

Summer 2015



Auckland  
**Women's  
Centre**

Auckland Women's Centre

**GOSIP**

**Contact us:**

Ph 376 3227

[info@womens.org.nz](mailto:info@womens.org.nz)

PO Box 78 271, Grey Lynn

[www.awc.org.nz](http://www.awc.org.nz)

Hours: M-F, 9am-4pm

Library Hours

M-F, 9am - 4pm

First Sat of the month

Sat 11am - 1.30pm

**Services:**

Free Info, Referral & Advice

Support Services

Community education  
classes

SKIP Single Mums Positive

Parenting Project

Community Events

Counselling

Queer & Lesbian support

Low cost massage

Self Defence Classes

Opportunities to talk and  
support feminism

## New year - fabulous new women

Four fabulous women joined our Governance Collective at the AGM in December: Anita Lacey, Sarah Ebyarimpa, Nicole Duncan and Tessa Morgan. They join existing members; Katie Palmer du Preez, Meg Rayner-Thomas, Ruth Busch, Mira Taitz, Sabrina Muck, Nicola Brebner and Sylvia Baynes. Our Collective provides the Centre with strategic direction, accountability, and support within a collective framework.



**Anita Lacey** is an activist academic researcher whose teaching, research, and activism intersect around feminism, development, security and poverty, and the politics of resistance. She has been engaged in feminist activism in Melbourne, Windsor and now Auckland. Anita is currently the co-coordinator of Auckland Feminist Action, and is committed to women's organising for social justice.

With an immense passion for gender equality, **Teri Fong** is studying for two Bachelor degrees at the University of Auckland, in Politics/International Relations and Women's Studies. Originally from Fiji, Teri has been involved with numerous NGOs and events in both Fiji and Auckland, including an internship in Gender & Politics Training with Fiji Women's Rights Movement. She currently interns at Youth for UN Women as the Auckland Regional Coordinator.



**Sarah Ebyarimpa** is a young, passionate feminist training to be a Social Worker. She discovered feminism through study at Massey University and by her own life experiences. She has a strong academic background in feminist theory, domestic violence and rape culture. Sarah intends to focus her social work practice on advocating for, educating, and empowering women to challenge social injustice.

**Nicole Duncan** found her passion for feminism through her double major in Psychology and Applied Mental Health. She has a sound understanding of the hardships women face within the New Zealand healthcare system, and this led her to join the Women's Centre's Information, Referral and Advice service, where she has been volunteering for about 16 months.



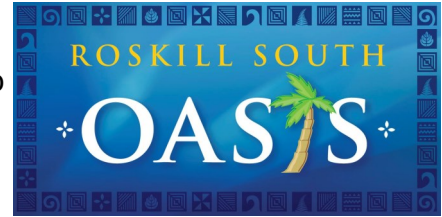
In 2014 **Tessa Morgan** was the co-Women's Rights Officer for the University of Auckland where she gained significant experience in organising events, advocacy and writing on feminist issues. Notable examples include her organisation of Womensfest and publication of *Kate Magazine*. She is an active member of Auckland Feminist Action and has a passion for campaigning for women's rights, the maintenance of safe spaces, and social justice.

At the AGM we said heartfelt thanks and a sad farewell to our **Chairperson, Sarah-Jane Olsen**, and to long-term Collective member, **Dale Little**, both of whom are leaving Auckland. Our new Chairperson is the amazing **Katie Palmer du Preez**, a Collective veteran of four years. Katie is a social researcher working in the gambling and addictions field and writing a thesis for a PhD on young lesbian's health and wellbeing. She is interested in examining and questioning the influence of culture and society on individual choices, thoughts, feelings and behaviours as well as on public health policy and practice.



# New Young Women's Youth Development Project

We are thrilled to announce the launch of the Young Women's Community Development Wellbeing Project in partnership with the Mangere East Community Centre and Roskill South Oasis Hub. Little funding is available for youth projects which focus on women so we were delighted when the Todd Foundation agreed to support this project. Two young women will be employed, one at each Centre, to develop a Young Women's Group to carry out a small youth development project of their choice designed to improve the well-being of local young women.



We are excited to be partnering with the Mangere East Community Centre and Roskill South Oasis Hub, two agencies that are well connected to their local communities. The project will support young women from low-income suburbs to be agents of change to improve the lives of other young women in their communities. We know of no other youth development project in New Zealand that focuses solely on young women (if you are out there, please contact us!) so we have organised a developmental evaluation of the project and hope to share what we learn with the community sector.

