \$3,478.00 from the Co-op Foundation enabled the printing of 1,000 posters for three YWCA programs—Big Sister/Big Brother, Women's Clubs and the Elizabeth Community House. The Big Brother Program became established in 1988 with seven Big Brothers. A Boy's Club commenced in the Northern Area and a Girl's Club in the Southern Area with Vivian Garner as its talented

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organiser. The Girls' Club was for those who did not fit into an accepted peer group, with parents helping on club nights and outings.

Two of the most rewarding programs for 1989 were the Multi-cultural Women's Craft Group and Self Defence (with participants ranging in age from seventeen to seventy).

The 1990s

The Big Sister Big Brother program celebrated its 10th anniversary by holding the National Big Sister/ Big Brother Conference in Adelaide.

Program Development continued under the auspices of Maggie Kirkpatrick. Sessions on Domestic Violence in conjunction with Dallas Colley from the Domestic Violence Prevention Unit were held at the Woodville Women's Shelter and the Hindmarsh Community Centre. 'Mind your Own Small Business', a course dealing with all aspects of finance for small business, was also conducted at this time.

Lunch time forums for YW members and representatives from community organisations were held and topical subjects and philosophies presented. During one forum centred on Aboriginal issues, debate became heated and somewhat out of hand. Here the skills of Janet Wood became evident as she calmly and diplomatically chaired the meeting, steering the discussion into a less contentious environment.

In 1991 a Planning Committee was set up by the YWCA Board to conduct a review of Adelaide programs, and to develop an overall plan for the coming year. One question discussed was - what would be the impact if we closed a program? Could someone else do it better? YWCA programs were always evaluated in relation to their importance and relevance to

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women. One of the results of the discussions, was the preparation for the transfer of the Big Sister Big Brother Program to a different agency. Another change in philosophy evolved with the realisation that a service mindset has its limitations.

The Adelaide YWCA progressed to establishing a partnership with young women, hence, in 1992, came the recruitment and active participation of four younger Board members, the Adelaide YW being totally committed to the National policy of 25 per cent of decision making positions being filled by women thirty years or under.

Suffrage Centenary Year, was celebrated in 1995 and saw the YWCA of Adelaide receive a grant of \$6,271 for a centenary of Women's Suffrage Young Women's Camp. This was held in July of that year with 120 attending. Child care was provided, and participants enjoyed a great variety of workshops ranging from dance movement, discussion related to equal opportunities, car maintenance and Aboriginal Art.

Employment-oriented programs for young people

Y-Train, a Commonwealth funded SkillShare Project for unemployed sixteen to twenty years olds operated in the early to mid-1990s in the Port Noarlunga area. Program focus was on personal development and pre-employment training. Funding for Y-Train was discontinued but JPET (Job Placement Employment and Training) remained and moved into the Y-Train premises.

JPET commenced in The Boathouse, Port Noarlunga in 1997 with the aim of supporting young people and remove barriers to employment, education and training. There was also a successful tender for the program in the Fleurieu Peninsula in 1998. Although the Port Noarlunga program with the YW

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closed in 2003, the Fleurieu Peninsula continues to work strongly and in 2004 the JPET program commenced on Kangaroo Island.

‘Work for the Dole’ was a program sponsored by the YWCA and had locations in Adelaide, Elizabeth Vale and Noarlunga. Each location supported fifteen placements at a time, although many more actually participated

A new venture, the ‘Encore’ program saw coordinators Fran Williams, Linda Quinton and Janet Evans, operate in several areas of the city offering support and exercises for women who have had surgery as a result of breast cancer.

The New Millennium

2001 welcomed the new Executive Director Pamela Lockyer-Scrutton and a period of transformation and growth, with five strategic directions.

- ◆ *Increase membership and participation of young women,*
- ◆ *Position the Y as a leading advocate for young women,*
- ◆ *Improve opportunities for women’s social interaction and leadership,*
- ◆ *Strengthen collaboration with allied organisations.*
- ◆ *Develop a stronger support base for the organisation.*

To meet the challenge, new programs were introduced and existing ones strengthened.

A ‘new style’ Big Brothers Big Sisters developed into an Australia-wide volunteer mentoring program which matches at-risk and isolated young people with an appropriate adult role model.

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An innovative Young Women's Program, actively concerned with women's human rights enabled Program Manager Tammy Franks and volunteer Anna Lewkowicz attend the Women's Human Rights Court and Conference at the University of New South Wales and the Adelaide YWCA also supported seven Adelaide based African refugee women to attend the conference through a grant from the South Australian Office for Women. The Young Women's Advisory Committee was established to help shape program activities, events, campaigns and advocacy work.

The LifeSPAN Project was a highly successful illicit drug use prevention project, funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing as part of the National Illicit Drug Strategy. The work was based in the Victor Harbor office and in places across the Fleurieu Peninsula and southern metropolitan region for two years. Although this program closed at the end of January 2004, in 2005 a new program entitled RECIPE Life commenced in the Fleurieu Peninsula and on Kangaroo Island. This program will work with young people aged 13-21 to reduce drug related harm. This highly relevant program was renamed by the group of young staff working with it – Y Express.

Chapter eight

EXTENSION WORK

In the 1950s the need to move the work of the Adelaide YWCA away from a central position and into areas north and south of the central business district was discussed. The Glenelg Council made land available in Augusta Street, Helmsdale and a shop dwelling in Northfield was rented from the South Australian Housing Trust. A steel building was purchased to place on the land in Helmsdale and to meet the program and travelling needs of staff a panel van was purchased which was, for the next ten years, affectionately known as Ned. Miss Elizabeth Maud, an experienced staff member, was responsible for several areas of extension work.

YWCA work in Northfield developed with the formation of the Warinna Club. There were thirty six members and Y-Teens and Girl Citizens groups began, however space problems resulted in limited numbers and a long list of potential members. The first club at Helmsdale – Glendale Club – hosted regular luncheons and supported the first group at Warradale. In Northfield, the Warinna Club hosted a group for Senior Citizens who played indoor bowls and cards each week. The first Stay-at-Home camps were held in both of these areas in 1961. These were holiday programs which were conducted in the local district rather than in a specified overnight campsite – they were immensely popular and successful.

As Adelaide expanded both north and south with new housing developments, extension work became a most important aspect of YWCA work. By 1963 the following extension activities were in place:

- ◆ Windsor Gardens – Oleander Club
- ◆ Northfield – Evergreen Club, Warinna Club, Hi-Fi Social Club (mixed), Drop-in Teenage Club, Primary Schoolgirls – Drama, Reserve Girl Citizens
- ◆ Helmsdale – Glendale Club, Y's Women's Club, Sea Y Teens Club, Social Tennis Club, Girl Citizens Club, Primary Schoolgirls Club
- ◆ Woodville – Good Companions Club & Gym
- ◆ Warradale – Golden Circle & Gym

By 1965 the following groups for women were also meeting :

Clover Leaf Club – Clovelly Park, Seawyves Club – Grange, Ti Tree Club – Tea Tree Gully, Wandarah Club – Modbury, Canapos – Christies Beach.

Short term courses and classes were held in most groups, very often as additional programs. Groups also sponsored members to attend conventions and conferences and affiliated clubs were represented at the Senior Council Meetings.

Meanwhile in Elizabeth

Prior to 1962, surveys and enquiries were made in Elizabeth by the Extension Committee and plans were made with the hope that work with women and girls would begin in 1963.

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Elizabeth was built in the 1950s as a satellite city north of Adelaide. Families had emigrated from England and were now living in this new area, hot, dry and lacking in green trees and grass. There was a lack of community facilities and families, women in particular, were isolated.

In June 1963 many volunteers and staff embarked upon a 'Friendship Doorknock' to invite women to a meeting in each of the five centres in Elizabeth. Transport was a problem so it was decided to meet in neighbourhood areas. Each group met simultaneously and the response was immediate.

