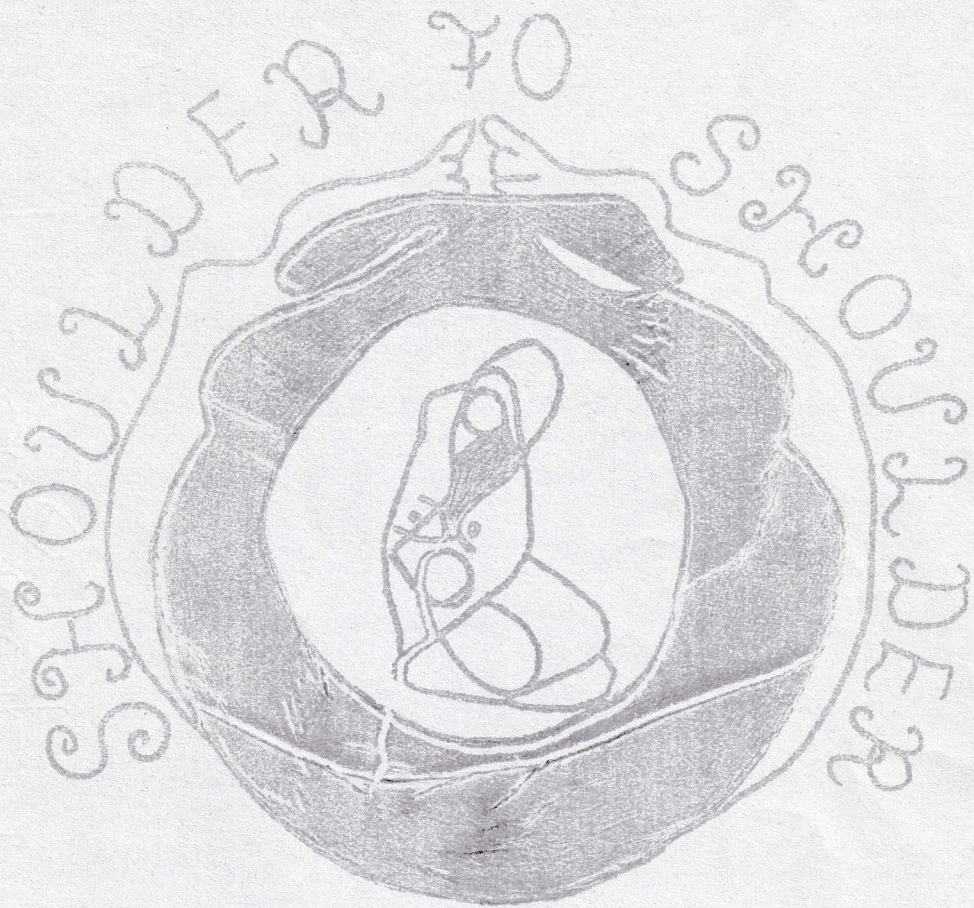


KENSINGTON WOMENS GROUP



NEWSLETTER

CHILD CARE CO-OPERATIVE
89 M'CRACKEN ST. KEN
PHONE: 376 72 80

EDITORIAL

It is now 12 months since we employed our outreach worker, and we thought we should write a little about her and the difficult job she does, by way of recognition and thanks.

We are very lucky to have Marg Welsh working for the Kensington Womens Group, she is a very dedicated worker and really believes in what she is doing.

It is by no means an easy job, indeed its a very demanding and exhausting one - simply in terms of time, Marg spends much of her out of work hours doing things for the Group were she paid for all those extra hours she puts in, shed be earning a fortune!

We feel that not only the Womens Group but the Kensington Community at large has gained a great deal in Marg Welsh.

"Outreach worker" doesn't really explain much, no does its generally understood meaning sufficiently describe the work Marg actually does.

