



Cronecle

Newsletter of the Lower Hutt Women's Centre

Whiringa a Nuku 2010 Vol.18 No.4



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Women's Centre Opening Hours

Monday to Thursday 10am – 5pm

Friday 9am – 5pm

Ph: 04 569 2711 Fax: 04 570 2820

Email: info@lhwc.org.nz

186 Knights Road, Central Hutt

Lower Hutt 5011

Thanks to all the women that helped put the newsletter together. Thanks to Sandra Dixon for your story..



FREE COMPUTER LESSONS AND FREE ACCESS COMPUTER

The Women's Centre has a free public access computer available for all women to use during our opening hours. We have programmes such as Microsoft Word, Excel, Access, Pagemaker, Mavis Beacon Typing Tutor, Publisher and Power Point; Internet and Email access.



book a lesson

We are now offering offering free half hour or hour computer lessons with our computer tutor, Natalie Gray. We are offering the lessons two days per week - Monday and Friday. If you want a lesson just phone the centre to book in a time.

At present we charge for printing and paper but the computer use, internet and email is totally free. If you want to use the computer just phone up and book in. You can send e-mails, surf the net or whatever else you need to do. **Phone: 5692 711 to**

Friendship Group

We are a facilitated group who meet weekly for discussions and occasionally an outing.

Our focus is on learning about friendship, maintaining, developing and exploring the ideas.

Friendships are a vital source of emotional sustenance. As well as providing the pleasure of companionship, your friendship network offers you a sense of support and belonging.

This group is open to all women and you can join the group by turning up to the Women's Centre on Thursdays from 10am to 12noon.

Our ability to make and sustain friendships is influenced by our ability to develop and maintain a nurturing relationships with ourselves.

Facilitator: Yvonne Broadley

If you are interested please phone or come along.

All welcome.
For more information 5692711

WOMEN'S SUPPORT GROUP

The Women's Support Group is for support or if you are having a hard time coping with stress, day to day hassles, depression or oppression.

You don't need to book, just turn up.

Every Wednesday at 1pm - 2.30pm
Facilitator: Julie Smart



Self Development for Women Using the Psychodramatic Method

Only one place available at time of printing.

This weekend will give participants opportunity to explore personal issues using the psychodramatic method. This workshop will be useful for women wanting to expand and develop their experience of life and the issues that hold them back. Women new to the psychodramatic method are welcome.

Dates: Friday 26, Saturday 27 and Sunday 28th November 2010

Venue: Women's Centre

Enrol: Only by payment or deposit

Cost: Waged \$60 Low or Unwaged \$30

Participants are expected to attend the full course

6 Minimum for course to commence and 7 Maximum.

Facilitator: Ally Andersun

My Mother My Self

Only one place available at time of printing.

The inspiration to run the Workshop "My Mother My Self" has grown out of Women Who Love Too Much workshops. Guilt was one of the emotions that women identified, through these workshops, as influencing them today.

The workshop will look at the issues of guilt including; mother guilt, our mother's guilt – how much did we inherit from her, and how we are controlled through guilt.

Other issues include; looking at concepts of what stops us from living our own authentic lives, our relationship with our mother, how our relationship with our mother influences how we are today.

"Understanding what we have with our Mothers is the beginning of understanding

ourselves".

"Our Mothers had not raised us to feel comfortable with autonomy, sexuality, a life different from theirs". Both quotes from Nancy Friday in My Mother My Self.

This is an experiential workshop and participants need to have a commitment to their own development and need to have previously attended other growth groups.

Weekend Course:

Facilitator: Ally Andersun

Dates: Friday 29, Saturday 30 and Sunday 31st October 2010

Time: Friday 7 – 9,30pm, Sat 10-5pm Sun 10-4.30pm

Venue: Women's Centre

Enrol: Only by payment or deposit

Cost: \$60/\$30 Waged/Low waged

Castle Making Clay Workshop

This is a one off workshop.

Make your own fairy castle with clay.

Tutor: Carol Baker

Times: 18 November 12.30-2.30pm

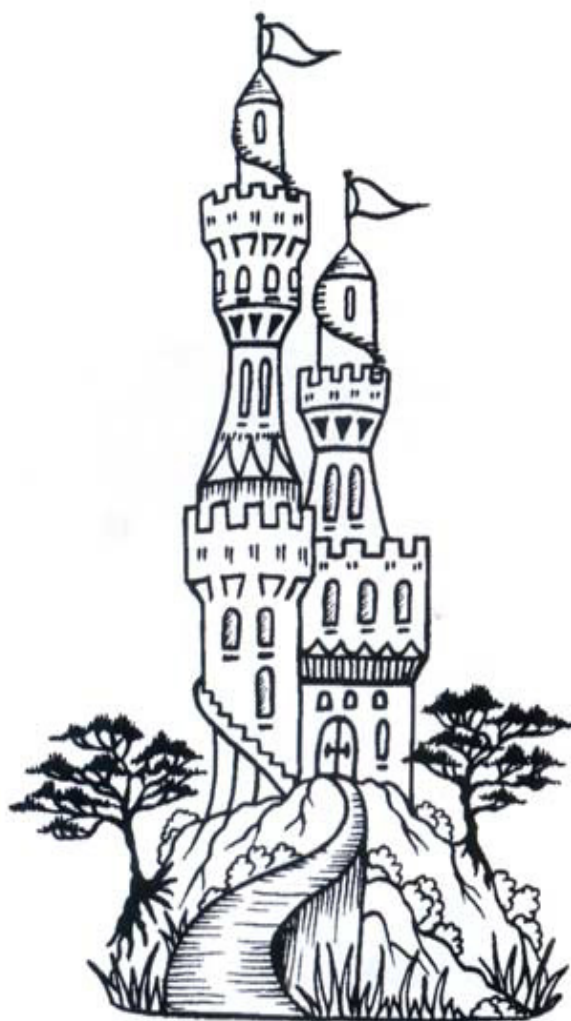
(To make castles)

2nd December 2010

(To glaze castles)

Cost: \$15

You need to pay to enrol, and enrolment necessary.