## Women's Library

### Recent additions

Thanks to the kindness of several women, we have had heaps of good books donated to the library over the last few months. A year's sub is \$5 for beneficiaries and between \$10 and \$20 for everyone else. If you want a particular book, phone 376 3227 ext 0 to check if it is available. If it is out, when returned, we can hold it for you.

### Amnesty

If you have books that are overdue, we would love to have them back as some have a waiting list. We promise not to give you a hard time. We would just be grateful to shelve them again or to let those on the waiting list know they are available. There is an after-hours returns box in the alcove on the porch.

Come in and have a look at the new and recommended shelf and choose something great to read. As well as being open during the week, **the library is also open on the first Saturday of every month from 11am to 1.30pm**, staffed by a team of wonderful volunteers.

NEW ZEALAND PREMIERE OF  
"VESSEL"

*"A fearless sea captain sails a ship through loopholes in international law, providing abortions on the high seas, and leaving in her wake a network of emboldened activists who trust."*

POST LAND, SHARE LAND, POST MEMBERSHIP

**VESSEL**

Auckland Women's Centre is proud to present

**VESSEL**

Sunday March 22nd, 2015  
7pm for a 7.30pm start  
Capitol Cinema, 610 Dominion Rd, Balmoral  
Tickets \$20 or \$25 with a wine or an ice-cream

To purchase tickets call 376 3227 x 0, email [info@womens.org.nz](mailto:info@womens.org.nz) or purchase direct from the centre. Tickets will also be available from The Women's Bookshop at 105 Ponsonby Road (cash only).

**Building a New Life After Separation**  
with Joan Prairie

**Coping skills to help you reclaim yourself and begin to rebuild your life**

- Self-care and practical aspects of breaking up
- Creating emotional wellbeing
- Dealing with emotional fall-out (jealousy, grief, sadness, anger, etc)

Joan works at the Auckland Women's Centre as an experienced counsellor and one of her specialties is dealing with issues women encounter in separation from relationships.

Auckland Women's Centre Sat 21 March 2015  
4 Wernock St 9.30am-4.00pm, 1 day  
Grey Lynn \$30-\$50 (sliding scale)

Bookings are essential  
[info@womens.org.nz](mailto:info@womens.org.nz)  
376 3227 ext 0  
[www.awc.org.nz](http://www.awc.org.nz)

**Self Esteem and Empowerment**  
with Chris Johannis

*"We are each gifted in a unique and important way. It is our privilege and our adventure to discover our own special light."*  
Mary Dunbar

This workshop will provide opportunities for you to move past those patterns and beliefs that get in the way of living a happy and fulfilling life.

Develop strategies to help you build confidence and be more empowered. Activities and discussion in a safe and supportive environment.

Auckland Women's Centre Saturdays 21 Feb and 28 Feb, 2015  
4 Wernock St 10.00am-3.00pm on both days, 2 days  
Grey Lynn \$50-\$90 sliding scale for both days

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# Gender and sexual politics symposium

Reviewed by Sabrina Muck

Starting the feminist year right! On 28 January, **Sexual Politics Now** hosted the Gender and Sexual Politics Symposium at the University of Auckland. The all-day programme featured both New Zealand and international academics, with presentations focusing on gender and the ethics of pornography, the 'pornified' female body, the wider context of misogyny and rape culture, gendered violence, intersections of race, gender and sexuality, and young people dealing with sexism and feminism.

## New Zealand society ignores the harm done by 'mainstream' porn

This article focuses on Nicola Gavey's introductory presentation, "Gender, power and porn – a New Zealand perspective", which laid the groundwork for the rest of the day. While recognising that pornography includes diverse sub-genres, she explained that the "mainstream" porn watched by many heterosexual men features repeated narratives of male sexual dominance and female submission, together with sexually aggressive and humiliating acts towards women. She argued that within New Zealand, a dominant ethos of liberal tolerance prevails, that allows society to ignore the meanings and implications of this routine, repetitive and harmful gendered dynamic, especially with regards to the consumption of porn by young men and boys.

## Porn seriously influences and informs young men's ideas about sex

Nicola raised the concept of "pouvoir savoir", which means, only having the ability to do something as you are able to make sense of it. Gavey argued that repetitive viewing of mainstream pornography leads to the normalisation of behaviours that degrade women. As a result it seriously influences young men's wider ideas or experiences of what sexual relations between heterosexuals should look like.

