



Positive Women

Positive News



M.A.C. AIDS Fund Milestone: \$1 Million raised from Viva Glam Lipstick

December 2010

Diary Dates



Positive Women's Retreat 15 -17 April 2011

If you need another registration form or have any inquiries about the Retreat please call 09 309 1858 or 0800 769848 from outside of Auckland or send an email to admin@positivewomen.co.nz.

Editor's Update

Tena Koutou Katoa, Jambo, Hello, Talofa lava, Taloha ní, Halo olaketa, Bula vínaka, Kam na maí, La orana, Fakaalofa, Lahí atu, Malo lelei, Nabat, Zdravo, Cíao, Sha-lom, Saludo, Bonjour, Aman, Servus, Konnichi wa, Buenos Días, Nyob zoo, Torova, Namaste, Ci yi bak, Salaama.

Hello everyone, I'm Sumeera, you can call me Sue. Well, I'm here filling in the gap as Valerie is on leave. What a pleasure meeting some of you, but for those that I have not met yet, I'm looking forward meeting you.

It's summer time! Make sure you put on appropriate clothing or gear when you are out and about in the sun. The most important thing is, don't forget your sunblock. We don't want to look like a stir fry prawn during Christmas do we?

Talking about Christmas, wow time flies and we are at the end of the year, again. Then the new year, woohoo long holidays!!! Hope you all had a wonderful and healthy year and a better one next year, ok.

In this issue of Positive News, there are all sorts of great articles starting with a note for Ali Gardner family on page 6, followed by webinar and Positive Speakers on page 7. Read about the Family Hui on pages 8-9; notes on Services for PLHIV on pages 10-11 and World AIDS Day event(s) on pages 12-13.

More exciting exposure on Positive Women in News and Teen Camp on pages 14-15; Rachael's farewell and Youth Expo on pages 16-17. Exhilarating news on QWU and the new HIV

medication on page 18-19. Our face-book page(s) is finally up and running properly with few changes made and for more info, read page 20. These would follow by the pages on upcoming events and notices.

Any comments, suggestions, requests and articles for the newsletter would be welcomed and greatly appreciated.



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Best wishes, Sue.

Inside this issue:

| | |
|--------------------------|-------|
| Diary Dates | 2 |
| Editors Update | 3 |
| Coordinators Update | 4-5 |
| Ali Gardner & Webinar | 6 |
| Positive Speakers Bureau | 7 |
| Family Hui | 8-9 |
| Services for PLHIV | 10-11 |
| World AIDS Day Events | 12-13 |
| Positive Women in News | 14 |
| Teen Camp | 15 |
| Rachael Le Mesurier | 16 |
| Youth Expo | 17 |
| Queen of Whole Universe | 18 |
| New HIV Medicines | 19 |
| Facebook Update | 20 |
| Notes | 21-23 |
| Sponsors | 24 |

Thank you very much to the following companies for sponsoring Positive News



Coordinator's Update



Hello everyone....the last newsletter of the year...and what a year it's been. Full of exciting projects and events as well as some significant miles stones as you will find as you read through the newsletter.

You may have realised by reading the Editors update, we have wonderful Sue working at the office for a few months while Valerie is on extended leave to sort out some personal issues. Valerie is okay and will be back with us soon.

Thankfully Sue has stepped in to fill the enormous gap which resulted in us being back to just me for a few weeks and subsequently we were not able to get a newsletter out in October. So if it feels like you haven't heard from us for a while, you would be right.

So get your self a cuppa, put your feet up and give yourself some time to catch up on all the news in this bumper issue.

World AIDS Day: This is probably one of the most important calendar dates of the year for raising awareness of HIV and AIDS.

Positive Women Inc. had a number of

activities scheduled building up to the day which was highlighted by a big luncheon together with MAC for media and organisations which have benefited over the years from grants through the MAC AIDS Fund. Read more on page 13 and 14.

World's AIDS Day Street Collection: A disappointing announcement made by NZAF just prior to World AIDS Day was that funds collected through the Street Bucket Collection would no longer go to the Wellness Fund. After some negotiation with the National Collective of People living with HIV (NCPHIV) i.e Positive Women Inc. Body Positive, INA and APP, NZAF finally conceded to put 25% of the collection towards the Wellness Fund with the remaining 75% to be used by NZAF to purchase Lube to go with condoms as part of their prevention programme.

