

Women working for change

the first twenty years of the New Zealand Psychological Society



Jane Ritchie

1968

Betty Bernardelli is the first woman on the new NZPsS Council.

1970

Jane Ritchie co-authors *Child Rearing Patterns in New Zealand* with her husband James. This research began in 1962 and will continue as a series of family studies with a focus on gender roles over four decades.

1971

Donna Awatere is a founder member of the Māori protest group Ngā Tamatoa. She will make important contributions to bicultural awareness in the Society, running Treaty of Waitangi training for Auckland psychologists in 1976.

1972

The first National Women's Liberation Conference is held in Auckland, attended by 70 men and 330 women, including many women psychologists.

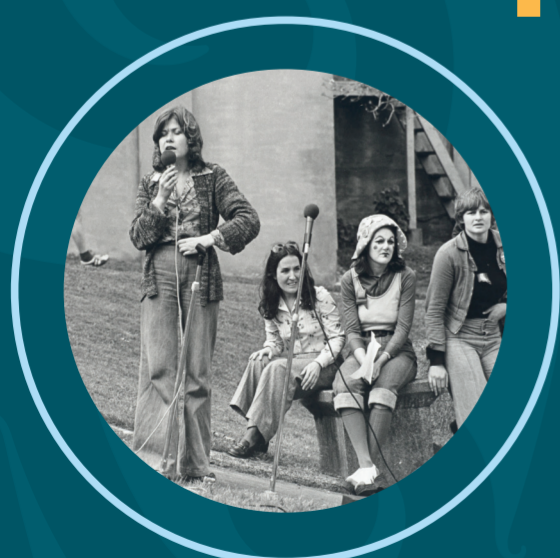
The publication "Broadsheet" is launched by the recently-formed Auckland Women's Liberation Collective, with *Hilary Haines* taking responsibility for advertising. Hilary will go on to make important contributions in the areas of mental health and women's wellbeing.

1973

Sally Casswell begins her career of research into the effects of alcohol and other drugs. She will work with the Society to prepare a comment on a Bill proposing re-classification of marijuana in 1974.

1974

Deryn Cooper and *Aloma Parker* replicate the Broverman et al (1970) study with members of the Society, demonstrating significant gender stereotyping in their perceptions of a psychologically healthy adult.



Sally Casswell
Marti Friedlander

Suffrage Day,
Myers Park, Auckland,
20th September 1975

(Courtesy of the Gerrard
and Marti Friedlander
Charitable Trust.)

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Marie Clay

1975

Marie Clay becomes the first woman professor at The University of Auckland, in the Department of Education.

A remit is passed at the AGM calling for an investigation into the position of women in the profession. In April 1976 *Elisabeth Wells* is asked to convene a committee for this purpose. *Lyn Fry* and *Beryl Hesketh* are recruited to assist her.

Another remit is carried supporting in principle the Abortion Law Reform Bill.

1976

A remit to form a Women's Division of the Society is moved by *Aloma Parker* at the AGM and is carried.

The committee investigating the role of women in psychology propose a remit that the Society express its concern about the myth that children who are separated from their mothers through work or other circumstances inevitably suffer harmful psychological consequences. They further state that this myth is no justification for failure to provide adequate childcare facilities. This is also carried.

Brigid Barrer and *Lyn Fry* run assertiveness training and consciousness-raising workshops for women psychologists in Auckland.

Sarah Calvert begins a series of articles in the magazine "Broadsheet" on contraception, sterilisation, sexually-transmitted diseases, hysterectomy, cervical and breast cancer, infertility, menopause, menstruation, post-partum depression, mental health and anorexia.



Sarah Calvert

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1977

The first NZPsS Women's Division conference is held in Auckland.

The University of Waikato is the first and will be the only New Zealand university for many years to offer a Psychology and Women course, coordinated and taught by *Jane Ritchie*.

The report on the position of women in the profession is presented to the AGM. It found women were less represented among Associates of the Society and there were no Fellows. It also found women members were concentrated at lower levels of employment than male members.

The Department of Health and Victoria University organise a conference on Women and Health in Wellington. Psychologists presenting include *Sarah Calvert* with a paper entitled Knowledge is Power: Reasons for the Women's Health Movement and *Aloma Parker* speaking about female sexuality.

