



Creative Womyn Down Under

22 November 2012
News & Summer Events

Dear Creative Womyn,

As we head into the Australian Summer there's plenty on to inspire you and look forward to. The 11th annual Sydney Summer Spiritfest is just 7 weeks away. We hope to catch up with many of you then. We have a special profile below of our latest crew member Nicole Gruel who will bring much creativity and passion to the festival. Earlier this month we attended the Edna Ryan Awards where Georgina received an Arts Award for Creative Feminism. She joined 13 other Award recipients who have made a feminist difference in NSW and the ACT. See below for details.

This weekend in Sydney you can hear some enchanting music by Gayatri and friends in Rozelle tomorrow night, and then on Sunday attend a Garden Party in Petersham for 55Upitty's launch fundraiser. Next Friday in Redfern there's a Big Sing community night. We loved the last one held in August, it was a fantastic musical gathering.

During December there are art workshops and exhibitions to attend, and Ecopella invite you to their CD recording. The fabulous womyn from Chicks with Picks and Yes Maam have organised on 15 December a lesbian speed dating night (womyn over 40 years especially encouraged to come along and have fun) followed by a singles dance. We have a double pass to the dance party to giveaway. Read on to find out how to win. At the end of this newsletter there is an invitation for two womyn to join "Les Yachties" a women's Yacht Collective who sail from the beautiful Jervis Bay area of NSW.

CWDU Homeless Womyn's Lunch Project in local media

In other news, Phoebe Moloney a fabulous young feminist from the University of Sydney wrote a feature article published on Friday 9 November in Ciao Magazine about our Homeless Womyn's Lunch Project <http://www.ciaomagazine.com.au/feature-200.html>

FEATURED EVENT:



Sydney Summer Spiritfest
10 - 13 January 2013

SYDNEY SUMMER SPIRITFEST 2013

Thursday 10 - Sunday 13 January 2013 + extra retreat day Monday 14 January

Venue: Baden Powell Scout Centre, Pomona Street, Pennant Hills by Lane Cove National Park

Each year a special theme is chosen for our community gathering Sydney Summer Spiritfest. In 2013 we will be exploring and celebrating “Passion”. Passion highlights our capacity to process, withstand and overcome with dignity, grace and humour. Our passion affirms we are worthy of contentment and joy. Often we think of passion as wild and unpredictable. But passion’s nature is most often cloaked in the deep, subtle, quiet and committed: nursing a baby, planting a vegie garden, preparing a special meal, caring for a loved one who is ill, persevering with a dream.

At this, our 11th Spiritfest, the programme is as wide-ranging as ever. As always, all spiritual paths are welcome. Collective meditation and kiirtan (chanting to live guitar and drums) are at the heart of Spiritfest. Don’t let lack of meditation experience keep you away. We’re happy to show you the basics so you can come to view your mind as a supportive friend. There are also many fun activities exploring ideas of optimism, creativity and sustainability. The central values of connectedness, empathy and responsibility shift our gaze inwards.

In this nonprofit event we co-create a communal village. It works because we use good sense and cooperative effort. Community guidelines have evolved to help things run safely and with respect. To keep costs low, we’re rostered for a few tasks, mostly kitchen related.

This is a wonderful gathering to share with your kids. We provide an engaging children and young people’s festival with an exciting outdoor adventure programme, which includes a 110 metre zip line flying fox across the valley! The Spiritfest program overview is in the brochure, which you can download via the link below.

Spiritfest Registration

It's all inclusive - the delicious vegetarian food, accommodation (bunk style rooms or camping), a packed program of workshops, concerts and activities. All you have to look after is yourself. Please bring cash as there is no pre-registration.

Adults \$250/220 or \$70/60 per day or part thereof. Monday Retreat additional \$30/25. Children up to 6 free, up to 16 half price. Concession includes travellers > 150km. One-day and weekend attendance is welcome.

Enquiries: Georgina Abrahams on 0406 372 142 or email sydneyspiritfest@gmail.com

Download the Spiritfest brochure here
http://www.creativewomyn.net/uploads/SF_2013.pdf

RSVP via facebook here <https://www.facebook.com/events/337617669669422/>

SPIRITFEST 2013 SPECIAL PROFILE: Meet Nicole Gruel – Barefoot Story Weaver



We are very fortunate to have Nicole joining us on the 2013 Spiritfest “crew” and adding her joyfully creative energy throughout the festival to major activities. Nicole will be facilitating our annual womyn’s circle on Friday afternoon; coordinating the young people’s festival; assistant stage managing the “Passion Concert” on Saturday night; and participating in the Sunday morning forum “Our Passionate Purpose” with other interesting and passionate panellists.

In her own words, Nicole is a “writer, alchemist & co-creative catalyst. I am here to set bellies ablaze with passion, power and inspired purpose. My mission: to help bring your craziest dreams to fruition with wild creativity and a bucket full of sacred love.”