The NCPHIV continued to negotiate but NZAF said they would not concede any further. Subsequently the Collective approached the NZAF Board Chair directly in an attempt to enter into further negotiations. The outcome was that the funds collected on World AIDS Day would be held until negotiations could be continued in the new year.

We would be interested in hearing your thoughts on this. We have included a little survey (and a returned addressed envelope for members). We ask that you return this before the 17th of January so that we have a clear understanding of what you feel these funds should be used for so that we might accurately represent your views.

Funding: No sooner did I mention the recession funding hangover in the last newsletter and then the money started to come in.

Once again we have been incredibly privileged to obtain a very significant grant of \$70,000 from the MAC AIDS Fund on the eve of World AIDS Day. This grant will cover some of the wages for the National Coordinator and the Admin and Member Support role as well as another Digital Story Telling Workshop. But most significantly the grant will cover almost all of the costs for the Women's Retreat.

A HUGE THANK YOU to the MAC AIDS Fund. Without their continued support we most certainly would not be in the position we are today.

Ironically on the very same day we also received another donation of \$7,700 from the Queen of the Whole Universe Charitable Trust. You can read more about this event on page 18.

A HUGE THANK YOU to all involved in the Queen of the Whole Universe Pageant who worked tirelessly rehearsing for the Pageant. Profits from the evening were divided between Positive Women Inc. Body Positive and the New Zealand AIDS Foundation.

The \$7,700 will be split with \$5,000 going towards the 2012 Family Hui and \$2,700 to the Torrens Fund to enable young people living with HIV to attend the Teen Camp in Australia in September 2011.

Another big **THANK YOU to COGS** who provided a grant of \$6,000 for general Administration Costs which will cover Board Meetings, Rent and General Expenses.

Positive Speakers Bureau: The first training session for the Positive Speakers Bureau in over 7 years was held in Auckland over the weekend of

the 26-29th of November 2010. You can read more about this on page 7. We now have a core team of around 17 speakers and already have 5 bookings for the next workshop which we hope will be run in June 2012. Dates to be confirmed.

Regional Support Gatherings:

The Positive Women Inc. Christmas gathering was held in Auckland on the 4th of December 2010. We took the opportunity of the Board members being in Auckland for the final Board meeting of the year to get members together for some Christmas cheer. It was an intimate gathering and it was great to see some faces who we hadn't seen for some time come back into the fold.

Hamilton and Christchurch are to have gatherings over the Christmas and New Year Period. Don't forget, if you want to start regular get togethers in your region, contact Positive Women Inc. to let us know so that we can help facilitate the process.

On that note I shall say goodbye and wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Very Happy New Year. Till next we meet.

Stay well

Jane Bruning, National Coordinator

Positive Women Inc.
office will be closed from
23 Dec 2010—16 Jan 2011
For emergencies please
contact Jane Bruning on
027 411 5736

Ali Gardner



Ali was one of the founding members of Positive Women Inc. and worked tirelessly as the National Co-ordinator for a number of years in the days when everything was done on a volunteer basis.

Ali spoke out at a time when HIV was still called AIDS and the stigma of such a diagnoses was far greater than it is today, and it is still bad now.

Ali suffered ill health for a number of years as a result of repeated resistance to even the most current ARV's.

It is timely to reflect that even though many of us can now live a relatively long and healthy life, there is still no cure and there are still some who don't make it.

We start this newsletter on a sad note to acknowledge the passing of Ali Gardner who died peacefully in her sleep on Monday the 6th of December.

Please do join us in taking a moment to think of Ali and to wish her well in the hereafter, in peace....

Webinar

Positive Women Inc. National Coordinator, Jane Bruning, was the first person to present on a compelling new series of online interviews featuring real New Zealanders' who are living with HIV launched on 1 December 2010 to coincide with World AIDS Day.

Ada Chin, a film student at the University of Auckland, says she was inspired to create webinars - online seminars - focusing on the lives of

people living with HIV after hearing about the discrimination they experienced in their day-to-day lives. Ada says; "People fear what they don't understand. I wanted to reduce the gap between the myth and the reality of HIV". The webinar allows people who are not comfortable with seeking information on HIV in public, to learn about it in the privacy of their own homes."

