

ONLINE 2024 WITH

CHORUS

2024 Programme Report



» OUR STORY

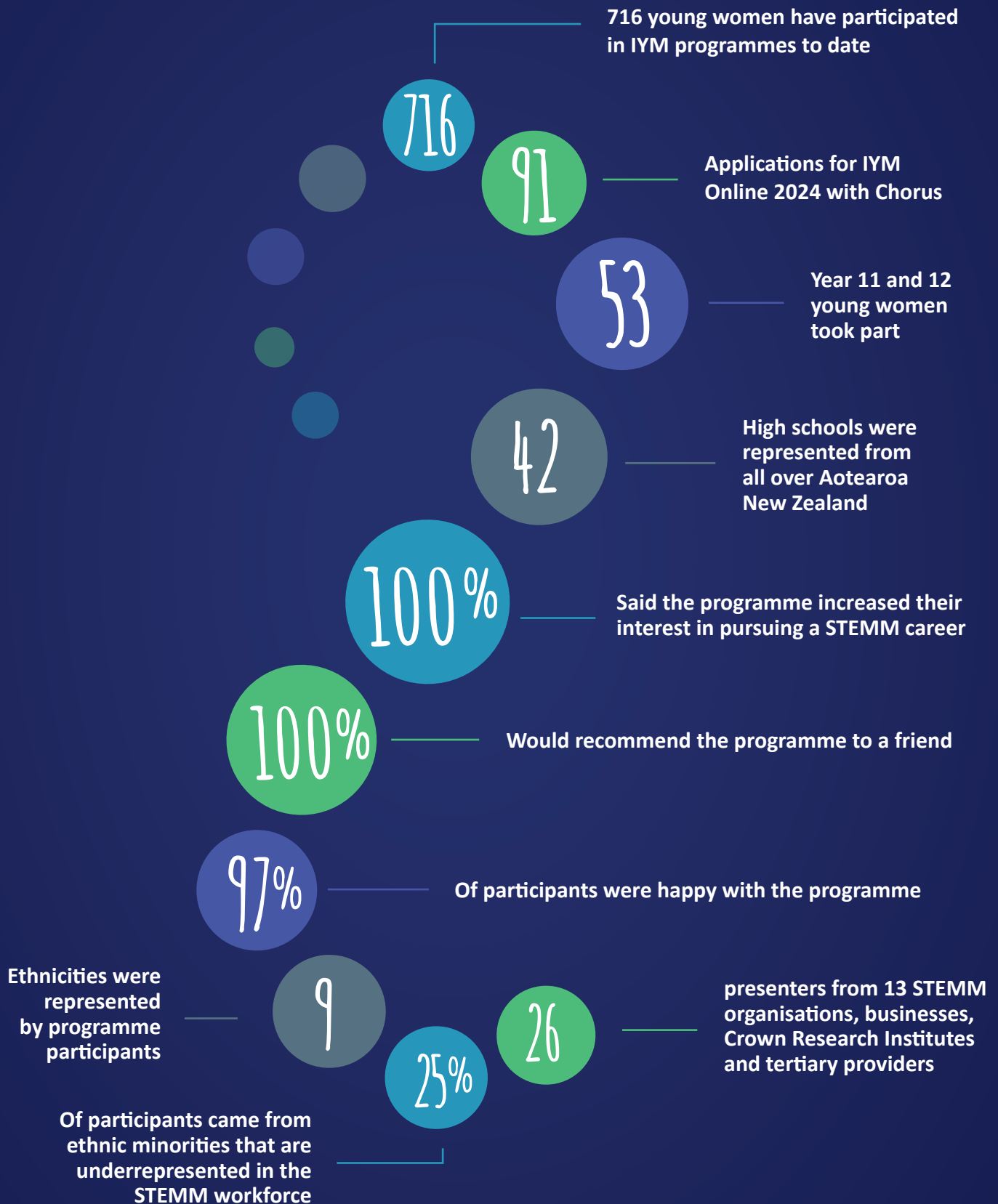
Innovative Young Minds Charitable Trust (IYM) offers young women in Years 11 and 12 the opportunity to learn about the wide range of research and career opportunities available to them in STEMM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics and high-tech manufacturing). IYM seeks to encourage diversity in Aotearoa New Zealand's science and technology industry by inspiring a new generation of female innovators and industry leaders.

The online version of the IYM programme was first created in 2020, in response to COVID-19, when our normal residential programme could not be safely run. Delivered virtually via Zoom and Google Classroom, the programme exposed participants to inspiring science and technology content through a range of different interactive virtual experiences. Due to the success of IYM Online 2020 and the strong demand from our participants, we chose to continue offering the online model, in addition to our original residential programme.

This year IYM Online 2024 with Chorus took place during the first week of the April school holidays. The team were delighted to deliver an engaging programme to 53 young women from all over Aotearoa New Zealand, as well as four participants from Vanuatu. We strive to make our programmes as accessible as possible, and the high level of engagement from participants showed we reached our goal of inspiring young women to explore a future in STEMM.



