

## VICTORIAN WOMEN'S TRUST - END OF YEAR E-BULLETIN 2007

- ◆ **Best Wishes**
- ◆ **Trust Hours**
- ◆ **View the Trust's End of Year newsletter**
- ◆ **Competition – Win a Sheila Hollingworth Coffee Cartoon Calendar**
- ◆ **Heather Osland, High Court Special Leave Granted**
- ◆ **Canvassing the Emotions – Exhibition Details**
- ◆ **Equal Opportunity and Charter of Human Rights Workshops**
- ◆ **Vichealth Violence Prevention Report**
- ◆ **Water – Not Down the Drain**
- ◆ **Trackie Daks make for Historic Occasion!**

### ◆ **BEST WISHES**

Staff and Directors at the Trust send our best wishes to all members and supporters of the Victorian Women's Trust, hoping you have a safe and happy festive season and New Year.

To celebrate, we have created an online Christmas card with some Women's Trust staff members 'elfing' around. Enjoy!

Click [here](#) to view the card.

<http://www.elfyourself.com/?id=9606657196>

### ◆ **TRUST HOURS**

The office of the Victorian Women's Trust will be closed from December 24 until Friday January 4. The office will re-open on Monday, January 7. If you wish to contact the Trust during this period, you can leave a message on our answering machine (03) 9642 0422, email us on [women@vwt.org.au](mailto:women@vwt.org.au) or fax us on (03) 9642 0016. We will respond to your query when we re-open in the New Year.

### ◆ **END OF YEAR NEWSLETTER**

Click here to view the Trust's End of Year newsletter.

<http://www.vwt.org.au/docs/Trust%20Women%20Summer%202007.pdf>

### ◆ **COMPETITION – WIN A SHEILA HOLLINGWORTH COFFEE CARTOON CALENDAR**

Love and dearly value your morning coffee? The Trust has five Sheila Hollingworth coffee-themed cartoon calendars to give away! The first five people who correctly answer the below question will be sent one of these fold-over desk calendars, designed by cartoonist Sheila Hollingworth. All cartoons will appeal to coffee lovers!

Q: What is the name of the first woman elected to parliament in Victoria?

The first five people to email us ([women@vwt.org.au](mailto:women@vwt.org.au), or simply reply to this E-Bulletin) the correct answer will be posted a calendar.

### ◆ **HEATHER OSLAND HIGH COURT SPECIAL LEAVE**

The Trust welcomes the High Court decision last week to grant Heather Osland Special Leave to appeal the Supreme Court ruling which denied Heather access to documents the State Government prepared in examining her Petition of Mercy.

In 1996, after experiencing over 13 years of physical, sexual and psychological abuse, Heather Osland was jailed for the killing of her abusive husband Frank, while her co-accused, son David Albion, was acquitted on the grounds of self-defence of himself, and his mother.

Despite widespread community concern at Heather's incarceration, the Government rejected her Petition of Mercy (which followed a series of legal appeals that included a 3:2 High Court ruling against a retrial in 1998).

Shortly after rejecting Heather's Petition of Mercy, the Government asked the Victorian Law Reform Commission to hold a Review into homicide legislation, with one of the reasons given for the review being concerns highlighted in Heather Osland's case.

After nine and a half years, Heather was released from prison in 2005, following which the Government announced sweeping changes to homicide legislation, including the creation of a special defence for women who kill following prolonged family violence.

Trying to find out reasons why the Government rejected Heather's Petition of Mercy, Heather applied for access to the Government's prepared documents under Freedom of Information laws.

In August 2005, VCAT Justice Stewart Morris granted Heather access to all nine documents, however following an appeal in the Supreme Court, the Government won the right to withhold the documents.

The High Court will review the Supreme Court's decision, with a possible hearing date in September or October of next year.

The Victorian Women's Trust will continue to support Heather in trying to find out the reasons why the Government failed to show compassion in rejecting her Petition of Mercy.

### ◆ **CANVASSING THE EMOTIONS**

*WOMEN, CREATIVITY AND MENTAL HEALTH IN CONTEXT*

**WHEN: Dates: 11 - 29 February 2008**

**Venue: Queen Victorian Women's Centre, 210 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne**

**Entry: Free**

*Canvassing the Emotions* is an innovative exhibition of artworks by women who have experienced mental ill health or trauma and coincides with the celebration of 100 years of women's suffrage in Victoria in 2008. The exhibition opens on the 11 February 2008 leading up to International Women's Day on 8 March 2008. The works in the exhibition are drawn from the Cunningham Dax Collection.

From the 1950's to now, the exhibition explores the intersection of women, creativity and mental health within cultural, socio-economic and political contexts and illuminates the complexities of being a woman experiencing mental ill health and producing art in Australian society.

T 61 3 9342 2394

F 61 3 9381 2008

[info@daxcollection.org.au](mailto:info@daxcollection.org.au)

[www.daxcollection.org.au](http://www.daxcollection.org.au)

Contact: Sally Northfield, Guest curator

The Cunningham Dax Collection

35 Poplar Road

Parkville VIC 3052

Gallery hours

Wed, Thurs, Fri 10am - 4pm

Sat 1 - 5pm

Admission FREE

### ◆ **EQUAL OPPORTUNITY & CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS WORKSHOPS**

Equal opportunity training workshops are available from January to June 2008, through the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission. These workshops aim to demystify the law and develop your practical equal opportunity problem-solving and communication skills.