Marg organizes the social & recreational activities of the Womens Group, which vary greatly, from painting, pottery and market stalls to shopping, Bingo and camping; does much of and aids others in the administration and paperwork of which there is a lot; she is an activating and encourag-

EDITORIAL ...

ing force behind the various committees that run the Group; does much to bring the mothers and children of different families together to once again share and support one another, and foster growth both within and between these families; has worked to build the self esteem of many women, to enable them to approach their lives with fresh enthusiasm and confidence, and realize the power they have to change their lives for the better; has brought the staff in the home closer together, enabling it to function better and realize shared goals.

Hence, we hope you might better appreciate the nature of Marg's work and understand why it extends far beyond the notion of "Professional"

Marg has become a supporter, an understander & a friend to the women in the Kensington Women's Group.

With the help of Marg, the Women's Group has developed and achieved much over the last 12 months. However we need to realize that much more may be done and that achievement is date are part only of a whole process that will continue indefinitely. Our needs, as individuals, American, workers, pensioners have gained recognition and help from the Women's Group, and as our needs continue to grow, the Group

Finally, to draw attention to the event of the
year. On October the 3rd at 2.15 p.m.
the Hon. Dame Senator Margaret Quillfoyle will
be officially launching our special edition
of "Shoulder to Shoulder".

The magazine is a compilation of letters,
stories, articles and poems from all former
editions, with the addition of a number of
retrospective articles written especially to
commemorate the establishment and development of
the Citizens Group.

This is an important day for us,
and all are invited to join in the celebrating.

Andrea Mawson.

An Open Letter to Mum

Melbourne 22.9.80

Dear Mum,

Good news! My six weeks of job hunting are over. No I didn't make it into the "Collins Street set" (like Edward) as I thought I might (I don't think they wanted me) but have returned to the job I apparently seem to know best — you guessed it — child care.

Some how I haven't been able to get away from working with kids which is probably just as well. Remember my last attempt at office life — I spent most of the time in the cafeteria eating or in the toilet trying to ward off the boredom. At least I can now happily forget about thoughts of "dressing up" for work and one hour lunches.

My job is officially entitled Child Care Coordinator and my employers are the Kensington Women's Group and Child Care Co-operative. They own what's called a Neighbourhood House (something which I can't remember ever seeing in New Zealand) and part of its activity is the provision of childcare for up to 15 kids aged 2-5 years. That's the part that I'm mostly involved in but there

is another side to "The House" (which is what everyone calls it) that makes my job just that little bit more than merely child care (as I knew it). In fact because of it I don't think of my work as just another job but as an involvement with people. I no longer go to work — I go to "The House" and in that sense it bears no resemblance to what you would think of as "normal" work. Sure there is an office in the house — but it doesn't look like one. Naturally I have working hours (10am - 6pm) but they are not entirely inflexible.

You wouldn't think Kensington was only about 2 miles from the city centre. In many respects it has much of the atmosphere of a country town like Kakatahi² — we went to a Bush Dance there a few weeks ago in the local Town Hall — people of all ages were there and to me it appeared that everyone seemed to know everyone else. But it also reveals many of the problems of big city life, such as financial hardships and loneliness. These are things I have never really had to experience for myself, thanks to my lovely sheltered upbringing at 5 Beecham Grove.² So you can imagine I have had to do a lot of listening as well as rethinking of my own values.

Well as for the people at 89 McCracken Street! Don't I comment — they might deny me the pleasure of changing nappies for a week. At first they must have wondered what the hell had arrived. Someone who

didn't know where Moonee Ponds is and talks about
cell calls, eh? Now I feel very much a part of the
team and in many respects I too experience the benefits
that the house offers to the women who live in the area,
particularly coming to Melbourne only 4 months ago and
not knowing anyone here.

The other day when all the children were asleep (thank
heavens) we were talking about what we would do if we won
lots of money. Some would buy houses, cars, farms, stoves and take holidays,
but interestingly most of the buying had something in it for the house.
Jenny said to me, "you would go home to New Zealand." Would I?
Yes probably as deep down that's where my closest ties are. But
still it would be difficult to leave behind what I have begun to
discover in this 'strange' little community of Kensington.

Will write again soon.