Check out the website on; www.thetalkingrevolution.com

Positive Speakers

The first Positive Speakers training in 7 years was held over the weekend of the 26-29th of November 2010. 12 people from all over New Zealand and from a diverse ethnic, cultural, age and sexual background came together for an intensive three and a half day workshop which started on Friday afternoon. Dinner was had after the official opening and then everyone wandered down to the beach and swapped stories as a way of introducing the concept of telling stories.

The workshop was facilitated by Jonathan Smith and Jane Bruning who put everyone thorough an intensive training programme to help develop skills on how to structure talks and to tailor presentations for a broad range of audiences.

It was a time of learning, of emotions, of tears and laughter, but most of all it was a very empowering weekend where 12 very strong and courageous people stood up and made a stand. A stand to put a face to HIV, a stand to speak out, a stand to stamp out HIV related stigma, discrimination and to reduce the ignorance which still continues to surround HIV.

Each of the participants were given the appropriate training and resources on how to tell their story and speak publicly about their experience of living with HIV .

The power of sharing the reality of living with HIV is significant for both those telling their story and for those listening. It helps to challenge the perceptions about who can and cannot



become infected and putting a face to HIV. It also helps to break down discrimination and prejudice against people living with HIV and contributes to preventing the spread of HIV in New Zealand communities.

If you are interested in registering for the next Positive Speakers training in June 2012 (date to be advised) by sending an email to;

admin@positivewomen.co.nz or call 09) 309 1858 or free phone outside of Auckland on 0800 (POZTIV) 769848.

If you would like to book a speaker to come and talk at one of your training events, schools, conferences or workshops, please contact the Positive Speakers Bureau

We look forward to hearing from you.

A Colourful 20

This year the bi-annual Family Hui held up to it's name. It was a wonderful big family gathering, with families from all over New Zealand spending the weekend in November together, talking, laughing, smiling, hugging, eating, singing (well, karaokeing to be exact, if there is such a word) and of course teary eyes here and there, but hey, that's what family do when they are together, don't they?!

However, one would not miss the most striking feature about this family, they are so colourful in many ways from different backgrounds, ages, ethnicity, experience and much more, none of which seems to matter, because they are a family and one would be so grateful to be apart of this family, who wouldn't.

This time around, there were 72 family members getting together for the weekend and like any normal family, there would always be new additions, be it the young ones or the adults and all were welcomed with open hearts.

The weekend started with Quiz Night, which was both fun and informative.



It was a weekend of gathering knowledge, understanding, belonging and freedom to be able to share, to feel safe, to open up and heal as well as knowing that people were not alone in their journey with HIV.

The adult sessions included workshops on disclosure, exploring positive change and a very informative Q & A session with Dr Mark Thomas, a leading HIV clinician from Auckland Hospital.

Sunday morning started with a relaxing yoga class and a Maori korero session which provided the opportunity to discuss, connect and share knowledge and experiences around issues facing Maori living with HIV.

The fun-filled weekend continued for the kids and teenagers with heaps of activities lined up for them such as, abseiling, archery / slug gun, hydroslide, crate climb and BMX Go Karts as well as creative workshops of puppet making and art.

The Theatre Sport presented by the staff and fireworks on Guyfaulks night were other highlights of the weekend.

The beautiful venue in addition to the friendly staff and helpful volunteers all contributed to making this a successful event and the best Family Hui so far. Evaluations completed by those who attended the Hui confirmed this. A summary of the Family Hui evaluations is included with this newsletter

Oh, not to forget the food... yummm.... and it was nice not having to cook for a change, right? Just sit back, relax and eat. ...and seconds, woohoo...

2010 Family Hui



Update:

Margueritte is recovering well and is back at home safe and sound. Thank you to everyone who went to visit her and for helping out in a time of need. Thank you so much.

A big thank you to all the sponsors who contributed and to all the volunteers and workshop facilitators who unselfishly gave up their weekend to help run the workshops, organise activities and look after the kids. **THANK YOU.**

*Dates for the next Family Hui
2-4 November 2012.*



Review of Services for People Living with HIV

You may remember earlier in the year (January issue of Positive News) we mentioned that the Ministry of Health was to undertake a review on services for people in New Zealand living with HIV.

