

Polare Edition 43

Published: December 2001 Last Update: June 2013 Last Reviewed: September 2015

Editorial

by Katherine Cummings, Polare Editor

Mark Twain said it takes two people to hurt you ... an enemy to say something bad about you and a friend to tell you about it. When I published my piece ("Open Letter to a Bigoted Wimp") in *Polare 42* I had no idea that the victim was still unaware of the content of the article attacking her. So I was the "friend" who revealed to a member of our community that she had been the subject of her son's ignorant bigotry ... in public print and three times! I regret having published the rejoinder I composed in a white heat of rage back in 1996 when I read the *Sydney Morning Herald* version. At the time I tried to have my reply published in the *Herald* but they refused it, because, they said, there wasn't much interest in the subject (!). This was despite having devoted most of a page to the article "When Father Becomes Mother" and having supplied a grotesque illustration to add to the insult. I have apologised to the person who was the subject of the article concerned and you will find her response to her wayward, self-centred son on the letters page of this issue.

Thanks to those who responded to my call for more material. I have received several items for this issue but will always welcome more. Gina Dumas' article in 42 has stirred up discussion on an Internet site devoted to Trans theory and "Creators' Corner" has also prompted some poetry and illustrations to arrive in the post and by Internet.

The Profile this issue is of Col Eglington, Chairman of our Management Committee and a transman of distinction. The book review deals with a collection of short stories, each of which has the common theme of people cross-dressing, for a variety of motives.

Manager's Report

by Elizabeth Riley, Gender Centre Manager

Well here we are at the end of another busy year that has seen many changes and has been charged with many exciting events.

The SAGE Foundation, the newly formed lobby group for sex and gender diverse people, is growing in membership and looks like developing into a truly national lobby group promoting the rights of all in our community. We hope that SAGE will become as influential and powerful a lobby group in Australia as Press for Change has become in Britain. Already SAGE boasts a number of major international lobby groups as affiliates and with such a large and cohesive voice we look forward to some important successes. The Gender Centre supports SAGE in its endeavours and encourages all trans people, wherever you may live in Australia, to take up membership. A lot can be achieved with a united stand.

Feature Articles



The decision, which declared the law of Australia, is of considerable legal and social significance.

Family Court Endorses Transsexual Marriage

In October 2001 His Honour Justice Richard Chisholm of the Family Court of Australia delivered a landmark judgement *Re: Kevin and Jennifer v. the Attorney General for the Commonwealth*, whereby a Sydney couple won their legal battle to have their marriage declared valid.

String of Pearls

As "theme" anthologies go, *String of Pearls: Stories about Cross-Dressing* by Rosalynne Blumenstein casts a looser net than most. Although each story includes cross-dressing, the motivations vary widely. It is entertaining and should satisfy readers of eclectic taste.

Lynn Conway, Superstar of the Transsexual Firmament

Lynn Conway is the first truly successful case to come out of long-term stealth and tell her remarkable story. In doing so, her fascinating story should give hope to young transsexuals and hopefully help parents see the real possibility of happiness for a trans their child.

Pubic Lice

Also called "Crabs" pubic lice are parasitic insects found in the genital area of humans. They cannot live long away from the warm human body and are usually spread through sexual contact. This article describes what pubic lice are, how a diagnosis is made and treated.

Ten Basic Rules for Making Transmen Feel Welcome at M.T.F. Meetings

Do not assume that all men attending meetings are M.T.F. Listen to them when they speak, Don't ask a transman a lot of personal questions are just some of the ten basic rules for making transmen feel welcome among male-to-females according to the authors of this article.

A Transsexual's View of Adelaide

We have been working for several months with the Gay Games Committee to arrive at a fair policy for the inclusion of transgender people. At the time of writing I have still not seen this policy in a final form but I understand that it will be likely to make the following provisions. If you have documentary evidence identifying you in your chosen gender, passport, birth certificate etc., then you will have automatic access to sports in that gender. If you cannot produce such documentation then it is likely that you will need confirmation from a medical practitioner that you have been accessing hormone treatments for a minimum of twelve months. Since registrations have been open for some time if you want to compete it is probably wise to register now to gain a spot and see how the policy affects you when we know its final content.

Terri Kelli began her transition in a quiet town on South Australia's Fleurieu Peninsula and after the initial hoo-ha she was pretty much left alone. This is Terri's account of her early transitional life in and around Adelaide, the country town that thinks it's a big city!

Opportunities for reform are at hand with both the Anti-Discrimination Act 1977, (A.D.A.), and the Births Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 1995, (B.D.M.R.A.). The Gender Centre has lodged submissions with both organisations with the primary aim of amending the legislation to ensure that all transgender people enjoy fair and equal treatment under the law. The current system favours those transgenders who are "recognised" under the A.D.A. We are optimistic that there will be some positive outcomes as these Acts come under review.

Most exciting of all is the recent trans success in the Family Court. To present this briefly Kevin, a female-to-male transsexual, married his girlfriend Jennifer. The couple had previously enquired about the legality of the marriage with the Federal Attorney General's Office and were informed that it was illegal for a transgender to marry. The couple then took their case to the Family Court requesting validation of their marriage. They were represented by solicitor Rachael Wallbank, a woman of transsexual background herself, in a hearing that saw many witnesses including some of the world's leading medical experts on transsexuality. Without going into detail over the case Justice Richard Chisholm of the Family Court ruled in the couple's favour and in doing so completely dismissed the arguments presented by Justice Ormrod in the famous British case of 1970, Corbett v. Corbett, in which transsexual woman April Ashley was ruled to be a man for the purpose of marriage.

This is a ground breaking decision which has implications for all Australian transsexual people who in the future may wish to marry.

At home in The Gender Centre we have had an exciting year with lots of training occurring, some very well attended workshops, popular drop-ins as well as busy outreach, counselling and residential programs. The highlight, however, was the Tranny Pride Ball. Held at the Taxi Club, over 120 people attended for what turned out to be a truly enjoyable evening. We had great entertainment, lovely finger food and lots of great music from the resident D.J. There were also some very nice frocks on show. If you didn't make it this year make sure you mark out your diary for next year's ball. It's just far too good to miss.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the people who worked towards the success of the ball. The fabulous entertainers, Toni-Jaye, Diane Rusk, Penny Clifford, Crystal Rose and a special thanks to Michael Fox and his best mate Tommy who were M.C.s for the night and who provided some wonderful comedy throughout the evening. I would also like to thank the Taxi Club for donating the D.J. and the space as well as looking after all the catering - they were just fabulous. For donating prizes to the raffle I would also like to thank Ultimate Gym in Newtown, Sharpe's Pharmacy (just up the road from the Taxi Club), King Street Pharmacy in Newtown and the Beauty Room in Darlinghurst. I would encourage you to support these businesses that have been supportive of us. I would also like to thank the staff and particularly the Social & Support Worker who put the whole thing together.

This year also saw a change over in some staff positions with Craig Andrews, editor of *Polare* and creator of our website, resigning after four years on the job, and Jack Powell, who filled the role of Social & Support Worker, leaving for another position in the middle of the year. Jack was only with us for one year but in that time he managed to stamp his mark on the job and many in the community have given me very positive feedback about his efforts. In this closing edition of *Polare* for 2001 I would like to express my thanks on behalf of the community to Craig and Jack for their significant contributions to the work of the Gender Centre.

I would also like to express my delight in having secured the services of Katherine Cummings who has taken over as editor of *Polare* and Nicole who has taken over the role of Social & Support. This influx of talent to the centre will be sure to benefit all our service users.

On a negative note I would be interested to hear from community members reasons why some of the events offered through the Gender Centre receive little patronage from the community. We recently ran a series of free transgender-only aerobic classes in conjunction with Woolloomooloo Health and Fitness Centre and South Sydney Council. The Council provided a free bus pick-up and drop-off at the Gender Centre and the Fitness Centre donated two hours, an aerobics teacher and a free glass of Gatorade to participants for each of the six sessions they offered. With a capacity class of 25, why is it that such a generous offer managed to attract only a handful of participants? Admittedly the classes were conducted on Tuesday mornings and that would exclude some members of the community but with the high levels of unemployment in our community surely there should have been plenty of takers.

