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-KENSINGTON WOMENS GROUP-

CHILD CARE CO-OPERATIVE LIMITED

89 M^cCracken St, Kensington 3031

Phone - 3767280

This is the first (crushed) edition of the Kensington Women's Group / Child Care Co-operative fortnightly newsletter, in its new format. Previously, we had been producing a weekly bulletin, which included what we were up to, and upcoming events. We have established a volunteer newsletter collective, whose job it is to write up articles, collect relevant information on activities of other groups, produce, collate and distribute the newsletter.

As we have acquired our own printing machine, as time goes on we hope that other community groups will feel free to ask us to print articles and other related info, which they think would be a benefit to the people of Kensington, Nth Melbourne and Flemington.

This issue is the responsibility of the collective, as well as, those who have contributed pieces of writing.

We would hope that this issue would provide scope and room for future suggestions and contributions. If you or your group wishes to contribute anything for future editions, please address your article etc., to The Editor, Kensington Women's Group Newsletter, 89 McCracken St, Kensington 3031.

Deadline for next issue - Tuesday September 25, 1979.

Thankyou to — Lynn Kennett, our Co-ordinator,
for the design of the symbol on the cover.

ON FRIDAY AUGUST 31ST AT SIX O-CLOCK.
THE WOMENS GROUP HELD A DINNER NIGHT
THE ROOM WAS SET UP JUST LIKE A RESTAURANT
WITH TABLE CLOTH, NAPKINS, FLOWER, CANDLES ETC.
AND ALSO SOFT MUSIC. MARG DID ALL THE COOKING
AND DID A VERY GOOD JOB, FOR AN AUSTRALIAN
COOKING GREEK FOOD. WE HAD A FOUR COURSE
MEAL, OF LAMB, FISH, SALAD, VEGETABLES, PLUS DIP
AND GREEK BREAD. AND ALSO THE WINE WHICH
EVERYONE ENJOYED, IT WAS A VERY RELAXED
EVENING, AS THE NIGHT WENT ON SOME DANCE
WHILE WASHING AND WIPING UP AND OTHERS
JUST SAT & CHATTED. WHILE KATHY SHOCKER
US WITH A FEW OLD TALES. THE COST OF
THE NIGHT WAS ~~£2~~ £2-00, WHICH YOU COULDN'T
GET A MEAL FOR THAT PRICE ANY WHERE. THAN
MARG, AND OUR NEXT DINNER WILL BE A CHINESE
MEAL COOKED BY LYNN. SO WE ARE ALL
LOOKING FORWARD TO OUR NEXT DINNER.

GOSSIP KILLS.....

SO DOES SILENCE!

OUR TRIP TO SOVEREIGN HILLS

IT WAS ON THE MORNING OF 3RD SEPTEMBER THAT 12 WOMAN & 21 KIDS WERE TO MEET AT OUR HOUSE IN McCracken St, AT 10.15 AM. WELL, WE HAD MOST EVERYBODY IN THE CARS BUT WAS WAITING FOR 1 MORE DRIVER TO ARRIVE, WELL SOME OF US WOMEN (& I MIGHT ADD ONE GAME GENTLEMAN WAS WITH US) DIDN'T MIND STANDING OUT IN THE HARD COLD RAIN WHEN ALL OF A SUDDEN THERE WAS A ROAR OF APPLAUSE AS OUR LAST DRIVER ARRIVED AT NEARLY 11 O'CLOCK, BUT WHAT THE HECK, BETTER LATE THAN NEVER I SAY. WELL WE WERE OFF ON OUR TRIP TO SOVEREIGN HILLS, THE JOURNEY ITSELF TOOK ONLY 1 HOUR 20 MINS, IT WAS QUITE FUN REALLY AS THERE WAS 1 BUS AND 3 CARS ALL FOLLOWING EACH OTHER, & NOW AND AGAIN ONE OF THE CARS WOULD OVERTAKE ONE OF THE OTHERS AND ALL YOU COULD SEE WAS THE KIDS (& ADULTS) WAVING & POKING FACES AT EACH OTHER AMONG OTHER THINGS TO, BUT IT WAS A VERY GOOD JOURNEY ALL TOLD, NO ONE GOT LOST, THE ONLY CASUALTY WAS POOR MARY WHO GETS TERRIBLE CAR SICKNESS, BUT SOON RECOVERED, AS WE ARRIVED AT OUR JOURNEYS END.

