



SPRING
ISSUE

Auckland Women's Centre QUARTERLY

2017

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Clementine Ford; Courageous and Inspiring Australian Feminist



Courageous and inspiring Australian feminist Clementine Ford on a wintry September evening held a room full of kiwis spellbound with her talk Hate Male.

Dr Pani Farvid, Senior lecturer, Department of Psychology, AUT, acted as MC.

Clementine has a column in Daily Life and is a broadcaster, public speaker and the author of the book *Fight Like a Girl*.

She burst into the Australian spotlight when private, nude pictures of 4000 Adelaide girls and women were stolen and shared on a database. Breakfast television show Sunrise posted an article titled "Girls, when will you learn?"

In response, Clementine stripped part-naked, took a picture and posted it with the words "Get fucked Sunrise" and an explanation of the abhorrence of the programme's victim-blaming.

Men immediately began sending Clementine degrading and dehumanising messages, and the tirade of abuse and threats has not let up since.

She said the most common words used to her are "whore", "slut", "cunt", "bitch" and "fat".

While many women try to survive in public life by ignoring the

abuse and hoping it will stop, Clementine invites recipients to use humour to defuse the words' power.

She showed the audience dozens of vile and threatening messages she has screenshotted.

"I want you to laugh at these men to diminish the power they have in your minds. They are of no importance. They are not relevant to our struggle."

She deals with the old chestnut of feminists hating men by responding that some women do hate men because living in the patriarchy means they have been given very good reasons to do so.

"When people ask me whether I hate men, I say that's the least important part of my feminism. As a matter of fact, I don't hate men... Feminism is not about women hating men. It's about us understanding we don't have to hate ourselves."

She says the insults she receives frequently focus on the physical: calling her fat, drawing attention to her tooth gap and criticising her breasts.

"It doesn't matter that we women are putting forward our intellectual ideas. What matters is whether men want to have sex with us."

Clementine rejects the suggestion she often receives: that she should escape abuse by getting off the internet.

Photos by Nicky Noble Photography: Left to right: Clementine Ford answering a question. Clementine Ford with our volunteer, Jess Tappin

Clementine Ford; Courageous and Inspiring Australian Feminist, continued

"It should never be an obligation of the person being abused to get off or to change her behaviour. It's silly for anyone to say the online world and the offline world are different now. It would be impossible for me to take myself offline and work as a writer."

She says the vileness is the daily backdrop of her life.

"I don't let it defeat me and it doesn't really upset me but it's the daily detritus and rubbish I have to clean up every day."

Major controversy arose when men sent Clementine abusive messages and she referred the comments to their employers, leading to them being fired.

Clearly, it was the men's actions which led to the dismissals. However, Clementine was blamed for the job losses and the men were publicly portrayed as victims.

"When we take action as women to address the abuse we receive, people tell us we're overreacting, people don't mean it, they were just trying to compliment you."

She says women are blamed for being attention seekers if they highlight their passions. And, if they don't want to be bombarded with attention from men when they walk down the street, that is bad as well.

"We are told from a young age we are not able to interpret our experiences properly, that we are not reliable witnesses to our own lives. It's dangerous because it teaches us to doubt our own experiences – we don't know when to be cautious."

Women are told 'don't walk down the street alone', 'don't accept lifts from strangers,' 'don't let men buy you drinks,' 'don't wear short skirts.'

But, at the same time, men known to women tell us "I'm not that man." But what are the men who make this protest doing to end patriarchy's violence?

Clementine ended by saying women should remember we did not have to justify our feminism to men who were seeking arguments rather than genuine conversation. Simply not engaging was a good strategy.

At the end of her talk, she generously answered questions on a wide range of issues, wrapping up a thought-provoking and informative night. ■

Photo by Nicky Noble Photography: Katherine, Pani, Clementine, Mira & Sophie



New Female MPs in Parliament

After the recent election 38% of our MPs are female, up from only 34% before the election.

Below is a list of the female MPs entering Parliament for the first time:

GREENS



Golriz Ghahraman is an Iranian-Kiwi refugee. Her studies at Oxford, and work as a lawyer for the United Nations and in New Zealand, have focused on enforcing human rights and holding governments to account. Golriz has longstanding involvement in refugee and migrant rights activism, and is a prominent member of the Iranian community.