Homeopathy A great opportunity to experience the benefits of homeopathy

Hello! My name is Helena Tobin, and I'm passionate about making homeopathy accessible to everyone. Homeopathy is all about the individual. We believe in empowering you to make positive health decisions by working with your *individual* requirements.

What Can Homeopathy Do? Homeopathy is powerful system of natural medicine which can treat a wide range of health issues, both physical and mental including:

And many more... in fact anything that prevents you from functioning at your best. **What's Involved in Consulting a Homeopath?** Because homeopathy attempts to treat the 'whole person' the homeopath's interview is in-depth. The initial consultation is usually between one to two hours and follow-ups are around half an hour. There are no invasive examinations and you don't need to stop any current medication you may be on. Confidentiality is assured. I am aware that my normal fee of \$85 per first consultation is too much for a lot of us. **Therefore I have decided to work for a donation only for my Women's Centre clients. Helena Tobin Phone: 569 6164 Mobile: 021 161 3987**

Self Esteem Workshops

For Women

Lower Hutt Women's Centre
186 Knights Road
Lower Hutt
5692 711

Now is the time for all good women to stand up and say who we will be

We now have **Self Esteem Workshops on a Friday morning and a Tuesday Evening.**

Each workshop is separate. You may attend one or as many as you like. Creche is provided for **pre-school children only** without extra charge only on Friday morning. Please make enquiries about babies because they need a lot of attention and we have one creche worker. The workshop is for women only so try to avoid planning on taking your children into the workshop.

Time: Friday morning 9.45 - 12noon and Tuesday evening 6.30pm to 8.30pm.

The workshop starts right on time at 10am and 6.30pm and late comers can't go into the morning workshop.

If you have children you need to arrive about 20 minutes early to settle them in.

Cost: Friday \$2.00 and Tuesday \$5.00

All women welcome.

You don't need to enrol, just turn up.

Facilitators:

Friday Morning Stephanie Brockman

Tuesday Evening Julie Smart



Friday Morning

Developing Courage	Aug 6
Willpower	Aug 13
Anger as a Strength	Aug 20
Developing Self Knowledge	Aug 27
Self Love	Sept 3
Acknowledging Self	Sept 10
Enhancing Self in Terms of Awareness	Sept 17
Acceptance and Use of Strengths	Sept 24
Positive Thought and Talk	Oct 1
Messages About Self	Oct 8
Accepting Responsibility for Self	Oct 15
Coming to Grips with Feelings	Oct 22
Talking About Ourselves	Oct 29
Beliefs About Self	Nov 5
Expressing Pride in Self	Nov 12
Letting Go of the Past	Nov 19
Respecting Self and Others	Nov 26
Striving for Pure Motives	Dec 3
Putting Yourself in Neutral	Dec 10
Having the Courage to be Imperfect	Dec 17
Developing Courage	Dec 24

Tuesday Evening

2010	
Developing Courage	Aug 10
Willpower	Aug 17
Anger as a Strength	Aug 24
Developing Self Knowledge	Aug 31
Self Love	Sept 7
Acknowledging Self	Sept 14
Enhancing Self in Terms of Awareness	Sept 21
Acceptance and Use of Strengths	Sept 28
Positive Thought and Talk	Oct 5
Messages About Self	Oct 12
Accepting Responsibility About Self	Oct 19
Coming to Grips with Feelings	Oct 26
Talking About Ourselves	Nov 2
Beliefs About Self	Nov 9
Expressing Pride in Self	Nov 16
Letting Go of the Past	Nov 23
Respecting Self and Others	Nov 30
Striving for Pure Motives	Dec 7
Putting Yourself in Neutral	Dec 14
Having the Courage to be Imperfect	Dec 21

Free Legal Advice

The Women's Centre has free 30 minute consultations available during the first week of each month. Phone the Centre and make an appointment.

The primary objective of this consultation is to advise you if you have a legal problem, and whether you need to see a solicitor. If you do need to see a solicitor the lawyer can advise you about your eligibility for Legal Aid and give you some idea of the legal procedures involved in solving your particular problem.

If you don't have a legal problem the lawyer is sure she can give you some sound practical advice anyway.

The lawyer can also advise you about facilities available to help you solve your own problems, such as the Disputes Tribunal, Family Court Counselling etc. All consultations are held in private and are strictly confidential.

Who for? This service is being offered to all women.

When? and Where? During the first week of the month at the offices of Thomas Dewar Sziranyi Letts, Level 2 Corner of Queens Drive and Margaret Street.