AS SOON AS WE REACHED OUR DESTINATION AS ALL THE KIDS WERE STARVING WE MADE A BEE LINE TO THE EATING AREA AND EVERY BODY UNPACKED

THERE HUNGRY STOMACHS, ALL SATISFIED, EVERYBODY WAS
OF TO EXPLORE. ALL THE KIDS TOOK OFF BY THEMSELVES AS
THERE WAS NO WAY THEY COULD GET LOST, THE YOUNGER ONES
NATURALLY HEADED FOR THE LOLLIE SHOP, THEY WERE NICE TO.
SOME WENT DOWN THE GOLD MINES & THOUGHT IT VERY
INTERESTING, I THINK JUST ABOUT ALL THE KIDS WENT &
PAVED FOR GOLD, BUT NONE OF US MOTHERS GOT RICH I MIGHT
ADD, THEN WE SAW A LADY DOING POTTERY ON THE WHEEL, THEY
HAVE A SPARE WHEEL THERE SO QUITE A FEW KIDS HAD A GO,
& WHAT A MESS, THERE WAS SUCH A LOT TO SEE I COULD GO
ON & ON ABOUT THE SCHOOL HOUSE, THE MINERS TENTS WHERE
THEY SLEPT, ECT. BUT THERE WAS ONE THING THAT CAUGHT MY
EYE, & THAT WAS WHEN SOMIA WAS SHOWING US THIS \$400 RE-
WARD WANTED POSTER & OUT OF NOWHERE THIS BIG POLICEMAN
IN THE 18TH CENTURY UNIFORM WAS LOOKING OVER HER SHOULDER
& HE SAID "RIGHT YOU SHOWED THAT WANTED POSTER AT THE
WRONG TIME, BETTER COME WITH ME TO JAIL, POOR SOMIA, BUT
IT TOOK HER ONLY SECONDS TO FALL INTO THE JOKE. ALL THE
COSTUMES WHAT THE PEOPLE WORE WERE SOMETHING ELSE, THEY
WERE TERRIFIC WELL ALL TIRED BUT VERY HAPPY & IMPRESSED
WITH WHAT WE HAD SEEN THAT DAY WE STARTED OUR JOURNEY
BACK. THANKS TO MARK FOR ORGANIZING IT, AND SPECIAL
THANKS TO THE DRIVERS WHO VOLONTERED THERE FREE TIME
TO TAKE US, IT WAS A VERY MEMORABLE DAY FOR

I AM WRITING A FEW LINES TO LET YOU KNOW

WHAT THE WOMENS GROUP MEANS TO ME. I

CANNOT GET OUT VERY MUCH, AS I HAVE GOT

BAD LEGS, AND LIVING IN THE PENSIONER FLATS

I FIND IT VERY LONELY BECAUSE I HAVE NO FAMILY

OF MY OWN. IF IT WASNT FOR A COUPLE OF THE

GIRLS CALLING IN NOW AND AGAIN FOR TEA, COFFEE

AND A CHAT. I AM ALSO A BIG BUILT WOMAN

AND CANNOT GET CLOTHES TO FIT ME, SOME OF THE

WOMEN FROM THE GROUP HAVE FOUND SOMEONE TO

MAKE SOME FOR ME, WHICH I APPRECIATE VERY MUCH.

FAMILYS

WHAT AN INCREDABLE THING A FAMILY IS. THEY CAN HURT YOU SO

MUCH AND BE UNKIND. BE UNTHINKING-UNFEELING-INSENSITIVE

TO YOU. THEY CRITICISE YOU AND MISUNDERSTAND YOU IN SO

MANY WAYS. AND YET THEY CAN BE SO WARM, LOVING, CARING,

GENTLE, ALL THESE THINGS & MORE. YOU KNOW THEY ARE THERE

WHEN YOU REALLY NEED THEM. THERE TO STAND BY YOU AND

GIVE YOU A HELPING HAND NO MATTER WHAT YOU HAVE

DONE OR NOT DONE. WHAT AN INTRIGUING THING THEY ARE.

WHO WOULD WANT TO BE PART OF A FAMILY ?? I DO, DO YOU.