Chloe Swarbrick is 23 and in 2016 ran a high-profile but unsuccessful bid for the Auckland mayoralty. She is the youngest MP to enter Parliament since Marilyn Waring in 1975. She met with Marilyn during the election campaign. Chloe has a law degree and in 2016 she and her partner and a friend opened a small art gallery and coffee shop.

LABOUR



Kiritapu Allan is of Ngāti Ranginui and Ngāti Tūwharetoa descent and worked as an intern for former Prime Minister Helen Clark while at university. Kiri was a commercial lawyer and business consultant, focusing on primary industries as the key to regional development. She was on the board of 350.org and was an executive member of a national kiwifruit growers' association.

LABOUR *continued*

Ginny Andersen contested the Hutt South electorate and entered Parliament on the list. She has worked for the Police, in the Justice sector and at Parliament, including on plans for reducing harms associated with gangs, organised crime and methamphetamine.

Dr Liz Craig lives in Invercargill and has monitored the health of children and young people as a public health doctor for the past decade. She is critical of DHB underfunding and an advocate for improving state housing availability and quality.

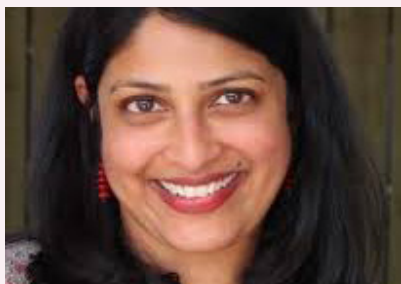
Anahila Kanongata'a-Suisuiki was the Lead Advisor-Care and Tamariki Advocate-Service Design at the Ministry for Vulnerable Children, Oranga Tamariki before entering Parliament. She is a Tongan New Zealander from Hofoa, Niua and Kolovai of Tonga and is married with four children and six grandchildren. She says "Take the phrase 'I don't have the time' out of your life."

Marja Lubeck arrived in Aotearoa in 1989 and is of Dutch, Indonesian and Chinese heritage. She served four terms as president of the Flight Attendant and Related Services Association and was a board member of E tū.



Willow-Jean Prime gave birth to her second child, Heeni, at the start of the campaign and her mother is travelling with her to Parliament to help care for Heeni while Willow-Jean works as an MP. Her priorities for Northland are housing, health, education, growth and environmental responsibility.

Jo-Anne Luxton contested the Rangitata electorate and entered Parliament on the list. She owns and operates the Hinds Early Learning Centre, the first such business in New Zealand to be an accredited Living Wage Employer. She is the great-niece of former Labour Prime Minister Norman Kirk.



Priyanca Radhakrishnan has a Master's degree in Development Studies and worked as a social worker in the Indian community in Auckland. She worked in Auckland Mayor Phil Goff's office when he was an MP.

Deborah Russell ran her own small consulting company and worked as a university lecturer in Aotearoa and in Australia. Her doctoral thesis was on multiculturalism and she is a tax expert and the mother of three teenage daughters.

Jan Tinetti was the principal of Tauranga's only Decile 1 school and has been an advocate nationally for equal educational opportunities. She is passionate about warm, dry, affordable homes, free education and dignity at work.

Angie Warren-Clark has many years' experience working in government, and was the manager of Tauranga Women's Refuge. She was admitted to the Bar in 1998 as a barrister and solicitor of the High Court of New Zealand and also holds a degree in Social Sciences.

NATIONAL



Harete Hipango was the first Māori woman chosen by National to contest a seat it held. She stood in Whanganui but entered Parliament on the list. Harete practised as a lawyer for over 25 years and was a member of the Whanganui DHB and Māori-Land/Farms Incorporation Board.

