

Winter 2010



Auckland  
Women's  
Centre

Auckland Women's Centre

Gossip

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**Centre hours**

Monday to Friday  
9am - 4pm

Additional  
library hours  
Saturday

## Auckland Women's Centre News

We recently held a book launch for our new publication, ***A Proud Herstory: A Celebration of the Auckland Women's Centre 1975-2010***. Past Coordinators, Sue Fitchett, Jacqui Fill and Paulette Benton-Grieg spoke, offering their reflections on the Centre's growth and development since its origin. More than 50 women attended the celebration, which was deemed by one attendee as "an *impromptu reunion with some of the wonderful early women's movement stalwarts*." Margie Thomson, the author of the book, was honoured, as was Jenny Rankine for her work as editor and book designer.

In her speech, **Sue Fitchett** recalled the Centre's early days, including its tenure at **63 Ponsonby Road** in a "dark, dank and uninviting" villa that was soon made over by women committed to turning it into a welcoming and attractive space. Her speech brought nods of recognition and laughter as she recounted some of the more light-hearted moments. **Jacqui Fill** spoke about the **re-location to the present building** (purpose-built by the Auckland City Council) after a new landlord at Ponsonby Road raised the rent through the roof. **Paulette Benton-Grieg** commented on modernising the Centre's branding and overseeing the introduction of some youth development projects, including the early work with teen mothers. A highlight of the evening was when Ellie Lim organised the participants to sing a four part round!

The book itself – 54-pages filled with colour and black and white photos and images – provides **an overview of the Centre's development as a feminist community group**, placing it in the context of the rapid and significant changes occurring in society at the time.

***A Proud Herstory: A celebration of the Auckland Women's Centre 1975-2010***

Available at the Auckland Women's Centre

4 Warnock Street, Grey Lynn

Mon-Fri 9-4pm for \$15 per copy and

The Women's Bookshop for \$20

Or ask us to send you a copy for \$18 (inclusive of packing and postage) ph 09 376 3227 x201 or

email info@womensz.org.nz. Pay by sending a cheque to PO Box 78 271, Grey Lynn 1245

or credit the ASB 12 3012 0782605 00 using your name as a reference.

Congratulations to **Jaala Jacob** who **won our competition** by supplying us with her email address so that we can email the newsletters. Jaala says "winning the *Sky Tower Family Pass* has given us an opportunity for a family celebration. With my mother's 60th around the corner, the pass will provide a chance to have a birthday adventure, with top of the town views at my five year old son's ultimate all time favourite place. Thanks so much SKYCITY and the Auckland Women's Centre."

The first Centre at 125 Ponsonby Road. Photo by Robin Morrison, c1997



**Additional  
library hours  
Saturday  
11am - 1.30pm**

**Thanks to the  
Trillian Trust for funding  
this newsletter**



# Available at the Women's Centre...

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## Counselling

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

## Women's Library: recent additions

We have recently added some great books to our library for your reading pleasure, including: **Ned and Katina** by Patricia Grace, **Sex and Stravinsky** by Barbara Trapido, **Collision** by New Zealander, Joanna Orwin, **The Sealed Letter** by Emma Donoghue, **Wolf Hall** by Hilary Mantel, **Your skirts too short: Sex, Power, Choice** by Emily Maguire, **Nineteen Minutes** by Jodi Picoult, **The Cartwright Papers: Essays on the Cervical Cancer Inquiry 1987-88** edited by Joanne Manning, and **Come Inside** by Glenys L. Osborne.

It costs \$5 for beneficiaries and between \$10-\$20 for non-beneficiaries to join the library per year. **As well as being open during the week, the library is also open every Saturday from 11.00am to 1.30pm and is staffed by a team of wonderful volunteers.**

One of our many wonderful volunteers, Meg, has been removing books from our library that have not been borrowed in the last three years in order to make room for new books. We are selling the withdrawn books for a gold coin donation, so come and see if there are any on our book sales trolley that you always meant to read.

## Life Coach: new service

We warmly welcome the services of **Lucy Daykin, life coach and Neuro Linguistic Programming (NLP) practitioner** to the Centre. Lucy will be available for **after hour's appointments** on Monday nights and Saturday mornings on a sliding fee scale between \$80 and \$100. This fee is higher than most of our services, as the work does not attract funding or a subsidy. Lucy ran a workshop at the Centre recently, which received high praise from the participants. To book ph Lucy on 889 7883 or email [nlpcoach@vodafone.co.nz](mailto:nlpcoach@vodafone.co.nz)

## Therapeutic massage

Available for beneficiaries and other **women on low incomes**: Mondays from 9.30am and 2.00pm, for an hour. Cost is \$25 for beneficiaries and \$40 for non-beneficiaries. Please book well in advance as demand is high.