Love Debbie

1 Kakatahi - small one-horse NZ country town 150 miles north
of Wellington - a place I frequently go to for
holidays.

2. Where I grew up.

Two Kids Ideas of the Doxa Camp

On the 25th of August we went on a camp to Malmsbury (DOXA). First we a train from Ferrington station to Spencer Street, then we caught our second train to Malmsbury. When we arrived at the camp we got our luggage out from the boot of the bus. We went and found our huts, made our beds, then went into the dining room. We had fun on the camp. We met a little girl named Deanne, she was seven years old. The four boys who came from Ferrington kept throwing stones on the roof of our hut. They got caught one night and got into trouble. The camp was fun and exciting. Once when we were walking in the bush we saw a few kangaroos hopping around. Another time we found a dead kangaroo. Suzie Mills went down and gave the kangaroo a funeral. My friend Donna and I were laughing our heads off. Then we went on outings and went back to the camp. On the night before we came home, we had a disco, it was great! There were prizes for the best dancers. I didn't win a prize because I was too good for the others. The next day we packed our gear and set off for our homes. I will never forget that camp.

We went away for the September holidays. We went with my Mum and the Women's Group. It was good to get away from the flats. It took a long time to get there on the train but we had good fun. It was good at Doxa. I shared a hut with my friend and my sister and her friend. We played lots of games and we had a disco. We went to

Benelgo for the day and we saw Spaldhurst
man, it was like being in the olden days.
man was looking for gold, but he didn't
find any. Another man came with a gun and
told him not to look for gold or he would
go to jail, but he didn't. Then we left and
went to Benelgo, and then back to Doxa.
We were at Doxa for six days and then we
went home. I would like to go back to Doxa.



A Tale of Woe

The Doxa Camp - from MY point of view:-
 "I became a slave, serving tea and toast and move hot tea to the 2 big M's - Strawberry (for the last 2 days) and Chocdate (after the first day). Get me this and get me that, and they both sat + sat + sat. They both grew fat. On chips + peas - and bad meat - frozen toast, lollies, chocdates and grog. Two lots of googly eyes sweetly, innocently repeating - I'm tired, I'm tired, my bones are wired - Outreach worker over there come over here we need your care - and service.

Big M

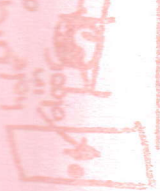
Strawberry BEFORE



AFTER



Big M Chocolate
hold one eye open all night



Well, I weighed it up - and thought about their states of mind, frayed nerves and cheek! And my sore arms from all the twisting!! They played a game - in the early mornings - 11-30 am. Marg - get me a cuppa please, says Chocdate, then follows Strawberry - Oh leave her she's tired too - and I fell into their trap - cause they were so nice and understanding - tea and toast and

more hot tea - they dozed and snored
and Strawberry kept an eye on the hole
in the door all night. Chocolate drifted
into sleep Z's ~ Z's ~ nasal snores and
clucking of the tongue. Our hut grew to
be a pig sty but the younger girls
cleaned it up - we had to buy them
lollies. But we didn't care.

Strawberry had to go to the lo in the
night - and often stood at the door
trying to work out whether or not the
rubbish bin was a human being or a
wild dog. Chocolate always got up and
went with her - and they talked and
woke me up. But, I was polite. I washed
their clothes and sang them to sleep
they were good to me and one day let
me go to bed early (12 midnight).

The 2 big M's are back in Ken now.
They both really well and rested. When
we arrived at Ken station I had to
trek 10 miles to get the car to drive
them to the flats, because they were
tired from the journey.

Strawberry and Chocolate
with googly eyes
lived on chips, peas + pies
Went to Doxa tired and slim
Came back fat, bossy + drinking gin.
But we love them.

arg-
the
golden



d do
anything
for anyone

arg at
the end
of the
camp



d do
anything for anyone

Remembering School Days.