I've heard all the standard excuses. "I had a late night", "I slept in", "I'll come next week", "I had a doctor's appointment", "I can't. I have (a) ... (insert your preferred option) ... bad back, damaged knees, broken bones, emphysema etc." When will our community learn that if we don't take advantage of the generous offers from organisations like South Sydney Council, those organisations will simply stop offering. When will we learn to take responsibility for our own destiny? I await your responses with anticipation. That is, if you can be bothered, of course.

Notwithstanding the above gripe I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone in the community an enjoyable Xmas and a prosperous and fulfilling new year.

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Family Court Endorses Transsexual Marriage

The Marriage between a Man of Transsexual Background and his Wife is declared Valid by the Family Court of Australia.

by The Gender Centre

Article appeared in Polare magazine: December 2001 Last Update: October 2013 Last Reviewed: September 2015



The Applicants' lawyer,
Rachael Wallbank.

Re: Kevin and Jennifer v. The Attorney-General for the Commonwealth

Kevin and Jennifer speak publicly for the first time about their landmark legal victory and what it means to them

The Applicants successfully argued that ... Kevin, a so-called post-operative female-to-male transsexual, was a man within the ordinary everyday meaning of that word ...

On 12th October 2001 His Honour Justice Richard Chisholm of the Family Court of Australia delivered a landmark judgement *Re: Kevin and Jennifer v. The Attorney-General for the Commonwealth* whereby a Sydney couple won their legal battle against the Commonwealth to have their marriage declared to be valid.

The decision, which declared the law of Australia, is of considerable legal and social significance; especially for people who have experienced transsexualism and other people who have experienced variation in their development or formation as human beings as well as their loved ones, family and friends.

The singular question to be answered in the case was whether Kevin, the Applicant Husband, was a man for the purpose of the marriage law of Australia notwithstanding his transsexual background; Kevin being more commonly referred to as 'a post-operative female-to-male transsexual'.

Kevin and Jennifer

Kevin and Jennifer are concerned to ensure that others who have experienced suffering as a result of difference can take heart from their victory in this case. At the same time Kevin and Jennifer are obliged to exercise some care concerning what they presently say about this important decision given that the Commonwealth Government has until late November in which to appeal the decision.

In these circumstances Kevin and Jennifer issue the following joint statement:

“As we celebrate our Family Court victory we acknowledge with gratitude the many people who helped to make it possible. We thank our legal team, particularly Rachael Wallbank, for her dedication to our case (above and beyond the call of duty) and for her grace under pressure. We thank our family, friends, colleagues and other community members for lending support during this difficult process. We thank our expert witnesses, whose contributions to this case and to the body of medical and scientific knowledge are incalculable. Finally we pay tribute to all the heroic individuals who have experienced transsexualism, and their loved ones, who inspired us and paved the way. In turn we hope Justice Chisholm's findings bring comfort and relief to others who, through no fault or choice, experience a similar predicament. We have risen above ignorance and prejudice to live simple, honest lives with dignity, as productive members of our society, harming no one. Our life together has been dominated by a quest for equal rights – the kind of security, responsibilities, privileges and social recognition which other couples and their children may take for granted. We sought to bring anomalies and injustices to light, and challenged the misconceptions, bias and blame which have so often clouded transsexualism. In so doing we developed deep pride in each other and demonstrated our strength as a family. We now hope to emerge from the shadow of legal uncertainty, and return our focus to our family life as we await with great excitement the birth of our second child.

”

Rachael Wallbank - Applicants' Lawyer

The Applicants' lawyer, Rachael Wallbank, said: "I saw my most important work in the case as ensuring that His Honour, who had the task of declaring the law of Australia in respect of these issues, had at his disposal extensive evidence of how Kevin was perceived as a man in his daily life and how the average Australian understood transsexualism. Equally important was to ensure that His Honour had

before him the very best expert medical and scientific evidence Australia and the world had to offer. We filed thirty-nine affidavits of family, friends, work colleagues and acquaintances who vividly confirmed their perception of Kevin as a man, a mate, a son-in-law, a husband and a father. I was fortunate to be able to obtain the assistance of a number of the best Australian and international experts on the subject of human sexual formation and transsexualism. From across the medical disciplines these eminent experts cumulatively provided the evidence sufficient for His Honour to find that a human being's sexual identity is biologically derived as a result of the sexual differentiation of the brain which, like the genitalia and gonads, irreversibly differentiates in the process of a person's formation as a human being. In this context then, the procedure called sex assignment or reassignment can be seen to be a process of rehabilitation of the individual's body in order to help bring it into harmony with the mind. The reality is that a small but significant proportion of the population experience difference in their sexual formation requiring sex assignment and reassignment. Justice Chisholm found that Kevin, a so-called post-operative 'female-to-male transsexual', was a man within the ordinary, everyday meaning of that word. His Honour also found that, in so far as the test of a person's sex for the purpose of marriage is concerned, the law of Australia should not be limited to one arbitrary set of characteristics, but should have regard to all of the sexually differentiated biological characteristics of a person, including brain sex, as well as the cultural characteristics of the person such as his or her lived sex. I hope people can begin to appreciate the incredible courage demonstrated by Kevin and Jennifer in their bringing this case and seeing it through. I trust that the information and the message of appreciation and inclusion expressed in this judgement confirms that Australians continue to be a people conspicuous for their humanity and sense of justice."

Rachael Wallbank, a Specialist Family Lawyer accredited by the Law Society of N.S.W. and herself a woman of transsexual background, was interviewed by Damien Carrick about the case on A.B.C. Radio National's The Law Report on Tuesday 6th November, 2001.

Further Information:

1. One of the central legal issues His Honour had to decide was whether to follow the long determinative United Kingdom decision of Justice Ormrod in the 1971 case Corbett v. Corbett which had established that a person's sex for the purpose of marriage is to be determined by an arbitrary test based upon the congruity or sameness of a person's genital, gonadal and chromosomal characteristics at birth without regard for any other characteristic of the person, or his or her life, such as the person's sexual identity, lived or cultural sex, at the time of the marriage. The Commonwealth's case was very much founded on the correctness of that decision.
2. The Corbett decision had been recently affirmed in the United Kingdom (in the 2001 Court of Appeal decision in the case of Bellinger and Bellinger) and in Texas, U.S.A. (in the 1999 case of Littleton and Prange) so as to deny marriage rights to people of transsexual background. In the Texas case the result was to deny to a woman the right to sue for medical negligence in respect of the death of her husband, to whom she had been married for many years, simply because she was a woman of transsexual background.
3. A key focus of the Applicant's case was to show the legal and logical error of the Corbett decision, which had long been the subject of considerable criticism by numerous eminent Australian lawyers; both judges and academics. In his judgement Justice Chisholm critically examined the reasoning applied in that decision which he finds characterised by what he calls an 'essentialist' approach to the question of sexual identity which sought a determination of a being's 'true sex' by way of an arbitrary test.
4. Australian case law on the subject, specifically the 1988 N.S.W. Supreme Court case of Harris and McGuiness (Criminal law) and the Full Court of the Federal Court's 1993 decision Secretary of Department of Social Security v. S.R.A. (Social Security law), confirmed the Applicant's contention that Australian law had developed a distinct, humane and informed approach to the issue of transsexualism that had rejected the essentialist Corbett approach and found that individuals who have undertaken the rehabilitative medical process called 'sex change', 'sex assignment' or 'sex reassignment' so as to bring the sexually differentiated features of their body into harmony with their self-perceived sex or psychological sex are entitled to be of that sex in determining an individual's sex at law; which only envisaged individuals as being either male or female.
5. His Honour reviewed a number of international decisions which had also not followed the Corbett approach such as the New Zealand High Court decision in the case of Attorney-General v. Otahuhu Family Court (M. v. M.) in 1994 that recognised a person's sex reassignment for the purpose of marriage.
6. The Applicants successfully argued that in the Australian context Kevin, a so-called post-operative female-to-male transsexual, was a man within the ordinary everyday meaning of that word and that in applying that meaning to the law of marriage in Australia, His Honour was merely bringing that law into conformity with Australian Criminal and Social Security Law. His Honour also found that, in so far as the test of a person's sex for the purpose of marriage is concerned, the law of Australia should not be limited to one arbitrary set of characteristics, but should have regard to all of the sexually differentiated biological characteristics of a person, including brain sex, as well as the cultural characteristics of the person, such as his or her lived sex.
7. The principal findings to be drawn from the case include:
 - 7.1 The decision of Corbett is not persuasive and does not represent Australian law;
 - 7.2 There may be circumstances in which a person who at birth had gonads, chromosomes and genitals of one sex, may nevertheless be of the other sex at the date of his or her marriage; such as in the case of a person who has, prior to the marriage, undergone the medical procedure called sex assignment or reassignment;
 - 7.3 That brain development is (at least) an important determinant of a person's sense of being a male or female, that the characteristics of transsexuals are as much 'biological' as those of people thought of or referred to as intersex and that there is a biological feature of the brain that determines whether individuals think of themselves as male or female; whatever their other biological characteristics.
8. Thus, transsexualism is now properly recognised as a natural variation in human formation within the so-called intersex continuum;