Leadership was arranged for eight weeks with members from Adelaide YWCA and for six consecutive Tuesday mornings twenty two women came to a Leadership Training Course. In August, each neighbourhood group held its election of office bearers and from then on began to take responsibility for its own program. A council of two representatives from each group was formed to plan shared programs. In October members attended the Regional Conference in Broken Hill and had their first experience of meeting women from other Associations.

In 1964 the Rambler Y Teens club was formed in Elizabeth Downs. Two successful Stay-at-Home camps were held during term holidays and a club for primary schoolgirls in Elizabeth South was formed drawing leaders for this club from Elizabeth Girls Technical High School.

Realising the significance of the work in Elizabeth, in 1965 the Board of Directors asked Miss Judith Blake if she would become a resident of Elizabeth while continuing with oversight of extension work in Adelaide's northern suburbs. With the co-operation of the SA Housing Trust, a two bedroom flat was rented at 3 Phillip Highway. Why a two bedroom flat for only

one occupant? Work was conducted from here until the Community House in Judd Road² was made available in 1966.

Judith was literally a tower of strength in the community and in the YWCA work. Tall, with a strong voice which boomed over others, she was nonetheless kind and caring and placed her work and the needs of the YW community she worked for, always before her own needs. She had many stories about work, some amusing, some reminding us of the difficulties in club members' lives.

Judith Blake, longest serving staff member in Australia, began her work in Adelaide in 1959 as finance secretary and completed her paid work in Whyalla in 1995. In 1965 Judith accepted a request from the Adelaide YWCA to move to a small flat in Elizabeth to continue the work of the organisation in the new satellite town, settled by mostly new English immigrants. Judith worked in Elizabeth for the next five years. She then agreed to move to Whyalla where she became Executive Director of the YWCA in this remote industrial northern town. She worked both for the church in a voluntary capacity and with the YWCA, where "the unique style of her work" was stimulated "by an international perspective and contacts she formed attending leadership development programs and council meetings of the World YWCA".³

Judith was instrumental in setting up a caravan as a mobile YW centre. She established a Big Sister/Big Brother program, an activity in which younger people were mentored by older girls and boys. Very concerned with the need for appropriate accommodation for women in need, Judith participated in the setting up of the Migrant Women's Support and Accommodation Service. Within the Whyalla community, Judith was strongly involved with several other agencies associated with the welfare of the townspeople.

² This was one of the two original farm houses left standing in Elizabeth proper. It originally belonged to Robert, son of Richard Judd, who came to Australia in 1851.

³ (Dr) Alastair Blake 'Guiding light for young women' Judith Blake OAM - in *The Advertiser* Saturday 6 November 2005

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Taller than many with an imposing presence and a dedicated approach to hard work, Judith was creative in both her work and in music.

Judith was a Life Member of both the Australian and the Adelaide YWCA. She was also honoured with several community awards, including the Medal of the Order of Australia. Her death on 11 August 2004 was met with sadness by her many friends.

To mark the first year at the YWCA Community House in Elizabeth, the clubs arranged an Open Day and Display of Work. The centre was visited by 250 people on this day. Other special days held were a Pancake Fair and the annual community 'Ladies Day' during the week of the Elizabeth Birthday celebrations.

Leadership Training Courses were held in Elizabeth Girls' Technical High School and the Elizabeth West High School, where senior students developed skills and arranged programs for school holiday Stay-at-Home camps. More than 200 primary school children met in separate centres, joining together for sports and a day out in Adelaide. Many children had never seen the sea, nor been to a zoo. The line-up of double-decker buses outside the Judd Road centre "had to be seen to be believed".

A new program was launched at the Elizabeth YWCA Community House in 1983, and a crèche at Tea Tree Plaza was established. In 1984 another Occasional Child Care Centre commenced at the re-developed Elizabeth Town Centre. This Centre could take up to 20 children for a maximum period of three hours, with concessions for parents on pensions. During its first nine months, 7,600 children were cared for. In the late 1980s the Occasional Care Centre at Tea Tree Plaza was closed as the Traders' Association withdrew its support.

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Since its opening, 17,409 children had been cared for here. The Elizabeth Crèche had an uncertain year in 1987 owing to lack of funding and in November of that year, the Federal Minister of Health and the Elizabeth City Centre Management came to an agreement and the crèche became officially a semi-government funded body from 1 November 1987 with Doris Turffrey as the co-ordinator.

With Gail Hudson as the Elizabeth Community House Co-ordinator a venue was provided for members of the community to meet for formal and informal sessions and courses as well as the Paraweena YWCA Women's Club.

SNAP, was a young women's development program with the purpose of improving personal potential and enabling skills development and young women's social program called 'Live Wires' met on Wednesday evenings. Over one hundred young women took part in these programs.

Bev Edwards was involved in the Elizabeth Community House for many years in several roles but mainly as the very popular and much-loved Coordinator in the late 1990s. In her time there, she developed many innovative programs for local women. This brought a continual stream of people into the House. Courses included computing, cooking on a budget in addition to a second hand clothing shop and a vibrant volunteer group who assisted in the day-to-day running of the House. These women learnt many new skills and also developed their confidence and self-esteem.

In 1996 the Elizabeth Council advised that the Community House would need to find alternative accommodation. The Board made the decision to purchase property and in April of the same year a contract was signed for a house in Rollison Road, Elizabeth Vale and the YW moved in, in September. On 10 July 1997, the new premises were officially opened by Lady Neal, Patron of the YWCA of Adelaide. Mrs Joyce Schultz, a

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Life Member of the YWCA of Adelaide, whose generous support is commemorated on the plaque unveiled by Lady Neal, was a special guest.

The Community House was managed for a short period in the early 2000s by Daniela Musolino, a young Social Work graduate, who demonstrated exceptional managerial and personal skills who then handed the reins to the energetic and enthusiastic Petrice Barker.

In 2005, the program included Senior First Aid Classes, Learners' Permit Training, Creative Writing, Computing classes, A 'Young Mums Group', two Girls' Clubs – juniors and seniors, and Y Rosettes – a social group for women. Elizabeth also enjoyed a strong volunteer group as the work of the Elizabeth YWCA continued: vibrant and relevant to the needs of the Elizabeth community. Its purpose :

'To empower people to develop a healthy community environment and partnership to manifest innovative solutions to local and global challenges'

Chapter nine

CAMPING

Camping was always an integral part of the Adelaide YWCA's program. Both members of the YW and community members from a variety of different areas enjoyed the facilities of Holiday House and Cooranga Campsite.

Holiday House, a large Victorian house at Mt Lofty, had been a campsite and conference centre owned by the YWCA since the 1920s. Its large rooms provided dormitory style accommodation for about forty people. A coach house in the grounds had bunks for four or six and was very popular with the younger members. This house was used extensively for YW purposes and also by youth groups from churches, university students and interstate delegates.

Mrs Pat Weeks (then Bennetts) remembers Holiday House:

“I also remember one Easter attending a Y camp at Mount Lofty. We stayed in an old house, Loftia Park (I think) or near there. There were about thirty people at the camp. We played various games including ball games, walked, gardened, helped with cooking and attended two church services on the Sunday.”

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The high cost of maintenance, particularly plumbing and painting the extensive wooden decorative work was becoming a financial burden for the YW. In addition, it was very cold in winter, and was losing its appeal to both staff and YWCA members. In February 1954 the Adelaide YWCA Board agreed that Holiday House should be sold with a reserve price of 8,000 pounds. This proposal was approved by the members at a Special General Meeting, with a request that a new site be found at the beach. Holiday House was eventually bought by the Presbyterian Church.