Nicole will be completing a Master of Transpersonal Psychotherapy placement while at Spiritfest, and we appreciate her enthusiasm and generous involvement. Nicole has written two wonderful books recently “Women of the Wise Earth: Celebrating the Rainbow Symphony” and “Dancing with Dragons: A Journey to Wholeness”. You can find out more about Nicole at her website <http://barefootstoryweaver.com/> or facebook <http://www.facebook.com/BarefootStoryweaver>

EDNA RYAN AWARDS 2012

On Friday 9 November, we attended the Edna Ryan Awards Presentation night. The “EDNA’s” are awards for women who have made a feminist difference, i.e. whose activity advances the status of women: the battlers and the unsung heroines who show commitment and determination. Edna Ryan (1904-1997) contributed a lifetime of advocacy and action towards equal pay for women in Australia.

The Edna’s have acknowledged over 150 women since they began in 1998. Georgina Abrahams joined 13 other women to receive a 2012 Edna Award. The links to information on what these womyn have achieved can be viewed at <http://ednaryan.net.au/recipients2012>. Congratulations to all the womyn nominated, and the recipients:

ARTS for creative feminism: Bronwyn Bancroft • Georgina Abrahams • Cigdem Aydemir
EDUCATION for a special contribution to the education of women and girls: Chris Burke
COMMUNITY ACTIVISM for feminist activity in the community:
Jan McDonald • Leah Weber • Maree McDermott
MEDIA/ COMMUNICATION for consistent promotion of women’s interests in the media:
Jenna Price
WORKFORCE for improving conditions for women workers: Nadia Saleh • Sonia Laverty
MENTORING for sharing knowledge and ideas generously with other women:
Bronwyn Penrith • Natasa Nikolic • Sylvia Kinder
The GRAND STIRRER for inciting others to challenge the status quo: Teresa Savage

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR ONLINE NOTICEBOARD

<http://www.creativewomyn.net/Noticeboard.html>

BODHI AMAZING PRESENTS

An Exceptional Evening of Kirtan and Transformational Entertainment
Featuring Gayatri & Friends
Friday 23 November 2012, 6:30pm
Hannaford Community Centre, 608 Darling Street Rozelle, NSW2039

“She sings from a place of deep devotion and love... and at 22 is already writing and performing songs with all the style and substance of a young Carol King meets Missy Higgins” Terry Byrnes.

Gayatri will be joined by special guest Hanuman “ A compelling singer-songwriter who burns with a rare fire” – Narayan. Suggested contribution \$20 or \$15 concession. For more information visit <http://bodhifestival.com.au/event/gayatri-friends>

GARDEN PARTY - 55Upitty Launch Fundraiser

Sunday 25 November 2012, 3pm - 6pm
Petersham, NSW

55Upitty is an online photography and interview project celebrating the older GLBTI woman. The Garden Party this Sunday is a fundraiser for the official launch of 55Upitty.

\$25 entrance includes lots of Finger Food (savoury and sweet), Tea, Coffee and soft drinks – bubbles available (extra cost). What to wear: Garden party finery including a hat. Lots of fun fundraising activities and prizes including a prize for the most ‘55Upitty’ hat. Be prepared to be entertained (at a cost) so bring your gold coins and folding money. For more information email Jude Irwin at judeirwin5@gmail.com or phone 02 95605801. To find out more about 55Upitty visit <http://55upitty.com/> or facebook <http://www.facebook.com/55Upitty>

BIG SING Community ‘campfire’ singing

Friday 30 November 2012 6pm
Redfern Community Centre, Hugo Street, Redfern

Great songs from Bob Marley to Tammy Wynette to Powderfinger, Gloria Gaynor, Johnny Cash, the Pigram Brothers, Crowded House and more. Everybody welcome for a fun night. Bring: (optional) a cushion, guitar and capo, food to eat/share. Light supper and song lyrics provided. Free entry. Contact: [Studio RCC](http://www.studioRCC.com.au) phone 02 9288 5713.

SANCTUARY

Saturday 1 December 2012, 10am to 1pm, Glebe NSW

Connect with a safe space. Gently wrap up the year by creating a landscape of nourishment. Your picture can sustain you into the new year. Facilitated by artist and creativity coach Sally Swain. \$85 includes abundant materials, morning tea and an art materials gift for each Sanctuary participant. ** Only 2 places left ** Contact: Sally Swain phone 02 9552 6164 or email sally@artandsoul.cc. Website www.artandsoul.cc

SCULPTURES IN THE VINEYARDS

3 Nov – 3 Dec 2012 Exhibition open daily from 10am – 5pm
Wollombi and Hunter Valley Region

Featuring over 100 outdoor sculptures and exclusive boutique wines, enjoy the hospitality and natural beauty of these exceptional venues and the breadth of talent from our juried selection of artworks along the Wollombi Valley Wine Trail. A celebration of art and wine where picturesque boutique vineyards and cellar doors are transformed into 5 temporary sculpture parks. View all the details at <http://www.sculptureinthevineyards.com.au/>

GREEN FOOT PRINTS - A CD launch without a CD !