and not some form of psychological or mental illness. Like any predicament of human variation or difference, the prime ongoing disability of transsexualism for the persons who experience it, their families and their loved ones is not the predicament itself, but the response of others.

The Applicants trust that the understanding and inclusive message contained in this judgement by His Honour Justice Richard Chisholm of the Family Court of Australia confirms that Australians continue to be a people conspicuous for their humanity and sense of justice.

Rachael Wallbank

From Lynn Conway's website:  Born on the 4th March 1956, Rachael Denise Wallbank was admitted to practice as a solicitor and attorney of the Supreme Court of New South Wales on the 4th July 1980; after completing an Arts Law degree at the University of New South Wales. Rachael has practiced law continuously since that time and established her own firm, Wallbanks, on the first of July 1985. Wallbanks specialises in undertaking legal work on behalf of people in the areas of family, de-facto relationship and estate law. Rachael has also obtained post-graduate qualifications in mediation and alternative dispute resolution at the University of Western Sydney. Rachael is an accredited specialist in Family Law as awarded by the Specialist Accreditation Board of the Law Society of New South Wales.



Rachael has three children, Kate, Rebecca and James. Having accepted her transsexualism, Rachael transitioned and has subsequently undergone sex affirmation procedures and had her legal sex reassigned in the State of New South Wales pursuant to that State's, births, deaths and marriages law.

From 1999 to 2003 Rachael appeared on behalf of the Applicants, Kevin and Jennifer, in their successful original and appeal proceedings before the Family Court of Australia against the Attorney General for the Commonwealth of Australia recorded in the judgments of Justice Richard Chisholm delivered 12th September 2001 and the Full Court of the Family Court of Australia delivered 21 February 2003 whereby the marriage between Jennifer and Kevin, a man of transsexual background, was declared a valid marriage according to the marriage law of Australia.

Rachael also represented the applicant parents in the case *Re: Bernadette (Special Medical Procedure) [2010] FamCA 94* which was the first case in Australia where both Phase 1 (puberty suppression) and Phase 2 (affirmed sex development) hormonal treatment was approved for an Australian adolescent and the jurisdiction of the Family Court to determine whether or not young Australians can receive such therapeutic medical treatment was challenged.

For further information about Rachael and Wallbanks Legal, visit her website. 

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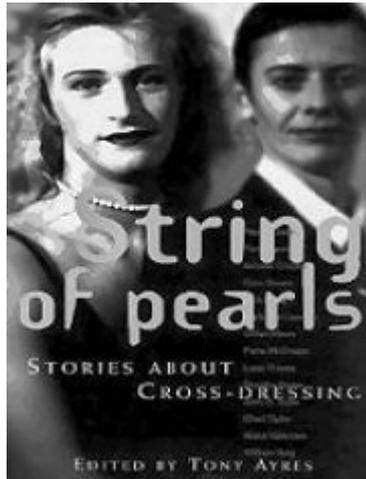
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Book Review: String of Pearls

Stories About Cross-Dressing

Reviewed by Katherine Cummings

Article appeared in Polare magazine: December 2001 Last Update: October 2013 Last Reviewed: September 2015



String of Pearls: Stories about Cross-Dressing

String of Pearls: Stories about Cross-Dressing

Authored by Paul Allatson, Catherine Lazaroo, John A. Scott, Dorothy Porter, Chad Taylor, Fiona McGregor and edited by Tony Ayres
Published by Allen & Unwin (1996)
I.S.B.N.-13 978 1863739146

String of Pearls is entertaining, despite the flimsiness of its supposed theme and should satisfy readers of eclectic taste and tolerant outlook.

As 'theme' anthologies go, this one casts a looser net than most. Although each story includes cross-dressing, the motivations vary widely, from Lady Caroline Lamb trying to prolong her affair with Byron by appealing to his homosexual side to women who don butchers' aprons and play with offal. There are also more conventional(?) examples of cross-dressing.

Paul Allatson, with 'Her Aviary' takes us into the mind of a confused young man who cannot describe his missing mother and impersonates her for the police artist. But is he really the mother and not the son? Or is he both?

'Instructions to My Seamstress' by Catherine Lazaroo is a lovely story; evocative, absorbing

and with the ring of bizarre truth appropriate to the wilful, eccentric genius of Caroline Lamb, who recounts tales of her friends and enemies to her dressmaker.

Predictably, several of the stories are concerned with the Australian gay and lesbian sub-culture. 'Silhouette' by Gillian Mears, 'The Man from the Caribbean' by William Yang, 'Tsunami' by Fiona McGregor and 'Tottering Towards Darlinghurst' by Gary Dunne all fit into this category.

The most overtly drag-oriented is Gary Dunne's piece about a cross-dresser arriving at a gay function in the expectation that she will receive an award for her 'centuries of service'. The feeding frenzy of confusion, excitement and waspish wit generated by the occasion is convincing and even touching. By contrast 'The Man from the Caribbean' takes us away from the sequins of Darlinghurst to an assignation between gay men, one transient, one resident, in a small Queensland(?) town. The encounter progresses to a climax (maybe more than one) and the sting comes when the family of the philandering Queenslander return home. 'Tsunami' rings the changes by depicting the (asexual) relationship between a lesbian and a gay who support each other through various one night stands. The gay scene is described as accurately as in 'Tottering Towards ...' and economically depicts the desperate resignation of adolescents drawn by circumstances into a life of prostitution (sorry, sex work) and drugs. 'Silhouette' takes us further afield, to Paris, where a travelling Australian lesbian is transformed by her Parisienne lover into a simulacrum of her dead brother. A one-night stand with a difference, carrying overtones of incest and undertones of androgyny.

I have mentioned Alana Valentine's 'Butchers Aprons' wherein a group of women dress in butchers' gear, recount events in their youth designed to embarrass themselves and their listeners and fondle various types of offal. I found it hard to suspend my disbelief.

Nor did I understand John A. Scott's 'Elegy'. Set in short lines as if it were meant to be a long, very dull, poem, it said nothing to me. Perhaps it is post-modern and not meant to be understood. There is another poem in this collection, 'Venice - the Aria' by the award-winning poet Dorothy Porter. Poetry is personal, yet published poetry must attempt to communicate, and this communicates nothing to me but disconnected images.

'My Cock Lives in Hell' by Tony Ayres, shows us a man torn between his desire for a drag queen and his passion for genetic women, including his (very sensibly) estranged wife. Belinda Chayko in 'The Stand-in' writes as a person obsessed by Eugenia, the woman who lived as a man, deceived a number of women as to her true sex and was sentenced to death for murder.

The only really pornographic story is 'Supercollider' by Chad Taylor. It concerns a couple who go through many variations of sexual fetishistic behaviour (of which cross-dressing is merely one example). Even if I accept the fact that the female character willingly (or submissively) allows herself to be degraded, I don't have to like it. Some readers would enjoy this sort of writing, and there are whole bookshops eager to satisfy their need.

