

WOMEN & PSYCHOLOGY INTEREST GROUP NEWSLETTER
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From the Editor

Hello to all once again. This second edition of the newsletter for 2006 will hopefully get out to you before September is over so that you have plenty of notice of the upcoming Women and Psychology Annual Conference gathering that is in Melbourne this year. This edition includes details and registration form for our own Women and Psychology Conference, a call for new co-ordinator of women in psychology for Brisbane/Queensland, some notes of events in NSW and Victoria and some web links for reports and events concerning women's health.

Also, of interest to everyone, this newsletter is posted to the national W&P email list and is also made available to the general public via the APS website <<http://www.groups.psychology.org.au/wip/newsletters/>> There is no login requirement to view all the newsletters and once articles are published to the web site they cannot be retracted.

That's all for now, back in the new year with exciting coverage of our conference later this year.

Your editor, Helen

From the National Convenor

Time has flown since our last newsletter and here we are again. Spring has just sprung and in Melbourne we have been blessed with amazing sunny days. It brings out a sense of renewal and re-energising – a gearing up for latter part of the year. And for the next few months there will be lots of activities happening.

But first, just some thoughts about feminism and the need to continue to make a stand for women and others oppressed for equality politically, economically and socially. I had an interesting conversation with another mother last month that left me feeling a bit discouraged and challenged about the public view of feminism as a whole. She and her daughter were going over her daughter's electives for the next year at school and she saw a class offering in “-isms” – a class that had a focus of topics like feminism, racism, patriotism, terrorism, etc.

She suggested to her daughter that the class might be interesting and informative and another way they could bond together as the mother felt herself to be a “diehard” feminist. Her daughter said, “No. Besides feminism doesn't even exist anymore; I don't need to know about it.” Her daughter went on to explain that it was only in the “old days” that women needed to vocalise about their inequities in the workplace, in services, and

in the world; things were fine now, no one needed to fight for anything because she would never experience any kind of discrimination, she would have the right to vote, and it wouldn't win her any friends.

The mother asked, "What do you mean wouldn't win you any friends?"

The daughter responded, "Well, feminists just nag about everything, don't they?"

Needless to say, that the mother was upset that her daughter felt this way. The mother felt she had somehow failed her daughter and the feminist ideals she thought that she had passed on to her daughter.

She and I ended up having a most energising conversation about how we each felt we were active in our feminist ideals and how we practised them. And more importantly, how we inform others around us about the need for these ideals and role modeling feminism.

So, long story short: We still need feminism (!), reflective time to consider our stances, and to have a think or a conversation with someone about how we are active and practice our feminist ideals. Most importantly a conversation about how we pass these on to others.

Ok, on to some activities! This year's W&P annual conference will be held at the beginning of December in the Melbourne area at Sunbury and will have the theme of diversity in the lives of women and feminism. During our planning committee meeting, the idea of exploring feminism in different settings, practices, and communities was discussed. We thought a set of workshops, speakers and papers that demonstrate the strength and viability of the ideas of feminism would be interesting and useful to practitioners, researchers, and students. If you live in the Melbourne area, we still need volunteers to help in the planning and carrying out of the conference, contact me at my email for more information. The call for submissions is out so please look for it on the APS website, the Victorian newsletter, and in this newsletter.

Also in Victoria, we are also looking forward to our joint forum and workshop with the Psychology and Substance Use Interest Group on the 21st of October (see announcement).

I can't wait to go to the Annual W&P Conference in Melbourne, visit with good friends, attend thought provoking workshops and have lots of fun,
See you there!

RaeLynn Wicklein

From NSW Women and Psychology

NSW Women and Psychology joined with Adolescent, Child and Family Interest Group to sponsor a successful half-day workshop on 23 June 2006. The focus of the workshop was on building resilience and normalising the transition to high school for

young adolescent girls. The workshop also launched the new books written by these two members of the APS: “The Resilience Doughnut” by Lyn Worsley and “Give It a Go Girl” by Sarah Calleja and her daughter Nina.

I found both presentations engaging and helpful. First Sarah took us through the background for her book and the dilemmas of producing a book. She then demonstrated how to use each chapter as we worked with girls having concerns about making that transition to high school. The focus was very much on building resilience and helping young women to understand that the feelings, doubts and fears that they were experiencing during the transition to high school were a normal part of growing up. (Sarah’s website is www.actionpsychology.com)

Lyn Worsley also comes from a “strengths” perspective and her book, “The Resilience Doughnut” provides a practical step-by-step guide for using her process to strengthen the resilience in clients. The process is useful with all age groups and draws on personal areas of strength to firm up a client’s resilience and sense that “I can”. Lyn took the group through a practical exercise so that we could experience the process first hand. Lyn’s website is www.lynworsley.com.au.

