

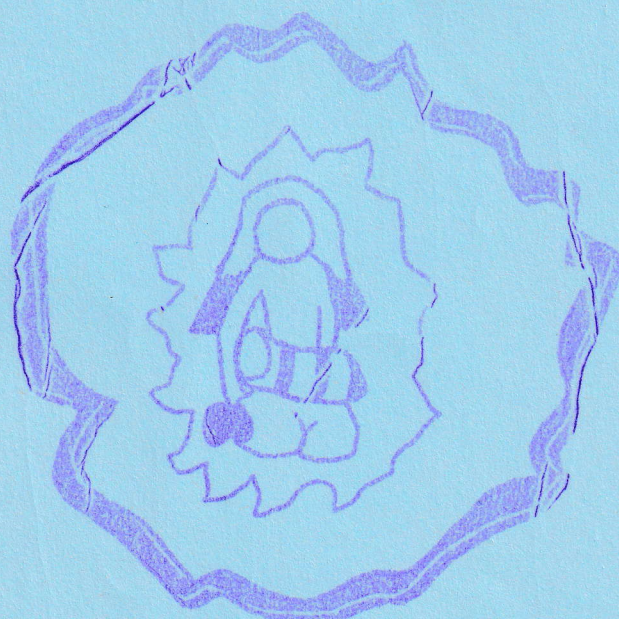
Kensington

Women's Group

Newsletter.

to

Shoulder



Shoulder

Child Care Co-op. Ltd.

89 McCracken St. Kensington

No. 30 June, 1982

Ph. 376-7280

Women don't receive basic human rights. Much of the work done by women such as housework and child care are both unrecognised.

Women should stand up and demand:—

- i) A fair wage for their labour
- ii) The right to make decisions about their own bodies
- iii) The right to freedom from physical and mental assault.

The United Nations stated in a report on the distribution of wealth and labour, that whilst women performed two-thirds of the world's work, they received only ten percent of wealth and owned one hundredth of the property.

In 1901, women won the right to vote and to stand for election, but 81 years later they are denied equal representation.

Women have excessive work loads, without relief and often are forced into economic dependence. They are the most frequent victims of domestic and social violence.

60% of women are in the paid work force.

$\frac{2}{3}$ of the female workforce is married.

40% of working women have children under 12 years old..... however federal funding

for child care services had been cut, by approximately 50% in real terms since 1975. Women everywhere are being economically, politically and socially penalized.

For many, this leads to a over-dependence on welfare services.

The situation, whereby women are unable to attain adequate work relief, a fair wage for their labour and ^{have} no awareness of the avenues open to them to challenge the discrimination, amounts to slavery - economic, social and political.

R. Kelly.

"PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT"

This old adage was borne witness to recently, when a group of women attended a play which adopted this wise saying as its title. The play, a dialogue between two women, one from Greece and the other from Vietnam, examined their position in Australian society; the trials, tribulations and identity crises they encounter.

"Practice Makes Perfect" can be applied to the work they were performing as part of an assembly line in a clothing factory as well as to the successful functioning of human relationships.

The play portrayed, in a most entertaining manner, the need for tolerance, understanding and compassion in this multi-cultural society.

From a personal point of view I felt the play presented an opportunity

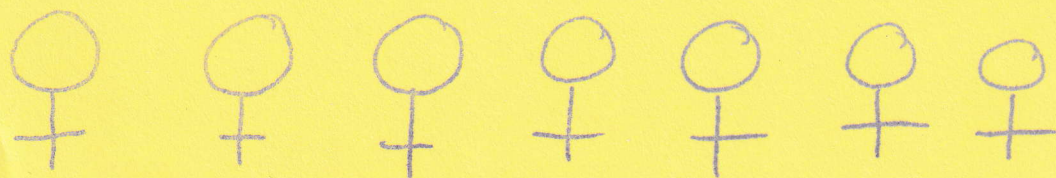
to empathize totally with the problems experienced by people of cultural backgrounds vastly different from the society in which they find themselves residing.

I feel that my perception of the situation was greatly enriched and my tolerance enhanced. I trust that all who were audience members gained similar positive benefits.

May we as members of the Kensington Women's Group share many more such delightful dramatic experiences.

Let's hear it for live theatre !!

Sheryl



Doxa 1982

May 17-5-82
- 21-5-82

p/1

By Rita

Doxa, Doxa, Doxa, I have heard it so many times during my association with the Women's Group. I have seen lots of photos of Doxa Camps around the Women's Group Room so I quite anticipated to see Doxa and try out a bit of camping - country style.

There was Mary King, Brenda, Carmel Maureen, Christine, myself and a few of the Children from Kensington and some people and children from Flemington joined us.

On the Monday all ~~except~~ except Maureen and Kerry (who went ahead in a car) of us got on the train from Kensington station to Spencer St Station where we boarded a country train. The Western suburbs just passed by. ✓

On arrival at Malmesbury the Doxa Youth Camp bus was there to pick us up. John the driver and boss packed our gear in the bus boot and so we all got on the bus. Of-course the teenagers with their pop music cassette shouted their observation of the slide-like roads. I thought it most unusual.