'In the Forest of the Eternals' by Louis Nowra, is a rather vague and dream-like account of Alfred Deakin in London for the Imperial Conference of 1907. During his stay he cross-dresses at a séance in order to invoke spirits who will advise him on his future. On the voyage home he discards his dress. Nowra writes well, but the story is, probably intentionally, inconclusive.

I have saved the best for last.

Nick Enright's story, 'Crystal', delineates with sureness of detail and delicacy of feeling the confusion of a drama teacher who is mesmerized by the cross-dressed persona of one of his students. There are echoes of 'The Blue Angel' as the teacher finds himself drawn into total obsession with the character created by his student, who cannot comprehend the effect of his masquerade on the older man. The ending is tragic, and believable.

String of Pearls is entertaining, despite the flimsiness of its supposed theme and should satisfy readers of eclectic taste and tolerant outlook.

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Lynn Conway

Superstar of the Transsexual Firmament

from [Lynn Conway's Website](#)  Article appeared in Polare magazine: December 2001 Last Update: October 2013 Last Reviewed: September 2015



Professor Lynn Conway

Lynn Conway is a famed pioneer of micro-electronics chip design. Her innovations during the 1970s at the Xerox Palo Alto Research Centre (P.A.R.C.) have impacted chip design worldwide. Many high-tech companies and computing methods have foundations in her work.

The day will come when gender transition is no longer be seen as a sad, somewhat shameful and tragic event, but instead as a wonderful life-giving miracle

Thousands of chip designers learned their craft from Lynn's textbook *Introduction to V.L.S.I. Systems*, which she co-authored with Prof. Carver Mead of Caltech. Thousands more did their first V.L.S.I. design projects using the government's M.O.S.I.S. prototyping system, which is based directly on Lynn's work at P.A.R.C.. Much of the modern silicon chip design revolution is based on her work.

Lynn went on to win many awards and high honours, including election as a Member of the National Academy of Engineering, the highest professional recognition an engineer can receive.

What no one knew until recently is that Lynn also did earlier pioneering research at I.B.M. in the 1960s. Fresh out of grad. school, she invented a powerful method for issuing multiple out-of-order instructions per machine cycle in super computers. By solving this fundamental computer architecture problem way back in 1965, she made possible the creation of the first true super-scalar computer, and participated in its design at I.B.M.. Lynn called her invention "Dynamic Instruction Scheduling" or D.I.S.

By the 1990s, chips held enough transistors so that entire super-scalar computers could be put on single chips. Lynn's D.I.S. invention suddenly became used in almost all the powerful new P.C. chips, making them much more powerful than they'd otherwise have been. Lynn's work thus had yet another big impact on the modern information technology revolution.

Most computer engineers thought D.I.S. was a generalization of decades of work, and had no idea it had been invented in 1965. It caused Lynn great angst to see her wonderful invention so widely used, and described in all the computer architecture textbooks, without anyone knowing it was her idea.

How could this oversight have happened? Why did Lynn remain silent for over three decades about her D.I.S. work?

The answer is that women like Lynn have lived, especially in the past, in a holocaust of stigmatization, persecution and violence. They could not reveal their past identities without risking great physical danger to themselves, and great harm to their careers and their personal relationships.

You see, Lynn was born and raised as a boy. It was a terrible mistake, because Lynn had the brain sex and gender identity of a girl. However, back in the 1940s and '50s there wasn't any knowledge about such things, and Lynn was forced to grow up as a boy. She did the best she could at it, but suffered terribly from what was happening to her. She was still a boy and had a boy's name when she worked at I.B.M.

After years and years of trying to find help, she finally connected with the pioneering physician Harry Benjamin, M.D. in 1966, shortly after he'd published his seminal textbook *The Transsexual Phenomenon*. That text was the first to describe the true nature of, and medical solutions for, Lynn's mis-gendering affliction.

With Dr. Benjamin's help, Lynn began medical treatments in 1967. She became one of the very early transsexual women to undergo hormonal and surgical sex reassignment to have her body completely changed from that of a boy into that of a woman. Sadly, just before Lynn underwent sex reassignment surgery in 1968, she was fired by I.B.M. for being transsexual and lost all connections to her important work there.

Lynn's case was a first at I.B.M. The idea that a professional person would seek a "sex-change" totally shocked I.B.M.'s management. Most transsexual women seeking help back then were from among those who worked as "female impersonators" or as prostitutes. Only

those who were sure they could fully pass as women, who were totally desperate and who had nothing to lose, dared to change gender back then. When top I.B.M. management learned what Lynn was doing, she was fired in a maelstrom of animosity. It is almost certain that the decision was made by T.J. Watson, Jr., himself.

Lynn had managed to put together some fragile bits of support and help from her family and friends. However, when I.B.M. fired her everyone lost confidence in what she was doing and her support system collapsed. Lynn went abroad for her surgery, all alone. She had lost not only her career and professional reputation, but also her family, relatives, friends and colleagues. She faced a frighteningly uncertain future without a soul in the world to help her other than her doctors.

When Lynn returned, she made her social transition and took on her new name. She started her career all over again as a lowly contract programmer without a past. A gritty survivor, her adjustment in her new role went completely against the dire predictions of the I.B.M. executives and all the family and the friends who had deserted her. All alone she went out into the world, made new friends and worked hard to succeed in her new life.

Amazingly, Lynn became so happy, and so full of life and hope after her transformation, that her career took off like a rocket. Moving up through a series of companies, she landed a computer architecture job at Memorex in 1971. In 1973, she was recruited by Xerox's exciting new Palo Alto Research Centre, just as it was forming.

By 1978, just ten years after her gender transition, Lynn was already on the verge of international fame in her field for her V.L.S.I. innovations. By then she was writing the seminal textbook on the subject, and was heading off to M.I.T. to teach the first prototype course on V.L.S.I. systems.

Within two years, universities all over the world were adopting her text for similar courses. The Department of Defence started a major new program to sponsor research to build on her work. Scores of start-up companies began incubating and forming to commercialize the knowledge. All this happened without people catching on to Lynn's secret past. She could never have survived and done it if they had.

In the 1980s and '90s, Lynn went on to enjoy a wide-ranging, influential career, and a wonderfully adventurous, fulfilling and happy personal life. She is now Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Emerita, at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, where she also served for many years as Associate Dean of Engineering. She now lives on country property in rural Michigan with her boyfriend of many years.

However, for thirty-one years after her transition, Lynn carefully remained in "stealth mode". Only her closest friends knew about her past. Lynn knew of other transsexual women who had been socially ostracized, ghettoized, beaten, gang raped, murdered or driven to suicide when "read" or otherwise discovered by brutal, hateful people.

For years Lynn lived with an ever-present sense of danger, fearful that exposure of her past could cause her to lose her civil rights, legal rights and employment rights, and to suffer estrangements in her professional and personal relationships.

In 1999, computer historians finally stumbled into Lynn's early I.B.M. work. They tracked it down to her, and her past was revealed amongst her colleagues. Frightened at first, she gradually realised times might have changed enough that she needn't be afraid to be "out" now. She certainly has nothing at all to be ashamed of, and is indeed very proud of the successes in her personal life as well as those in her career.

At the same time, Lynn was dismayed that transsexual women are still treated so inhumanely by parents, relatives, employers, the legal system and society at large. The total rejection of teenage transsexual girls by their families is especially tragic, especially since it often happens just as they first cry out for help, and can doom them to years of marginalized existence.

Lynn began to think that her story might help somehow. Societal views are partly a media problem. Images of transsexualism routinely come from stories of "transition". That's a time when media can focus on prurient, somewhat shocking and often embarrassing aspects of someone's gender change. The stories seem superficially sympathetic, but often convey a sad, dreary image. Readers are left feeling sorry for the "poor things", and "certainly wouldn't want it to happen in their family"!

What doesn't come through is the miracle of release from entrapment in a male body that the transsexual girl experiences, and the happiness she finds as a woman later on. Folks never learn about the tens of thousands of post-operative women living among us who are very successful and fully accepted as regular gals. The public simply never sees these successes.