It was good to join with Adolescent, Child and Family IG to do the workshop. It provided us with a valuable opportunity to provide professional development from a feminist perspective to a wider than usual audience.

A further NSW event was the annual "Getting Started as a Woman in Psychology" open forum on 25th August. Feedback from the graduates and intern psychologists that joined us for the evening was very positive. Hopefully they will come to future monthly meetings.

Upcoming Meetings

Here are the dates for meetings until September.

Meeting dates for 2006

30 June	Bullying in the Workplace Open forum discussion on current issues for women in the workplace.
28 July	Attachment Theory and Intimate Partner Selection. Forum led by Dr. Helen Vidler
25 August	Getting Started as a Woman in Psychology. Open panel forum
29th September	Networking dinner in Newtown Meet in the bar next to the bistro at Marlborough Hotel (cnr King St and Missenden Rd). 6:30 pm for drinks. We can decide on venue for dinner at that time. Contact for information DORI. 0411353434.

October 25th (Wednesday)	Professional development session TBA. Venue: as per below.
November 24th (Friday) -	End of year celebration and planning session .

Details for NSW events:

Venue: First floor, Women's College, Sydney University.

Directions: First building off the Carillon Avenue gate. (See UBD Street guide for map).

Time: 5.30pm for refreshments and networking for a 6pm discussion.

Meetings are usually followed by lively discussion over a friendly meal in Newtown.

For further information on NSW activities please contact:

Dori Wisniewski

Email: wisniewski@bigpond.com

Phone: (02) 9534 4434 (Home); 9266-8406 (Work); 0411 353434 (Mobile).

Queensland Women & Psychology News

Ann Aboud writes that it has been difficult to co-ordinate meetings for 2006 due to a lack of support (in attendance) by the membership. Ann wants to stand down as the Coordinator for Brisbane/Queensland which therefore leaves the position open for a newbie. Any takers? Ann is more than happy to support a new coordinator through the ropes until they find their feet. So please don't be shy – this is your big chance to have a go and the women of Queensland need you! Please either contact the National Convenor RaeLynn.Wicklein@rmit.edu.au or Ann at Ann.Aboud@csq.qld.gov.au

Victorian Women & Psychology News

On Wednesday 7th June a forum was held at the Treacy Centre in Parkville regarding the 'Work/Life Balance' The facilitators were Melissa Noonan and Liz Sadler and the forum was designed to explore the issues and challenges of obtaining the often elusive 'work/life balance'. This is possibly even more demanding for women who care for children (or other family members) and follow a career. Ways of maintaining balance between the work and 'life' were the focus of this event.

Guest speakers Sara van Vliet who's work title is "Senior People Capital Consultant" with Corporate and Business Bank, ANZ; presented some examples of policy reflecting flexibility within the workplace, some current trends and personal accounts of achieving work/life balance.

Please email Liz or Melissa if you missed this event or call on the numbers below.

lsadler@alphalink.com.au

9486 3408

And more - Heather Gridley wrote:

On the first anniversary of the death of **Precilla Choi** in May 2005, the May 2006 issue of the international journal *Feminism and Psychology* contained a very moving In Memoriam that included tributes from a number of her friends and former colleagues around the world. Here at Victoria University, a traditional Indigenous Australian Smoking Ceremony was held in Precilla's office. Precilla's office has now become the new Moondani Balluk Indigenous Academic Unit at VU. On behalf of the Kulin Nation, Yorta Yorta Barap Barap woman Karen Jackson, who conducted the ceremony, had this to say:

"Our human spirit is born from the land, our mother, and we return to it on our death. In doing this Smoking Ceremony we will be creating a spiritual connection from the land to the Ancestors of the Kulin nation, and then to you as people within this space. ... I feel the pain and grief of our Ancestors and I am touched by the spirit of Precilla Choi who is gone from this land, our Mother, and who has moved on to another space. I ask that she maintain safe passage to walk freely on her country and to be at peace with those who come into this space after her."

I think Precilla would be well pleased that her office, with its lovely view towards the Maribyrnong River, is being inhabited in this way.

Newsletter jottings

Don't forget to make a submission to '**Outskirts**' the online feminist journal. The web link for this is <http://www.chloe.uwa.edu.au/outskirts>

A web site that will be of interest to members in regard to women's health is www.own.net.org.au where newsletters, projects and resources are available. A report well worth reading, of an evaluation undertaken of three Older Women's Network wellness groups operating in Bankstown, Chatswood and Sutherland involving researchers from the University of Western Sydney, University of Technology Sydney and health professionals from Northern Sydney Central Coast Women's Health Services and Northern Sydney Central Coast Health Promotion. The report is called 'Kicking Up Autumn Leaves'.