# Welcome to our winter line up of courses

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## Ellie Lim, Women's Services Coordinator

The cold and rain has settled in and our enthusiastic **knitting class** from Term 2 has been happily making all sorts of items! We'd love you to join us, there is space for a few more knitters, no experience necessary. Our tutor, Margaret, caters to all levels of knitting and is super supportive and encouraging.

Our **Book Club** has selected the readings for the rest of the year, it's free to join and we have a fantastic Women's Library here at the Centre which is also open Saturdays 11.00am-1.30pm especially for women who can't come in during the week.

Our **Amazing Assertiveness** course was such a success last term that we have extended it by one more week (now seven weeks). The feedback was overwhelmingly positive and it is our most well attended and empowering course, so if you think that you might be interested, I'd encourage you to get in quick.

Want to learn how to protect yourself? **Women's Self Defence** with Barb Wallace will be running again in September. As this class tends to generate a lot of interest, I'd recommend that payment be made as soon as possible after your enrolment to secure your place.

Our regular **Tai Chi Quan, Yoga and Pilates** classes are all still running through Term 3, providing opportunities to stretch the body and calm the mind in a safe women-only environment.

The first **Crafty Goodness** night saw 15 women attending; we spread ourselves out over the floor, tables and couches and busied ourselves with our individual projects. As of August, Crafty Goodness will meet on the first Wednesday of the month from 6pm-8pm. It will still be free to come along and we'd love to have you join in and



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**Programmes for pregnant teenagers and teen parents**

We offer a wrap-around service and community development projects for pregnant teenagers and teen parents. Our Teen Antenatal Programme (four weeks) starts again at the end of July and then our Young Mum's Support Group (seven weeks) begins in mid-September. Please text Heather 021 0227 6438, email: [research@womens.org.nz](mailto:research@womens.org.nz).

# Women's football and women's rugby

They may not have made it past the group stages, but the All Whites returned home national heroes. It has catapulted soccer into the spotlight, but can the same be said for the women's game?

The Football Ferns – New Zealand's women's soccer team – are just a couple of months away from the Oceania Women's World Cup qualifiers in Auckland. They'll be playing at the North Harbour Stadium from 29th September to 8th October. The winner of that tournament will go through to the Women's World Cup Finals in Germany next year. Keep an eye on <http://www.ultimatensoccer.com/FootballFerns/id1855.htm> for updates.

New Zealand's young female soccer team are gearing up for the FIFA Under 20 Women's World Cup, which starts in Germany on 13 July 2010. They are in the same group as reigning champions North Korea, along with Sweden and Brazil. See how they get on at: <http://www.fifa.com/u20womensworldcup/index.html>.



**New Zealand's women's national football team, the Football Ferns**

It's a big year for women's rugby too. The New Zealand Black Ferns, current world champions, will begin their title defence at the Women's World Cup in England next month. The Black Ferns kick off a campaign to win their fourth world championship in a row, in their first match against South Africa on August 20<sup>th</sup>. You can follow their progress on <http://www.rwcwomens.com/index.html>.

Girls make+ up an increasing percentage of the school pupils who play football, and with the recent announcement that women can now play in men's senior football games in Auckland, women may finally be heading towards a level playing field.

## Most sexual assault survivors missing out on treatment

Since the Accident Compensation Commission (ACC) Sensitive Claims Unit introduced a new 'Clinical Pathway' changing access processes to sexual abuse counselling, almost 90% of claims for counselling have been either turned down or held for more information. The new pathway requires a psychiatric diagnosis (a DSM IV) for a survivor to be eligible for treatment, whereas the law only requires a clinically significant dysfunction.

***It beggars belief that people who have had a crime such as rape committed on them are being treated appallingly by a Government agency.***

It beggars belief that people who have had a crime such as rape committed on them are being treated appallingly by a Government agency and denied treatment. Health practitioners have lost trust and confidence that ACC will work with providers in a sensitive way and many have decided not to work with the ACC Sensitive Claims Unit while the new Clinical pathway remains. . Psychotherapist, Robyn Bigelow says "I am not prepared to be complicit with an abusive system."