## Freedom of choice needs to be viewed in a social context

Is it enough to state that viewing porn is a matter of individual choice and leave it at that? Gavey argued that individuals' rights to freedom of choice and expression have been elevated in ways that move the discussion away from a consideration of the wider social context. Rather, any paradigm of individual choice is flawed if it tolerates and reinforces the sexual mistreatment of women and girls.

## Porn is not the only issue feeding misogyny

Nicola concluded by pointing out that the binary nature of the "pro" and "anti"-porn debate pushes both sides to hyperbolic and emotive statements and the opportunity for true engagement is lost. While it is essential to recognise porn as a legitimate object of critique, it should not be singled out as a "terrible aberration" on moral or ethical grounds while more deep-seated systemic issues concerning misogyny and the mistreatment of women continue to go unexamined.

## The presentations will be on-line

The presentations following on from this were informative and thought-provoking, and the day was very full and very fascinating - complete footage of the presentations will be posted to the project's website ([www.sexualpoliticsnow.org.nz](http://www.sexualpoliticsnow.org.nz)) soon.



# Women and Climate Justice Forum

About one hundred people attended a Women and Climate Change Forum held at the end of last year by the Centre in partnership with Generation Zero. Two young women, Ella Shnapp and Nalini Singh, MCed the forum bringing warmth, inquiry, and inclusivity to the evening. Nalini took the participants' breath away with a stunning piece of slam poetry.

Excellent speeches were delivered by Marama Davidson, spokesperson, Te Wharepora Hou; Yvonne Underhill-Sem, Associate Professor of Development Studies at the University of Auckland; Fala Haulangi, "Queen of Tuvalu"; and Carmen Gravatt, Greenpeace National Campaign Manager.



Each speaker contributed their different expertise and perspective to the topic; Marama spoke of nga wahine Maori attitude of seeing the earth and its people as one and the same and of their ability to generate innovative ideas. Yvonne spoke about the complexity of the different cultural attitudes to women and the land in the Pacific and the climate change projects that recognised these differences. Fala made a heartfelt plea for a halt to climate change before the rising sea levels destroy her homeland and her culture. Carmen spoke of how she enjoyed being a young woman in Greenpeace, the support she had received from other women activists and her belief that women bring hope, imagination and connection to this kaupapa /issue.

## Why Women and Climate Justice?

**1. Women and men contribute differently to the causes of climate change.** The individual carbon footprint is a product of gendered roles, responsibilities and identities.

**2. Women and men are differently affected by climate change.** Due to their socially constructed roles and responsibilities, such as family care, women are more vulnerable to the effects of climate change. For instance extreme weather events caused by climate change are more likely to find children in the care of women than men.

**3. Women and men are differently affected by climates policies and climate change due to socio economic factors.** Climate change has a particularly severe impact on the world's poorest people, 70 percent of whom are women.

**4. Women and men have different attitudes and preferences in terms of responses to climate change.** Women tend to more strongly reject high-risk technologies, such as nuclear power, and to prefer a more holistic approach, including mobilising for change.

Climate justice advocates need to recognize and integrate gender dimensions in order to become more effective and to be respectful of human rights.

## Wise Wahine Speak - Save the Date

This forum was one in a series of diversity forums the Centre is organising in partnership with different community groups, supported by Auckland Council. Our next forum is another Wise Wahine Speak in partnership with Te Wharepora Hou and Living Wage Aotearoa. It will be held on **Wed 25 March**. Stay tuned for details!

## Single Mums!

### Tantrums and Teamwork

#### Single Mum Positive Parenting workshop



Come and get some tips on

- Managing behaviour
- Tantrums
- Effective discipline
- Creating more fun with your kids
- Parenting in a single mum family



Discover some great SKIP parenting strategies in this fun and friendly workshop. Share what works, work on what you want to change, and meet other single mums (we rock!).

This is a supportive group for single mums. Connect, share and hear. We can look at some of the unique challenges and celebrations we have as single parents.



**Free onsite childcare**



**FREE workshop and afternoon tea.**

**5 Weeks: Thursday 5/12/19/26 March and 2 April 2015**



**12.30pm-2.30pm**

**Roskill South Oasis Hub, 56 Glass Road, Mt. Roskill**



Book your place by popping in to see Bronwyn or Vicky at the Hub, ph 620 8079, email [vicky@roskillsouthoasis.org.nz](mailto:vicky@roskillsouthoasis.org.nz) or register with Rochelle at the Auckland Women's Centre, ph 376-3227 ext 203, text 027-460-5632, email [skip@womens.or.nz](mailto:skip@womens.or.nz)