The review was completed in April 2010 at which time it fondly became known as 'the Miller Report'. It took a few more months for the Ministry of Health to look through the report and finally in October 2010, Positive Women Inc, Body Positive, INA, APP and NZAF were given copies of the report and invited to the offices of the Ministry for a personal presentation of the review by Dr David Miller.

The 60 page review identified that **services** for people living with HIV or AIDS in New Zealand are reaching and being appreciated by those for whom they are designed. However Dr Miller did identify 7 areas to which he offered the recommendations outlined on page 11.

While the Ministry has indicated they may not be able to respond to all the recommendations made in the report they have however agreed to address the issue and recommendation number 7 in regards to funding smaller NGO's providing services for people living with HIV.

A couple of meetings and a few phone calls later, means that Positive Women Inc, Body Positive and INA are each to receive government funding of \$100,000.

Understandably this is not a free hand-out and will require considerable compliance audits and paperwork. But the most significant aspect here really is that finally, after 20 years, the government is recognising the work done by the Positive Peoples communities and are showing this by offering financial assistance and support to the communities of people living with HIV.



Living with HIV in New Zealand



| Issue | Recommended response |
|---|--|
| Ministry of Health HIV/AIDS Action Plan (2003) is out of date and needs revision; there is no Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategy Action Plan | Review and update the HIV/AIDS Action Plan; develop a Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategy Action Plan |
| There is no national HIV research strategy; evaluation of quality of service delivery across sectors is absent | Develop a national HIV research agenda; develop a framework for external evaluation for HIV service quality |
| Mental health (MH) coverage for PLHIV– particularly longer-term mental health support—is difficult to access in most areas | Establish benchmarks for MH coverage for PLHIV ; explore new pathways for access to qualified MH services |
| Cost is an obstacle to accessing primary care for many PLHIV; DHB and NGO HIV services are a proxy for primary care services | Review primary care fee costs for PLHIV; review core primary care staff training in HIV |
| There are variations in HIV testing and counselling (T&C) for HIV according to sector and service | Initiate a national conversation on standards and guidance for T&C provision, training and monitoring |
| Stigma, particularly in minority populations, creates obstacles to HIV service engagement | Initiate a national conversation on stigma in health examining experiences to date from a variety of perspectives; develop an action agenda |
| NGO's are experiencing difficulties in coping with demand | Identify possibilities for core funding of sustainable, outcomes-based activities to enable NGOs to survive without being distracted from their primary mission; explore implementation of benchmarks for funding smaller support services |

A full copy of the review is available to read or down load from the Ministry of Health Website; www.moh.govt.nz

World AIDS Day-

On 1st December, The M·A·C AIDS Fund marked a momentous milestone for New Zealand - \$1 Million raised to help fight HIV and AIDS within New Zealand. The funds raised represent the sale of nearly 30,000 VIVA GLAM lip products since its inception in New Zealand 11 years ago. 100 percent of the selling price of VIVA GLAM lip products is directed to the fund.

To mark the moment, M·A·C hosted a lunch at the premises of Body Positive and Positive Women Inc. in Auckland on the eve of World AIDS Day.

"Our \$1 Million milestone has been reached with enormous commitment from our VIVA GLAM spokespeople, M·A·C Makeup Artists, and dedicated customers," says Brand General Manager, Jodie Matthews. "The only thing more exciting about reaching this milestone is the prospect of setting and reaching our next fundraising goal and continuing our grant-making to support New Zealanders affected by HIV and AIDS."

M·A·C New Zealand works closely with local HIV organizations like Positive

Women Inc. Body Positive and INA to provide them with financial support to provide services and support for people living with HIV or AIDS in New Zealand.