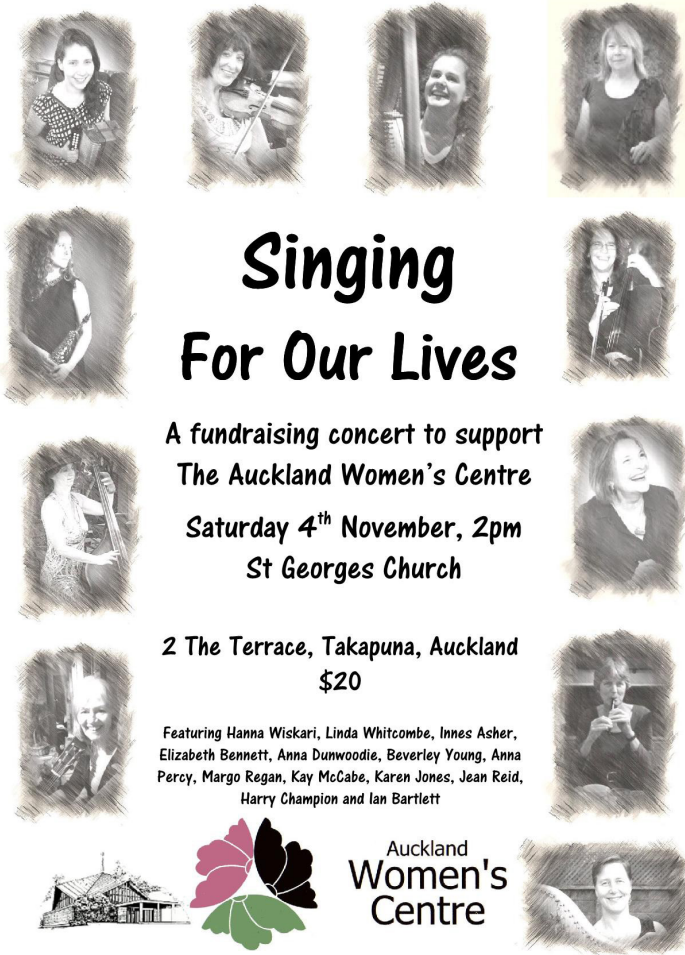
Denise Lee was an Auckland Councillor representing the Maungakiekie-Tamaki ward and won the Maungakiekie seat for National. Politics is in her blood as her father, Graeme Lee, served as the Hauraki MP for 15 years and was a Cabinet Minister under former Prime Minister Jim Bolger.

Erica Stanford won the East Coast Bays seat vacated by long-serving MP Murray McCully. She has lived in the electorate for 35 years and has two daughters. She was the producer of reality television show Noise Control.

NEW ZEALAND FIRST



Jenny Marcroft was a newsreader and worked in broadcasting for over 30 years before entering Parliament. She is one of only two female MPs in New Zealand First's caucus. ■



Singing For Our Lives

**A fundraising concert to support
The Auckland Women's Centre**

**Saturday 4th November, 2pm
St Georges Church**

**2 The Terrace, Takapuna, Auckland
\$20**

Featuring Hanna Wiskari, Linda Whitcombe, Innes Asher,
Elizabeth Bennett, Anna Dunwoodie, Beverley Young, Anna
Percy, Margo Regan, Kay McCabe, Karen Jones, Jean Reid,
Harry Champion and Ian Bartlett



**Auckland
Women's
Centre**

Auckland Women's Centre AGM and Speaker, Betty Siō



Kia ora, Malo e Lelei, Talofa Lava, Bula Vinaka, Kia Orana,
Faka'alofa Lahi Atu, Ni Hao, Namaste, Al Salaam a' alaykum

Date: Friday 1 December

5.30pm: Drinks and nibbles

6.00pm: Light supper

6.45pm: AGM

**7.30pm: Usufonoimanū Pesetā Betty Siō, QSO, BSW
'Preventing Violence in Pacific Communities'**



Usufonoimanū Pesetā Betty Siō
QSO, BSW is the Director of Lalaga
Training & Consultancy providing
expertise on preventing violence in
Pacific communities. Betty was the CEO
of the Pacific Islands Safety and
Prevention Project which she
established in 1983. The Project led the
development of programmes for Pacific
women at a national level and at 13
different locations around the country.

Support the Centre - become a member!

The AGM is only open to members

We would love you to join the Women's Centre. The yearly membership fee ranges from \$5 for beneficiaries and other low income earners; to a sliding scale of between \$20 and \$50 for everyone else, giving you the opportunity to pay what you feel you can afford.

Please RSVP by Friday 24 November, for catering purposes:

Ph: 376 3227 x 0, or info@womensz.org.nz



***Wonderful to see members of the
Mt Albert Grammar Feminist Club
at our fundraising screening of
'Battle of the Sexes'***

Auckland Women's Centre



Contact & Services

Contact us

09 376 3227 x 0
info@womensz.org.nz
www.awc.org.nz

Centre Hours

Monday to Friday
9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Library Hours

Monday to Friday
9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Services

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Women's Support:
free support, info,
advice and referral + Community Education + Community Events + Counselling + LGBTQ support | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Low Cost Massage + Self Defence Classes + Opportunities to talk
and support feminism + Diversity Forums + Support Groups |
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