It was roast chicken and chips and salad that night. Tuesday morning we got on ~~for~~

DOXA CAMP

P/2 By Rita.

MAY 17-5-82

21-5-82

The bus and travelled the country-side till we got to Bendigo. Nearly there was a park and we got out these large plastic containers and ate the varied sandwiches and cordial which had been prepared for us. I noticed when on the bus nearly Bendigo, this huge church, one which the locals are proud of as it appears as a landmark on their postcards. Their youth hostels is so large and intricately built in the gothic and colonial styles, - you know very old-fashioned. We also went to the Bendigo Deborah mine field (a 19th century gold field). We didn't stay ~~there~~ long there and there was such an awful smell of rotten egg-gas. On our way back we strolled around these lakes, such a serene garden. At night back at Doxa we played Poker, 'Knitting', read and warmed our selves by the fire.

On Wednesday a day group arrived at Doxa, Phyll at the wheel. Out came Vicky, her daughter Danielle, Kathy G., Edith, Ruby and my two children Martin and Ted. We had a barbeque lunch of chops, sausages and salad, and the visiting group enjoyed sponge cake with cream and coffee and tea. That evening the teenagers and young children ~~organized~~ ^{organized} a rock concert they made out they were pop-stars, singing such tunes like "Let's get physical, O Mickey and so on. --- They were good but they practised a

DOXA CAMP

p/2. BY RITA

MAY 17-5-82
21-5-82

Got in the gym too. Maureen had a great idea! She wrapped some potatoes in foil and put them on the fire and we toasted some marshmallows. They were delicious the potatoes.

On the Thursday we went for a hike 1/2 hour ahead of the bus to Vaughn Springs. Maureen thought it was a good idea for everyone to eat an apple along the way. Mary King throws away her apple core. I say "Mary that might grow into an apple tree. You never know. Soon the bus goes past us the stops and we hop aboard. It was odd that day and Vaughn Springs was beautiful. We lit a fire and cooked lilly-tea and ate rolls of straw and chicken. Some of us filled bottles with mineral water and the children liked the surrounding hills and slid down a giant slide and Chris and I strolled Kelly around the small caravan site near by.

Mostly I remember the bush trail hike we took on Wednesday morning. It was so interesting though dangerous as we climbed rock to rock, from post to post. We saw a horizontally-growing tree, learned the difference between Moss and Lichen, a green plant growing on the trunk of the tree which is called "Old man's beard" a well suited name. Further along the way we listened to the river and birds. We looked for seed boxes and large nest and a deposit of quartz stones and slate.

A wrong footing and it would have been a dangerous Journey.

The End.

We arrived at Dora, Monday afternoon. We all went into the hall and the manager came and spoke to us about the rules of the camp. The Do's and Don'ts. The kids were so excited it took them a long time to settle down. Next day we all went to Bendigo. We stopped for a picnic in the gardens. Then we went to a gold mining town. On the way back we stopped in Castlemaine to do some shopping. We got back to camp, had our tea, then the girls put on a concert, which we enjoyed very much. For a surprise the WOMEN'S TRIO - MAUREEN FAGAN, MARY KING AND MYSELF - We came on and did THE BIRD DANCE. We all had a good night. The next day we all went on a picnic, it was so cold. We were glad to get back to camp. Don't get me wrong we enjoyed ourselves very much. That night we put on a disco for the kids which they enjoyed very much. Jeff and the women did also. Prizes were given out for the best kept cabin, for the dance and also for the best child. By the way Phyl came up with some of the Women's Group for a day out. I am looking forward to the next camp.

DRIVING LESSONS

"I'm in my late '40's and found myself sitting at home, becoming more dependent on my daughter to take me anywhere. When I heard about the Learn to Drive programme at the Women's House. I thought I would have a go and try to save up for a little bomb.

The big day came for our first lesson. I was so nervous and really glad Maureen was with me. I told Mau to go first. She was more game than me. It was alright while she was driving.

The instructor seemed to be saying so much at once. But he was always cool, never losing his temper. Bob was always nice.

My turn, my God!! There I was behind the wheel of a car, feeling so awful. I just crawled along. So much to do at once. Turning I veered up on the plantation. Shit!! Off again quickly. No harm done. I beg your pardon Bob. "Don't worry, I've heard a lot worse than that before."

After the lesson we invited Bob into the Women's House for a cuppa. We thought he needed one after our efforts!!

Time for the second lesson and Maureen can't make it! I got all flustered. I just couldn't think and do you think I could get those blinking gears to work.

By the third and fourth lesson I was feeling better. I've got the feeling I'll be able to drive eventually and after that nothing will hold me back! "

CARMEL

P.S. Interested in learning to drive?
There's room on the Women's Group
programme for you.

See Phyl at the House for
details.