Appointments: Phone the Women's Centre to make an appointment on 569 2711

Mosaics

If you want to learn how to mosaic and make a paving stone for our garden or for yours come along anytime from 10am to 2.00pm every Tuesday and Clare can show you what to do. After you have made a paving stone you can progress on to a variety of projects

If you want to work on your own projects you need to pay for materials.

This is an open workshop, costs are for materials used only.



Owning the Women's Centre

It is with great pleasure I'm writing to let you know that as of the 31st August 2010 we will pay our final payment to Prometheus Ethical Finance to fully repay our mortgage. This means the Women's Centre is now owned by the Lower Hutt Women's Centre Incorporated. The first donations were received in April 2005 and that began this fantastic journey to own this house.

A home for women in the Hutt Valley.

Thank you to all the women that have donated over the last five years - what a wonderful effort and commitment to making this a permanent home for women .



ACC Clinical Pathway Reviewed -

No Stars

By Sandra Dickson

In October 2009 ACC designed a new process – a “Clinical Pathway” – for deciding the eligibility of people who had survived sexual violence for counseling from the ACC Sensitive Claims Unit. This Pathway was described as unethical by the majority of the medical profession, counselors, sexual violence specialist agencies and survivors. Many feared it would place unnecessary barriers in the way of survivors seeking often life-saving help.

What did the clinical pathway change?

- *In October 2009 ACC interpreted the Accident Compensation Act 2001, for the first time, to require a DSM IV diagnosis for survivors of sexual violence. This means all new claimants had to prove they had a diagnosable psychiatric disorder, which they could prove on balance of probabilities was caused by an event/s of sexual violence.*
- *This diagnosis had to be made by a psychiatrist, clinical psychologist, or psychotherapist or medical practition-*

er trained in the use of DSM IV.

- *A new “triage” step was introduced, and all claims examined by a clinical psychologist at ACC before a final decision was made.*

Because of the public outcry, Nick Smith, Minister for ACC, announced the new Pathway would be reviewed by an independent group after six months to ensure it was meeting the Government’s expectations. Nick Smith said “the needs of the victim are paramount”, and the new Pathway was not designed to cut costs.

The clinical pathway changes meant that more information was required of most claimants in order to decide if these criteria were met, and that this information was gathered, submitted and assessed by people who did not necessarily need to have any expertise in sexual violence. Therapists argued that the worth of the therapeutic relationship was undermined, as was survivors’ autonomy in being able to select for themselves a suitably qualified counselor. Counselors with sometimes decades long experience in working with survivors suddenly found themselves unable to assess claimants at all – because they were not trained in DSM IV.

The Review is now back - and condemns both the Pathway and ACC’s treatment of survivors over the last year. Recommendations point ACC in a completely different direction and the good news is the Review is a public document, and ACC have already introduced some of the recommendations. So it seems advocacy works. The tragedy is that the sexual violence sector and survivors told ACC and the Government this last October – before two known survivors killed themselves when they were denied support, and many, many more gave up in hopelessness at the hostile process.

During the Review

The Review Panel recommended ACC fund up to 16 hours of therapeutic counseling and recovery support for all survivors. This recommendation was accepted and actioned by ACC in August

2010. This was very welcome – though it did not address those who had been turned down by ACC in the intervening months.

ACC also responded to the Review process by promising to seek meaningful collaboration with the sexual violence sector through groups already established – and ignored in the implementation of this Pathway – by expanding the membership of the Sensitive Claims Advisory Group.

What is in the “*Clinical Review of the ACC Sensitive Claims Clinical Pathway*”?

The Review Panel accepted submissions¹ from organisations and individuals, including approximately 50 survivors of sexual violence, reviewed 68 ACC files of claimants, and analyzed ACC data relating to all claims lodged under the Pathway. The resulting document says the Pathway was introduced too fast, with too little consultation, and without evidence. It also says the Pathway has not improved outcomes for individual clients or groups, and finds a number of specific and serious problems. Firstly, the Pathway has halved the number of claims submitted in the first three months of this year, presumably due to many survivors deciding they cannot face such an onerous process, and/or not wishing to have a mental health diagnosis attached to them forever. The Review is also critical of ACC’s treatment and communications with survivors, which it describes as “often inappropriate and inadequate.” Other problems include:

- Covering only those with a DSM IV diagnosis with “no good legislative or clinical reason to restrict access”
- Three quarters of claims have to go back for “more information”, due to the reduction in numbers of sessions allowed to assess a claimant, and requirement to determine if survivors met the more restrictive criteria. More information might include medical reports or history, contact from employers or a survivor having to give details of sexual abuse/rape to an assessor on initial meeting.
- Timeliness - 82% of claims in February and March 2010 took more than 90 days to

decide – this is twice as high as before the Pathway was introduced.

- The “triage” step is supposed to take one day for children and adolescents. In the files the Review analyzed, the median delay was five weeks, the longest ten months.
- The Pathway is also causing delays for people already in the ACC system, or returning for further counseling.