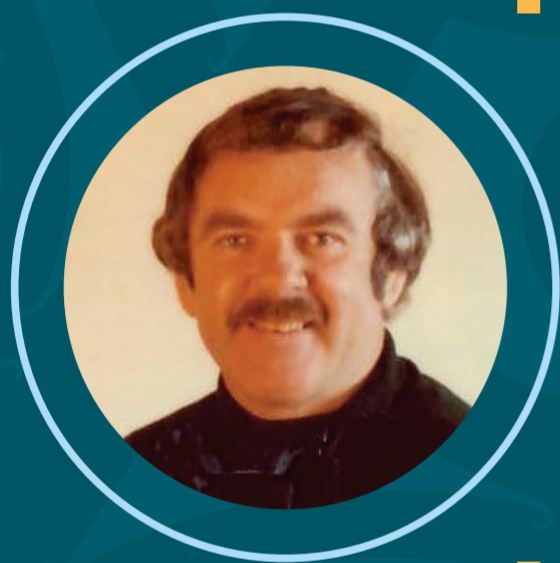
The third United Women's Convention is held in Christchurch attended by more than 2000 women. Psychologists attending include *Jane Chetwynd*, *Sally Casswell* and *Aloma Parker*.



Aloma Parker

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Graham Vaughan

1978

A second NZPsS Women's Division conference is held in February in Auckland. Workshop presentations include *Miriam Saphira* on why battered wives stay and Sarah Calvert on the political nature of psychology and the responsibilities of women psychologists.

A proposal to limit membership of the Division to women-only is defeated at the AGM by a strong male vote arguing discrimination. The Human Rights Commission subsequently rules a women-only division unlawful.

A remit proposed by *Aloma Parker* that instances of sexist language be removed from the Members' handbook is carried.

A remit from *Graham Vaughan* that the Women's Division have a representative on the Council is also carried.

A lesbian and gay caucus is established at the AGM. A lesbian psychologists' group begins to meet regularly in Auckland from the early 1980s.

The inaugural conference of the Women's Studies Association is held at the University of Waikato. Presentations include a report by *Sarah Calvert* on how New Zealand women's roles (particularly marriage and motherhood) affects their mental health.

1979

A third NZPsS Women's Division workshop is held in June.

Ann Ballin becomes the first woman President of the Society. She has been a life-long advocate for people with disabilities and for victims' rights. She will chair the Victims' Task Force from 1988 to 1993, pioneering changes in the criminal justice system to improve justice for victims of crime.

The fourth and final United Women's Convention is held in Hamilton. *Sarah Calvert* does a presentation on women's health issues and provides a mirror and a transparent speculum, so women can examine their own cervix. *Donna Awatere* and others issue a challenge, arguing that Pākehā feminists ignored the issues most important to Māori women and accuses the women's movement of racism.



Ann Ballin

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Miriam Saphira and
Sandra Coney

1981

Donna Awatere and other psychologists protest against apartheid during the Springbok rugby tour. Other psychologists take time out from the annual conference to join a march protesting against the Wellington game.

1982

Miriam Saphira becomes business manager for *Broadsheet* magazine. She had been a prolific publisher in *Broadsheet* since 1974, writing about lesbian custody issues, family violence, incest, the sexual abuse of children and identifying as a lesbian.

1984

Ngairé Adcock becomes the first female Chair of a psychology department in New Zealand, at Victoria University of Wellington.

Brigid Barrer offers a psychology position to *Titiwhai Harawira* to enable a Kaupapa Māori treatment model to be developed at Carrington Psychiatric Hospital.

1985

Ingrid Huygens and *Julie Helean* join the Māori land hikoi at Waitangi. This will mark the beginning of Ingrid's work in anti-racism, bicultural issues and Treaty of Waitangi training for non-Māori that continues to this day.



Ingrid Huygens

1985

Aloma Parker becomes the second woman President of the Society. Aloma had enrolled at Victoria University in 1966 as a young mother and helped set up the VUW creche in 1968. She is one of six feminists including Donna Awatere filmed by an all-woman TVNZ crew for the Women documentary series in 1976.

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1986

Jane Chetwynd publishes findings from her research on women smokers and discusses implications for smoking prevention amongst women. She has earlier looked at prevalence and predictors of alcohol problems among women working in the home and formed a working party to review the British report on the Sex Discrimination Act to enable the Society to comment on the New Zealand human rights legislation.

1987

Janine Watson, Mel Pipe, Fiona Cram, Freda Walker, Mary Ashby are on the NZPsS Council.

1988

Freda Walker becomes president of the NZPsS.



Freda Walker