I entered boarding school for girls at the age of 11 years. We all had different chores to do. There was 12 in each Dormitory I was in Green Dorm. We had a school right down the Backyard 3 rooms for all of us which was 73 Girls. We lived in a big old fashioned two story home. We had a lovely Garden and lovely big trees. We had our own Swimming Pool. We had our own recreation room which we had Gym once a week. We had to scrub our Gym room out once a week. We used to go to Camp every year and we slept in tents. We got Special marks for the best kept tent, We went to Parkdale near the beach for our holidays. One day we had snow we were all excited about it because none of us had ever seen snow before.

Remembering School Days.

It was really a day we never forgot, I stayed there until I was old enough to leave school and then I was Re-United with my Parents I met quite a lot of Friends which I have met. Since I left Boarding school which was like a Re-Union because you think you will never see the girls again. But it is a small World isn't it.
Edith Coffey.

If a bean is a Bean?
What is a pea
at Relief. =



THE HOUSE OF GHOSTS

There were a family of Jones' Henry & Helen Jones and their two children, William and Anita they had a chance to take a holiday so they drove to Shiver Trees Inn as later on you will find out why as you read on if you please. As they prepared for their long drive, the normal routine of things such as sheets and all that sort of things they started on their way from Parkville Drive to their destination Shiver-Trees Inn when they arrived there it was dark the wind was blowing it sure looked spooky and true so with name being Shiver-Trees Inn they were supposed to go to 10 Shiver-Trees but they

went to 13 as it was dark they could not see the numbers as one thing they neglected to bring was a light of some sort kind by the way the township people had moved out of the town because of the ghosts' and the tricks they played on them. The Jones family said it was too late to unpack so they would leave them till the morning. Through the night there were strange sounds' and things moving about on their own the people on their beds had a pain as it was playing all by itself. The children by this time were scared they asked their parents could they sleep in their room till the morning. In the morning the family arose to find their breakfast had been cooked the table set but not one of the family had done it they could not understand it at all. Then they went to get their luggage from the car much to their amazement it was gone so they said they would go up to the house first to see if they are up there, when they got there the-

Luggage was there, at the house. They prepared to unpack their clothes so they could get settled in for the rest of their holidays. By the time night came around it was awfully quiet or that's what the Jones family thought. They were all ready to go to bed all of a sudden the light went off and on off on on the wind blew through the window and in the dark there was this light ghostly shape standing by the window it was coming towards Henry Helen and the children it said to them to go while they were lucky or their will be danger to them it said to them I am warning you as a friend would, but if you stay, there is nothing I can do to stop what ever happens to you. That night as the family was sleeping they were awakened by a strange sound but they didn't go out of their rooms they kept very quiet didn't make a sound. Through the night as they lay in their beds they could hear sounds like a wolf's cry but they couldn't sleep so they went down stairs towards the lounge -

to investigate the sounds they could hear, as they got closer towards the stairs it was more like a King's cry and they got to the bottom of the stairs they could see a ghostly figure with a knife in her hand stabbing the baby and laughing as she does it.

Then came morning everyone was pleased for morning to come. After their horrible ordeal, they decided to have a picnic seeing it was such a nice day so they went to the countryside. So got a chance to see some of the countryside before they head back to Barville. Dave the next day or so, as he had to come back sooner than was expected. Through a phone call he received the day before. That night as they were going to bed they could hear screaming then they could see the lights shades swinging side to side lights going on and off "ghostly figures" moving around and all of a sudden they all began to move towards us and we went running out toward the front of the house the children were really scared.

Children Services Development Officer

Over the last couple of months we have welcomed Bev Long to the area as our new C.S.D.O. As many of you will remember, Save the Children Fund, who administered our community funds for school holiday programmes plus operated an after-school club, left the area in January.

The School Holiday funds have dwindled but at the same time we all worked very hard to see that what we did have went around. Both McCracken St. & Robertson St. benefited this sharing arrangement of staff for school holiday times, the Holy Rosary school helped out with finances. The staff either walked or bused around to McCracken & Robertson St. picking up children for day or ½ day trips.

