



**Clockwise from left-**

At New Zealand Fashion Week 2009 with an Envy model; On the catwalk with her Feral Beauty collection, Winter 2005; Annah in Andorra as part of the Telecom XT Mobile Network campaign; Annah the publisher, *Her Magazine* and *pink magazine*.

# Annah Stretton MNZM

***“Decisive, direct, inclusive ... inspiring those around her to be challenged, confident and independent.”***

***“Congratulations, Annah, on the recognition of your contribution to so many aspects of New Zealand life.”***

*Helen Clark, Prime Minister of New Zealand from 1999-2008*

## GOVERNANCE

Making high-level decisions comes naturally to Annah as she guides her international company through yet another period of growth. Whilst driven by her entrepreneurial spirit, Annah remains a prudent and savvy business strategist. Her success bringing with it the responsibility of over 150 employees and substantial investments.

Her leadership style is easily categorised as decisive and direct, yet she embraces her team with great pride and works hard to inspire the women around her to be confident, challenged and independent.

## ACADEMIC

In 2001, she qualified as a Chartered Accountant with the New Zealand Institute of Chartered Accountants.

Annah also holds an Honorary Master of Arts, awarded to her in 2006 by the Waikato Institute of Technology, for her contribution to Fashion.

In 2008, Annah was honoured to become a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit for Services to Fashion, Business and the Community.

2009 saw Annah receive the Veuve Clicquot Award – a global tribute to female achievers in business who exemplify the qualities of Madame Clicquot.

**[www.annahstretton.co.nz](http://www.annahstretton.co.nz)**  
**[www.hermagazine.co.nz](http://www.hermagazine.co.nz)**

## Driven Creative

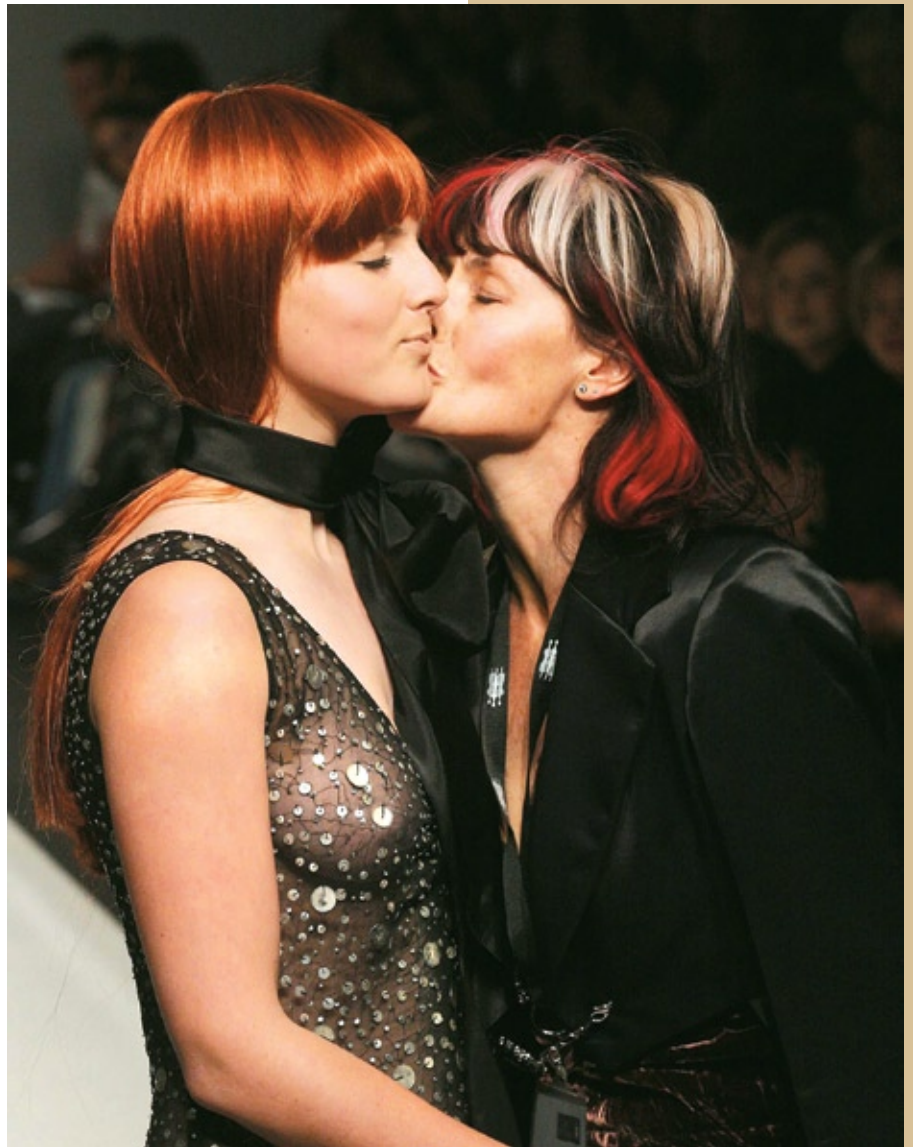
Annah passionately creates three designer collections a season for her company Stretton Clothing. Infamous for being both a left and right brain thinker, she has her finger on the creative pulse as well as a sharp eye on the bottom line.

