



Auckland
**Women's
Centre**

G O S S I P

4 Warnock Street
Grey Lynn
Ph 376 3227
info@womens.org.nz

P.O. Box 78 271
Grey Lynn
www.awc.org.nz
Summer 2007

Centre Hours

Mon to Fri
9am - 4pm

Library also

Sat, 11am - 1.30pm

Collective 2006

Abigael Vogt
Alison Greenaway
Anna Witten-Sage
Annalise Myers
Cristy Trewartha
Donna Nuttall
Leonie Morris
Paulette Benton-Greig
Sarah Greenaway
Shelley Fraser

Staff

Young Women's Advocate

Shelley

youngwomen@womens.org.nz

Projects Coordinator

Annalise

youngparent@womens.org.nz

Administrator

Elizabeth

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Centre Coordinator

Leonie

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Frontline and Programmes

Amelia

library@womens.org.nz

Thanks

to the South Auckland Charitable
Trust for funding Gossip and the
community education brochure.

Kia ora koutou wahine ma! Greetings from the Women's Centre.

We hope you had an excellent break over Christmas and are enjoying your summer. The new year brings many changes to the Centre. We welcome **Shelley Fraser** as our new **Young Women's Advocate**. Shelley has just completed a Masters in Social Work, during which she undertook a placement at the Auckland Women's Centre. Shelley's



strengths include her passion for social justice, her academic and practical skills, her great social skills and her experience working with young women. We will miss **Anna Witten-Sage** who has resigned from this position, but fortunately she will continue to work with us on the Management Collective and teaching self-defence on behalf of the Centre to women and girls in the community. If you would like Anna to teach self-

defence to your organisation or school please ring Amelia on 376 3227 or email selfdefence@womens.org.nz.

We also welcome **Amelia Rothwell** who has just moved to Auckland from Britain. Amelia has a Masters in Cultural Studies and has spent the last five years working with a range of Asian, Afro-Caribbean and European young women in crisis. Many thanks to Viki who held this position throughout last year. Much of the smooth running of the Centre since March has been the result of Viki's reliability and hard work.



This term we will be busy with a number of projects. Our **Young Mothers Support Programme** starts in mid-February. An evaluation of this project found that, amongst other things, participants gain the strength to "stand up" for themselves and a sense of control over their future lives. Our latest **SKIP Young Mothers Parenting Positively Project** started in November with a Teen Parent Agency Network gathering. Over 40 agencies attended and shared their experiences of working with young parents. The next stage of the project involves delivering free community-based parenting workshops in the Auckland region through agencies who work with young mothers.

Please see our brochure or check our website for details of our other services, activities, support groups and weekend workshops.

AT THE AUCKLAND WOMEN'S CENTRE . . .

LIBRARY OPEN EVERY SATURDAY LUNCHTIME (11.00AM TO 1.30PM)

The library has hundreds of new books including *The Inheritance of Loss* by Kiran Desai, *Half of a Yellow Sun* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, *Frangipani* by Celestine Hituma Vaite, *Divorce Hangover* by Anne Walter and many other gems. We also have a complete set of the Women's Bookshops list of 50 of the best women writers of the last 50 years, voted by thousands of New Zealand readers. If you are wanting a particular book, ring 376 3227 to check if it is available. If it is out, when returned we can hold it for you. A year's subscription is \$5 for beneficiaries and between \$10 and \$20 for those not on a benefit. You do not have to belong to the Centre to join the library. Books are issued for four weeks, and there is a library returns box in the alcove on the porch if you return books after hours.

COUNSELLING

Low cost one-to-one counselling is available at the Centre. All counsellors are professionally trained and supervised. They use a sliding scale of \$30 to \$80 for fees and cater for a diverse range of issues. Please ring the Centre for an appointment.

HEALTH SERVICES

In conjunction with WONS: Nursing, Education & Health Promotion Services, we have now extended our smear tests and breast examinations service to include full consultations on women's health issues, such as menopause and PMS. Appointments available at the Centre on Friday mornings once a month. Next available dates are: 23 Feb, 23 March and 20 April.



MASSAGE for beneficiaries and other women on low incomes is available on Mondays between 9.30am and 1.30pm, for an hour long session. Cost is \$25 for beneficiaries and \$40 for non-beneficiaries, with a discount available if finances are a problem.

FREE SEPARATION PACKS

If you are a parent separating from your partner and are looking for information, drop into the Centre to collect a free separation pack. Each pack includes information on the free programme "Parenting Through Separation" (ph 0800 211 211 to find your nearest provider). Also in the pack is a DVD entitled *Kids talk about Separation*. Leaflets explain the Family Court system, parenting agreements, and counselling. Also included are guides for children and teenagers about the Family Court. If you are unable to drop by the Centre, ring us, and we will post you a pack.

COURSES AND GROUPS . . .

This term we are offering our ever-popular **The Art of Happiness**, Karenza Fullerton's personal development course. **Travelling Creatively and Confidently Through Your 20s** — an art therapy personal growth course is also back by popular demand. Together with Rainbow Youth, we are delivering **Girl2Girl** — an opportunity for young women between 15 and 25 to explore their sexuality. Our **yoga**, and our **stretch classes** are "pay-as-you-go" so you can attend a class when it suits.