Early last year we started to talk about the great need for services for school-age children and a community submission was laboured over for many months with the help of Jenny Adams from Community Child Care. This submission is now going through the necessary channels.

Everybody working with children in this area wishes Bev good luck, and we all look forward to working with her.

REVERSED ROLLS.

Listed as 3 L.O. the other day, I realised that fathers who stay at home to care for their children are no longer just a few. The subject of a radio program was how many do it? and why?. The majority of callers offered diverse reasons such as house repairs, holidays and unemployment but as a house-father myself I knew that we all have one thing in common to deal with the ding-dongs who want accept the real reason which is that WE WANT TO!

It has never been a joy to go out regularly and earn a living for a family that we only see in the evenings and weekends. The advantage of mobility soon wanes and anyway such regular travel habits are not the goal. So I contracted with my wife to stay at home for a year so she found any employment she wanted. I would be in charge of most household duties and look after our three year old daughter. When I say most household duties it is to be accepted that most of the finer duties were beyond my abilities just as I did not expect my wife to assume responsibility for car maintenance or gardening. Anyway we more or less reversed roles and things progressed quite well.

There are, however, precious little facilities for fathers when it comes to children. Mothers might take rest rooms for granted but when changing a nappy with your child laid over the seat in a male toilet. Especially while she is chattering excitedly and loudly to the people with 'hairs' outside!

CAPRICORN

ROMANCE MAY TEMPT YOU TO ... OUT OF CHARACTER, SO WATCH OUT. SIGN A CONTRACT OVER LUNCH ON WEDNESDAY. LUCKY NO. 7. LUCKY COLOUR RED.

AQUARIUS

A FAMILY MEMBER MAY BECOME ILL, YOU WILL MOST LIKELY HAVE TO PLAY DR. OR NURSE. TAKE CARE WITH FINANCES THIS WEEK.

PISCES

BE CAREFUL WITH HOT WATER THIS WEEK, THE LETTER (J) COULD HAVE A BAD INFLUENCE ON YOU THIS THURSDAY.

ARIES

GET AWAY AND ENJOY YOURSELF THIS WEEK. END. YOU COULD MEET YOUR BELOVED IF YOU WORK AT IT.

TAURUS

YOU ARE IN A COMPLAINTING MOOD AT THE MOMENT FROM YOUR SHAGGY

STARS OF THE MONTH

GEMINI

HOME AND FAMILY KEEP YOU BUSY THIS WEEK. A TRAVEL

CANCER

LONG DISTANCE TRAVEL IS IN THE AIR, SO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IT. GOOD POINTING NUMBERS ARE 5 + 11.

LEO

YOU ARE IN A GENEROUS MOOD. JUST DON'T LEND TOO MUCH MONEY YOU COULD BE SORRY. STRANGE THINGS COULD HAPPEN ON

VIRGO

THERE COULD BE A PERSONALITY CLASH ON WEDNESDAY AT SCHOOL OR WORK. SAY YES TO AN INVITATION.

LIBRA

A NOTHER MOODY PERSON, JUST TAKE A LOOK AT TAURIANS THIS WEEK THAT SHOULD MAKE YOU

SCORPIO

LIVEN UP. MOST SCORPIONS LIKE CAPRICORNIANS FEEL A LITTLE UNSETTLED THIS WEEK.

SAGITTARIUS

DON'T WORRY, LADY. LUCK IS NEAR. BE PREPARED TO SAY HELLO + GOODBYE TO SOME ONE SPECIAL THIS WEEK. SOMEONE WITH THE



ANNOUNCING
AN EVENT

NOT TO BE

MISS

IC CEL

ALL ARE WELCOME TO
ATTEND THE LAUNCHING OF OUR
SPECIAL EDITION OF 'SHOULDER TO

SHOULDER. THE HON. DAME

EDITOR MARGARET GUILFOYLE

WILL OFFICIALLY LAUNCH THE MAGAZINE.

WHEN? Friday, 3rd October

2.15 p.m.

AT?

80 McCracken St. Kensington