For details and to enrol:

<http://www.humanrightscommission.vic.gov.au/education%20and%20training/workshops%20at%20the%20commission/>

Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Workshops will run from February - June 2008. The Commission has released its new Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities workshops calendar. The workshops are designed to help community organisations understand and apply the rights and obligations contained in the Charter.

Click here for more information:

<http://www.humanrightscommission.vic.gov.au/pdf/VEOHRCHRCHARTERWORKSHOPS08.pdf>

Charter of Human Rights information available in accessible formats:

The Commission now has its 'Your right to rights' publications available in Braille, Audio CD and Easy English formats as well as information translated into 20 community languages.

To access these publications visit:

<http://www.humanrightscommission.vic.gov.au/publications/HR%20Charter/>

### ◆ **VICHEALTH: PREVENTING VIOLENCE BEFORE IT OCCURS**

The Victorian Women's Trust is currently running a violence-prevention project engaging with young men, having received funding from Vichealth to trial the project in groups around Victoria.

[Vichealth](#) dedicates a lot of its health promotion work to addressing violence against women, as it found in its 2006 study that violence against women is the "largest preventable contributor to disease burden in women aged 15–44 years".

In 2003 VicHealth identified violence against women as a priority as part of a broader program of activity aimed at addressing the preventable causes of poor mental health. This form of violence was identified given [the strong evidential link between violence and anxiety, depression and other mental health problems](#).

VicHealth has placed particular emphasis on strengthening primary prevention responses to this problem, working [in partnership with others across a range of sectors and settings](#) .

In 2006 the Victorian government identified the need to develop a whole-of-government plan to guide activity in the primary prevention of violence against women. This undertaking was made recognising that, while there was a growing momentum of support for primary prevention, it was important this was consolidated and sustained through sound evidence-informed policy, coordinated action and appropriate resource allocation.

To support the planning process the first phase was undertaken by VicHealth in the context of a partnership between it and the Victorian Government. It involved the development of a conceptual framework to guide action to prevent violence against women, based on a review of existing research evidence and input from a range of local and national experts. The end result is this publication [Preventing violence before it occurs: A framework and background paper to guide the primary prevention of violence against women in Victoria](#)

This framework is designed to provide a sound theoretical and evidence base to support future government, community and corporate sector activity to prevent violence against women. It identifies priority strategies, settings and population targets.

**You can see the publication [here](#), along with several supporting documents, all created by VicHealth.**

Multiple copies of both this and the [Violence Against Women: Community Attitudes Survey](#) can be ordered from [cnicholls@vichealth.vic.gov.au](mailto:cnicholls@vichealth.vic.gov.au)

## ◆ WATER – NOT DOWN THE DRAIN

'Water, Not Down the Drain' is published by the Alternative Technology Association 2008. The Alternative Technology Association has strongly supported the Victorian Women's Trust's Watermark Australia project, distributing hundreds of copies of 'Our Water Mark' through their networks during the last six months.

They have recently published Water – Not Down the Drain with the assistance of the Smart Water Fund. Stuart McQuire, the author of this beautiful book, who lives on an inner suburban block, has reduced his family's mains water by 96%, and still has a thriving garden full of fresh produce.

The book contains over 150 pages of comprehensive information and diagrams on how you can sustainably use water around the home.

- Choosing rainwater tanks and harvesting rainwater
- Supplying rainwater to the house and garden
- Setting up a greywater diversion system for the garden
- Greywater treatment systems for the house and garden

- Health and environmental concerns with greywater
- Creating a raingarden to capture to capture stormwater
- Cutting greenhouse emissions while saving water

The book is available from the ATA for \$29.95, plus \$8 for postage & handling. It can also be ordered online via [www.notdownthedrain.org.au](http://www.notdownthedrain.org.au) . Or encourage your local library to get a copy. Contact the Alternative Technology Association, Level 1, 39 Collins Street, Melbourne 3000 [www.ata.org.au](http://www.ata.org.au)

### ◆ **TRACKIE DAKS MAKE FOR HISTORIC OCCASION ...**

“WHERE else but Australia can the woman temporarily running the nation slip down to the local Chinese to collect her takeaway in trackie daks and runners, flanked only by a subtle brace of federal coppers? Diners paused over their shantung lamb to take in the sight this week, as Julia Eileen Gillard made history in a typically unpretentious Aussie way. Of course, there had been a three-ringed media circus to mark the milestone of the first woman to step into the Prime Minister's shoes, even if for just 3½ days. But in her down-to-earth style, Gillard sought to normalise the experience, talking of it as a stint minding the store while Kevin was away.

”Granted, she conceded some excitement and hoped that women and girls would celebrate, too. They did. Her office was inundated with well-wishers and flowers, including from women she had never met as the moment was savoured far and wide.”

Misha Schubert, writing in The Age last Saturday, marking the historic occasion of Julia Gillard being the first female Acting Prime Minister. To read the full article, click here <http://www.theage.com.au/news/national/acting-pm-has-plenty-to-take-away-from-historic-week/2007/12/14/1197568265002.html>