VICKY COCKBURN

IN THE FOLLOWING NEWSLETTERS, I WILL BE LETTING
YOU KNOW WHAT LYNN, MICHELLE & MYSELF ARE DOING.
THEY CHILDREN ALSO ANY NEWS ABOUT THE CENTRE WHICH
WE FEEL YOU WOULD LIKE TO HEAR ABOUT.
I WILL ALSO TRY TO INCLUDE SMALL ARTICLES RELATING TO
YOUR CHILDRENS DEVELOPMENT AND LEARNING E.G. TOILET
TRAINING, ART, LANGUAGE ETC. AND WOULD WELCOME ANY
OF YOUR OWN IDEAS OR NEEDS. WE HAVE SENT A SUBMISSION
TO THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD COMMITTEE TO ASK
FOR MONEY TO SET UP A TOY LIBRARY, WHICH YOU WILL BE
ABLE TO BORROW DIFFERENT TOYS AND BOOKS ON A WEEKLY BASIS
TO TAKE HOME. ALSO WE HAVE ASKED FOR MONEY FOR A "LISTENING
CENTRE" WHICH INVOLVES A CASSETTE RECORDER AND EAR PHONES
FOR THE CHILDREN TO LISTEN TO DIFFERENT LANGUAGES AND HOPE IF
FINDINGS IS APPROVED, THAT YOU WILL HELP US MAKE TAPES FOR THE
CHILDREN IN YOUR OWN LANGUAGE. THIS WILL NOT ONLY
HELP OUR CHILDREN WHO ARE NEW TO AUSTRALIA, OR ARE LEARNING
ENGLISH, BUT ALSO WILL BE INTERESTING AND VALUABLE FOR ALL
ENGLISH SPEAKING CHILDREN.

JEAN CAMPBELL

CHILDREN'S SERVICES DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

OVER THE PAST MONTHS PEOPLE FROM EACH OF THE CHILD CARE SERVICES IN KENSINGTON AND FLEMINGTON HAVE BEEN MEETING REGULARLY TO DISCUSS THE NEED FOR A CHILDREN'S SERVICES DEVELOPMENT OFFICER FOR THE AREA.

THE KENSINGTON WOMENS GROUP CHILD CARE CO-OP HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THESE MEETINGS AND RECENTLY A SUBMISSION WAS WRITTEN AND SENT TO THE OFFICE OF CHILD CARE. AT PRESENT WE ARE WAITING

TO HEAR WHETHER OR NOT THE FUNDS WILL BE GRANTED. THE

COMMITTEE WHICH HAS BEEN MEETING REGULARLY HAS CALLED ITSELF

THE FLEMINGTON - KENSINGTON CHILDRENS SERVICES COMMITTEE. THE

SUBMISSION HAS BEEN SENT OFF BY THIS COMMITTEE UNDER THE SPONSOR-

SHIP OF THE KENSINGTON AND FLEMINGTON COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE.

IF THE FUNDS ARE GRANTED THE COMMITTEE EXPECTS THAT A CHILDRENS SERVICES DEVELOPMENT OFFICER (C.S.D.O.) WILL BE INVOLVED IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS OF WORK.

(1.) HELPING TO PLAN AND DEVELOP CHILDRENS SERVICES IN KENSINGTON + FLEMINGTON.

(2.) HELPING TO ASSESS THE DEGREE TO WHICH THE EXISTING SERVICES FULFILL THEIR ROLL

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CHILDRENS SERVICES DEVELOPMENT OFFICER.

(3) HELPING TO LINK AND CO-ORDINATE THE VARIOUS SERVICES AND RESOURCES IN THE AREA.

WE SEE THAT A (C.S.D.O.) WORKING IN THE AREA WILL HELP TO OVERCOME SOME OF THE PROBLEMS IN CHILD CARE IN KENSINGTON AND FLEMINGTON. THIS SHOULD MAKE FOR BETTER BACK UP AND SUPPORT FOR THE PEOPLE WORKING IN CHILD CARE AND A BETTER DEAL FOR THE PARENTS + CHILDREN. FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE ASK. (JEAN CAMERON) (MARG WELSH) OR AT KENSINGTON HEALTH CENTRE.