Saturday 8 December 2012 7:30pm

Christ Church 10-12 Walker Street Lavender Bay (North Sydney)

You can be there as Ecopella launch the making of their third album by coming to hear them record twelve of their best-loved environmental songs! Ecopella's branches in Sydney, the Blue Mountains, Illawarra, Central Coast and Canberra are joining together for this exciting concert. \$15/\$10 concession. Also appearing: Andsome Friends & Mad Adam. Contact: miguel@ecopella.org or 02 9810 4601 <http://ecopella.org/>

LADYLAND – Lesbian Speed Dating and Dance

15 December 2012, 6pm - late

The Alexandria Hotel, 35 Henderson Rd, Alexandria

The ladies from [Chicks with Picks](#) and [Yes Ma'am](#) bring you a special one off event... [LADYLAND](#), a chance to meet a raft of Sydney's finest lady-loving eligible bachelorettes.

First up is the Speed Dating at 6pm, let your inhibitions run wild as you meet and greet with some of Sydney's loveliest ladies and for the shyest of the bunch, have no fear! The entire thing is masquerade themed to let you flirt in style and with confidence. There will be womyn of all ages participating in this fun event. \$25 entry (includes dance party ticket) must be pre-purchased.

For those looking to cut a rug with a room full of Sydney's finest, LADYLAND transforms at 8pm into one of the craziest singles' nights out there. Think burlesque dancers, masks, DJs, games, prizes and girls! \$12/\$8 entry. For tickets to the Speed dating and dance head to <http://chickswithpicks.ticketbud.com/ladyland>

Creative Womyn Down Under has been given a double pass from the organisers to the dance party to give away. Email georgina@creativewomyn.net by midday 1 December to go into the drawer. Winner will be notified by email.

EXHIBITION: LIMINAL

11 - 30 December 2012, 10am - 5pm

Bondi Pavilion Gallery, Bondi Beach

A fabulously creative group of six women artists, who are also long time friends, for the first time will be exhibiting their latest works together. THE OFFICIAL OPENING will be on Saturday 15th December in the afternoon where you can meet the artists: Kay Bazley, Angie Gleeson, Gillian Hand, Chris Miller, Raewyn Proctor and Helen Young (Anandii). Find out more about the exhibition and see images of some of their works at <http://www.liminal6.com>.

YACHT COLLECTIVE – Expressions of Interest

Join our women’s yacht collective “Les Yachties”

We are 5 women who own a 24 foot Triton yacht on Jervis Bay. We are looking for two new members to buy two of the 5 shares as two members are selling due to a change of interests.

The collective

We got together 3 years ago and decided to buy a yacht so we could sail on Jervis bay. Some had some sailing experience and some didn’t. We spent several meetings deciding on our collective process and writing our articles of agreement. We each put in \$5,000 to purchase and we pay \$65.00 per month levy. Occasionally, if required, we put in an extra levy.

We meet every few months at one of our homes to discuss business. Our meetings are congenial and we have reached agreement easily on all matters so far. We have a selection process for membership as outlined in our articles of agreement. The current members are all lesbians. One of our aims is to introduce more women to sailing.

The yacht – “Isis”

Isis is a comfortable, safe, seaworthy yacht of the class Triton 24. She has a very comfortable cabin space for such a small boat. She has 6 berths and a nice galley. The hull is in good shape and we continue to do upkeep and improvements. She has a main sail, 2 sizes of foresail and a spinnaker. Her inboard diesel motor works well. She can be easily sailed by 2-5 crew. She is quite capable of coastal voyages, but we primarily use her for sailing in Jervis Bay. She is moored at Callala Bay.

The activities

We have a booking roster for use of the boat, so members can book her for particular dates for cruising. We also race regularly with the Jervis Bay Cruising Yacht club, which is a well run, friendly and accommodating group. Everyone works on the boat according to availability and skills. Lots of opportunity for picnics, adventure and weekend sleepouts!

For more information contact Rafaele Joudry by email to rafaelejoudry@gmail.com or phone 0416 057 271.

Download brochure about joining the Collective

http://www.creativewomyn.net/uploads/Join_our_yacht_collective_2012.pdf

Download brochure if you are interested in going sailing

http://www.creativewomyn.net/uploads/Come_sailing_on_Jervis_Bay_2012.pdf

THANKS AGAIN

We very much appreciate those of you who have kept us informed during 2012 about creative happenings of interest to womyn. We have listed them on our website, put them on our facebook and included most of them in newsletters. Wishing you all a happy and creative holiday season.

Cheers

Georgina JD Abrahams
& Gabrielle Journey Jones

Creative Womyn Down Under
Connecting Womyn and Creative Expression
www.creativewomyn.net

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