### **Pictured right–**

Annah with daughter Sam at the end of her ANZFW '06 catwalk show with collection 'Driving Miss Daisy'

### **Pictured below–**

*Her Magazine* celebrates the success and independence of New Zealand businesswomen



## FAMILY & COMMUNITY MEMBER

No matter how busy her day, two people remain the centre of Annah's focus: Sam, her 23-year-old daughter, and Edward, her 20-year-old son. Both children are regularly involved in Annah's work activities.

Want a job done? Give it to a busy person. An adage easily applied to Annah, with her philanthropic interests extending way beyond the confines of the rag trade. Recent involvements include: Trustee of the Waikato Breast Cancer Trust and the True Colours Charitable Trust, both Waikato-based charities; mentoring fledgling businesses and speaking weekly to corporate and community groups throughout the country.

Her connection to Waikato WINTEC is further strengthened with Annah acting as Designer in Residence. In this role, she will tutor two papers.

## DESIGNER

Based in the Waikato, Annah Stretton has emerged from a background of wholesale mainstream garments to become a leading force in New Zealand-based fashion design.

With continued substantial growth, Annah currently exports to clients throughout Australia, the UK, Ireland and Europe. With a platform of 30 stores in New Zealand plus two in Queensland, Australia, this well-established vertical retailer has her global growth well under control.

## PUBLISHER

Annah is the owner and editor of *Her Magazine*. The bi-monthly publication, previously titled *Her Business*, continues to gain ground in the very competitive women's interest section.

She remains determined to make *Her* the most intelligent read for the women of New Zealand.

Annah has most recently authored her second book – *Wise Heart* – published by Random House, and has been overwhelmed with the response from both the industry and general public.

Annah also owns and edits *pink magazine*, an annual publication supporting breast cancer initiatives. *Who's Who*, an annual publication focusing on New Zealand's most successful women entrepreneurs, is also in her growing stable of titles.

## BUSINESS MENTOR

Daily, Annah continues to work alongside promising entrepreneurs. "Really all I have to do is give up a small part of my day and I can often make a huge difference."

Annah oversees the Her Business Network as well as the recently launched, Her NZ Business Network Events. Through this role she empowers women in SMEs throughout New Zealand with inspiring and informative monthly meetings.

# Recent Achievements

*Creating a legacy of achievement, Annah strives to improve herself, the people with whom she works and her community.*

## Founder/Director Stretton Group

### Stretton Clothing:

- Vertical Women's Fashion Company.
- 100 percent designed and manufactured in New Zealand.
- Creation and conception of Stitch 'n' Bitch (DIY designer womenswear)
- Creation and conception of Chameleon (one dress – ten ways)
- 30 New Zealand stores nationwide (19 Annah.S, 9 Annah Stretton, 1 Chameleon and 1 Birds of a Feather)
- Two Annah Stretton stores in Queensland, Australia
- 48 current international accounts
- Participant of nine New Zealand Fashion Weeks (2002-2010)
- Participant of four Australian Fashion Weeks (2007-2011)

### Stretton Publishing:

- *Her Magazine* (bi-monthly publication)
- *Who's Who* magazine (annual publication)
- *pink magazine* (annual publication)
- Self-published autobiography – *From Rag Trade to Mag Trade & Wise Heart*

### Recognition:

- Member of New Zealand Order of Merit 2008 for Services to Fashion/Business/Community
- Veuve Clicquot Businesswoman of the Year 2009
- Telecom's Face of XT Launch 2009
- Zonta International Woman of the Biennium 2007
- Honorary Master of Arts – Waikato Institute of Technology 2006
- Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year (Retail and Services) 2005
- Random House published 'Wise Heart – 10 Strategies for Success in Business and Life' 2010

### Current Governance and Advisory Roles:

- Global Women's Advisory Board (Chair of Forum Committee)

- Massey University Advisory Board
- Ernst & Young Alumni Advisory Board

### Governance Competencies:

- Public Speaker – completing three to four public speaking engagements weekly (paid and unpaid)
- Chartered Accountant – New Zealand Institute of Chartered Accountants
- Founder of Her Business Master Class mentoring programme
- Owner/leader of Her Business Networks (16 national network franchisees who meet monthly under the Her Business Umbrella to lead, inspire and guide women in business)
- Owner/coordinator of Her Business Businesswomen of the Year Awards (2006-2011)
- Owner/coordinator of the Bloom Women's Business Forum (annual conference since 2006)

### Industry Engagements:

- Chair of Fashion Industry New Zealand board, 2006-2008
- Fashion Industry New Zealand board member 2005-2010
- Designer in Residence Waikato Institute of Technology (Current)
- Tutor at Waikato Institute of Technology (Current)
- Creative director and talk-show host of *Profiles* (Central TV, 2007 – 12 episode series)
- Trustee of Waikato Breast Cancer Trust, 2004-2009
- True Colours Charitable Trust, 2005-2009

### Recent Learning and Qualifications:

- Governance in the 21st Century – Massey University Oct. 2010
- Institute of Directors – Institute of Directors – Company Director's Course Nov. 2010



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