Initially a site at Moana was chosen, and a sketch plan for a camp submitted by the YWCA honorary architect, Mr Caradoc Ashton Jr, was considered. However, it was learned at a meeting with the Town Clerk of Noarlunga and the chief Engineer of the Electricity and Water Supply Department, that an adequate water supply could not be guaranteed until the new reservoir at Myponga was completed three to four years later. Water tanks would be needed – an extra cost.

In February 1957 the Camp Committee, comprising Miss H Black, Miss H Brookes, Miss E Maud and Mrs Jenkinson inspected a property at Aldinga Beach. This was a piece of land of three and a half acres, partly timbered, partly natural scrub, and separated from the beach by Crown Land. On site was an old family holiday house. In March 1957 the YWCA was granted an option to purchase the Aldinga Beach property for three thousand two hundred and fifty pounds.

By August 1957 repairs to the house on the property – now called ‘the cottage’ were finished. Working bees had cleaned up the grounds, and painted the kitchen and furniture.

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The tariff at that time was set at 5 shillings per night or one pound per week, per person, families of YW members: six guineas per week, with a limit of four weeks.

Members of the YWCA were invited to submit names for the new campsite. In June 1959 a vote was taken and the name chosen – **COORANGA**. With the passing of time, the meaning of this name has disappeared.

During the spring, summer and autumn of 1960, the Cooranga Committee and friends planted shrubs and trees. These were selected on advice from the Woods and Forests Department who gave dozens of specimens free. At weekends, volunteers came to water and Miss Helen Brookes and Mrs Joy Raven watered the plants after work during the hottest months.

Meanwhile the hard work continued to achieve the final result of a suitable and serviceable camp on the chosen site. During 1963, a sub-committee of the Board met frequently with the architect to discuss the progress of the buildings. On completion of the buildings, Miss Ruth Gibson volunteered to chair the Cooranga Management and Maintenance Committee until the centre was fully furnished and ready for occupancy. The Cooranga Club, headed by Mrs J Raven, organised working parties as well as equipping the kitchen with utensils and the dormitories with floor coverings.

February 29th, 1964 was a day for celebration – Cooranga War Memorial and Conference Centre was dedicated by the Rev. Alan Gray, Secretary of the S.A. Council of Churches, and officially opened by Miss Ruth Gibson, President of the Adelaide YWCA. The camp was a memorial to the women and girls who served in the 1939 – 1945 war.

The campsite was in an ideal position. Aldinga Beach being one of the most spectacular of the Adelaide beaches, an hours drive south of the city of Adelaide with a wide, long swathe of

clean firm sand and a safe swimming area. Abutting the campsite was Aldinga Scrub, the last remnant of virgin coastal scrub on this coastline. A healthy day's hike was through the scrub and along to Sellicks Beach, stop for a picnic lunch and then turn north and back along the shoreline to Aldinga Beach.

During the 1960s and 1970s the centre was used extensively by a wide range of organisations as well as YWCA groups. These other groups included church youth groups, school groups and sports clubs. A report in 1973 stated that the camp was in constant use, being solidly booked during the first and third terms and during the holidays. The YWCA conducted nine camps and residents from Hillcrest, Glenside and Strathmont Psychiatric Hospitals occupied the centre for a total of sixteen weeks. Caretakers who lived in a cottage on site, helped with the maintenance of the centre, welcoming the guests and supervising the buildings and grounds.

Janet Whitham tells the story of her contact with the Adelaide YWCA:

"I commenced my long association with the Adelaide YW in the early 1960s as a voluntary leader with the Saturday morning Reserve Girl Citizens – young girls aged from 9 – 12, and as I remember, enjoyed the experience greatly. In 1964 I was accepted as an In-Service Trainee much to my relief as I had been working in a bank and was most unhappy in that position. Three years with the Adelaide YW, and I sailed away on the Orcades to England, where I secured a job with the Acton YWCA as a Youth Worker, not an easy role for a young middle class woman working with often near-delinquent young men.

After two years in England and the continent, one month being spent in Geneva at the YWCA world headquarters, I flew to New York to participate in the 1969 International Training Institute, hosted by the International Division of the YWCA of the United States. The Institute's theme: 'Communication through the Arts' – the most wonderful three-month experience that I will never forget.

I returned to Australia and took up the position of National Youth Field Officer with the YWCA of Australia. I cherished this job, but left after one year to return to Adelaide to marry Peter. Then followed studies in Group Work and Social Work, two delightful daughters, more study in the areas of Family Therapy and Human Resources, professional work with intellectually disabled people and their families and finally in the Aged Care Field, finishing my run as a lecturer for the University of Ballarat, Ararat TAFE. I also became a member of and worked voluntarily with UNIFEM (United Nations International Development Fund for Women) and Zonta International.

On my return to Adelaide in 2001, I accepted a suggestion from the then Executive Director of the Adelaide YW, that I convene a group to write the history of this Association. I also joined the Board in 2003. I greatly enjoy being a part of this wonderful world wide women's movement and I will contribute to its work as long as I am able."

In 1977 a successful grant application to the South Australian Government made it possible to develop the Cooranga campsite and hence extend the facilities and double the accommodation from thirty to sixty. The work was carried out through the SA Government Unemployment and Relief Scheme.

Velvy Holden, convenor of the Cooranga Camp Committee, reported that 1981 had been an action-packed year with much achieved – that year saw the replacement of the cottage with a new System Built home. Southern District Lions Club demolished the old house and cleared the site in readiness for the new one. In the next few years the campsite continued to be well booked except for some vacancies during the winter months. However, by 1990 the camp was losing support. Camping numbers fell from 7321 (1987) to 4882 (1990)⁴.

⁴ Annual Report 1991

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Reluctantly the Board took the difficult decision to sell the Cooranga Campsite. This took effect in August 1991. Thanks were given to Stella and Merv. Edwards who had been camp caretakers for the last ten years.

The story of Cooranga is not only one of camps and day trips, games on the beach, fun and laughter in the dining room and secret midnight feasts in the dorm after lights out. It is also one of vision, dedication, determination and hard work by members of the YWCA, friends and members of other community organisations. The words used in a report by the president of Cooranga Club 1963/64 are delightfully anachronistic, but still ring true:

We are not here to play, to dream to drift

We have hard work to do, and loads to lift;

Shun not the struggle, face it, 'tis God's gift

Chapter ten

WORK WITH MIGRANTS

The YWCA is an organisation which cares for the health and well being of girls and women from all areas of the world. In its very early years the Adelaide YWCA initiated work which moved far from the confines of the local community. Work commenced in the 1880s with the meeting of girls as they arrived by ship from Europe. An Employment Bureau was set up and many of those assisted were young migrant women.

By 1940 the depression of the 1930s was coming to an end and the YW concerned itself with assisting displaced newcomers from Northern and Middle Europe. Throughout the Second World War, work with these people continued alongside other programs of the Adelaide YWCA, set up to assist the war effort.

In the post war period the association began its new era of work with the great intake of migrants, first from European countries and later from the United Kingdom. The President at the time, Mrs Morrow, wrote in a report:

“Never as before, we see clearly a new piece of work very close to us crying out for our help. Australia has thrown open her gates to the people of Europe and they need our friendship and our trust.”

A further report of 1949 shared the anxieties and joys of the work:

“It was an autumn day that we first went to Woodside Camp and met New Australians. We stepped into a shop, the shelves piled high with uninteresting but warm looking clothing. Natalia introduced us to Lucia Visockaite. We drew a triangle on a piece of paper, and the light of recognition flashed in their eyes as they readily responded ‘IFCA’ (the letters for the YWCA in Europe) – and gesticulated wildly. From then on we were identified with the wonderful YWCA services which these people had experienced in Europe, and they very humbly showed a warmth, friendship and trust to us as officials of our great World Movement”.

