



## **SOCIETY INCORPORATED**

### **FASHION EXTRAVAGANZA LAKE TEKAPO**

The fashion extravaganza with the nationally acclaimed fashion designer, entrepreneur and motivational speaker, ANNAH STRETTON was held at *Peppers Bluewater Resort* convention centre in Lake Tekapo on 19 November 2011. The internationally renowned MIKA was to have acted as MC as well as entertain but unfortunately a severe bout of flu laid him low and he was unable to travel. OJ, Timaru's own DJ, stepped in at the last minute and with a mix of ready wit, personality and singing talent did a superb job. All tickets were sold prior to the event and there were a few last minute requests that had to be turned away. Over 130 people, many from Christchurch as well as Timaru and outlying districts, enjoyed the complimentary drink and finger food in the marquee while two up-and-coming young musicians, Bradley Staley and Bret Walker, entertained in the background. Once escorted into the convention room for the start of the show, guests received a large *Annah Stretton* bag full of goodies donated from a variety of businesses such as a \$100 voucher off a purchase of Michael Hill item, food or coffee or beauty treatment vouchers, samples of beauty products and a copy of *Her* magazine.

Annah spoke of the journey and the self-belief that got her where she is today and her determination to give women an understanding of their own potential. This was followed by a parade of fantasy hats by *Hat And Hair*, a parade of the latest shoes and accessories by *Head Over Heels*, culminating in a parade of *Annah Stretton* dresses. Local farmer Hamish McKenzie was the auctioneer for the fundraising auction that was split into three between the parades. Ably supported by another local farmer Ian Hayman, this dynamic duo raised just in excess of \$7000 from the bids on such donated items as a Michael Hill ladies watch, an *Annah S* chameleon skirt, Jo Seager cookbooks, Barker's basket of pickles, sauces and jams, art works and a variety of vouchers for activities and accommodation throughout the Mackenzie District and as far afield as Queenstown. A representation of *Annah S* dresses on Jessica Murray's "Fat Ladies" reached \$2 000 from Annah herself.

Many people from Timaru and Lake Tekapo helped behind the scenes. *Peppers Bluewater Resort* offered the impressive venue at their expense. Our numerous sponsors cannot all be named but without their support this success would have been severely limited. Big thanks must go to business women Marilyn Gibbs and Dawn Clark for the tremendous success of this event - a high quality extravaganza for the benefit of the Lake Tekapo Footbridge Society Inc.

This event has been another very successful fundraiser for the Lake Tekapo community to build the footbridge over the Tekapo River. This will provide a direct pedestrian and cyclist link between the village centre and the iconic wee stone Church of the Good Shepherd and the new Recreational Park. Around \$12 000 was raised although all expenses yet to be accurately calculated.