Recommendations

The Review offers 14 recommendations to ACC Minister Nick Smith, all of which insist on real engagement with sector experts and government agencies. The Review advises Nick Smith to:

- Expand the 16 hours counseling universal allowance to those who have had claims turned down under the Pathway.
- Use available evidence, which supports client-centred therapy, to design ACC’s decision-making processes around therapeutic support for survivors of sexual violence.
- Expand “mental injury” beyond just a psychiatric diagnosis through discussion with experts
- Ensure ACC’s communication with survivors is urgently reviewed and becomes client-appropriate
- Design an appropriate accreditation process for assessing survivors for “mental injury” which ensures a well-trained workforce is able to meet quality standards
- Design provider auditing, monitoring, training and development to ensure that all processes are safe and effective for ACC and survivors of sexual violence
- Ensure children and adolescents are prioritized and that family/whanau can be involved where appropriate
- Recognize the dynamics of childhood sexual abuse as requiring, for most survivors, more than 16 hours of therapy for recovery
- Ensure that if a survivor must be assessed by someone who is not their treatment provider, this person is well-trained in sexual violence, and their usual treatment provider is involved in creating treatment plans

What happens next?

This is the crucial bit. The Review asks for independent monitoring of ACC implementing these recommendations – which, given what a shambles this has been, is not surprising. But how will this be done, by whom, and in the meantime, how well are survivors being treated?

What was the agenda here?

I quoted Nick Smith earlier in this piece, because despite the public discussions of ACC being too expensive, he has always stated that this Pathway was not about cost-cutting.

There has been significant media coverage of a research paper ACC commissioned in 2005 by Dr Felicity Goodyear-Smith, who reviewed ACC files and found that psychologists saw ACC Sensitive Claims Unit clients an average of three sessions less than psychotherapists and counselors. Which is interesting, given the new Pathway, in requiring a DSM IV diagnosis, also changed who is providing treatment to survivors – in favour of psychologists.

What is also interesting about this research is that it was not linked to outcomes for clients. We don't know if the clients who saw the psychologists were as happy, as fully recovered, as able to manage recurring symptoms of trauma, as the clients of the psychotherapists and counselors. Dr Goodyear-Smith didn't find this out.

We also don't know if the kinds of sexual violence the clients were seeking support for were the same. Which is critical – as on average someone recovering from recurring childhood sexual abuse will need more support than someone recovering from a one-off sexual assault.

Perhaps even more interesting though, is the author. Dr Goodyear-Smith is the founder of **COSA, Casualties of Sexual Abuse**, an organisation that wants to see fewer convictions for sexual violence crimes because it argues many of those convicted are innocent. She's also the author of **First Do No Harm**, in which she argues "adult-child sex" can be harmless.

Dr Goodyear-Smith is married to John Potter, previously imprisoned for indecently assaulting two under-age girls, and the son of Centrepoint founder Bert Potter, also imprisoned for a variety of charges related to the Centrepoint community, including child sexual abuse.

Whether Felicity Goodyear-Smith's research was important in introducing this Pathway or not, according to the Review, it is not the first time it has been proposed to limit ACC funded therapeutic support to survivors with a psychiatric diagnosis. In the past it has been through legislation – in 1991 the then National Government tried to change the legislation to "mental disorder", but this was changed at Select Committee stage, where the term "mental injury" was preferred with additional explanation that survivors of sexual violence were covered for "mental or nervous shock" related to the sexual abuse.

In 1998, the same National Government again changed the legislation structuring ACC, and this time "mental or nervous shock" was removed, leaving just "mental injury" as the grounds for support for survivors. There is no suggestion, according to the Review, that at this time the intention was to limit "mental injury" to a DSM IV diagnosis, nor is this limitation accepted by the Review as acceptable as noted above even under this legislation.

When we think about ensuring access to therapeutic support for survivors of sexual violence continues however, it might be wise to consider exactly when attacks for such provision have taken place. And we need to watch this space to make sure the excellent work of the Review continues, and an effective, safe and survivor-friendly therapeutic decision-making system results.

(Footnotes)

¹To be clear about my own lack of objectivity here, I wrote the submission for the Roundtable on Violence Against Women, which called for the Pathway to be scrapped and sustainable and holistic funding to be made available for sexual violence services.



NEW ZEALAND COUNCIL OF TRADE UNIONS
Te Kauae Kaimahi

PO Box 6645, Wellington 6141. Telephone 04 3851334

The Government has introduced legislation to make changes to employment laws that will be unfair on workers and be particularly unfair on women workers. Extending to all workers the 90 days no rights trial period which removes protection against unfair dismissal; weakening existing requirements for procedural fairness; and preventing workers from having access to their union will increase job insecurity and undermine good workplace relationships.

The New Zealand Council of Trade Unions (CTU) Women's Council urges women's organisations to submit in opposition to these changes and join the campaign to oppose the changes. There are particular issues that women face in the labour market that make them very vulnerable to the changes that the Government is proposing:

Φ Women are more likely to have broken employment patterns and change jobs more often because of parental leave and child care responsibilities. As a result women workers will have more trial employment periods in their employment history.

Ø Trial periods remove the right of a worker to take a personal grievance if they are dismissed unfairly. More trial periods will increase the number of times that women can be dismissed without protection from unfair dismissal.

Φ Lowering the standard for what an employer is expected to do when dismissing or disciplining staff greatly expands the circumstances where a dismissal is deemed to be justified. Employees may not have a proper opportunity to explain or defend themselves, and are less likely to be given their job back. This greatly increases workers' vulnerability to disadvantage or dismissal.

Φ Preventing access by women workers to their union restricts the right of women union members to secure advice and support when they want it, and makes it harder to join a union.

Φ Allowing mediation to proceed where an employee doesn't have a support person present will reduce employee support at a time of increased vulnerability and stress for the worker.