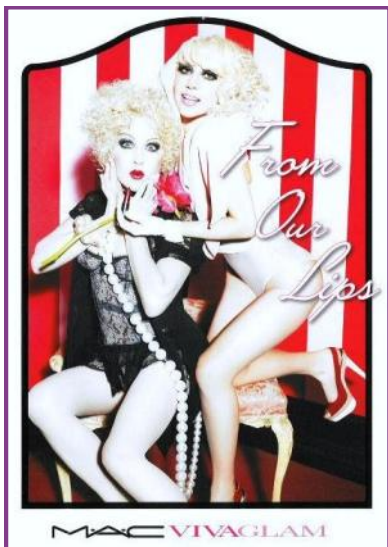
The MAC AIDS Fund grants have funded projects such as Positive Women's Digital Story Telling Workshop where courageous NZ women living with HIV found their voice and shared their stories, not just in New Zealand but with the World on Utube. The MAF was also a significant sponsor of the Positive Women's Destigmatization Campaign held in 2008 which encouraged people to 'Look beyond the stereotype'

Keeping true to the company's long-standing dedication to HIV and AIDS, M·A·C Makeup Artists from M·A·C Cosmetics stores across New Zealand will roll up their sleeves and take off their brush belts to volunteer their time to serve lunch to guests. Other M·A·C volunteer initiatives in New Zealand surrounding World AIDS Day will involve Red Ribbon-making for bucket collections, and facilitating grooming semi-



-1st December 2010

nars and lending helping hands to guests and organizers of the Positive Speakers Training Weekend.



The volunteer initiative is part of a global company-wide effort to commemorate World AIDS Day whilst complementing the Artists' commitment to the global fight against HIV and AIDS and to strengthen their connection to the company's philanthropic arm the M:AC AIDS Fund and its grantees.

"Every time a M:AC employee creates, designs, packages, ships or sells a Viva Glam lipstick or lipglass, they are helping to save and improve the lives of people living with HIV and AIDS," says Nancy Mahon, Senior Vice President of M:AC Cosmetics and Global Executive Director of the M:AC AIDS Fund. *"Our employees around the world are critical to the success of our programs. Extending this effort to include volunteering on World AIDS Day is a new*

tradition of which I am very proud."

Helping to drive fundraising for the M:AC AIDS Fund have been a cadre of celebrity spokespeople. Each connected with a specific shade of VIVA GLAM Lipstick, these spokespeople have made public appearances and appeared in advertisements to raise money and awareness for the fight against HIV and AIDS.

The M:AC AIDS Fund, the heart and soul of M:AC Cosmetics, was established in 1994 to support men, women and children affected by HIV and AIDS globally.

MAF is a pioneer in HIV and AIDS funding, providing financial support to organizations working with underserved regions and populations. As the largest corporate non-pharmaceutical giver in the arena, MAF is committed to addressing the link between poverty and HIV and AIDS by supporting diverse organizations around the world that provide a wide range of services to people living with HIV and AIDS.

To date MAF has raised over \$ 190 million (U.S.) exclusively through the sale of M:AC's VIVA GLAM Lipstick and Lipglass, donating 100 percent of the sale price to fight HIV and AIDS.

Source: M:AC Aids Fund Media Contact



Positive Women in the News



Mel posing for Good Health Article

To further raise the profile of HIV and Positive Women Inc. for World AIDS Day, Positive Women Inc. where involved in a number of media releases. These included

- A story by Mel in the December issue of Good Health Magazine.
- A story by Beate in the Capital Times News paper (Wellington)
- Coverage of the MAC celebration lunch in the Viva supplement on World AIDS Day

- A story in the Express Magazine on Positive Women Inc. and also the PLHIV service review
- Two presentations by the National Coordinator to Sexual Health workers, Mid wives and medical professionals at Whanganui Hospital
- A radio interview by the National Coordinator in Whanganui which was played twice before World AIDS day
- An editorial in the local Wanganui Newspaper for World AIDS Day.
- An article in the New Zealand Herald by Noelle McCarthy on HIV and the MAC luncheon
- A web presentation by the National Coordinator on Webinar on Stigma and HIV on World AIDS Day

Copies of articles included with newsletter

And finally, still to come is a panel interview on Maori TV with the National Coordinator of Positive Women Inc., Marama Pala from INA and Karen Ritchie from the Cartier Bereavement Trust which is to be aired on??

We would also like to acknowledge the work being done by Board Member Jan Waddell who has been doing a number of presentations to Midwives in the south island in connection to the HIV Ante Natal Screening programme.