» OUR IMPACT



» OUR PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

The IYM Online 2024 with Chorus programme included four days jam packed with amazing speakers and interactive sessions, hosted by activist, councillor and IYM Alumnae Sophie Handford. Highlights include:

- ▶ Weaving western science and mātauranga Māori to treat people living with neurodegenerative disorders in Aotearoa New Zealand with Louise Parr Brownlie, Professor in the Department of Anatomy at the University of Otago.
- ▶ Team building and design-thinking sessions facilitated by Paul Newsom from the Young Enterprise Scheme.
- ▶ Engaging panel discussions and Q&A with women working in a range of careers from The University of Otago, National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research, Independent Research Association of New Zealand and a panel of our own amazing alumnae.
- ▶ Fascinating stories behind the science of sticky, including amazing examples of ice, earthquakes and geckos feet with science storyteller Laurie Winkless.
- ▶ The amazing career journey and diverse experiences of astrobiologist Haritina Mogosanu, and the Spaceward Bound NZ programme inspiring the next generation of space scientists.
- ▶ An introduction to coding and an online coding demo from Lola at Hot Girls Code. Lola and Aorthi created the podcast Hot Girls Code for young women to learn about tech in a more relatable and interesting way, showing girls have a place in tech too!
- ▶ The Innovation Challenge where teams designed and pitched a solution to combat food waste to a panel of judges.

"I LOVE THE IYM PROGRAMME. I'VE BEEN INVOLVED IN SO MANY STEM INSPIRATION / ENGAGEMENT PROJECTS OVER THE YEARS (HERE AND THE UK), BUT THIS IS FAR AND AWAY THE MOST IMPACTFUL."

LAURIE WINKLESS, Physicist and Science Storyteller,
Winkless Science Storytelling



Our thanks goes to all those who contributed to the panel sessions:

- ▶ University of Otago medical staff
 - Kathryn Hall, Lecturer and Biomedical Scientist
 - Dr Claire Henry, Lecturer in the Department of Surgery and Anaesthesia
 - Billie Mudie, Director of the Bachelor of Radiation Therapy and Senior Lecturer
 - Dr Kerry Suzanne Michaels, Surgical Doctor
 - Dr Alice Rogan, Emergency Department Registrar

- ▶ National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) scientists
 - Dr Denise Fernandez, Physical Oceanographer
 - Dr Rachel Hale, Marine Ecologist
 - Dr Hannah Marley, Climate Applications Scientist

- ▶ Independent Research Association of New Zealand (IRANZ) researchers
 - Rangimaria Aperahama Motu, Early Career Researcher at Motu
 - Heni Unwin, Marine Scientist at Cawthron Institute
 - Dr Kerry Hilligan, Team Leader and Research Scientist with an interest in immunology and respiratory infectious disease
 - Vicki White, Research Scientist in at Building Research Association of New Zealand
 - Te Taiawatea Moko-Painting Policy Manager at Te Tira Whakamātaki

- ▶ Innovative Young Minds alumnae panelists
 - Wendy Su, studying Postgraduate Diploma in Psychology at Auckland University
 - Betty Liu, studying Biomedical Science at the University of Otago
 - Sarah Gullery studying a Masters Degree in Architecture at Victoria University
 - Nina Brown completing a Chartered Financial Analyst designation after completing her Commerce Degree in Finance and Economics at Victoria University

» OUR STUDENTS' FEEDBACK



“ This has encouraged me to continue with STEMM. We don't usually get to see so many women within STEMM on the big stage so it is incredibly inspiring to see this now. This has also broadened my mind as I never knew about all these different sectors within STEMM. ”
Isla, Year 12, Paraparaumu College

“ As a leader of a STEM group in my school, I will strive to integrate the social values so many of these inspiring wahine demonstrate in their practice. ”
Ariane, Year 12, St Mary's College

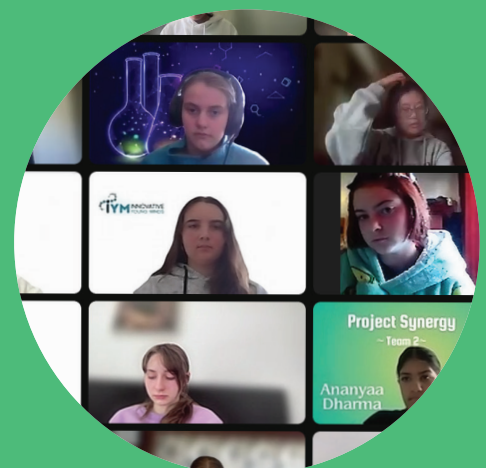
“ I will definitely go into more science that involves te ao māori. ”
Isabella, Year 12, Kerikeri High School

