

iconz4girlz

"Growing girls for good!"

The first iconz4girlz Unit launched at the Northpoint Baptist Church, Bell Block New Plymouth on 20 May 2009. The following month the leaders of the Unit came along to the GBNZ Conference in Hamilton to share the good news.



A few weeks later a second Unit commenced at Welcome Bay Baptist Church in Tauranga. Although The Northpoint Unit wrapped up after about five years the Welcome Bay one is still operating.

Many Units opened and many Units closed over the next ten years and today there are 25 Units reaching approx. 450 girls for Christ.

The beginning of the journey

I had been hearing a lot about a new programme the Boys' Brigade were rolling out called "ICONZ". On my way north for my induction as National Commissioner in 2007 I made a courtesy call at the Boys' Brigade HQ to introduce myself but also to find out what this ICONZ was all about! I was told that ICONZ had taken off like a rocket and churches, parents and sisters were asking "Where is something for the girls?"

In February 2008 Boys' Brigade officials meet with Girls' Brigade representatives and BB offered all their ICONZ material to GB at no cost if they wished to take on the girls' version of the ministry. BB had invested a huge financial commitment into the set up so we are very grateful to BB for this amazing gift. This had been the first time for many, many years that BB and GB had worked together at this level.



Present at historical meeting - Graeme Creahan (BBNZ National Director) Rev Harry Shaw (BBNZ ICONZ Ministry Team) Stu Thompson (BBNZ ICONZ Development Manager) Jennifer Box (GBNZ Rep), Charmayne Johnstone (GBNZ Rep), Christine Brunt (GBNZ National Commissioner), Elizabeth Dickens (GBNZ Admin Director) Murray Donovan (BBNZ Executive Officer).

The GB National Executive agreed that a steering committee should be set up to look at the feasibility of running an ICONZ for girls and due diligence resulted in the steering committee being appointed as a Ministry Team to take the project forward.

Members of the Team where:

Jennifer Box QSM JP (Convenor) a former National Commissioner of GBNZ and former Chairman of the GB Pacific Fellowship and Vice President of GB International

Janice Zachan QSM JP also a former National Commissioner of GBNZ and former Chairman of the GB Pacific Fellowship and Vice President of GB International

Charmayne Johnstone a former member of GBNZ Executive and Event Co-ordinator of two GBNZ Fonomarae

Christine Brunt National Commissioner of GBNZ at the time

The Senior Leader of the Northpoint Unit, Joanna Elliot, was brought on as leaders' representative.

The name iconz4girlz (IFG) was chosen and logos and uniforms were designed. The Team secured funding for salary for a development manager but when the right candidate did not come forward the Team wasted no time in tackling the development work themselves as volunteers. Further funding was sourced as it was important to the Team that there would be no cost at all to GBNZ. 12 years of weekly programmes were written and over 100 badges designed. Compliance documents were put in place and a training programme to introduce leaders to IFG was put together.

The BB Development Manager at the time, Stu Thompson, was contracted to help and the early Units were opened by Stu.



Northpoint girls are the poster girls for our publicity

The Board of GBNZ disbanded the IFG Ministry Team in June 2017 and the former ministry was renamed a “programme”. Administration which had been the work of the convenor was passed to the staff of GBNZ and Charmayne and I were asked to continue as members of a GBNZ Development Team with particular responsibility for identifying prospects, setting up new Units and delivering initial training to new Unit leaders.

Christine Brunt MNZM

GBNZ National Commissioner 2007-2010

Team Member and later Convenor IFG Ministry Team 2007-2017

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