Changes to the Holidays Act will require employees to provide a medical certificate after a day's leave and allow for the sale of the fourth week's annual leave. Another legislative change is the Bill, currently before Parliament, to repeal the requirement for workers to have mandatory rest and meal breaks.

These changes will adversely affect women workers:

Φ Introducing a requirement to produce a medical certificate after a day's absence is impractical and unreasonable and will put additional stress and pressure on women workers who combine employment with child caring responsibilities. Caring and child care responsibilities increase the likelihood of needing sick and domestic leave to care for sick children or other dependents.

Φ Placing pressure on women workers to sell off annual leave means reduced rest periods, fewer holidays. Holidays are particularly important for women with children who often use their annual leave to look after children during school holidays. Low paid women may feel pressured to trade away the fourth week of annual leave to the detriment of rest and well being.

Φ A legal requirement to take meal and rest breaks is the only protection many women workers in New Zealand workplaces have for accessing minimum rest and meal breaks.

The video clips, stories and cases that the CTU has collected, following the Prime Minister asking us to name and show how workers are being unfairly treated, has exposed the unfairness that women, and particularly young women, are experiencing in the labour market because of the 90 day no rights period. Extending the 90 days no rights period, and the other proposed employment law changes, will deepen and increase disadvantage and unfairness to women workers.

The changes are unfair, unjustified and unnecessary. The proposed employment law changes are heavily skewed in favour of employers; reduce basic employment rights and conditions increase job insecurity and will have a negative and detrimental effect on the employment of all women workers.

We urge your organisation to submit on the changes to the employment relations legislation and the changes to the Holidays Act. A form submission on the Employment Relations Bill is available at:

<http://fairness.org.nz/onlineSubmission> and further information is available at:

www.union.org.nz

<http://www.youtube.com/user/NZCTU#p/a/u/1/P3yTjbkxEdw>

Jill Johnson, Critic Who Wrote Lesbian Nation, Dies at 81

Jill Johnston, a longtime cultural critic for The Village Voice whose daring, experimental prose style mirrored the avant-garde art she covered and whose book ³Lesbian Nation: The Feminist Solution² spearheaded the lesbian separatist movement of the early 1970s, died in Hartford on Saturday. She was 81 and lived in Sharon, Conn.

The cause was a stroke, her spouse, Ingrid Nyeboe, said. Ms. Johnston started out as a dance critic, but in the pages of The Voice, which hired her in 1959, she embraced the avant-garde as a whole, including happenings and multimedia events. I had a forum obviously set up for covering or perpetrating all manner of outrage,² she wrote in a biographical statement on her Web site, <<http://jilljohnston.com/>> jilljohnston.com <<http://jilljohnston.com/>> .

In the early 1970s she began championing the cause of lesbian feminism, arguing in ³Lesbian Nation² (1973) for a complete break with men and with male-dominated capitalist institutions. She defined female relations with the opposite sex as a form of collaboration.

³Once I understood the feminist doctrines, a lesbian separatist position seemed the commonsensical position, especially since, conveniently, I was an L-person,² she told The Gay and Lesbian Review in 2006. ³Women wanted to remove their support from men, the enemy¹ in a movement for reform, power and self-determination.²

At a debate on feminism at Town Hall in Manhattan in 1971, with Germaine Greer, Diana Trilling and Jacqueline Ceballos of the National Organization for Women sharing the platform with Norman Mailer, the moderator, and with a good number of the New York intelligentsia in attendance, she caused one of the great scandals of the period.

After reciting a feminist-lesbian poetic manifesto and announcing that ³all women are lesbians except those that don't know it yet, Ms. Johnston was joined onstage by two women. The three, all friends, began kissing and hugging ardently, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bs1mfRuKjBA&feature=related> , upright at first but soon rolling on the floor.

Mailer, appalled, begged the women to stop. ³Come on, Jill, be a lady,² he sputtered.

The filmmakers Chris Hegedus and D. A. Pennebaker captured the event in the documentary ³Town Bloody Hall,² <<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8yVHF44fbI0>> released in 1979. Mary V. Dearborn, in her biography of Mailer, called the evening ³surely one of the most singular intellectual events of the time, and a landmark in the emergence of feminism as a major force.²

Ms. Johnston continued to write on the arts but took a strong political line with a marked psychoanalytic slant evident in Jasper Johns : Privileged Information (1996), which explored the artist's works as a series of evasions and subterfuges rooted in conflict about his homosexuality, and in the two volumes of her memoirs: ³Mother Bound (1983) and ³Paper Daughter (1985), both of them subtitled Autobiography in Search of a Father. Jill Johnston was born on May 17, 1929, in London

and taken to the United States as an infant by her mother, Olive Crowe, after her father abandoned them both. She was reared by a grandmother in Little Neck, on Long Island.

Throughout her childhood she believed that her parents had divorced, but in 1950, when The New York Times ran a short obituary about her father, an English bell maker named Cyril F. Johnston, she learned the truth.

Her mother informed her that she and Johnston had never married. A lifelong fascination with this absent figure, whose company, Gillett & Johnston, supplied bells and carillons to churches and cathedrals all over the world, motivated her to write ³England's Child: The Carillon and the Casting of Big Bells² a biography of her father and a history of bell making.