Why is this? Because almost all these women live in stealth, just as Lynn did, fearing what might happen if their pasts were revealed. Meanwhile, tens of thousands of young pre-operative transsexuals live in fear and doubt about their futures. They are often excommunicated by their families and lose their jobs, as happened to Lynn, when they identify their problem and seek medical help.

Lynn is the first truly successful case to come out of long-term stealth and tell her story. That story should give hope to young transsexuals. It should help parents see possibilities for happiness for a transsexual daughter, especially if they were to support their child's efforts to transform her "boy's" body and become a woman early enough in life. It should also give employers pause for thought before firing someone - just because of their transsexualism.

The day will come when gender transition is no longer seen as a sad, somewhat shameful and tragic event, but instead as a wonderful life-giving miracle for those so unfortunate as to have been mis-gendered at birth. Lynn hopes to live to see that day.

Lynn Conway

From Lynn Conway's website:  and Wikipedia:  Lynn Conway is a famed pioneer of microelectronics

chip design. Her innovations during the 1970s have impacted chip design worldwide. Many high-tech companies and computing methods have foundations in her work. She is also a trans woman and activist for the transgender community.



Conway grew up in White Plains, New York U.S.A. and upon learning of the pioneering research of Dr. Harry Benjamin in transgender treatment and realizing that a full gender transition was possible, she sought his help and became his patient. After suffering from severe depression from gender dysphoria, Conway contacted Dr. Benjamin, who agreed to providing counselling and prescribe hormones. Under Dr. Benjamin's care, she began preparing for transition.

While struggling with life in a male role, she had been married to a woman and had two children. Under the legal constraints then in place, post-transition she was denied access to their children. As well, her employer, I.B.M. fired her after she revealed her intention to transition to a female gender role.

Upon completing her transition in 1968, she took a new name and identity, and restarted her career in "stealth-mode", but by 1999, some thirty-one long years of living in stealth, she quietly began "coming-out" having discovered that computer historians searching for the origins of D.I.S., Lynn's earlier world renowned invention, were becoming aware of her early innovative work at I.B.M.. Indeed she suspected that she was about to be outed in the biggest, most public way possible. She began by using her website to inform colleagues, hoping to tell her story in her own words rather than have it just spill out. Her story was then more widely reported in 2000 in profiles in *Scientific American* and the *Los Angeles Times*.

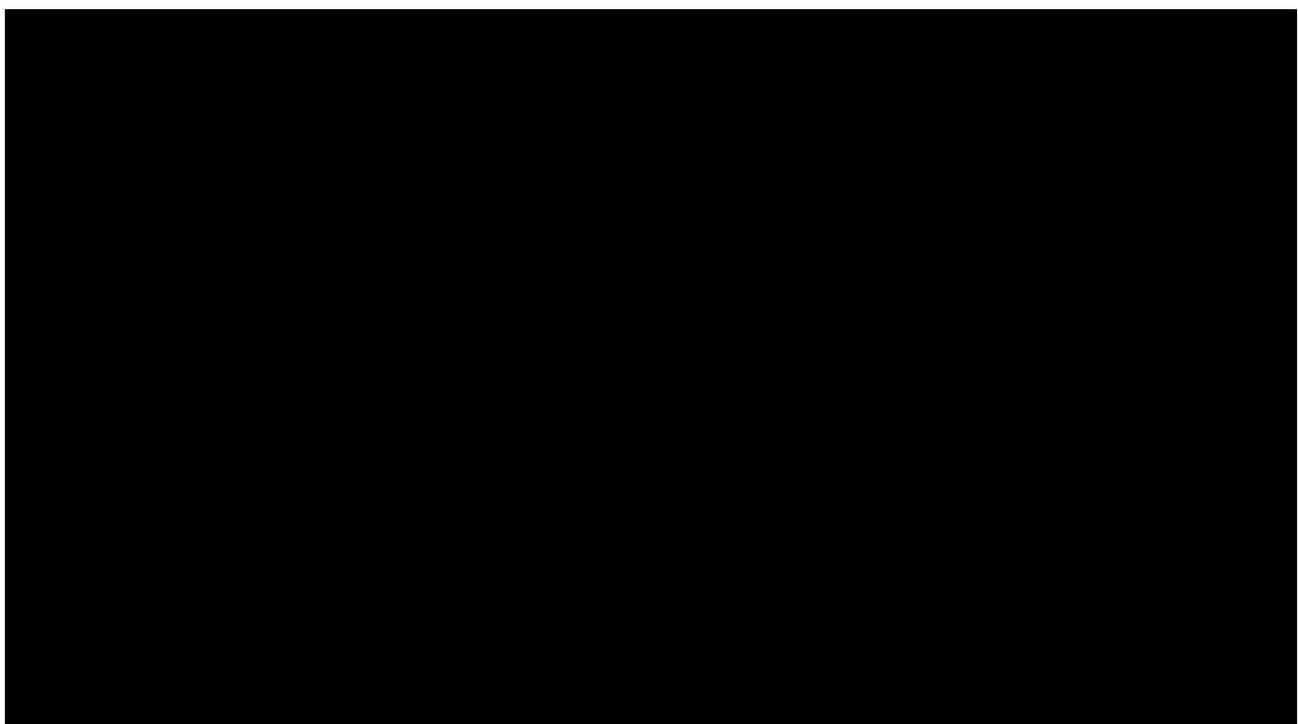
After going public with her story, she began work in transgender activism, intending to "illuminate and normalize the issues of gender identity and the processes of gender transition". She has worked to protect and expand the rights of transgendered people. She has provided direct and indirect assistance to numerous other transsexual women going through transition and maintains a well-known website providing emotional and medical resources and advice. She maintains a listing of many successful post-transition transsexual people, to, in her words "provide role models for individuals who are facing gender transition". Her website also provides current news related to transgender issues and information on sex reassignment surgery for transsexual women, facial feminization surgery, academic inquiries into the prevalence of transsexualism and transgender/transsexual issues in general.

Conway has been a prominent critic of the Blanchard, Bailey, and Lawrence theory of male-to-female transsexualism that all transsexual women are motivated either by feminine homosexuality or autogynephilia. She was also a key person in the campaign against J. Michael Bailey's book *The Man Who Would Be Queen*.

Conway was a cast member in the first all-transgender performance of *The Vagina Monologues*, in Los Angeles in 2004, and appeared in a documentary film about that event entitled *Beautiful Daughters*. She has also strongly advocated for equal opportunities and employment protections for transgender people in the high-technology industry, and for elimination of the pathologisation of transgender people by the psychiatric community.

In 2009, Conway was named one of the "Stonewall forty trans heroes" on the fortieth anniversary of the Stonewall riots by the International Court System, one of the oldest and largest predominantly gay organizations in the world, and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

In 1987, Conway met her husband Charlie, a professional engineer who shares many common interests. They bought a house together in rural Michigan and were married 2002.



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Pubic Lice (Crabs)

Parasitic Insects Found in the Genital Area of Humans

by Unknown Author

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Pubic lice are generally found in the genital area on pubic hair.

Also called "Crabs" pubic lice are parasitic insects generally found in the genital area of humans but may occasionally be found on other coarse body hair, such as hair on the legs or armpit. Lice found on the head, in areas like the moustache, beard, eyebrows, eyelashes and scalp hair are not pubic lice, they are head lice. Animals do not get or spread pubic lice. Infection is common and found worldwide.

Pubic lice have six legs, but their two front legs are very large and look like the claws of a crab which is why they got the nickname "crabs".

There are three stages in the life of a pubic louse; the nit, the nymph, and the adult.

Nits are pubic lice eggs. They are hard to see and are found firmly attached to the hair shaft. They are oval and usually yellow to white in colour. Nits take about one week to hatch into a baby louse called a nymph. It looks like an adult pubic louse only smaller.

Nymphs mature into adults about seven days after hatching and survive by feeding on blood.