Open Letter

Mr N. Tresize, M.P.
Minister of Youth, Sport + Recreation,
24th floor,
Marland House,
570 Bourke St,
Melbourne, 3001

Ms P. Toner M.P.
Minister of Community Welfare
55 Swanston St,
Melbourne, 3001

21st June, 1982

Dear Sir & Madam,

Over the years we have had T.V commercials of Norm and "Life Be In It". The Normas, Mabels, Benjels and their children have to me seem to be forgotten or discriminated against by Youth, Sport and Recreation. Our group the Kensington Women's Group Drop-In Centre until this year had been funded from FACS grants, along with other agencies providing programmes for families.

All I see Youth, Sport and Recreation advertising is its Youth Holiday Activities and an oldies bike day. Where are the programmes for assisting family camping initiatives for people on low incomes?

Our camping committee organized an Easter weekend camp to Murrumbidgee for eight teenage boys, five girls and four women. They ran a special effort to raise money to provide transport to the camp. The camp cost was only

\$5 a head, but when Mum and three children go this is \$20. A lot out of a pension for one long weekend. But as cheap and reasonable as we can make it. Also in the May holidays up to Dora for five days for forty-two. A much wider range of age groups can go because of the cabin type accommodation - mum and toddler, mum and teenagers, over 50's, a lady on her own and even a mum who hadn't been on a holiday for years. They used their free travel vouchers, concessions etc but still a struggle to meet the cost of the camp.

Our families are mainly supporting mothers on pensions, a few lone pensioners, all find even small very reasonable costs hard to find from their pensions. Our FACS funding was used to provide camping equipment and subsidize the running costs of the camps so we made sure no family missed out.

Why do we believe in our holiday and camping programmes? It has a lot to do with our own self-respect and independence. That mum and children are able to enjoy things together, that mum is more relaxed by the break from the stresses of Housing Commission living, children learn to respect Mum's ability to cope in other areas and we're not chucking the kids off to

impersonal youth camps run by strangers. So Ministers we want your support to keep our holidays true family affairs, where we all learn to share of ourselves, have fun together and come back home more able to be caring and supportive neighbours to one another.

Yours Faithfully,

Kathy Gibbs
CHAIRPERSON

Kensington Women's Group Child Care
Co-operative Limited

Thanks to:-

Brenda

Kathy

Cheryl

Robyn

Edith

Karen

Rita

Vicki

Theresa

Carmel

FOR WORK ON THIS EDITION

CHE- STAGE 1 WHOLEMEAL SCONES

60g (2oz) margarine
2.5g (1/2tsp) (4oz) self-
raising wholemeal flour
1 pinch of salt

5 tablespoons milk
1x 50g egg
milk to glaze (optional)
margarine for spreading.

Place all ingredients in a mixing bowl and mix with a
wooden spoon to form a scone dough. Turn onto a lightly
floured board, knead lightly until smooth. Roll out to a
round 1cm (1/2 inch) thick and cut into triangles. Place scones
on a baking tray, brush tops with milk, if desired. Bake
on top shelf of a hot oven. (200-230°C / 400-450°F) for 12-15 mins.
Cool on a wire cooling tray. Serve cut in half, spread with
margarine

MAKES 8-12.

Recipe tested.

Grannies Scrapbook.

Budget advice

Eat it up,
Wear it out,
Make it do,
Do without.

Australian addition

Do it yourself

MOTTO'S

to look up and not down,
to look forward and not back,
to look out and not in, and
to lend a hand.

Photograph's

If a first you don't succeed, that makes you just
about average.

A Piper in old Connymara.

There once was a piper in old Connymara,
He had but one eye and he's name was O'Hara,
And oh when he played all the people cried O'Hara,
There's nothing to equal it not in the land.
At everyone's Funeral or wedding or christening,
O'Hara was there with he's one eye a glistening.

By E. Coffey.

The gossip we indulge in is a mirror of our
inner selves.

From M.R.O.'s and C.A.O.'s,
And long leggity C.E.O.'s,
And all things that go bump in the night
Good Lord deliver us.



K. J. Gibbs

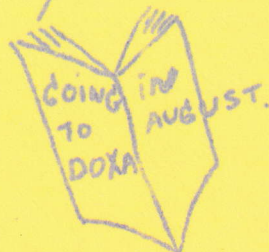
T. V. Quote.

It's not bad to be poor, but stupid not to want more.

Hint:— STORING BOOKS.

If old books are being stored, Sprinkle epsom
salts around them.

This will discourage silverfish.



Kensington Food Group

Boxes of fruit + vegies will be available at the Community Flat (2/76 Altona St) or the Women's House (89 Mc Cracken St) on FRIDAYS. Only \$2.

If you want to buy one, please pay your \$2 at the Flat or House on Thursdays



WHAT'S ON

at the Women's House, 89 McCracken St.

Mondays
PM Newsletter group

Tuesdays
10.00am Fund raising group

Tuesdays
1.30pm Sewing

Wednesdays
10am Coffee, discussions

Wednesdays
11.30am Crochet
off pension week

Wednesdays
7pm Bingo
Pension Week

Thursdays
AM Shopping
Pension week

Thursdays
AM Finance Group
off pension week

Fridays
10am Playgroup

Fridays
11.30am Community
lunch

Fridays
am Food Co-op

Also:

Learn to Drive
Nights out
Family camping