After earning a bachelor's degree from Tufts in 1951 and studying dance at the University of North Carolina Greensboro, she began writing for The Dance Observer. She was soon hired by the fledgling Voice to write the weekly column Dance Journal, which ran until the mid-1970s.

The revolutionary currents of the time found expression in her increasingly wayward Voice column, which soon took in all aspects of the counterculture and by the late 1960s had become a freewheeling series of dispatches about her adventures in the arts and on the road.

³Now I was a chronicler of my own life, by 60s standards perhaps not too egregiously adventurous and experimental, but in a newspaper in full public view, in the most fractured Dada style of work I had admired as a critic < a rather wild spectacle in those woolly times,² she wrote on her Web site.

She developed a singular prose style < what the writer Patrice Jones, writing in the Web magazine LesbianNation.com <<http://LesbianNation.com/>> in 1999, called part Gertrude Stein, part E.E. Cummings, with a dash of Jack Kerouac thrown for good measure.²

One 1964 column began: ³Fluxus flapdoodle. Fluxus concert 1964. Donald Duck meets the Flying Tigers. Why should anyone notice the shape of a watch at the moment of looking at the time?²

Ms. Johnston would soon shed this style and her amorphous politics, which she described in ³Lesbian Nation² as her ³east west flower child beat hip psychedelic paradise now love peace do your own thing approach to the revolution.

In 1969, members of the Gay Liberation Front, correctly intuiting that the unidentified companion on her weekly adventures, chronicled in The Voice, was a woman, invited her to a meeting. Her political conversion began, and ³Lesbian Nation² was published in 1973.

Her marriage to Richard Lanham in 1958 ended in divorce six years later. Besides her spouse, Ms. Nyeboe, whom she married in Denmark in 1993 and in Connecticut last year, she is survived by her two children, Richard Lanham and Winifred Lanham, and four grandchildren. Since the 1980s Ms. Johnston often wrote for Art in America and The New York Times Book Review. She also wrote other books, including At Sea on Land: Extreme Politics (2005). Although she later said that she regarded ³Lesbian Nation as ³a period piece,² Ms. Johnston held fast to her version of feminism and reaffirmed it in ³Admission Accomplished²(1998): ³The centrality of the lesbian position to feminist revolution < wildly unrealistic or downright mad, as it still seems to most women everywhere < continues to ring true and right.

Women's Studies at Victoria University Under Attack

Hi all: Once again, Gender and Women's Studies at VUW is under attack following Alison Laurie's retirement with Lesley Hall now the only academic staff member, though Alison and Prue Hyman are still supervising doctorates etc and generally still involved.

A working party was appointed and its report was generally positive. However, the university official response is unfair and twisted with only the negatives emphasised, (most of which are anyway due to inadequate resources, while the positive comments and recommendations are ignored. They want to abolish the programme rapidly. We have to make LOTS of submissions by Nov 11 on this (and are organising also at faculty, Academic Board, and with student groups and the union) to prevent the total demise of GWS (and its proud history) at VUW which would be appalling for students, staff, and vital feminist academic enquiry.

Comments from outside the university, based mainly on your own background, the ongoing need for GWS generally, and ! any experience/knowledge you have of the VUW programme are really important.

Below is a short document on the key facts prepared by GWS in conjunction with the TEU (academics' union). That should be enough detail for most people and I didn't want to overburden you all and the list with too much. But I am happy to send the working party report and university's proposal (and more on the response from GWS) to anyone who would

like it by email as attached documents - if you want them, email me at prue.hyman@vuw.ac.nz
Prue Hyman

15 October 2010 The Facts - Gender and Women's Studies at Victoria

The Gender and Women's Studies (GWS) programme, first established at Victoria University in 1974 has an international reputation and a proud history. It is a leader in teaching and research on issues relating to sexuality and gender that profoundly affect the lives of both men and women. It has a particularly strong record of postgraduate enrolment and completion. Many graduates in GWS go on to postgraduate research degrees, including PhDs, several with national and international scholarships. Staff are currently supervising 6 PhDs, four of which are PhDs in GWS (plus one doctoral student who has suspended her study) and 3 MA students.

Following the retirement of one of its two permanent Academic Staff, the university unilaterally cancelled intakes to GEND 101, the GWS Major, and all postgraduate courses of study. Despite these setbacks, Academic Board has several times reaffirmed its commitment to the continuation of the programme. In December 2009 Academic Board re-stated its support for the programme while agreeing to a Working Party to "consider the issues". The Working Party (WP) recommended that:

- The GWS programme should continue. "If any university should withdraw the subject, it should not be Victoria".
- VUW should articulate a "strategic vision for GWS at Victoria" which could make 'a significant contribution to the equity goals of the University'. The university should "regenerate its

teaching and research in gender studies” and re-establish GEND 101.

- The university “has considerable strength in gender studies across a number of its Faculties and Programmes” and “has the opportunity to create a new programme with high visibility and a coherent curriculum in gender studies which could bring its expert academics together and capture the full benefits of these strengths for staff and students”.

The report does state that the programme is currently understaffed and cannot continue in its present form. It notes that, by its best estimate, the programme would currently support 1.4 FTE Academic staff. It states that the programme would ideally have two permanent academic staff, one at Associate Professor level. Four months after the WP report was completed, a change proposal claiming to be based on it has now been issued by FHSS. The proposal highlights the few negative comments in the WP report concerning the current state of the programme. This is despite the fact that the WP attributes these concerns to “the protracted uncertainties of the last decade”, the “lack of appropriate oversight” of the programme and its “isolation”.