The adult pubic louse resembles a miniature crab when viewed through a strong magnifying glass. They have six legs, but their two front legs are very large and look like the claws of a crab. Pubic lice are tan to greyish-white in colour with females usually larger than males. To survive, adult lice need to feed on blood and will die within about two days if it becomes separated from the host.

Pubic lice infestations are diagnosed by looking closely through pubic hair for nits, nymphs, or adults. Finding a nymph or adult may be difficult, they can move quickly away from the light. If crawling lice are not seen, finding nits confirms that a person is infested and should be treated. Diagnosis should be made by a health care provider.

Pubic lice are usually spread through sexual contact. Rarely will infestation be spread through contact with an infested person's bed linen, towels or clothes. A common misbelief is that infestation can be spread by sitting on a toilet seat. This isn't likely, since pubic lice cannot live long away from a warm human body. Also, lice do not have feet designed to walk or hold onto smooth surfaces.

Pubic lice are treated by a 1% permethrin or pyrethrin lice shampoo, also called pediculicide. To treat pubic lice infestations successfully, follow these steps: (medications described in this section should not be used near the eyes)

1. Wash the infested area; towel dry
2. Thoroughly saturate hair with lice medication. If using permethrin or pyrethrins, leave medication on for ten minutes; if using Lindane, shampoo should only be left on for four minutes. Thoroughly rinse off medication with water.
3. Dry off with a clean towel.
4. Following treatment, most nits will still be attached to hair shafts. Nits may be removed with fingernails
5. Put on clean underwear and clothing after treatment.
6. To kill any nits and lice that may be left on clothing or bedding, machine wash those items during the two to three days before treatment. Use the hot water cycle (at least 130 degrees Fahrenheit) of the washing machine to wash clothes. Use the hot cycle of the dryer for at least twenty minutes to dry clothes.
7. Dry-clean clothing that are not machine-washable.
8. Inform any sexual partners that they are at risk of infestation.
9. Avoid any sexual activity until partners have been treated and infestation has been cured.
10. Repeat in seven to ten days if lice are still found.

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Ten Basic Rules for Making Transmen Feel Welcome at M.T.F. Meetings

A Real Community Not Only Plays Together, But Works Together

by Jessica Xavier and Gary Bowen

Article appeared in Polare magazine: February 2001 Last Update: October 2013 Last Reviewed: September 2015



A real community not only plays together, but works together.

1. Do not assume all men attending meetings are M.T.F.s. Perhaps the most common error we M.T.F.s make. Often a post-transition transman attending a M.T.F. meeting will be mistaken by well-meaning M.T.F.s to be another M.T.F. who is there for the first time. The transman will explain the error, only to be answered by, "I never would have guessed you were a woman!" a comment that does not please most transmen, since they were never women, regardless of what was on their birth certificate. Many transmen will simply leave such a group without correcting the error. These are known in the F.T.M. community as invisible men. Remember we have brothers as well as sisters in our transgender family.

Making a habit of using inclusive language will raise the consciousness and sensitivity of all our M.T.F. members.

2: Listen to them when they speak. They may be shy initially, but you can make them feel welcome by being open to them and listening. When they do speak, do not cut them off, nor invalidate their very different experience by rattling on with your own. Do not talk down to them, nor make fun of them. Just because they are trying to grasp what you have disowned doesn't give you permission to discount them. Respect them and their experience. Shut up and listen to men for a change.

3: Do not ask a transman a lot of personal questions. Overall, the transmen tend to be more private about their bodies, and most feel that their medical status is nobody's business but their own. Asking them about it is invasive and rude. If they want to share, they will. Give these guys their privacy.

4: Do not hit on a transman. Unfortunately, this is a common complaint. A transman said it best: "One reason why many F.T.M.s do not come to M.T.F. meetings is because if you have thirty guys in skirts in a room, at least one of them is going to look at a transman and think, "She's a woman, and she understands me!" then glom him". Such unwanted attention can be more than just rude, when viewed in the light of some studies which have shown that the F.T.M. community suffers a much higher incidence of violence, sexual assault and incest. Our support group meetings must create safe space for all transgendered people who attend. Be sensitive and respectful. If a transman is interested in you, he will let you know.

5: Do not assume that a transman is straight. Transmen can be bisexual or gay (yes, g-a-y, as in male homosexual, as in attracted to other men, transsexual or non-transsexual). The late Lou Sullivan, founder of F.T.M. International, identified himself as a gay man and died from AIDS. Have you ever seen that button that reads, "How Dare You Presume I'm Straight"? Remember how you feel when some unknowing person thinks you're gay because you cross-dress? Avoid making this insensitive and insulting mistake.

6: Allow for bathroom parity. Don't allow both the men's room and the women's room to be totally taken over by M.T.F.s who are changing into their dresses. Transmen occasionally need to use the restroom and can't do it if three M.T.F.s are clustered around the mirror putting on makeup. An F.T.M. cross-dresser may want separate changing facilities of his own as well. For a female cross-dresser or anyone not living as a man, the trip to the men's room may not be something they are ready to handle, especially in the context of a new situation, such as attending a M.T.F. meeting for a first time. Allow them their own space to pee.

7: Avoid use of female-centric language. Whether addressing a group or speaking one-on-one, don't use "girls", "sisters", "ladies", etc. Rather: "ladies and gentlemen", "sisters and brothers", "girls and boys", or better yet, use gender-neutral language such as "friends", "folks", "people" or "colleagues". Many people on the F.T.M. spectrum opt out of the whole binary gender thing, and refusing to be identified as either a man or woman is fairly common. Consider how difficult it has been for trans activists to get gay and lesbian activists to add "bisexual and transgendered" to "gay and lesbian". Verbal inclusion is a necessary first step.

8: Use inclusive language at all times. The passability of many transmen is good enough that you will never know when a stealth transman is attending a meeting. Many of them do - as one transman puts it, "there are more of us than you think". It is fairly common

for passing transmen to surf M.T.F. support groups, showing up unannounced to check them out. But usually, he is not satisfied with any of these groups, and he doesn't come back. He has his own needs for support, and most often he is unwilling to be the token out F.T.M.. Assuming that role for a group would require him to work his butt off educating its M.T.F. membership. He also may come as an ally to the meetings of an M.T.F.-lead organisation whose mission he believes in. But in either situation, he usually will not out himself. Thus we always should try to be aware of and to use inclusive language, even when we don't seem to have any F.T.M.s in attendance. Making a habit of using inclusive language will raise the consciousness and sensitivity of all our M.T.F. members.

9: Attempt to schedule educational programming of interest to both M.T.F.s and F.T.M.s. Allow for discussion of shared issues and presentations of mutual interest. Topics may include family and relationship issues, access to and dealing with health care providers and other helping professionals, legal matters and redocumentation, violence and self-defence, political concerns, etc. Focusing on these practical matters will help those just starting to come-out overcome their fears, and help all of us to learn how to deal with these situations. These issues and concerns are the common denominators of everyone in our community.

10: Ask the guys if they are interested in working together on common issues and concerns. A real community not only plays together, but works together. Support and social activities are easily intermixed with educational and political activities, and are often synergistic. These combined activities lead to the establishment of smoother interpersonal relationships and even friendships between M.T.F.s and F.T.M.s. Much can be accomplished if we can find ways to work together toward a common transgender vision. And there are more than a few F.T.M.s who, if given the opportunity, would be wonderful leaders of transgendered groups with agendas filled with common concerns. Ask the men to join our groups and become contributing members and leaders. Remember that Inclusion is more than saying, "We're so glad you could come"!

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A Transsexual's View of Adelaide

It's Time to Get Out of Dodge City

Teri Louise Kelly

Article appeared in Polare magazine: February 2001 Last Update: October 2013 Last Reviewed: September 2015



I was in a virtually all-female environment and intentionally or not on their part they shielded me from prying onlookers and moronic comments.

A former migrant, I guess I am still a foreigner, maybe not in language or dialect, but certainly in appearance. I have lived in Victoria and Tasmania (as a male) and in South Australia as a male and as my true self, a female.

... a lesbian already being treated prejudicially in her workplace and a pre-operative transsexual being incorrectly stereotyped by the general public - a fascinating combination for Adelaide to grasp.