“ Some of the speakers you had were absolutely incredible. The program provided us with so many connections to take advantage of. I have been greatly encouraged and inspired to pursue studying medicine in the future. I never fully considered that option because I didn't think I would be able to do it. IYM has given me the confidence to pursue that interest. ”
Trudy, Year 11, Wellington Girls' College

“ It has been a wonderful experience, and I have loved every second of it. The sessions were inspirational and incredibly informative, and has left me with so many career aspects to think about. ”
Sophie, Year 12, Scots College

“ Honestly, all I can say was it has been amazing. Getting to know everyone, doing the challenge, and being exposed to so many different fields of work that I wouldn't get to experience in the classroom. I have had so much fun and I 100% will recommend this to any, if not all wāhine in years 11 and 12. ”
Talula, Year 12, Kaiapoi High School

“ I will let go of my imposters syndrome... Thank you so much for this amazing opportunity and I will keep an eye out for other IYM programs and alumni opportunities. ”
Sofia, Year 11, Newlands College



▶ OUR IMPACT

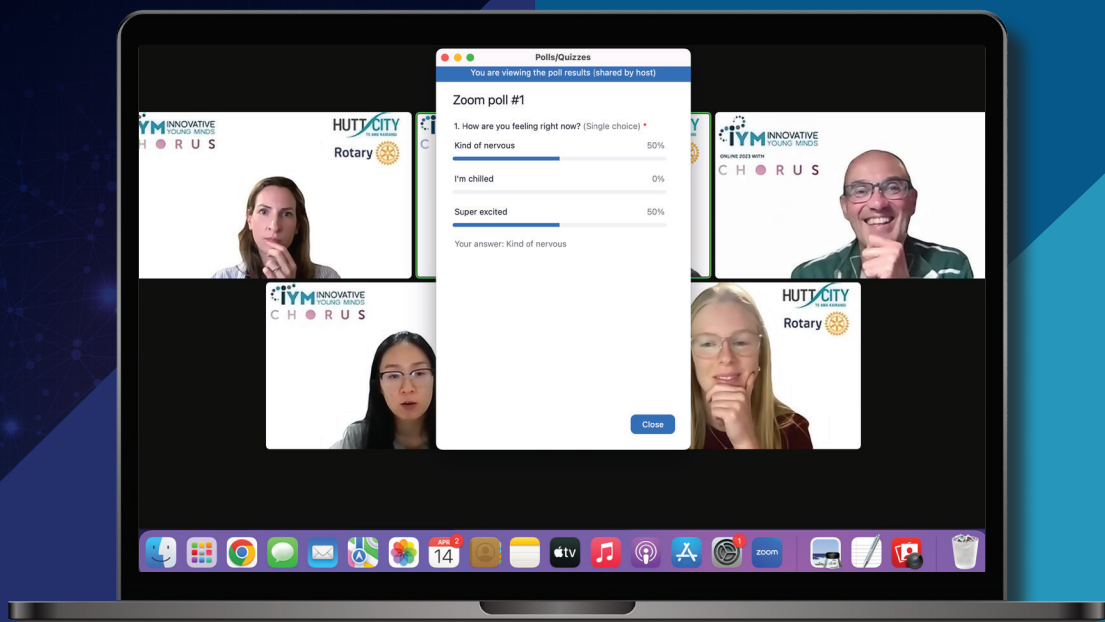
IYM's goal is to make STEMM accessible to young women from diverse backgrounds. Our contributors and sponsors believe in encouraging our participants to be the best they can be, and are committed to creating an innovative future workforce in the science and technology sector.

We know our programmes are making an impact. Research completed in 2023 shows 84% of all IYM participants who have graduated high school have gone on to study a STEMM based course at university. Of those still at high school, 100% want to continue on with further education and study.

Our IYM alumnae have also gone on to achieve incredible things. 2017 alumna Sophie Handford was voted joint Wellingtonian of the Year in 2019 for bringing the School Strike 4 Climate movement to Aotearoa New Zealand, and is now a Paekākāriki - Raumati Ward Councillor on the Kāpiti Coast District Council. She is also doing a Bachelor of Communications, majoring in Political Communications, at Victoria University of Wellington. Sophie joined us as MC for IYM Online with Chorus in both 2022, 2023 and 2024.

Janis Baker, another 2017 alumna, qualified as a mechanical engineer while working with Trustpower. She also volunteers for Fire and Emergency New Zealand where she has a leadership role. She is currently a trustee on the Innovative Young Minds Charitable Trust.

We are excited about the future and making an impact on more young women around Aotearoa New Zealand. With support from our contributors, sponsors and alumnae, we look forward to growing our IYM whānau and continuing to make a difference.





OUR SUPPORTERS – THANK YOU!

IYM Online 2024 with Chorus would not have been possible without our generous sponsors and supporters. Our programme was a success thanks to the valuable contributions made by:

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