The Change Proposal argues that: The programme cannot continue in its present form; no further invest-

ment can be justified; and transitional arrangements for the termination of the programme should be put in place. We contend that the university should support the spirit and intent of successive Academic Board resolutions, and the recommendations of the WP report (which state that “the withdrawal of the GWS programme at the end of 2010 ... is not the preferred option”). We say that the University should staff the GWS programme to the level of 1.5 FTE academic staff, co-ordinate expertise in gender studies across schools and programmes to establish a jointly listed GEND 101 course and create an “integrated high quality teaching and research programme”.

We ask you to:

Support the positive recommendations of the Working Party Report on GWS

Make a submission on the Change Proposal by 12 November 2010 to Lillian Loftus (lillian.loftus@vuw.ac.nz).

Please Note: It is important to read the Working Party report, not just the Change Proposal if you want to know more than appears above. The proposal is not a fair reflection of the report.

There is a new Radio Programme that was launched on the 5th of October on Wellington Access Radio 783 Am, called Harmony.

It runs every Tuesday 1.30-2pm. Harmony is particularly reaching out to Migrant Women, but also Women in general. Harmony wants to build up, encourage and bring women together.

If you have any queries, or can offer any support, you can email us on harmonybroadcasting@gmail.com or on 021-295-8205. You can also listen to our programme online if you go to www.accessradio.org.nz/harmony.html

Access radio is available for podcasting if you can't listen at that time.

A submission would need to be on the change proposal - address to send it by mail or email below followed by a little more detail to help understand what has been proposed both in the working group report and in the official response - the university change proposal

CONSULTATION DOCUMENT CHANGE PROPOSAL – Gender & Women’s Studies Programme

Written submissions are sought on all aspects of this document. Please provide submissions to: Lillian Loftus, Human Resources Manager, Humanities and Social Sciences Faculty Office, Victoria University of Wellington, PO Box 600, Wellington 6140 or by Email to lillian.loftus@vuw.ac.nz Submissions should be received by Midday, Friday, 12 November 2010.

The Working Party Report on GWS recommended that:

- The GWS programme should continue but not in its present form. “If any university should withdraw the subject, it should not be Victoria”.
- VUW should articulate a “strategic vision for GWS at Victoria” which could make ‘a significant contribution to the equity goals of the University’. The university should “regenerate its teaching and research in gender studies” and re-establish GEND 101.
- The university ‘has considerable strength in gender studies across a number of its Faculties and Programmes’ and ‘has the opportunity to create a new programme with high visibility and a coherent curriculum in gender studies which could bring its expert academics together and capture the full benefits of these strengths for

staff and students’.

- The GWS programme be relocated to FHSS at the Kelburn Campus and staff be incorporated into an existing School in this Faculty.

However, the Consultation Document however will have none of this. It pretends to still have some commitment to gender studies:



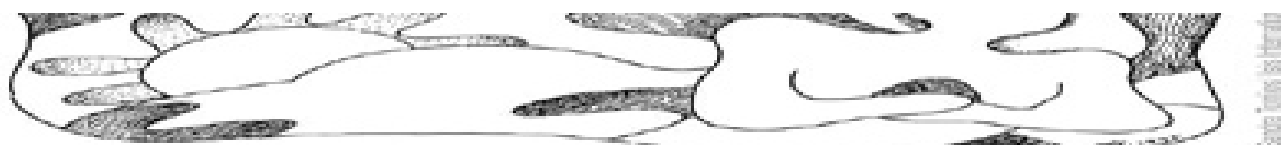
“The University has not wavered from the belief that it is important to ensure students understand the impact of gender across its disciplines. If the decision reached following consultation is to close the current GWS programme, it is proposed that the University augment the profile of existing gender related teaching and research that occurs across disciplines at Victoria by offering a dedicated annual teaching grant and a research grant for staff and post graduate students who undertake outstanding work in the area. “

BUT then says:

However, “it is proposed that no further enrolments be accepted into the GWS major in the BA, the GWS BA(Hons), MA & PhD programmes from 2011. Transitional arrangements would be put in place so that already enrolled students can complete their qualifications.” and on the CURRENT STRUCTURE it stages that with respect to the one Lecturer, Gender & Women’s Study Programme: “Under this proposal the above position would cease to exist as of 28 February 2011. It is proposed that the initial transitional arrangements would be managed by a fixed-term teaching only position. “

Prue Hyman

Do you want to know "What's on in Wellington for Lesbians" then check out the web site www.wellington.lesbian.net.nz



Takutai Moana Bill

Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Bill

The legislation to repeal and replace the Foreshore and Seabed Act is due to have its first reading this week. The new Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Bill will essentially give effect to the government's preferred option for addressing foreshore and seabed issues, as signalled in the discussion document released at the end of March this year.

I have argued in previous posts that the recent proposals indicate that there has been no change in the Government's attitude to Maori interests in the foreshore and seabed since the enactment of the Foreshore and Seabed Act. Neither does this Bill indicate any such change. Unfortunately, the Bill maintains many of the discriminatory aspects of the Foreshore and Seabed Act. It still, explicitly, treats Maori interests as a lesser form of title than freehold title. Until the Government's attitude to Maori customary interests changes, it is going to be difficult to achieve a durable resolution of these issues and impossible to achieve one that is just.