I began my transition in a quiet town on the Fleurieu Peninsula and after the initial hoo-ha I was pretty much left alone and generally supported. Things were, I assumed, pretty straightforward for transsexuals, at least in my case. I was (and am) easy to get along with. I was outgoing, funny and I guess most importantly, non-threatening. In other words I wasn't what people expected when they met me, no high-heels, no tight skirt, no garish make-up, no scary hairpiece. I was just, well, ordinary. I think, in the main I disappointed those coming in the hope of seeing a freak.

I was a chef back then, and a good one, and changing gender does not affect the skills required to perform a chosen occupation, especially one practised for fifteen years before transition.

I had a little flirt with publicity, both local and state-wide, which gave me more exposure but generally produced only favourable comments and support. I remember being stopped in Marion shopping centre three weeks after appearing on television, by two ladies who told me I was "so courageous". I hadn't always felt like that, most days I was terrified, but the publicity had, in my eyes, lifted the burden of explanation from my shoulders, and I thought that if almost everyone in the State had already seen me - well, what else was there to know?

Transsexuals often possess traits which are given them (unbeknown) to compensate for the years they live in the gender role of their physical body. Stamina, unlimited patience, tolerance ... they are often intellectual, artistic and outgoing. Thus, through the difficult months of decision and psychiatric evaluation and through the 'Real Life Test', they have the qualities they will need to draw on.

As I said, I hadn't really needed them. I was in a virtually all-female environment and intentionally or not on their part they shielded me from prying onlookers and moronic comments. I remember a busy summer night in my open kitchen where I was a drawcard. A couple unseen by me sent in a message by the waitress which said something like "Don't worry about small town mentality. Stick to your guns".

As I have stated, I never suffered any adverse reaction in my small town, only ignorance of my situation, mainly taking the form of assuming I was a homosexual male, which I wasn't and had never been.

I had never even considered taking a new partner in my new life. Oh, I had flirted with the idea, but I was sensible enough to realise that transsexuals find it difficult to find a new life partner, for many reasons. Maybe because many males see it as a sexual conquest ... chicks with dicks, she-males and all of that macho invented garbage that is offensive to transsexuals other than the silicone transplanted boys you can pay to view on the internet. Transsexuals are divided in their sexual preference, some preferring males, and others preferring females. Whichever they choose they are often scorned and rejected by their close sexual partners, often on the grounds that they are not 'real' women.

Generally my view is that I don't care and have no inclination to be drawn into debate because it is pointless and worthless. It is one group stereotyping another, even though the group being stereotyped is itself anti-stereotyping. Very strange.

I have never cared whether genetic women accept me as a woman. Of course I like it when they do, but I cannot argue for or against the opinions which are always going to be a sideshow to the actual event. Why bother? It's a free country isn't it? I do know that I don't stereotype them, that I accept them and their preferences openly without prejudice and the fact that they cannot accept me in return leaves me thinking that maybe they are unsure of themselves and their identity.

I digress, however. I had not seriously entertained the idea of having a steady partner in my life. Perhaps transsexuals have enough emotional and physical stress in their lives, and many have doubtless left relationships and suffered hurt and pain as a result. In my case it was an eighteen-year marriage, so even considering a new partner who might cause me to become vulnerable again and suffer anguish was difficult.

And yet, like many of my ilk, I found after nearly two years and a recently formalised divorce that testing the water to see if anyone would like or even love the new me (the real me) was intriguing.

Would this partner, who would certainly be female see me as a woman and thus as a lesbian? I felt more confident within myself, more contented with my looks and feminine self, more able to hold my own in a female-to-female relationship, so, like an angler learning the craft, I threw the line in once or twice clumsily, never seriously considering that I would catch anything. Much to my surprise however, I did, and it wasn't a sprat I had caught. With beginner's luck I had caught a great white.

This intelligent, attractive and alluring female and I fell in love immediately, something I had vowed I would not allow. I was fragile emotionally and the risk of finding and then losing a love was far too hard to consider. True love, however, is a strange thing and within days I realised I had never truly been in love and had never been truly loved.

Everything was strange ... surreal almost. I could not believe that this woman was in love with me and saw me wholly as a woman, but undoubtedly she did. Her attitude, her feelings and her words were not hard to interpret. That one singular event, meeting her for the first time over a rushed meal in town, was to change both her life and mine forever. Despite all the reservations and self-doubt transsexuals possess, I was for the first time in my life allowing myself to be guided by feminine intuition. There was no apparent sexual lust, this relationship was based upon a thing I had believed to be merely a myth from Mills and Boon novellas - true love.

Our relationship grew at an alarming rate, like a beanstalk, but neither of us shirked the fact or avoided the obvious. Life was difficult enough for us singly, a lesbian already being treated prejudicially in her workplace and a pre-operative transsexual being incorrectly stereotyped by the general public - a fascinating combination for Adelaide to grasp.

We had a problem, the first of many we did and still do encounter. This was the tyranny of distance. She lived way north and I lived way south. She worked when I was off and vice versa. This was never a stereotypical heterosexual relationship ... boy meets girl, boy and girl fall in love, date for three years, save for house, blah, blah, blah. This was more like a Sid and Nancy relationship, intense, possessive, a freight train that was impossible to derail and gaining momentum each day. Despite the apprehension of those who knew us individually, nothing was going to prevent our being together on a permanent basis.

Obviously she could not find work in Fleurieu, yet she was willing to come. The preferred solution was for me to head for the little country town that thought it was the big city ... Adelaide.

Almost everyone I knew, including my shrink, advised me that this would be a catastrophic move. I was assured that in South Australia, transitioning transsexuals did it more easily in the 'bush'. I found this ludicrous. In Britain a transsexual heads straight for London or Manchester. Doing it out in the sticks would be far too difficult. Besides, I considered Adelaide (to a limited extent) to be liberated and forward thinking (as it proclaims).

Doesn't it have a L.G.B.T. festival? What city would do that for gays and lesbians and transgendered people if the city itself and its 'straight' population didn't provide support? Foolishly I thought that finishing my transition, finding alternative employment and generally being the darling of the thriving gay and lesbian scene with my beautiful partner would be a breeze, especially after the loneliness, isolation and long nights crying myself to sleep I had already endured. How wrong can a person be? Very, would be an apt choice.

Maybe I should have realised that being yelled at on Melbourne Street by a group of moronic idiots, or being spat at on O'Connell Street were sound indicators that transsexuals weren't and aren't welcomed or tolerated in the city of churches.

Here was a city I had praised to potential migrants in London six years earlier as a safe, progressive and tolerant haven, yet the simple truth is that you can be ethnic in Adelaide, you can look foreign, you can speak no English, but you cannot be different.

Potential employers treated me as if I were a leper. Maybe they thought I had AIDS. Who knows what they thought, but each and every ignorant idiot who interviewed me showed the same lack of respect, the same look of disgust and the same attitude. I was finally finding out what prejudice was about. My partner was also discovering what it was like to date a transsexual, both in her workplace where she was overlooked for promotion and in public where we were unfailingly the free entertainment in Rundle Mall each Saturday. Neither of us buckled, and we still don't. Financial hardship beset us. Being a transsexual takes vast amounts of money and without my income we started to struggle. Regardless of this our relationship only blossomed more, our determination grew stronger and when her work started to eat into our relationship, money or not she gave it away.

No doubt you may find this strange, after all, doesn't heterosexual society cling to mundane jobs to buy rabbit hutches of houses in the suburbs? None of this impressed us. If you're going to be different, be different and stop acting like them. Be proud and strong, Christ, we haven't even seen another gay couple out in daylight holding hands. Actually, we don't see many couples holding hands, full stop. Adelaide progressive? Bring on Beijing.

Transsexuals of course crave mostly heterosexual environment. They tend to blend and try to disappear in suburbia. Those that decide to become lesbians face the more difficult choice for their playground is the gay and lesbian scene. This never bothered me as I had always regarded this community as more open, tolerant and supportive than most, and I still believe that to be true.