On 23 September 1949, the YWCA Hut at Woodside Holding Centre for Migrants was opened. The Hut was named ‘IFCA’. Lady Norrie opened the Hut and the occasion was a festive one. Gifts of furniture, a sewing machine, piano and books for a library were donated. Few people realised the magnitude of the task ahead; few understood the intricate problems of adjustment, the slow patient education in understanding which would be needed between old and new Australians.

‘Open House’, an informal meeting place in the Hindmarsh Square building, was made available at weekends, and on the last day of World Fellowship Week in November the centre was filled with hundreds of migrants who came to share in the warmth and friendliness of the YWCA. A weekend drop-in program for migrants and their families was developed and special camps were held at Holiday House, Mt. Lofty for the children organised by staff member Agnes McCahey. Proof of

the great value of this camp experiment became evident at the weekly Woodside reunion when the children would greet 'Miss Argnus' with excitement and hoots of delight.

The Good Neighbour Council was formed in 1949 and the records and experiences of the Adelaide YWCA became the basis of the new work of the Council. The YWCA, which had been working with migrants prior to 1949, handed over its files and information to the new Council, whose first director, Miss Mary Williams, had been actively involved in the YWCA before her new appointment to that position. In 1969, the YWCA of Adelaide received a 'charter of affiliation' as a founding member of the Good Neighbour Council of South Australia.

In the following years the YWCA initiated more programs with migrants which were subsequently taken over by other agencies and organisations. The YW however, continued to work in Woodside and later in hostels at Gepps Cross, Finsbury and Glenelg.

Following the National YWCA Immigration Meeting in 1969, the Adelaide YWCA was able to make a more satisfactory arrangement with the Immigration Department of South Australia concerning the payment of board for migrant women while they were awaiting employment and the Department placed small groups of newcomers in the Carrington Street Residence.

The Home Tutor Scheme originated in Great Britain and in 1974 the Minister for Immigration, Mr Al Grassby, decided to introduce it to Australia. It had two aims, firstly the befriending of migrants and secondly the teaching of basic English in the tutors' homes. Three national organisations agreed to take part, the CWA, the YWCA and the Good Neighbour Council.

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In South Australia, the scheme started with seven volunteer tutors from each organisation with training from the Department of Immigration. One thousand kits were printed and Joyce Steinle was appointed the YWCA volunteer coordinator. Twenty five women from the YWCA women's clubs and committees were trained as tutors. After her first annual report Joyce Steinle resigned due to lack of support from government departments and by 1976, the YWCA had ceased to be involved in the program.

A new area of work initiated by the YWCA was the English Conversation Program for Indo-Chinese women. This program administered by Irene Scholten, was funded by the Adult Education Grants Committee. Helen Hetzel, an educator from the Health Education Unit with others, principally Dr. Ngo Thi My and Sister Elizabeth Ngia realised the most urgent problem for some, was the their lack of opportunity to practise the English language. English conversation groups were set up and by the end of 1979 the program involved fifty trained facilitators serving twelve groups. Two women from the YWCA, Raelene Telfer and Frances Large, an American TESL teacher (Teaching English as a Second Language) worked with the program. The YW also offered the use of a room for training purposes and administered mailings and copying at nominal cost. When the Indo-Chinese Australian Women's Association was formed in 1980, the English Conversation Groups became a part of that organisation.

Helen Blake, who co-ordinated the groups until 1995, comments:

“Over the years, hundreds of Australian volunteers helped hundreds of Indo-Chinese people with their English through this scheme and many lasting friendships were formed.”

Chapter eleven

CHRISTMAS FESTIVALS

Compiled by Myra Lillywhite based on the recollections of Margaret Davey

Miss Margaret Davey has been a keen supporter of the YWCA of Adelaide for much of her life. Her initial involvement was as a member of the Girls' Work Committee, from which she was invited to become a Member of the Board. Margaret served in many capacities, including the role of President (1956-61) Her expertise lay in the field of finance and fundraising, and her very special contribution was through the organisation of a variety of Festivals.

It was at a meeting with the then Executive Director, Estelle Bennell, exploring ways of raising funds to pay off the debt on Holiday House, that the seed was sown for the Christmas Tree Festivals. There had been some discussion about the different ways trees were decorated in Germany, and this sparked the idea for a Christmas Tree Festival. Margaret immediately enlisted the support of the President, Dr. Beryl Bowering and the Board of the YWCA, family and friends and a number of influential people in Adelaide - and the first ever Christmas Tree Festival in Adelaide was held in the Town Hall over a three day period in December in the early 1950s.

Margaret had many contacts and the ability to enthuse and persuade the right people to help with particular tasks. The Forestry Department supplied the trees and a builder friend arranged for their transport and erection, whilst obtaining wine barrels from Seppelts in which to 'plant' them. A display manager from one of the big stores gave advice and various

community groups were persuaded to decorate the big trees. There were six large trees, up to twenty feet high, most with an ethnic theme including German, Baltic, Greek, and Asian. YWCA members and friends decorated the many smaller trees (4-6 feet) with great flair and individuality. It was a spectacular sight, and crowds flocked to Adelaide Town Hall to see this unique display. One evening there was such a crowd that authorities had to close the doors because of the fire risk, and people queued along King William Street to Pirie Street, awaiting their turn to be admitted. The Governor's wife opened that first Christmas Tree Festival. It was a great success, and was repeated four more times in the Adelaide Town Hall.

When the YWCA moved to the Pennington Terrace property in 1958, the Christmas Tree Festival moved to the YWCA Hall. Margaret Davey persuaded the council to give permission to close off part of Pennington Terrace during the Festival. A stage was erected and each night there were outdoor performances by different ethnic groups, with singing and dancing and attracting big crowds. Each year new features were added to the displays. In addition to the Christmas Trees, there were bedrooms decorated as children would want them to be on Christmas Eve, Christmas fireplaces (complete with Father Christmas), Christmas doors and wreaths, snow scenes and sleighs, and stalls with Christmas cakes prepared by the YWCA members. It was a great team effort.

Muriel Barrington, a cake icing and decorating teacher writes:

"I remember when we had the Christmas Tree Festival and the cake decorating class did all the little houses which were displayed in the board room. Another year we created a Swiss scene in the middle of the hall. It was raised up with all sorts and sizes of boxes which were

covered with undertaker's plastic. At the time Mrs Knabe⁵ was a board member."

After organising a number of Christmas Tree Festivals, Margaret felt it was time to think of something different. Inspiration came from a most unexpected source. On an overseas trip she visited the Follies Bergere, and was moved by a particular scene when the whole theatre seemed to be lit through stained glass windows. This reminded Margaret of her home church in Adelaide, Kent Town Methodist (now Wesley Kent Town Uniting) with its beautiful stained glass windows. She could envisage these being lit from outside, with light streaming into the church presenting a grand setting for a Nativity Festival. Once again Margaret gathered together a group of people who could help make this dream a reality. Lewis Dawe and the Adelaide Harmony Choir agreed to provide the music.

Rev. Kyle Waters, Chaplain at Prince Alfred College, collaborated with Max Birch of the Adelaide Repertory Company to prepare the script. Mr Hortin-Evins, builder, undertook to create a stage across the choir stalls, and the Head of the Methodist Conference, Rev. Dr Frank Hambly, gave permission for the church to be used for public performance, with seats booked through Cawthornes Booking Agency. Approximately 800 seats were sold for each performance. The church was decorated with 1,000 Christmas lilies which had to be collected from the supplier about a fortnight before the performance and kept in cold storage to ensure they would be at their peak of perfection.

Costumes for the large cast were made from old sheets from one of the YWCA hostels, dyed in the copper at Margaret's home and fashioned into appropriate garments by members of

⁵ Mrs Knabe was the wife of a well-known Adelaide funeral director

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the YWCA Dressmaking classes. Angel wings were fashioned from cane covered with gauze, with curled up white crepe paper attached to resemble feathers.

