



Ode Cologne
The news journal of WIPAN



E-bulletin Volume#2 Issue 25

Welcome to the 25th edition of the WIPAN e-Bulletin.

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Funding from the NSW Government

In the final hour, WIPAN secured funding from the NSW Attorney General, Brad Hazzard, to enable the very important WIPAN Mentoring Program (WMP) to continue. The grant will fund recruitment and training of a further 50 volunteer mentors and 50 mentees over the next 18 months. This funding saves WIPAN from closing its doors and services, which was due to occur in Oct/Nov this year.

We are very grateful to be able to continue our important work. We had been winding down operations, and are now in the process of rebuilding. Part of that means recruiting new volunteer mentors. Training is pencilled in for two Saturdays - 11th and 18th October 2014. If you are interested in becoming a mentor (or know somebody who is), please get in touch and share with your networks.

WIPAN welcomes new staff

WIPAN welcomes three new staff members. **Lana Hutchison** has joined the team as our new Mentoring Coordinator and is working full-time to re-build the mentoring program, recruit new mentors and match them with mentees. **Tara Williams** has taken a new role in WIPAN as Senior Mentoring Coordinator and is working to support the mentoring program and ensure that WIPAN can meet our reporting requirements as per the grant. **Annie Muskin** joins WIPAN as the Administration and Accounts Coordinator and **Mollie Boland Anderson** joins the team as the Policy and Funding Coordinator. Additionally **Kat Armstrong** is now officially employed part-time on a 2 day a week salary as WIPAN's Director.

Two of Us - The Good Weekend

WIPAN Director, Kat Armstrong and friend Lynda Kelleher were featured in the Good Weekend's 'Two of Us' column in July. Kat and Lynda talked about their friendship since meeting each other in prison, and the support and inspiration that they have provided to one another over the years. Read their story [here](#).

Tracy-Lee Brannigan

Following the death of Tracy Brannigan from a drug overdose while locked in her cell at Dillwynia Correctional Centre on 25 February 2013, the Deputy State Coroner has recommended that NSW prison cells be subject to random searches at afternoon lockdown. However, the Coroner rejected evidence of Tracy's cellmate Lauren Ironside and WIPAN Director Kat Armstrong, that Tracy was clearly affected by drugs on the afternoon before she died. The failure of the Coroner to find that the prison and correctional officers could have done

more to prevent Tracy's death was disappointing. Tracy was a mother of two, and was 3 months off being reviewed for parole. She battled a drug addiction on and off throughout her 3 years and 9 months in prison, which sadly was not addressed within the prison system. WIPAN remembers Tracy with love and wants to ensure there are no further deaths in custody. We call for better training of correctional staff, the provision of programs in prison, which enable women to tackle their drug addictions and appropriate body scanners that would prevent further drugs being brought into correctional centres.

WIPAN Mentor Bronwyn Culling Nominated for an Edna Ryan Award

The Edna Ryan Awards celebrate women who have made a significant contribution to the feminist cause. WIPAN mentor Bronwyn Culling has this year been nominated in the mentoring category for sharing knowledge and ideas generously with other women. The awards night will be held on Friday 17 October at the Trades Hall building. If you'd like to head along, tickets can be booked [here](#).

Women in Prison Forum

WIPAN Director, Kat Armstrong spoke about WIPAN and the importance of mentoring for women leaving prison at the Women in Prison Forum held at Parliament House last month and hosted by the [Community Justice Coalition](#), [International Commission of Jurists](#) and [WIPAN](#). The event was chaired by the Hon. Elizabeth Evatt (former Chief Justice of the Family Court) and the speakers on the panel were the Hon. Pat O'Shane, Professor Eileen Baldry and Kat Armstrong. The forum was concerned about the increasing numbers of women in prison and what we must do to address this. [Justice Action](#) filmed parts of the forum and you can watch some of the presentations [here](#).

SOS: Save Our Women's Services

The Save Our Women's Services campaign has been bravely fighting the NSW Government's Going Home Staying Home reforms released last November. The reforms cut funding to women-only specialist services and refuges and will result in the closure of refuges that have been assisting women and their children escaping domestic violence for decades. In June the campaign delivered a petition of 11,000 signatures to the NSW Parliament, calling for the reinstatement of funding to inner Sydney women's refuges. Read more about the campaign to save women-only services on the SOS website [here](#).

Service of the Month - Elsie Women's Refuge

After 40 years of helping women in need, Elsie Women's Refuge as it was known, was officially taken over by St Vincent de Paul on September 1. Elsie Women's Refuge provided gender-specific care to women and children fleeing domestic violence. It was the first refuge of its kind in Australia, underpinned by a strong feminist ideology and run by women, for women. All original Elsie staff were made redundant after the take over of St Vincent de Paul.

Membership drive

WIPAN reminds all members to renew and/or join **WIPAN's** membership base. Please go online to renew [here](#) and pay via a secure credit card payment or alternatively download a membership form, complete and post together with your payment to **WIPAN**, PO Box 345, Broadway NSW 2007. Even if you are time poor (which most of us are!), and feel you don't have time to dedicate, becoming a member can still assist **WIPAN**. Please continue to support us to do the community work - **WIPAN** is the **ONLY** community organisation in NSW mentoring and advocating for women and female youth affected by the criminal justice system. Your continued support is really appreciated! Please pass on to your networks too.

CONTACT WIPAN

For further information about WIPAN including our executive members, general members, our funding bodies, strategic plan or WIPAN's vision & aims, please contact us.

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