Drive down Main South Road and South Australia becomes more liberal and tolerant, drive north and you encounter more prejudice and criticism ... a strange anomaly in the city versus country debate. Most of the meetings and clubs for lesbians are down south and as a transitioning transsexual I can walk around Collonades or Marion without attracting much attention ... why wasn't this equality true

in the heart of the city?

I had already learned, like many transsexuals, that the price for reaching my goal was high. I had forsaken a marriage, children, home, possessions, friends.

After meeting my partner I was experiencing more loss, superficial maybe but loss nonetheless ... job, friends, social standing. Our commitment to each other cost us both dearly. She lost friends and family. I had to enter voluntary bankruptcy. These are things other people, whether straight or queer, might consider too high a price to pay.

We adjust every day to this hostile environment and in Adelaide we find the gay scene to be pretty closeted, with the notable exception of Adelaide's gay and lesbian hotel on Currie Street, a veritable oasis in a gay and lesbian desert. Whether you are local or visiting, this is a must for you, the only place in town where we are treated normally by staff and customers alike.

I always knew I was a woman and I always knew that one day I was going to be able to adjust my physical persona. I never knew I was going to become a lesbian. I don't want to be spat or stared at, I just want to be left alone. I thought this might happen in an enlightened progressive city but unfortunately the reverse is true.

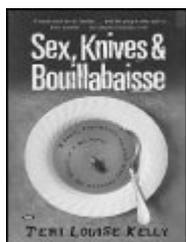
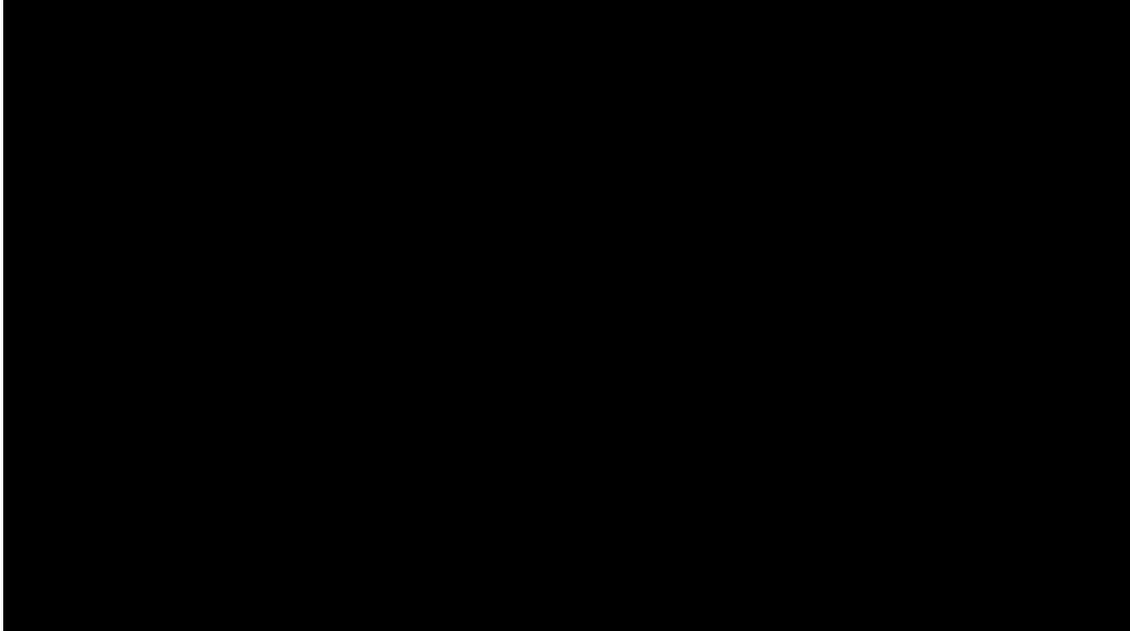
Maybe I (we) will always be stared at no matter where we go, our next stop is Sydney, then later on next year London and Amsterdam (to live). All we know is that it's time to get out of Dodge City. This Cinderella and her Prince(ss) Charming are going to the ball, one way or another.

Teri Louise Kelly

From Amazon Books:  Teri Louise Kelly is the self-taught, genre & gender-crossing author of three memoirs and one poetry collection. Originally from Brighton, U.K. she now lives in Adelaide. Her work has appeared in innumerable worldwide journals and she regularly reads her poetry live. Also having released a spoken word C.D. in 2010 she is known variously as "The Acid Queen", "The Ice Pick Chick", "Bukowski with Boobs" and "The Punk Rock Poet". Currently working on her second poetry anthology "Dead With Its Legs Spread on an Unmade Bed" she also plays bass guitar and paints serial killer art. The co-founder of Blunt Trauma Press she is also writing a speculative fiction novel entitled *The Ferrous Wheel* Teri Louise Kelly is something of an enigma in the otherwise stoic world of literature - the kind of writer one either loves or loathes as one international reviewer noted. She is always available for unlicensed psychoanalysis sessions and tarot readings.



You Tube features many of Teri's poetry readings, including this short video.



Sex, Knives & Bouillabaisse
Author: Teri Louise Kelly
Publisher: Wakefield Press (2010)
I.S.B.N.-13 978 1862547568

From Amazon Books:  It all started in 1975. I was fifteen years, 344 days old, nothing but a kid, albeit a kid they'd highlighted in *The Year Book* as a "hard case". I was four months out of juvey, give or take, and I had a swagger, an edge, abrasion ... So begins the hilarious, often vexed, and constantly twisted life story of Teri Louise Kelly in this first volume of her memoirs. Writing as the boy she once was, Teri takes us into the cloistered world of swanky hotels in England and Paris. As a chef, Teri Louise Kelly strutted the line in big kitchens with a cocky impudence and girlish hips; as a writer, she brings to the page a furnace-like blast of candidness coupled with an eye for detail sharp as a sniper's. "Reading *Sex Knives*

and Bouillabaisse will cure anybody of their delusions of glamour around a career in cooking; also possibly of ever eating out again". - Kerri Jackson, the New Zealand Herald.



Last Bed On Earth
Author: Teri Louise Kelly
Publisher: Wakefield Press (2010)
I.S.B.N. -13 978 1862548220

From Amazon Books: 📖 Even the free whisky had gone, and the mini-bar gins. What else were a couple of girls down on their luck supposed to do? Teri Louise Kelly and her partner in crime, Jo Buck, arrive penniless in New Zealand from the U.K, on the hunt for a "better way of life". Instead they find a situation vacant ad, and become managers of a 100-bed backpacking hostel, attending the peculiar whims of the budget travelling army as it descends through the long white clouds

bearing rucksacks, innumerable contagious diseases and too little in the way of good sense. *Last Bed on Earth* tells the story of those six months of mayhem in the adventure capital of the world as viewed from behind a wire mesh cage - and from the unique perspective of a man who became a woman acting the role of a man. "A wonderful novel full of dark humour". - Debbie Phillips, *Chronicle*.



American Blow Job
Author: Teri Louise Kelly
Publisher: Open Books (2010)
I.S.B.N. Not Applicable

From Amazon Books: 📖 America 1984: Ronald Reagan, bad hair, shoulder pads and Gremlins. Enter a quick witted and very horny British boy, Luiz by name, a blue-eyed bastard son of Queen Elizabeth who is en route to New England. Visa in hand, and wearing a Maggie Thatcher t-shirt, he is sucked into the American vacuum. *American Blow Job* is an animated, hilarious account of an English boy's quest to experience Lady Liberty's novelty and promise. If you think you have read

every conceivable take on the great American experience, *American Blow Job* offers a new and unique take on the befuddled and often disenchanting immigrant. And best of all, you just might laugh yourself right off your chair!

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The Gender Centre is committed to developing and providing services and activities, which enhance the ability of people with gender issues to make informed choices. We offer a wide range of services to people with gender issues, their partners, family members and friends in New South Wales. We are an accommodation service and also act as an education, support, training and referral resource centre to other organisations and service providers. The Gender Centre is committed to educating the public and service providers about the needs of people with gender issues. We specifically aim to provide a high quality service, which acknowledges human rights and ensures respect and confidentiality.