There were many young people involved in this performance, including representatives of migrant groups in national costume, coming forward to pay homage to the Christ Child. The various scenes of the nativity play were interspersed with choral music from the one hundred voice Harmony Choir. Kyle Waters played the part of the Angel Gabriel, and his voice boomed from the rafters creating a stirring experience.

The Nativity Festival was held nine times, interspersed with the Christmas Tree Festivals and they always drew large crowds. But Margaret was never satisfied to 'rest on her laurels'. Always looking for something new she came up with the idea of a Doll's House & Hobbies Festival. The centre piece was an architect designed two-storey dolls house four by three feet and six feet high. In addition to the range of doll houses, there were cubby houses to be explored, all sorts of dolls and accessories, and the usual cake stall to bring in extra money. This festival was held in Pennington Hall and once again there was an outdoor stage with a program of music and dance to attract the public.

Soon after this, Mrs Hassell, the wife of the architect of the Adelaide Festival Centre, brought back from Mexico a set of cards depicting angels dressed in costumes of different countries. These inspired Margaret to organise an Angel Festival. Again she gathered a group of talented people to create a set of a dozen angel dolls, standing two to three feet high, with faces the size of a pudding basin. Some were dressed in national costume; for example, the Lady Mayoress of the day dressed one as an Eskimo with fur around the face. Each doll had a card attached to the dress, telling of its origin. The dolls were stored for many years at the Julia Farr Centre. It

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is interesting to note that they are still being used in conjunction with the Lobethal Christmas Festival.

In the mid-60s Margaret organised a Christmas Street Festival in Olive Grove, Hazelwood Park. All the residents (about eighteen houses) agreed to decorate their homes with Christmas lights. A stage was erected at the end of the street, adjacent to Hazelwood Park. The “Twelve Days of Christmas” were displayed down the middle of the street, and there were stalls to raise money. This festival was opened by Lady Bastyan, wife of the Governor, and it is estimated that it was visited by some 32,000 people. It was highly successful, but unfortunately it was never repeated.

Many of Margaret’s festival ideas have spread to other countries through her contact with interested people overseas.

Chapter twelve

THE C IN THE YWCA

Founded in the 19th century by Christian women, the Adelaide YW is a part of the wider Christian organisation – the World YWCA. Throughout the 20th century the organisation strongly adhered to the principles of this faith and has been obvious in this – in club work, committees, board, meetings; most beginning with a prayer or small devotion.

In the Adelaide YW's first hundred years Christian education was a very active part of the program. Bible study formed a part of all club work and each year a Bible school was held, the leadership being given by local or interstate clergy. Easter camps played a prominent part in the Association's program with priority being given to bible and missionary studies.

The Religious Work Committee arranged speakers for each Sunday afternoon service. It also initiated the Women's Hour of Prayer, an activity which was carried on for many years. The YWCA has had an affiliation with the SA Council of Christian Education, the SA Christian Youth Council, The Women's United Church Council and The Women's World Day of Prayer for many years. World Week of Prayer and World Fellowship continues to be celebrated – use is made of the booklet which is produced by the World YWCA with daily devotions and discussion suggestions.

The Women's World Day of Prayer was also recognised in the 1960s to 1980s - one year during the period when Hilda Wyrill (later Burkitt) was Executive Director, the YW held devotions at a local beach, following this with barbecued fish for

breakfast. For a short period in the 1960s there was a strong evangelical movement within the YWCA and YMCA; younger staff and members being particularly involved in this.

In the late 1980s the emphasis on the Christian aspect of the YW diminished, with the emphasis shifting towards more social responsibility. This followed a decreasing involvement in formal religious activities by members of the wider community. Pamela Lockyer-Scrutton, Executive Director in the early 2000s, re-introduced observation of the Women's World Day of Prayer and discussions held with both staff and club members indicate that the practice will continue.

At the Annual General Meeting 2004, changes to the Adelaide YWCA Constitution were voted in. The original basis read: "The Association acknowledges that in the sight of God all persons are of equal value without distinction of race, colour, class or creed and seek to serve the Kingdom of God and bases all activities on Faith in God Almighty and Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord and Saviour in The Holy Spirit."

The Board had agreed that this statement was no longer appropriate and that many potential members would not be able to accept the words or sentiment they implied. The proposed change which was accepted by the members at the AGM read:

"The Association acknowledges that all persons are of equal value without distinction of race, colour, class, sexuality, ability or creed." This basis is in line with the one proposed by the National YWCA".

Similarly, relating to voting membership, the words were altered from: "I desire to enter the Christian Fellowship of the Association. I will uphold its purpose in my own life and through my membership of the Association", to: "I will uphold the values and purpose of the YWCA of Adelaide."

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These were important changes to the constitution of an organisation which has presented itself and upheld the beliefs of Christianity, albeit in varying degrees, since its beginning. It was now incumbent upon future board and staff members to rigorously uphold the values inherent in the words of the constitution so that the caring and concern for the well-being of women and girls is at the centre of all programs and activities, and most importantly make sure that the spiritual aspect of the YW's work was acknowledged and continued.

Chapter thirteen

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

“The YWCA of Adelaide is a women’s membership movement, nourished by its roots in the Christian faith and sustained by the richness of many beliefs and values. Strengthened by diversity, the Association draws together members to create opportunities for growth, leadership and empowerment of women and girls in order to attain a common vision of peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all people”

With this proclaimed purpose, the programs of the YWCA have always been oriented towards the social issues of the day making an impact on women and girls in the Adelaide community. From the first years this included social and support groups for girls who had moved from the country to work in the city, aid to women who had migrated to Australia and to other women travellers, assistance with personal savings, hostels for munition workers during the war, and for student teachers who had moved from the country to the city to study, and for a short period, a hostel for aboriginal women.

The position of women in the community was always an important focus of the YW’s work. In the 1950s, the World Fellowship and Social Responsibility Committee was formed, the purpose of which was “To develop an interest and stimulate thinking and discussion on social problems, locally, nationally and internationally, thus giving information to our members for program planning in clubs.”

Typical issues addressed were our attitude to migrants, facing unemployment in a depression, unemployment of women and girls, care of the aged, married women working outside the home or taking care of children full time. Some issues have remained the same through the decades. Others were specific to the YW, for example women from Parkside Mental Hospital (now Glenside Psychiatric Hospital), causing problems in YWCA hostels. It was not possible to act upon everything. Issues were discussed and prioritised. Finances and time available dictated those which were addressed in more detail. In the early 1960s proposals were submitted for sex education in schools and in 1965 a Family Living Course incorporating a film on the contraceptive pill and boy/girl relationships was conducted. In this year a six week “Women as Citizens” course was also planned.

As a member of a world wide organisation, the Adelaide YWCA was ever mindful of the needs of women in countries other than Australia. In 1968 for example, \$2,409 was raised for World Mutual Service projects for work in overseas YWCAs. All YWCAs around the world were bound to support the work of the World YWCA. This was done through exchange of staff, training and resources.

It was in the 1960s that YW women’s groups grew, child care was offered and the underlying theme was that of developing women’s potential. The 1970s saw the development of the feminist movement and the evolving of the YW as a women’s movement. Heather Crosby, Executive Director of the Adelaide YWCA, was a supporter of the Association changing from an emphasis on youth and accommodation to a feminist organisation. She saw women’s rights as a priority and the YW becoming more involved in women’s issues. In 1972 the terms of reference for the Social Responsibility Committee

included encouraging a social consciousness among members, the study of social questions and co-operation with other like-minded organisations such as S.A.Youth Council, National Council of Women and United Nations Association.

Heather Crosby tells of her experiences in the YWCA

"Since 1960 when I joined the YWCA of Adelaide, I have had in front of me the vision of what a women's movement can and should be. I have experienced empowerment in my personal development and the introduction to so many avenues of challenge and possibilities. There have been unique opportunities through the YWCA on a local, national and international level to participate in raising the awareness and need for action on women's issues both within the YWCA and the wider community. I am proud of the advocacy role that the YWCA has taken in this regard and consider it an honour to have been part of it, both as a volunteer and staff member."