27th JULY 1975

END MY LIFE AVOIDING SITUATIONS, SPEND MY
FEELING NOT TO CONFUSE, SPEND MY MONEY
IN SOME MOCK CREATION, SPENDING MY THOUGHT
ON LONELINESS, WEEP ON, WEEP ON MY LYRIC INVITATION
Oh day, I'M NOT KNOWING WHERE I'M HEADING EACH YEAR
RECURSIVELY THE PROBLEMS OF MY PAST MOMENTS PASS WITH
A BLURRED SPECULATION OF THE DAY WHEN MY LIFE
SEEM SEEM SUCH A FAST. FOOLING FRIENDS FOOLING
MYSELF ABOUT THE TRUTH AND WHO I AM FOOLING MY
FOOLING BY TRYING TO EXCUSE HOPING THAT ONE DAY
WILL ALL PASS. GUILTY ABOUT MY GUILT OF DECEIVING
ABLE TO FACE THE FLAWS IN MY LIFE, DEPRESSED ABOUT
MY SURFACE COOL CREATION CRYING IN THE DARK WONDER-
ING HOW TO CRY. MOMENTS SLIPPING BY A BUSSED
PERFIDIALITY GESTURES PULSATING IN AND OUT
CAUSE A FEEL BY MY DECISION REJECTION. I FEEL
HOW I WISH I COULD SHOUT. DAYS ARE FILLED BY THE
RIVEN OF LIVING CHORES CONSUMING THE NEED FOR TO
THERNESS, GIVING INTO SOME LOUSY FAILING GIVING
NOT KNOWING THE PERSONAL COST, SLEEP ON, SLEEP
ON MY ANGEL OF WISDOM, THOUGHTS ARE TOO CRUEL TO
REVEAL, HIDDEN COVERED BY FALSE PACIFICATION YOU
LIFE IS NOTHING BUT A LYRIC INVITATION.



Section ①.

THE KENSINGTON W.G. DROP-IN CENTRE, EXISTS, SIMPLY, BECAUSE THERE REMAINS AN EVER EXPANDING & OBVIOUS NEED TO PROVIDE A SERVICE THAT IS ORIENTATED TOWARDS BUILDING PERSONAL FRIENDSHIPS, AND FAMILY, SOCIAL ACCESS TO INFORMATION RELATED TO AREAS THAT ARE VITAL TO OUR EXISTENCE AND SURVIVAL AS HUMAN BEINGS AS WELL AS BUILDING UP OUR AWARENESS OF OUR COMMUNITY. THAT WE ARE PRESENTED & UNDERSTAND ALTERNATIVES TO OUR CURRENT SITUATION THAT OFTEN PROVES DIFFICULT & TRAUMATIC E.G. HOME MANAGEMENT, EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION & THROUGH SHARING SKILLS & PERSONAL SUPPORT, THAT WE STRIVE TOWARDS HELPING OURSELVES, WHILE OFFERING THIS SAME OPPORTUNITY TO OTHERS IN SIMILAR SITUATIONS, THAT THROUGH OUR INVOLVEMENT & SHARED RESPONSIBILITY, WE BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND OUR INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS & AWARENESS AS HUMAN BEINGS, AND NOT BE DEFEATED BY THINGS WE DONT UNDERSTAND OR HAVE HAD KNOWLEDGE ABOUT IN THE PAST. BASICALLY WE MAINTAIN THAT OUR SERVICE AIMES TO PROVIDE A POSITIVE & DEVELOPING APPROACH TOWARDS CERTAIN WAYS OF LIVING THAT HAVE IN THE PAST CRUSHED & NEGATED OUR RESPONSABILITIES & FAMILY LIFE. OUR ^{FUTURE} AS A SERVICE CANNOT BE PIN POINTED OR DESCRIBED IN EXPLICIT DETAIL, AS WE OPERATE FLEXIBLY, ACCORDING TO CHANGING NEEDS & DEMANDS IN RESPECT TO THE LEVEL OF INVOLVEMENT. HOWEVER WE CAN BE EXPLICIT ABOUT THE FACT, THAT WE BELIEVE THAT THERE WILL ALWAYS REMAIN A NEED FOR SUCH A SERVICE AS LONG AS MANY OF US REMAIN ISOLATED & DEPENDANT (E.G. RECEIVING PENSION BENEFITS, UNEMPLOYMENT,) BUT DESPITE OUR SOCIAL & ECONOMIC SITUATIONS ARE IN THIS SITUATION)