Moana Jackson has pointed out many of the discriminatory aspects of the Bill in his latest primer on the subject. There are other, often connected, aspects of the Bill which appear to me to be extremely problematic. For example, I find it strange that the new, statutory, "customary marine title" only exists where a particular part of the foreshore and seabed has been exclusively used and occupied, and yet the title itself does not provide for such exclusive rights.

Surely, if the exercise of customary rights is demonstrated by exclusive use and occupation, then exclusive use and occupation ought

to be able to be recognised under this new form of customary title. Alternatively, if exclusive use and occupation is not part of customary title, why would you need to prove exclusive use and occupation to have that title recognised? If nothing else, this suggests that the legislative "customary marine title" is to be quite different from common law customary or aboriginal title, as applied in places such as the United States and Canada, where the general principle has long been to give legal recognition to the customary rights and activities that can be identified and demonstrated. The Foreshore and Seabed Act may have already taken us down that road, but this is another indication that the general direction of that Act is being maintained by the Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Bill.

I am also pretty underwhelmed by the way that mana tuku iho has been recognised. The explanatory note states that "the mana tuku iho of iwi and hapu is explicitly recognised in the Bill", though the only reference to mana tuku iho in the Bill is contained in Clause 4, which sets out the purpose of the legislation. This may be symbolically important, which is not to say that this inclusion in the purpose provision has no teeth whatsoever. In any case, as I have previously suggested, even primarily symbolic changes may help to open up a more productive discussion of Maori interests in the foreshore and seabed,

However, the fact that this reference is not supported by more specific provisions, laying out some of the practical effects of the recognition of mana tuku iho suggests that the Government is not yet ready to engage in that more productive discussion.

Taken from Carwyn Jones Blog

<http://ahi-ka-roa.blogspot.com/2010/09/marine-and-coastal->

New Publically funded contaceptive available for New Zealand women.

Jadelle

Pharmac has announced that a new contaceptive implant is now fully subsidised for New Zealand women, as of August 1st, 2010. This move is strongly endorsed by Family Planning as another important contraceptive resource for supporting women's sexual and reproductive health. Jadelle, otherwise known as Levonorgestrel, is supplied by Bayer New Zealand and is one of a family of contraceptives called Long Acting Reversible Contraceptives (LARC). LARCs are an appealing contraceptive in that they are effective for up to five years, show very high rates of effectiveness, and can be removed if a women wishes to become pregnant, with a return to normal fertility soon after removal. The Jadelle implant consists of two small, soft plastic rods each containin 75mg of progestogen in a reservior which releases it in tiny doses.

The rods are inserted of the upper arm. The at any time and evi- that it is highly effective - with less than one 100 women in the first the chance of preg- hundred women in the other hormone-based is not suitable for all will experience side ef- recorded side effects strual bleeding and in blood sugar and lipid



by a doctor under the skin implant can be removed dence to date suggests in preventing pregnancy pregnancy expected per four years of use and nancy in about one in a fifth year. However, like contraceptives, Jadelle women and some women fects. The most frequently are irregularity of men- some users the altering of (fat) levels.

Some women have reported difficulty in the removal of the rods with associated pain, numbness, tingling and scarring in the upper arm. For more information about Jadelle, women should contact their nearest Family Planning clinic or view the Jadelle Consumer Medicine Information prepared by Bayer New Zealand a the Medsafe website:

<http://www.medsafe.govt.nz/consumers/cmi/j/jadelle.pdf>

Women's Health Action is also preparing an information pack on contraceptive implants which will be available soon.

From Women's Health Update: Vol 14 No 3 September 2010
Women's Health Action Trust
<http://www.womens-health.org.nz>

Newsletter Collective Statement

We would like this newsletter to be:

- ✂ a creative outlook for writers and artists and that means you
- ✂ a publication that provides information relative to women
- ✂ a publication that informs women on Women's Centre activities and other activities for women in the region.

We know we will make mistakes but hope we can learn from these and be open to criticism and change, and to sharing skills and resources with other groups.

The newsletter collective reserves the right not to publish letters which conflict with Women's Centre philosophy. We may not agree with the views expressed in letters. Some letters are edited in consultation with the writer. We do not publish personal attacks. Letter addressed to the newsletter collective are assumed to be intended for publication. Please indicate clearly if they are not.

Women's Centre philosophy

The Women's centre:

- i) recognise and work in the spirit of the Tiriti o Waitangi;
- ii) confront women's oppression and empower women to take control of their own lives
- iii) oppose discrimination by those who have power against those who do not. This includes discrimination against women, especially Maori women, Pacific Island women, women of colour, lesbians, those who are differently abled, young, old, working class and those with different spiritual beliefs.
- iv) promote a safe supportive environment for all women and children;
- v) promote the sharing of power and resources;
- vi) act as a resource and information centre for the community.

The news letter is free to Women's Centre members and women's organisations. To join the Lower Hutt Women's Centre, send \$25 waged, \$15 unwaged, \$10 teenage, \$5 children to 186 Knights Road Lower Hutt. Membership also entitles you to borrow books, magazines, tapes, videos etc from the library for up to one month.

Name:	
Address:	
Phone:	
Enclosed is:	
Subscription:	
Waged/Unwages/Teenagers/Children	\$25/\$15/\$10/\$5