Teen Camp

Positive Women Inc. were able to send three teens to Australia to attend the Australian Camp for Teens living with HIV. There were actually four but one person, very disappointedly, had to cancel out at the last minute due to an appendicitis...

The theme for this years camp was 'Camp Surfing'....and there was plenty of time spent doing just that.

One young man on his return said *"I had a lot of fun hanging out with friends at the camp joking and mucking round. As well as having the discussions related to the virus (that is helpful) we also went surfing and went to Jamberoo. The highlight on the camp was at Jamberoo going down the Python ride and hearing the girls from the camp scream".*

Parents from two of the teens both expressed how beneficial attending the camp was for their young teens and that they were very grateful that funds were available to be able to send the teens over to Australia for this experience and to enable them to widen their network of friends living with HIV both in New Zealand and Australia.

Out thanks go to the "Queen of the Whole Universe Pageant" and to "Your life Insurance" who donate \$50 towards the Torrens Fund from each life insurance policy taken out with them which has been referred by Positive Women Inc. We also thank those who took out the life insurance policies.....



The next Teen Camp will be held in September 2011. Contact Positive Women Inc. in March 2011 for more information.

Good Bye Rachael

RACHAEL LE MESURIER



The outgoing New Zealand AIDS Foundation (NZAF) Executive Director was farewelled in a function which her qualities of "humility, tenacity and a sense of justice" were repeatedly lauded.

Rachael has departed the organisation she led for the past seven years. Her departure comes at time when the NZAF has a highly skilled, productive and motivated staff team, strong networks in the HIV sector and the highest volunteer levels since the 1990s.

Her leadership has also contributed directly to the strong financial position, record level of people assessing the testing services of the NZAF and a range of government subsidised anti-retroviral treatments that are on a par with Australia. Each of these successes

is a vast improvement on the situation when she took on the role.

Rachael says: "This has been, quite simply, the most rewarding job of my lifetime. One where I have never ceased to learn from, or be humbled by, the passion of my colleagues and our communities. Whilst it does feel the right time to leave, I will miss the kaupapa of all that we do and everyone involved in the NZAF."

With his voice chocking with emotion a tearful Simon Harger Forde, the Foundation's Director of HIV Prevention and Communications, praised Rachael for her willingness to keep out of the limelight and let others step forward, for her determination to see the job done despite many obstacles, and for her innate sense of social justice. His sentiments were endorsed by several of the speakers representing the staff and Trust Board as well as associated organisations and individuals.

The farewell was steeped in Maori protocol and procedure, including the draping of a ceremonial cloak around Rachael's shoulders and the presentation of taonga including a small waka huia. Later she was also presented with gifts from the Pacific Islands and Positive Women Inc.

Positive Women Inc. would like to acknowledge the contribution Rachael has made in regards to building closer relations between Positive Women Inc. and the NZAF.

We wish Rachel all the very best for the future.

Youth Expo

Positive Women Inc. team members, Jewel Grimshaw and Valerie Tuang set up the Positive Women Inc. stand at the annual youth expo in South Auckland in October 2010.

Unfortunately the sky opened and the rain kept the expected numbers away but never the less Jewel and Valerie were kept busy all afternoon providing information, answering questions and

handing out free gift packs which included information about HIV prevention, a red ribbon, a Positive Women Inc. bracelet, tea-shirt and lollipops with the Positive Women Inc. logo printed on them.

Needless to say the Positive Women Inc. stand was a popular place to hang out.(not in this photo as this was taken before people arrived).



Wellness Fund Survey

*Please complete and return to Positive Women Inc. by
17th January 2011*

Queen of “Bright & Nawty”



Miss France - QWU 2010 Winner

“Bright, bawdy and just a bit beautiful” was how two laughing audience members summed up the night, which saw Miss France, portrayed by Alan Parata, take the winner’s sash and tiara.

Before an almost capacity crowd at Auckland’s ASB Theatre 32 glamorous drag diva, including some who had never performed on stage before, presented their assets to best effect in a contrived first Act. As the evening progressed, the show became a serious competition with six fabulously attired “finalists” competing in categories such as Headgear of Nations, Maternity Wear, Interview and Artistic Performance.