A series of talks took place before the federal elections of 1972. Entitled 'The How and Why of Government' they included speakers from each political party. Three sessions were presented with local politicians, *but there were no women speakers.*

An interesting feature of the Social Responsibility committee was the name changes afforded to it. In 1973 a new committee was formed which included the areas of Social Responsibility, Christian Emphasis, Membership and World Mutual Service. Named the Purpose and Concern Committee, it was intended to embrace these four aspects of the YWCA's concern for people.

An important aspect of this decade was the International Women's Year in 1975. The first meeting to discuss the celebration of this year was called by the United Nations Association. Heather Crosby chaired this meeting, Irene Scholten was appointed as the YWCA representative and Nadine Roden as chairperson by UNAA. Upon Nadine's death in 1975, deputy chair Gene Wenham, the National Council of

Women representative, was appointed as chairperson. During the year, the YW hosted most of the committee meetings and larger functions. The National YWCA mounted an exhibition of photographs depicting social comments on women : Diversity – age, race and colour, Role – motherhood, vocation, career, Joys, Grief and Humiliation and Struggle with identity. The exhibition toured to all states and was made possible with a grant of \$43,000 from the National I.W.Y. Committee. The first seminar, relating to the UN Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, was held at the Adelaide YWCA in Pennington Terrace.

In 1976 the final meeting of the SA United Nations I.W.Y. Committee was held at the YW. The Status of Women Committee was formed to carry on the work and Gene Wenham, a member of the YW Board, was elected as the first President of this committee. Joan van der Sman was the Adelaide YWCA representative.

A public meeting to discuss Uranium was sponsored by the YW in 1975, Dr. Helen Caldicott was the speaker and a small audience was recorded. In this year also, Alder Hall was chosen to attend a National Women's Health Conference in Brisbane. In her report of this conference, Alder noted that the medical profession "needs waking up to women's problems." It was agreed in 1976 that Women and Health be the main emphasis for the Adelaide YW.

An important issue with which the YW was involved in the late 1970s was that of rape. Minutes of the committee highlight this concern - the recording of a rape crisis centre being established in a Women's Community Centre, Hindmarsh, the Adelaide YWCA involving itself in legislation on rape by sending a submission and a letter to the Advertiser, supporting legislation which stated that rape within marriage was a crime. Staff

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member Rosemary Fisher and Executive Director Heather Crosby attended a Rape Counselling Course in August of 1976.

The caring and concern of YWCA staff and members, their ability to think ahead and anticipate social issues and problems have always been a strength of the organisation. In 1976 the Adelaide YW was given funding by the State Government for a six month program, the goal of which was to acquaint parents with available resources if and when they were faced with unemployment of their children. The program was before its time as it appeared parents could not imagine they would ever find themselves in this position if their children had been well educated. Excellent speakers were provided in many suburbs, but the attendance was disappointing and after six months, funding was discontinued. The YWCA, always seeking to anticipate happenings and prevent disaster realised that parents thought that unemployment was something that happened to someone else's children and those who could have benefited from the information did not come. The scheme was reinstated later by Service to Youth and by then unemployment had hit all stratas of society and parents who had never known anything but full employment were seeking help.

In the words of Gene Wenham, Executive Director of the YW in the 1980s, "We were often before our time". She tells of another area of work which was crying out for attention : Grandmothers under stress.

"During 1988 we applied for and received a grant through the Federal Office of the Status of Women under the National Agenda for Women to conduct research into stress and health problems in grandmothers involved in full-time child care. Alison Whish, herself the mother of four young children was acting as a resource person for the Social Response Committee. She had observed the growing phenomenon in the community of grandmothers raising second families with very little choice in the matter. She devised the scheme and the YW appointed a research assistant, Priscilla Binks to begin the task of preparing a questionnaire and interviewing a sample

section of the community. We had never had such a positive reaction to a proposed program. Australian Associated Press contacted us when the grant was announced and the media around Australia phoned in for direct hook up radio and television nationally to talk about the issue. The Advertiser gave coverage and showed further interest.”

Gene was careful to say, as a representative of an organisation which cared about choices and development for women of all ages, that for many young women, returning to the workforce was not even a matter of choice but financial need, and that they needed to ensure the best care for their children. The YWCA received letters and phone calls from around the country saying this research was much needed and offering to help.

The research by Priscilla Binks became part of a Masters Thesis entitled “ Grandparenthood and its contribution to well-being in the middle-aged and elderly”. The thesis is held in the Special

Collections Library of the Flinders University, Adelaide. As a condition of the grant the findings were forwarded to the Federal Government and in 2003 the history group, after numerous phone calls leading nowhere, was unable to ascertain what, if anything, had eventuated from the work undertaken.

In *The Australian* dated 10/7/03 an article and photograph addressed this very same topic as discussed above. This time a report by researchers at the University of Western Sydney and presented to the Australian Social Policy Conference calls for greater support and recognition of the role grandparents play in looking after their grandchildren. Similar results to those found in the late 1980s.

In the early 1980s the Purpose and Concern Committee worked strongly – in 1981 members contributed to National Convention by collecting resource material for the Human Rights workshop and initiated a planning day for board, committees and staff to discuss implementation of the 1981 Convention recommendations relating to Human Rights - specifically issues concerning women and youth. The committee also wrote letters to government representatives on

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issues such as the appointment of members to the National Women's Advisory Committee, uranium mining, deposits on PET containers and non-traditional training opportunities for women and girls. A study was made of the Myer report on technological change and a meeting was held with Aboriginal women to gain a better understanding of issues relating to land rights, Aboriginal Treaty and the Pastoral Lands Bill.

In the 1990s and early 2000s, programs were strongly oriented to social issues.

Chapter fourteen

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

Sections of the Mission Statement of the Adelaide YWCA state that the organisation works with women and young people to identify and respond to their needs through: a staff/volunteer partnership that provides opportunities for personal growth, skill development and fulfillment and provision of equal opportunity employment that encourages professional development for staff through education and training.

Training and personal development opportunities for staff members, volunteers and club members have always been an important aspect of the life of the Adelaide YWCA. Many who participated in local training sessions utilised the knowledge and skills learned at the YW in other spheres; some women continuing their education at tertiary level. In September 1907 Miss Esther Anderson arrived from the United States of America. She was the first fully trained General Secretary of the Adelaide YWCA, and under her leadership many new areas of work began to develop.

On a national level, Miss Helen Barnes, the National Secretary, established a training school so that the Australian YWCA might train its own secretaries. At the first session four Adelaide girls participated in the course and throughout the twentieth century, staff training was an expected part of the association.

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The first post war conference was held in Melbourne in January 1947, and national leadership training courses were organised. In 1953 Adelaide was chosen as the venue for the National YWCA Training Centre and Miss Florence Christian was appointed Director of Training. Later to become National Executive Director, she was a most gracious woman and wonderful role model.

Throughout the years staff benefited from many different forms of training experiences. The In-Service Training course for young program directors continued until the late 1960s. This two-year full time course consisted of several correspondence subjects which were marked by members of the National YWCA, two week-long training sessions conducted by national YWCA staff and held in Melbourne, and supervised work in the home association. In Adelaide in the early 1960s four young trainees had the great fortune to have Mrs E.M.Gooden and Mrs Margaret Hanen as tutors.

Other programs for staff included participation in a Council of Religious Education course conducted over a six week period, public speaking sessions, administration skills conducted by National YWCA and WEA (Workers' Education Association) courses. In 1960 a suggestion was made that the Adelaide YW embark upon a "bold program of training". In February 1961 Miss Yvonne Roberts was appointed as Program Secretary with responsibility for the program.