The Government established a review panel to report back to ACC Minister, Nick Smith on the new system by 31 July 2010. The system is now such an abject failure that it seems inevitable that the review will acknowledge this. The question then is, how will the Government get itself out of this mess it has created?

The Government needs to implement The Ministry of Women's Affairs findings of their two year research into adult sexual assault. The report, *Restoring Soul - Effective Interventions for Adult Survivors*, found that:

1. The impacts of sexual violence are huge, long lasting and wide ranging.
2. Counselling helps greatly - being listened to, validated and rebuilding safety and trust with the right counsellor

1. The impacts of sexual violence are huge, long lasting and wide ranging.
2. Counselling helps greatly - being listened to, validated and rebuilding safety and trust with the right counsellor is the most important support.
3. Support workers need to have specialist knowledge about sexual violence.

**If you would like support or information in relation to sexual abuse, call Auckland Sexual Abuse HELP: 623 1700 24 hrs.**

# New Zealand men who murder their partners

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As part of a programme to review family violence deaths in New Zealand, the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) commissioned a study of all homicides in families in the five years 2002-2006. Titled "***Learning from Tragedy: Homicides within Families in New Zealand 2002-2006***", the report presents comprehensive statistics on family-related homicides.

The entire report is available at [www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/research/learning-from-tragedy/index.html](http://www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/research/learning-from-tragedy/index.html). The information below focuses on women who are murdered by their male partners.

Between 2002 and 2006, 292 people in New Zealand died from homicide, with 141 being killed by a family member. Of the 141 deaths, 77 were couple-related homicides, 38 were child homicides and 26 were other family member homicides.

## **Predictably, all three groups share similar and disturbing characteristics:**

- More family homicides occur in economically deprived areas.
- 41% of all victims were Maori, 36% were Pakeha, 12% were Pacific people and 11% were Asian. The result of this shameful statistic is that the average mortality rate from family homicide for Maori is nearly three times that of the New Zealand population overall.
- Many perpetrators were unemployed and alcohol and/or substance abuse was involved.

However, within the three groups of homicides there are key differences.

## **Couple-related homicides:**

- Nearly 80% of victims in this group are female and 90% of the perpetrators are male.
- In almost one-quarter of the relationships, the male was ten years or more older than the female.
- Of these killings, nearly half of the couples had already separated, with most killings occurring within 12 months of separation.

## **Many of the male perpetrators had the following characteristics:**

- Previous Police record, with nearly half the male perpetrators having previous convictions for assault.
- Documented evidence of previous domestic violence in two-thirds of cases (Protection Orders existed in one-third of couple-related homicides).
- In about one-third of couple-related cases, there were recorded threats, warnings or stalking by the male perpetrators.

The three points above show us that the Justice System is currently not doing enough to protect women from their violent male partners and ex-partners.

## **Domestic violence prevention strategies**

The complexity of this topic means that a range of interventions continue to be required to address domestic-related violence.

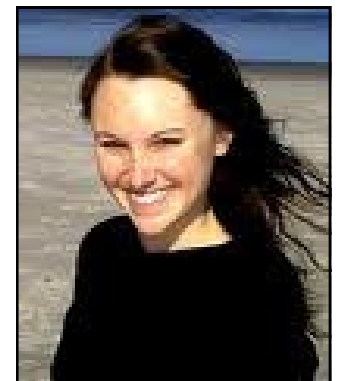
These include addressing the economic and social status of Maori, the economic deprivation and high unemployment in many communities, and alcohol and drug use/abuse.

While not specifically covered in the report, the statistics also highlight the ongoing need to address the culture of male power and control that feeds male violence, too often condoned in this country.

## **Police enforcement**

While the report gives little discussion to Police enforcement actions, it is timely that on 1 July 2010, new provisions in the Domestic Violence Act 1995 came into force. These give the Police power to issue Police Safety Orders that last up to five days.

Safety Orders require violent partners to leave the home and cease all violence. Such measures are



**Sophie Elliot; murdered by her partner after telling him she was leaving him.**

already separated, with most killings occurring within 12 months of separation.

The report emphasises that the time of greatest danger for women living with violent men is when women threaten to, or proceed with, leaving the relationship, especially if she is interested in another man.

Safety Orders require violent partners to leave the home and cease all violence. Such measures are hopefully a practical support mechanism for victims of family violence, as it does not involve going to Court. Time will tell how energetically the Police implement them.