Some web links that you may find helpful when looking for information regarding **women's health** are:

for South Australia <http://www.swsahs.nsw.gov.au/whealth/Main.asp>

for Victoria: <http://www.whv.org.au/>

and for NSW: <http://www.women.nsw.gov.au/>

News just to hand from the Bahrain Tribune

Shaikha Haya bint Rashid Al Khalifa of Bahrain takes Presidency of United Nations General Assembly.

Bahrain Tribune - 12 September, 2006

Shaikha Haya bint Rashid Al Khalifa yesterday took over the presidency of the UN General Assembly from the outgoing president of the 192-member body, Swedish Foreign Minister Jan Eliasson.

Later, Shaikha Haya addressed the UN Assembly.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan has been quoted as saying it was a step "that will portray a positive picture of Arab women. There are many challenges that we need to face and with Shaikha Haya's wisdom and cooperation I am sure many issues will be solved."

The director of the UN information centre for Gulf countries, Nejjib Friji, told the Tribune: "It is matter of great pride that the first Arab woman for the position has been elected from Bahrain. It will be a major turning point for all Bahraini women and those in the Middle- East.

Shaikha Haya is the third woman and the first from the Middle East who has been elected president of the UN General Assembly in 60 years. Vijay Lakshmi Pandit of India was the first woman president in 1953 while Liberia's Angie Brooks presided in 1969.

Shaikha Haya has served as Bahrain's ambassador in France during 2000-04 and was one of the first two women to practise law in the Kingdom since 1975.._"Vinaka-Shukriya, Peace"

Sincerely

Sharon Bhagwan Rolls

Coordinator - femLINKPACIFIC: Media Initiatives for Women

"We exist to empower women and communities by giving them a voice to fully participate in decision making for equality, development and peace."

Phone/Fax (679) 3307207

CMC located: Suite 4, G B Hari Building,

14 Pier Street, Suva, Fiji Islands

email: femlinkpac@connect.com.fj

Upcoming conferences to consider are:

'Discourse and Health Conference', 23-24th November 2006 at the University of Western Sydney. Further details are at <http://www.DAconference.com>

'The International Council on Women's Health Issues Congress' 15-18th November 2006 in Sydney. Web link details are at www.icowhi2006.com

And our very own **'Women and Psychology Conference'** to be held in Melbourne this year.

See next two pages for details and registration form.

Living and Working with Diversity as Women in Psychology

APS Women and Psychology Interest Group 17th Annual Conference

Friday 1st - Sunday 3rd December 2006
Sunbury Hall, Victoria University

This year the annual residential APS Women & Psychology Conference will be hosted by the Victorian Group. The venue is on the site of a superb, heritage-listed facility, the former *Caloola* institution that was the subject of Kelley Johnson's book *Deinstitutionalising Women*. So it is a fitting site for our focus on diversity.

Intending presenters: The conference will highlight feminist perspectives on psychological practice and research with women that takes diversity into account. Our definition of feminism in psychology is the same as that of the international journal *Feminism and Psychology*: that which acknowledges gender and other social inequalities (eg. race, class, disability, sexuality...) and considers their psychological effects. Proposals for presentations will only be accepted when set in this critical context. **Please provide title, abstract of paper or workshop description, a few short lines about yourself and your audio visual requirements by 30/09/06.**

Date	Agenda (to be confirmed)
Friday 1st December 7-10pm	Registration & Welcome – Prof Trang Thomas AM Share a book Creative and fun activity
Saturday 2nd December 9am-5pm 7pm-late	Keynote speakers Papers & Workshops Postgraduate student presentations Conference Dinner and Entertainment
Sunday 3rd December 9am-11am 11.30-12pm 12:30pm	Keynote speaker Papers and/or Workshop AGM and presentation of Elaine Dignan Award Lunch and Plenary

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

Cath Smith

CEO, Victorian Council of Social Service (VCOSS)

Associate Professor Tracey Bunda

Director of the Yunggoendi First Nations Centre, Flinders University.

Alexandra Bignell, Administrator - APS Units, The Australian Psychological Society, PO Box 38, Flinders Lane PO, Melbourne VIC 8009, Ph: (03) 8662 3300, Fax: (03) 9663 6177

For registration inquiries please contact RaeLynn Alvarez Wicklein: Raelynn.Wicklein@rmit.edu.au

Accommodation booking: Contact -: sunbury.hall@vu.edu.au

Tel: (03) 9919 3450 (mention the conference when booking)

Sunbury Hall can offer accommodation at the following rates:

Single ensuite B&B rooms at \$50.00 per night

Single college B&B rooms with share bathroom facilities at \$45.00 per night.

This form is a tax invoice once filled in and payment has been made. Please make a copy for your records.