The winner was decided by a judging panel headed by TV personality and presenter Alison Mau and including trans-Tasman tranny goddess Carmen. The judges were hosted by our own Positive Women Inc. National coordinator , Jane Bruning.

As Miss France, Parata, aka Fleur Dilly, wowed the crowd and the judges with a pastiche of French musical culture which artfully blended Gigi, the Hunchback of Notre Dame, Edith Piaf and a host of other gallic motifs.

Second place getter was Clint Wooly whose arch and slightly stoned Miss Jamaica—Marie Jo’Anna—ran through every Caribbean stereotype in thebook, proudly revealing that her ‘baby’ in the Maternity section was in fact a giant joint “raised down on the plantation”.

Other highlights included entertainment from the stage cast of the Rocky Horror Picture Show, the Nancy Boys dancers and flashes of over the top drag brilliance such as Miss Russia’s nouveau-riche arrogance and Miss Narnia’ fabulous wardrobe.

Sources:
queenwholeuniverse.com
gaynz.com

New HIV Medicines

People with drug-resistant strains of HIV now have two new medicines available to combat the disease.

Pharmaceutical management agency Pharmac began funding Janssen New Zealand anti-HIV medications Intelence (etravirine) and Prezista (darunavir) from 1 November.

These two new drugs are additions to the range of government-funded HIV treatments which can be used to treat the disease if resistance develops to other anti-viral drugs.

Intelence is a non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor (NNRTI) that works for patients with infections due to an HIV strain that is resistant to the other NNRTIs. Intelence is the first new NNRTI to be introduced in over 10 years. Prezista is a new protease inhibitor with a high genetic barrier to resistance – in other words a number of mutations in the virus are needed before resistance to this drug can be developed.

Dr Mark Thomas, an infectious disease consultant at Auckland City Hospital, says NNRTIs have been trusted by physicians and used in antiretroviral therapy for more than a decade, but the evolution of NNRTI-resistance has limited the use of this important class of HIV medications for some patients.

“Intelence extends the NNRTI class to patients who have NNRTI-resistant virus, with the potential to suppress their virus to undetectable levels – a major goal,” he says.

Pharmac’s funding approval offers new options for people with HIV infection.

In two randomised trials involving nearly 1300 patients, patients taking Prezista were less likely to experience virological failure – and have their HIV virus multiply despite treatment – than patients taking another protease inhibitor.



Bruce Kilmister, CEO of Body Positive, says, “*This is really good news for New Zealanders who are suffering debilitating toxicities from their older treatment regimens. Treatments including Intelence and Prezista are generally well tolerated resulting in durable suppression of HIV and improved health*”.

Thank you to Janssen New Zealand for making these medicines freely available to patients who needed them for the 2 year period while the Pharmac funding application was in process.

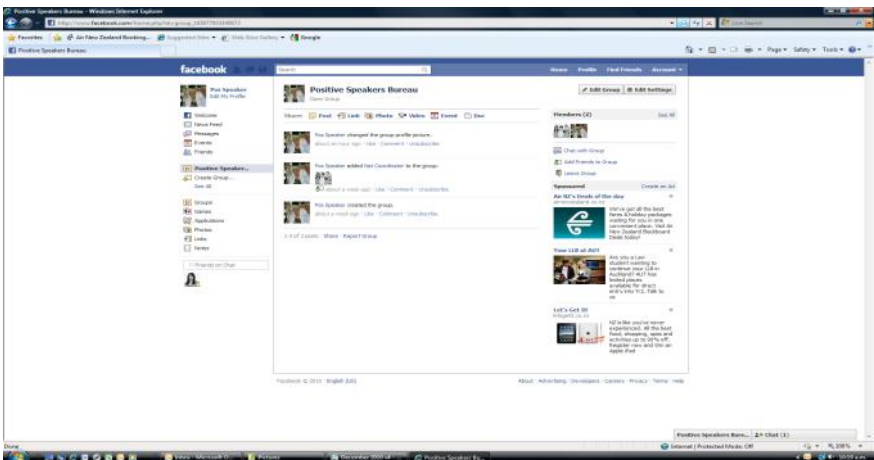
Source: Express Magazine

Facebook Update



Facebook page for Positive Women Inc. is up and running. This will be an informational platform as well as an informational portal for public viewing. The page will be updated as often as possible with any news and upcoming event(s), articles, volunteer request, reports etc.