Overseas opportunities were given to staff members and volunteers, when the women not only learned new skills and different ways to approach the work of the YWCA, but also met and worked with colleagues from other countries. Jan Parham, a delegate to a YMCA/YWCA conference in August 1968, followed it with one month's training with the YWCA of Canada. Janet Symonds attended a one month course at YWCA

world headquarters in Geneva and later participated in the 1969 International Training Institute based in New York.

Margaret Davey attended World Conferences in Denmark, Melbourne and Ghana; Heather Crosby also attended World Conferences; two of these being in Vancouver and Athens. As a member of World Executive from 1971 to 1979, Heather was involved in the work of the world organisation and through this experience contributed greatly to the Australian National YWCA and the Adelaide YW. Others benefited from the opportunity to travel and study in another country. Dorothy Ockenden attended a membership conference in New Delhi. Judith Blake maintained many wonderful contacts with women she met at the ITI in Cret Berard, in Athens and Singapore.

Other agencies were included in training experiences either as participants in courses or as observers of YW programs. Two YMCA students observed YWCA work for a week in 1959 and an Adelaide Social Work student carried out a placement at the YW in 1967. Voluntary leaders and club members were also provided with a rich experience of training and development opportunities. Courses for club office bearers were held for many years, enabling women to fill responsible positions within their club and in some cases giving them the confidence to use their skills outside the safety of the organisation.

Training was offered to Girl Citizens and Reserve Girl Citizens counsellors and leaders and Y Teen leaders. Campers' courses, social games, handcraft, stage-craft for clubs, simple stage make-up and weekend training courses for Leaving and Leaving Honours Maths students were some of the activities addressed. In August 1969 an innovative program was offered to newly formed groups. This included a history of the YWCA, an outline of the organisation, policies, financial commitments, understanding how groups work, group programs, relationships, membership and commitment.

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In the late 1960s a Group Work Certificate course was introduced at the South Australian Institute of Technology, now part of the University of South Australia. This course, offered by a tertiary institution, took the place of the YWCA national course for younger staff members and several embarked upon it.

In the latter decades of the twentieth century training and personal development opportunities continued to be offered by the Adelaide YWCA. Members of the Y Wives' clubs undertook training in office bearer skills; Rae O'Malley Finance Co-ordinator, conducted a workshop for club treasurers and in 1981 Joan Snow, then State YWCA Director, conducted a State Membership Conference in the Riverland. Fifty women from Adelaide, Whyalla, Port Pirie, the Riverland and National YWCA attended with a program which included leadership, communication, club programming and skill development.

Young women participated in a 'Spirit of Leadership' workshop and volunteers working as Big Sisters in the program of that name, spent time learning the skills needed for their part supporting a younger girl. From the 1990s, programs such as Y Train and JPET (Job Placement and Employment Training) trained young women and men in skills for certain jobs such as welding, writing job applications, attending interviews and sitting for a driving test.

Staff members have been given opportunities to upgrade their skills and acquire new knowledge.

Bev Kennedy, Adult Program Director participated in a residential workshop conducted by the National YWCA. Bev reported that the Young Women's Development program, a federally funded nine-day workshop, was an outstanding opportunity to meet with twenty seven other women looking at

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the needs of Australian young women and devising ways of meeting these needs.

Training others as well as being trained, Heather Crosby and Rita Wilmhurst conducted a successful ten week course – ‘Women’s Lives’, an introduction to women’s studies. Joan Snow was funded to attend the first level of a SACRA Management Course.

In the 1990s and into the 2000s, opportunities for both staff and volunteers continued in the education and personal development areas – Sarah Goulding, a young volunteer was chosen to spend a year with World YWCA in Geneva and later created Adelaide YWCA history by being the first woman under thirty to be appointed in the role of president of the association. Large contingents from the Adelaide YW participated in National Conventions and World Conferences where the opportunity to learn more about the work of the wider organisation was offered.

Angela De Conno, President of the Adelaide YW and Tammy Franks, Young Women’s Program Manager have both been delegates to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women in New York. Angela participated in 2004 and Tammy in 2005 Tammy spoke about her experiences in New York at the World YWCA Round-the-World Breakfast held in April 2005. Tammy recalled, “I listened more than I spoke”. Tammy talked about women’s rights being human rights and about women owning and being in control of their own bodies. She told how HIV/AIDS is affecting young women in Africa and destroying families and that it is necessary for non-government organisations to work together to combat the problems.

In the 21st Century many staff and volunteers commence their work already multi-skilled and often with relevant tertiary education.

Chapter fifteen

VOLUNTEERS AND THE YWCA

Compiled by Heather Crosby

Love is a basket with loaves and two fishes. It is never enough until you start to give it away. The basket is the World YWCA.

“The World YWCA is a movement built and owned by volunteers. From historic founders to current leaders, the YWCA, partnering with staff, have raised their voices together and discovered that they were capable of improving their world, individually and collectively. In the process they have developed their own and others’ leadership skills and expanded their world views.”

(Common Concern September 2000.)

The history of volunteers in the YWCA of Adelaide is mirrored in the history of YWCAs around the world. The YWCA is the oldest women’s movement in the world and most of the Associations were started by volunteers who were concerned about the welfare of women and girls in their communities.

The YWCA started almost 125 years ago with a group of women who volunteered their time to provide programs for young women in Adelaide. As its work expanded, staff were employed to develop services the YWCAs wished to provide, and so a staff/volunteer partnership which has become traditional in the YWCA, developed. Quite often, because of the flexibility of the movement these roles became inter-

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changeable, thanks to the leadership skills developed by volunteers.

Volunteers in the YWCA are given opportunities to be a part of a world-wide organisation of women, much respected as a significant non-government organisation, and connected “across boundaries of time and place, class and race, age and colour, religion and lifestyle and political persuasion” to work for the common concerns of women in local, national and international communities.

Long time Volunteer, Joan Grieger remembers;

"I enjoyed being a volunteer; it was something to be involved in. I really liked to do things and to get things done".

Joan Grieger, currently a member of the History Group, has been a loyal volunteer with the Adelaide YW for many years. Slight in stature, physically strong, she was a welcoming person for the YW in Pennington Terrace and Regent Street.

Until mid-2005 Joan was an active member of the Charity Card Shop volunteer group, retiring only because relevant insurance did not cover an eighty-year old person.

"In all the time they have given, the sacrifices made, the tough choices and decisions taken, the YWCA volunteers have sustained their responsibilities and commitments to the members and ideals of the movement. They have established new YWCAs, expanded existing ones, developed new programs for women and girls , led groups, monitored others, honed democratic structures, raised funds to carry on the work. They have spoken up wherever and whenever there was need to about the rights of women and all people."

Jewel Graham – Common Concern 2000

Chapter sixteen

THE Y TODAY

Even after 125 years, the YWCA of Adelaide remains a vibrant, progressive, relevant and energetic organisation, driven not only by its past achievements but by a yearning to make a difference for the future.

The policies and programs of the YW continue to address the very real needs of the community, especially those of women and at-risk youth and the enthusiastic team of staff and volunteers continue to deliver excellent results in these areas.

Over the years, the YW has (often uniquely) come to recognise that 'women-in-need' are not always those from disadvantaged backgrounds or caught in the poverty-trap. Women's needs are vast and varied and the YWCA has, since its inception, sought to address those, often subtle, areas of concern. These are reflected in such programs as Encore and WoWW, the provision of international level training for leadership and management and the determined efforts in political lobbying and policy making.

As the next 125 years roll out, the YWCA of Adelaide is busy developing and implementing important policies and programs such as :

WoWW! (What's on Where for Women) an online database of sporting and recreational activities, providing simple and easy access to information on hundreds of active leisure

programs all over Adelaide, which are of particular interest to women. This program developed from a recognition of the importance of physical activity in the wellbeing of women, young and old.