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WE MAINTAIN THAT OUR SERVICE PROVIDES A BASIC HUMAN NEEDS & RIGHT ALONG WITH OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL PEOPLE TO HAVE THE OPTION TO RESPONSIBLY CONTRIBUTE & FURTHER OUR CENTRE, VIA, SHARING KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS AND SIMPLY JOINING IN. DAILY WE ARE DEVELOPING OUR SERVICE, WHETHER IT BE, DISCUSSIONS, OUTINGS, MEETING IN SMALL GROUPS IN OUR OWN HOMES, STOPPING TO CHAT TO OUR NEIBOURS OR WHATEVER.

THE K-W-G-D-I-C, AS WE FEEL AND BELIEVE IS BECOMING A STRONG & VIATLE SERVICE, OPEN TO ALL PEOPLE IN & AROUND KEN. WE HOPE THAT EVERYONE, WISHING TO JOIN IN OR CONTRIBUTE ON ANY LEVEL WILL FEEL FREE TO DO SO.

Sept. 12th - 10.30 Women's Group Discussion.

1.30 p.m. Newsletter Collective Meeting.

13th - Shopping to markets 10-12.30 - all welcome to come and shop cheaply. Drop-In-Centre open 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

14th - Drop-In-Centre open 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Parents dinner 6 p.m. → all welcome.

17th - Drop-In-Centre open 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Typing 10 a.m. - 12 noon.

18th - "Tennis" - meet at house at 10 a.m. Lunch together afterwards at house.

Bookkeeping 10 a.m. - 12 noon.

19th - Women's Group Discussion 10.30 →

Newsletter Collective Meeting 1 p.m.

20th - Discussion on "Having teenage children" 11 a.m.

10.30 a.m. Sewing class.

21st - Drop-In-Centre Open 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

22nd - Party at 205 Cold St, Clifton Hill - welcome back Gail, farewell Vicky. Transport provided - leaving from house at McCracken St, at 7 p.m.

24th - Drop-In-Centre open 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Typing 10 - 12 noon.

25th - Tennis as usual. Bookkeeping 10 - 12 noon.

26th - Women's Group Discussion 10.30 →

Newsletter Collective Meeting 1 p.m.

27th - SHOW DAY: Family B-B-Q 12 noon → BYO everything

28th - Shopping 10-12.30

Chinese dinner 6 p.m. on \$4 per head, BYO drink

Sec. (2)

DO YOU CARE?



Do you care that I'm going off my head because my money has run out 3 days before the next pension cheque is due?

Do you care that I feel, I need a Valium or two during the day to see the night fall?

Do you care that my kid has been missing for 5 nights and 6 days, and I don't know where to find him?

Do you care that I can't get off the booze, that I need it's thrill, it's violence, it's awful stink.

Do you care that I don't know what to do when

I'm threatened with eviction at 5 p.m. on Friday evening?

Do you care that I feel like killing my kid almost every night

not because I want to kill her, but because I can't handle

having to be mother, father, educator, cleaner, cook,

friend, understander, recreational officer, law enforcer,

24 hrs to 15 a day, and yeah, on it goes?

Do you care that my self-opinion has gotten so damn

low that I can't see clear skys or breath fresh air any longer?

It may seem to you, that, I am a no-hoper. I've coped that statement all my life since I was crawling.

Or, maybe, you think I don't want to help myself,

or that I can't really force myself to do what I can

(S) 22
Well, I've got news for you. We all have our problems, traumas, heartaches. It's just that they are on different levels, at different degrees. I need the knowledge of your experiences & you need mine. Right so let's! Cut all the ideological ~~gag~~ crap, let's stop saying oh, god here we go again & get on with it, & and decide realistically, if we do care.

To all people reading our very first Newsletter don't despair at all our sloppy mistakes after all it is our first try, & after all none of ~~us~~ are perfect, but don't worry we will get better as we find along. Happy Reading folks

This Article Sorry one more mistake.

These Articles were contributed by

Val, Martin	Seda Corbett
Bev Green	Lynn Kenneth
Edith Coffee	Beryl McIntyre
Maureen Pagan	Nicky Cockburn
Theresa Wickmester	Randell Kent
& the runner of us.	

Mass Walsh