



ANGEL NEWS

March 2007

Working with Head, Heart and Hands

Angela weaves flax and works with natural coastal materials such as shells and driftwood.

Angela's curiosity as to how things are made goes way back in time. As a child she saw women weaving flax and she picked up making headbands. Angela has done different things at different times but she comes back to the weaving – "perhaps I was born with flax in my hand".

Although Angela has been around others doing weaving and making things, she finds a large part of what she does is self taught. She says you have to use your head and think "How did they make that? Then I would look closely and work out how it could be done. But you also have to trust your instinct and you just know if it is the right time to do something."

Angela used the loan to buy equipment to process and dye larger quantities of flax. She describes going into schools and teaching children to weave with flax as 'absolutely incredible'. She found it amazing how some children really responded to the hands-on,



kinesthetic experience of weaving flax where as others were totally stumped when faced with even a simple two hand movement shown slowly.

I asked about her experience of working to turn a passion into an opportunity for self employment and Angela laughed. "I wish the business side would flow as smoothly as the teaching and

weaving". "Some things are hard – like putting a price on your work is always hard. You have to keep to your vision, not compromise or drift away. Just do it and don't analyse it to bits."

The challenge of always having something more to learn provides both

satisfaction and enjoyment. Angela finds the feedback she gets from other people most encouraging. "I'll make something and they will come back for more and say 'That's great but now can you do this' and often its more extreme than I've done before."

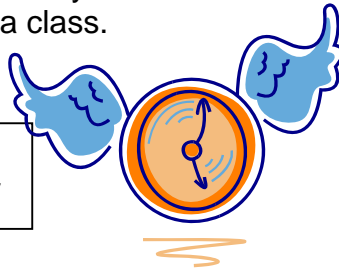


New year, New start

It's that time of year –school's back and you start thinking about the year ahead. There are some good courses in all sorts of things. Shop around price-wise -there are lots of providers. For value you can't go past free courses e.g. Computing for Free at the CPIT where you can get a National Certificate in Computing (Level 2). If you want to keep going the level 3 papers are just \$20 each. The Next Step Centre for Women at the CPIT can also help you update skills and explore options as can Career Services.

For me, this year I will just try and be more consistent at Yoga class.

Koa's Hours 9.30 to
3 pm Mon, Tue, Thur



Savings Scheme

There's a lot of talk about savings these days. It seems most of us are not that good at it. But having a savings habit can work for you, saving you paying interest and fees on debt, and saving you stress by building a little nest egg that is there for an unexpected bill or for something special in the future.

Angel Fund has a savings scheme for women who have paid off loans but we want to extend that scheme.

1. Extend the savings options to other women on low incomes who would need to be referred by someone who we already know.
2. We would not pay interest but savers could get small personal loans (initially just \$200) when they had been saving for the past 3 months. E.g. if you had say \$150 saved you could withdraw that and get another \$200 as a loan giving you \$350.

Contact Koa for more informatio

Help - Feedback wanted.

I sometimes get asked whether it is worth getting a computer to make money from it. I have had ads put in my letter box but I don't know anyone who has actually followed it through and made money. I have seen one cautionary tale on Fair Go so I'd advise anyone to check it out. But I'd love to be more helpful, so if you know something – good or bad I'd like to hear it so I can advise others.



Nobel Peace Prize

Last year the Nobel Peace Prize was won by a Bangladeshi micro credit pioneer – Muhammad Yunus and the Grameen Bank. He saw how a lack of affordable credit prevented women developing enterprises and getting ahead.

Recent Loans

Enterprising women have used loans for: Acupuncture Equipment, Promotion for Nail / Beautician business, Jewellery course, Temporary tattoo art, & Catering.

We still have money to lend to women on low incomes for small business, education, transition to work.

How to contact Koa at Angel Fund:
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ANGELS!