Encore, follows on the theme of physical activity, but with a very special and important focus providing gentle, specialised exercise and support for women who have undergone surgery as a result of breast cancer. But the benefits of the program go beyond the obvious enhancement to health and well-being, extending to renew self-esteem and image, and recreating a positive attitude to life after the trauma and consequences of breast cancer.

YWCA Elizabeth Vale Community House has served the Elizabeth community since the 1960's and provides a vital support and development service to the local residents. What began as a drop-in centre for the new migrant women, the House now offers life-skills training, leadership and development courses, adult education, parenting advice and exercise and recreation programs to a very appreciative community.

Big Brothers Big Sisters is the largest and most prominent provider of mentor services in the world and first began operating at the YW in South Australia as the Big Sisters program in 1984. By matching at-risk youth ("Littles") to inspiring and skilled mentors ("Bigs") the YWCA is able to provide positive role-models to those children who lack such support and guidance. The friendships and trusting relationships develop through regular one-to-one activities over a 12-month period bringing far-reaching and positive results not only to the lives of the children but also on their mentors.

Women's Clubs continue to play a central role in the YWCA. Eight active clubs with over two hundred members meet regularly in venues across Adelaide. The clubs provide social

and recreational activities for members, important support for YWCA initiatives and are a mechanism to extend and share fellowship in the movement.

Women of the Wilderness (WOW) and Women in the Bush walking clubs offers women and girls the opportunity to tackle various bushwalking trails and city walks in and around Adelaide throughout the year.

YWCA Southern Youth Services, based in Victor Harbor, provides critical services to youth on Kangaroo Island and in the Southern Fleurieu region. The Y Express program follows on from LifeSPAN in the prevention of drug related harm, whilst the JPET service directly targets and addresses the needs of homeless and at-risk youth especially in the areas of income and personal support, career guidance and goal setting.

The Young Women's Program is a broad-based project with a commitment to improving the lives of young women and girls. The diverse range of programs focussed upon, include body-image and disordered eating, sexual health, anti-social behaviour, leadership and human rights.

The flexible and adaptable nature of the programs allows the YWCA to do what it does best: quickly and effectively adapt to the real and immediate needs of communities. The YWCA could not respond in this way without the support of its volunteers. Volunteers have played a pivotal role in the organization's development over 125 years and continue to do so today. Volunteers are involved in all facets of the YW's work: through participation on the board, in committees and working groups, in programs and services and administration and events.

Whilst much of the day-to-day work of the YW focuses on local issues, the Association has also built up an excellent

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network of communication and involvement on both a national and international level.

Delegations to the YWCA of Australia ensure that the national body is not only informed of the progress in South Australia, but that ideas and concerns are shared across state borders and demographic divides. The YWCA of Adelaide continues to make important contributions to the national strategic plan and the various national conventions.

Further afield, the Adelaide YWCA is well recognised internationally with local members selected as delegates for the UN Commission on the Status of Women and Pacific Regional Training conferences in preparation for the YWCA World Council as well as significant contributions to the World YWCA Constitutional Review and forums.

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The challenge for the YWCA now and into the next 125 years is to maintain its reputation for relevance and adaptability, to remain at the forefront of social welfare and reform and to continue to meet the needs of those who are most vulnerable. Although the global forces change and Australian society has developed remarkably, the fundamental principles upon which the YWCA was founded remain as true today as they did when Lady Colton addressed her 'dear girls' in those dusty rooms in the Wesleyan Sunday School.

If the last century and a quarter is anything to go by, it will be through the faith, dedication, commitment and belief of the members that will see the YWCA continue to provide relief and enrichment not only to the women of South Australia but

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to families, youth and older people regardless of faith, background or ability.

The Strategic Plan for the first decade of the 21st Century recognises the need for the YWCA to work towards a healthy community by expanding and developing programs that not only look at health and well-being, but also provide leadership skills to members as well as the wider community.

The YW Board has also acknowledged that, for the Association to provide the best services both to members and the community, it must foster new and enhanced partnerships with other YWCAs, the Corporate sector and the various levels of government. It is important for the organisation to be sustainable and one that can easily respond to critical needs as they arise.

In the next 125 years the YWCA will continue to be a highly respected advocate for women, young and old, for human rights and for community development. The dedicated women of the YW will always stand up and speak out about what they believe in and in doing so, shall remain an effective, responsible and well regarded voice for change.

The Adelaide YWCA grew out of the desire of a group of 19th century women to make a special response to the needs of young women. That desire has remained an essential core of the YWCA program in Adelaide, the extension areas, and indeed throughout the world.

Appendix I

**Presidents of the YWCA of Adelaide
1880 to 2005**

1880 – 1898	Lady (Mary) Colton
1898 – 1902	Mrs D Paton
1902 – 1911	Mrs Chas Birks
1911 – 1915	Mrs A H Gault
1915 – 1916	Mrs A S Neill
1916 – 1924	Lady (Mary) Verco
1924 – 1926	Lady Kidman
1927	Mrs N M G Gratton
1928 – 1930	Lady Kidman
1931 – 1935	Elizabeth Messent
1935 – 1936	Edith Haslam
1937 – 1939	Winifred Ward
1940 – 1941	Hilda Dawe
1941 – 1946	Iris Morrow
1946 – 1947	Hilda Dawe (Acting)
1947 – 1950	Iris Morrow
1950 - 1951	Mary Smith
1951 – 1956	Dr Beryl Bowering
1956 – 1961	Margaret Davey
1961 – 1964	Ruth Gibson
1964 – 1968	Heather Crosby
1968 – 1972	Mary Horton-Evins
1972 – 1975	Kathleen Rumbold
1975 – 1979	Myra Lillywhite
1979 – 1983	Alder Hall
1983 – 1986	Alleyne Womersley
1986 – 1990	Margaret Smith
1990 – 1991	Jenny Ransome
1991 – 1996	Catherine McMahon
1996 – 2000	Ros Wilson
2000 – 2002	Sarah Goulding
2002 – 2003	Katrina Nitschke
2003 -	Angela de Conno

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Appendix II

Board of Directors

Angela De Conno *President*

Irene Ponias *Vice President*

Dorothy Nycz *Audit Committee Convenor*

Susan Ashby

Bec Curtain

Carol Dart

Tricia Garnett

Anna Lewkowitz

Janet Whitham

Appendix III

Members of Staff

Gail Jackson	<i>Chief Executive</i>
Rae O'Malley	<i>Finance Coordinator</i>
Lesley Cooper	<i>Administration Officer</i>
Tammy Franks	<i>Young Women's Program Manager</i>
Jo Case	<i>Big Brothers Big Sisters Program Manager</i>
Nicole Kinnear	<i>Marketing and Communications Coordinator & What's on Where for Women Program Manager</i>
Amie Baines	<i>Cleaner</i>
Sally McEvoy	<i>Y Express Program Manager</i>
Paula Ahlgren	<i>Youth Worker</i>
Petrice Barker	<i>Community House Coordinator</i>
Julie Sawczynski	<i>Community House Administration Assistant</i>
Mavis Roberston	<i>Community House Cleaner</i>
Anna Svedberg	<i>Girl's Club Coordinator</i>
Lisa Siefert	<i>Girl's Club Coordinator</i>
Carol Hadland	<i>Adult Community Education Instructor</i>
Sarah Jones	<i>Adult Community Education Instructor</i>
Lisa Siefert	<i>Creche Coordinator</i>
Danielle Pailthorpe	<i>Creche Worker</i>
Fran Williams	<i>Encore Coordinator</i>
Linda Quinton	<i>Encore Coordinator</i>
Janet Evans	<i>Encore Coordinator</i>
Rosey Sulicich	<i>Encore Assistant</i>
Marie Sinnott	<i>Encore Assistant</i>
Ruth Morrison	<i>Encore Assistant</i>