In March we are holding a **self-defence workshop for girls** aged 7 to 12 years. The instructor, Morgan Libeau has been teaching self-defence for over 20 years. Morgan's full-time work is with children who have been victims of sexual, physical and emotional abuse. She is also involved in training and educating people in the various disciplines who work in the field, and has written four books for children and young people. She believes that if information is given to children appropriately, it will make them feel safe instead of scared, enabling higher self-esteem and increased confidence. Morgan ensures that the workshops are run in a fun, high-energy environment.

For details of our community education programme go to our new website: www.awc.org.nz.

A Postcapitalist Politics

By J K Gibson-Graham, University of Minnesota Press, 2006.

In *A Postcapitalist Politics* J.K. Gibson-Graham reveals numerous alternatives to the capitalist economy that exist throughout the world today. She encourages us to re-imagine how we think about and engage with both feminist and capitalist practices. This is a book about possibilities for the world and how our thinking enables (or inhibits) these possibilities becoming our everyday experiences.

This book is an inspiring read for people passionate about social change, be it from a perspective of emancipation of labour, women's rights or environmental justice. It is an academic text written to engage with academic debates, but highly relevant for people working in community organisations. She has a number of examples of how the ideas in the book are being applied and provide tools for helping to do this.



J.K Gibson-Graham is the pen name of July Graham and Katherine Gibson, feminist economic geographers from (respectively) the USA and Australia. *A Postcapitalist Politics* extends theories these women developed in *The end of capitalism (as we knew it): a feminist critique of political economy* (1996) and gives examples of how a politics of possibility is being developed in various communities and places throughout the world.

The book begins with a discussion of the challenges of current economic politics (e.g. how we keep referring to capitalism as the big all powerful beast we are struggling against), and how feminist analysis not only provides a way to revise our thinking of the capitalist economy but also opens up more opportunities for political action.

"The achievements of second wave feminism provide for us, the impetus for theorising a new global form of economic politics. Its remapping of political space and possibility suggests the ever present opportunity for local transformation that does not require (though it does not preclude and indeed promotes) transformation at larger scales. Its focus on the subject [the personal as political] prompts us to think about ways of cultivating economic subjects with different desires and capacities and greater openness to change and uncertainty. Its practice of seeing and speaking differently encourages us to make visible the hidden and alternative economic activities that everywhere abound, and to connect them through a language of economic difference. If we can begin to see non capitalist activities as prevalent and viable, we may be encouraged here and now to actively build on them to transform our local economies" (Gibson-Graham, 2005, p.xxiv)

Gibson-Graham draw on feminist techniques of analysis in order to develop a politics of economic possibility. Their work gently (if somewhat densely) steps us through their thinking and practice, exploring a politics of language, of the subject and of collective action. For those experienced in feminist political action and community work, some of the ideas they present appear old news. However, the way they link these ideas and rigorously work through them is refreshing and indeed enormously empowering. This is a great book for stimulating book club discussion. I recommend it to feminists and activists and hope that you will also be inspired to work through the ethics of your thinking.

WELL WOMEN'S CLINIC

Free

Cervical smear tests for women:

- ?? who are due for a smear test and are Community Service Card holders
- ?? who have not had a test in 5 years.

Advice

On managing periods, PMS, menopause, stress incontinence using natural remedies, diet & lifestyle Consultations \$45.00 (½ hour)

Clinics at Auckland Women's Centre
Ph: 376 3227
once a month and all Auckland areas

For more information ph: 523 0263



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kotare.trust@xtra.co.nz**

Paid work message delivered again to DPB mums

The Social Security Amendment Bill currently before Parliament will increase the pressure on DPB mothers (and other beneficiaries) to join the paid workforce.

The Bill gives Work and Income the power to decide the content of the Personal Development and Employment Plans that DPB recipients are required to sign. Currently the content of these plans is a negotiated process between the beneficiary and the Ministry.

Clause 16 of the Bill states that "work in paid employment offers the best opportunity for people to achieve social and economic well-being" and "the priority for people of working age should be to find and retain work".

Is paid work always the best option for a single mother family? What if the only paid work the mother can secure leaves her exhausted or the only child care option she can afford is of a poor quality?

The Government's work-first approach to welfare has no regard for the valuable contribution to our society that is made by people for whom caring for children or the sick or the elderly is, in fact, their primary work at this time of their lives.

Even without these proposed measures, solo mothers already feel pressured to leave welfare. One mother from our Solo Mothers Support Group, who has a one year old, is doing a little volunteer work, and was told by her case manager "if you can manage that you shouldn't be on the DPB, you should be doing paid work." Another was told "the DPB is not to be lived on". Two women from the group signed statements saying they intended going back to paid work in six months time – but they can not envisage how they can achieve that without compromising their child's well-being.

You, or your organisation, can attempt to persuade Parliament to improve this Bill by making a submission to the Social Services Select Committee by 1 March – see www.parliament.nz/en-NZ/SC/

The Sociology Department, University of Auckland, is organising a free, one day forum on our welfare reforms on 21 March. To register contact Dr Louise Humpage at l.humpage@auckland.ac.nz

Craft Grannies

Organisers - Jessica George and Shelley Fraser
Young women, old tradition, contemporary crafts! Craft Grannies is an informal craft and art group for young women. Bring your own projects and expertise to share, but we will provide back-up supplies and ideas. Held on the last Wednesday of every month. Feel free to bring along music/food to share, \$2 koha.

Phone Shelley at the Centre for more info.

Next meeting 28 February,
7.30pm - 9.30pm.