Facebook page for Positive Speakers Bureau (PSB) has also been set-up to provide a social networking and informational platform with the aim to educate and inform the public by representing a human face of HIV to wider community. It will also be used to help advertise the service.



Upcoming Events



Straight Arrows Dinner

Last Thursday evening of the month

This social gathering is held on the last Thursday of each month from 6.30 pm to 8.30 pm in the central city. It is a chance for heterosexual HIV + people to come together for social support over a meal.

Club Phoenix

Club Phoenix is an initiative of Body Positive providing a weekly drop in facility from 7pm to 10pm every Wednesday. This gives positive people greater avenues to develop and maintain strong support systems through social networking. Hot & cold non-alcoholic beverages provided with music to chill. You can bring snacks or finger food to share. Donations are also welcome.

Queen of the Whole Universe

The Queen of the Whole Universe Pageant is an annual event held to raise awareness of HIV and AIDS as well as raising funds which networks such as Positive Women Inc. have repeatedly benefited from in the past. In fact, this year's Family Hui is heavily funded as a result of money raised from this event. Next year's pageant is expected to be bigger and better than ever and we encourage everyone to support this very entertaining and worthwhile event. Check out the QWU website at <http://www.queenwholeuniverse.com/> for more information and to see the stunning photos from past pageants.

2011-Wellington

When: Saturday, 12 Mar 2011

Where: Opera House, Courtney Place, Wellington

Time: 8.30 pm

Duration: 2hr 45min (incl. 30min interval)

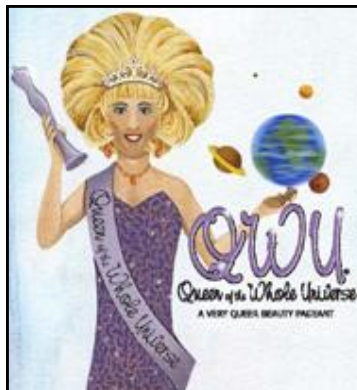
Tickets on sale now: www.ticketek.co.nz

2011-Auckland

When: Saturday, 22 Oct 2011

Where: Telstra Clear Event Centre, Manukau

Time: 8.00 pm



Therapeutic Massage

Mary Ann, a qualified massage therapist is offering members a special price of \$30 for an hour session at the Positive Women Inc. Office in Auckland. She also offers Crystal Healing and Reiki. With crystal healing, the client lays fully clothed on her back. The practitioner places special stones on the client's chakras (energy centres) and then lay her hands on the stones allowing a free flow of universal energy. Reiki is very similar except that the practitioner place her hands lightly over the client's chakras without the stones. Contact Positive Women Inc. to make a booking.

Shiatsu

Judy, a qualified Shiatsu practitioner is offering a 20 minute Taste the Shiatsu sensation session for \$20. This is a special offer for our readers. Shiatsu is a balancing and revitalising dynamic body therapy bringing lasting relief. It deals with the root cause of pain or illness using gentle pressure and "holding" techniques in a nurturing, meditative environment. Judy will be at the Harvest Natural Health Centre at 407A, Richmond Road, Grey Lynn every Thursday.

Life Insurance for people living with HIV

If you thought you couldn't get life insurance because of your HIV status....think again.

Positive Women Inc. is working with Your Life Insurance who is able to work with a client's individual needs. Life insurance for people living with HIV is now a possibility.

For more information contact Sue at Positive Women Inc. at admin@positivewomen.co.nz.

Hair Cuts...

Hair cuts available at Body Positive House once a month for Koha (donation).



Free Wills...



If you would like to speak with someone who can help you to put together your Will for free. Contact Positive Women Inc.

HIV friendly Dr's & Dentists

Need to find a new Doctor (GP) or Dentist and are anxious about disclosing your HIV status? Give us a call and Positive Women Inc. will do the initial (anonymous) investigation for you.



Travel Insurance



Positive Women Inc. is able to help you get travel insurance at a very competitive price with no questions asked as to your HIV status.

Contact

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Phone: (09) 309 1858,

Free phone: 0800 769 848

For more information on any of the above

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J R McKenzie Trust

