

LETTERS

Dear Jasper,
Thanks very much for the newsletter- it's great to know there are others going through similar experiences that I am and I find it all very encouraging. You mentioned a national weekend in August for F2Ms. What a great idea! Have you a date yet? I'd like to be involved in fairly structured times of sharing - operations, fears etc, with some time for one to one sharing and possibly some counseling. Your other ideas in the June newsletter sound good as well.

Having to go through seeing a psychiatrist to have the change is frustrating, as you've found out. I was first referred

months, but it was the full twelve months before I had the double mastectomy. because I couldn't afford to have them done any sooner! But that twelve months would have been the longest I've ever put in! And I was really glad when I no longer had any breasts as such.

In hindsight though, I wish I'd had the hysterectomy done first. Why? If you rely heavily on your breasts for sexual arousal and pleasure - after they are removed and your nipples are repositioned you lose all pleasurable sensation from that area. And it's bloody frustrating trying to find those same sensations anywhere else!! If you don't, then

"... that twelve months would have been the longest I've ever put in!"

y o u shouldn't have too much trouble. I don't know what you were told about the wait - I was told that

years before I could have the operations (any operations!). I felt as you do. I had been living as a man for at least the three previous years. My second opinion was from Dr Tony Orsmond at Greenwich and, at my father's insistence, I also saw Corny Greenway at Drummoyne. I didn't like Corny. He suggested I tried a lesbian relationship before considering any change - a suggestion I took deep offence to as I did not see myself as lesbian, but as a man in the wrong body. My "waiting time" was eventually reduced to roughly six

there had been some who had gone through the change "too quickly" and had regretted it afterwards so the wait is now compulsory. No less frustrating though!

My only hold up now is money to continue with my change. I have had more problems with my family than I ever had with doctors! Good luck and I hope your patience lasts till you get the OK to go ahead with the operations.

Take care,
Ross

CONTACTS

EAST COAST FTM GROUP

P.O. Box 38-3303
Cambridge MA
USA
02238

AUSTRALIAN TRANSSEXUAL SUPPORT ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 212
New Farm
Queensland
4005

FTM

5337 College
Ave #142
Oakland, CA
USA
94618

Tiresia's House

P.O. Box 266
Petersham
NSW 2049
(02) 569 2366

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BOYS WILL BE BOYS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER #6 August 1992

INTRO

At last, the first F2M Transgender conference is going ahead. We have secured enough interest, from those of you in NSW anyway, to proceed. Please consider coming along at this time. It will be, hopefully, an incredible experience with a lot to be gained. For you guys in Newcastle, it's only a 3hr trip to Sydney - you may wish to come for only one or more events. The more boys present, the greater variety of experiences and learning there will be. For those of you out of the town, we can easily find a place for you to stay with other boys. If you choose not to come, you may have to wait another year before the next gathering of the "brotherhood"!

Date: weekend 15th-16th August
Time: Sat 10.30 am onwards
Venue: 14-16 Buckland St, Chippendale (1st floor)
Cost: \$15 payable in cash on arrival (being for tea/coffee/juice, snacks plus Sunday lunch - vegetarians and non-caffeine drinkers will be catered for.)
Note: price does not include any other meals

Bring:
Notepad and pen
Any written material or objects you think that others may be interested in. We can photocopy each other's material.

Any useful videos
Before and after photos of yourself (if you wish)

Programme:

Saturday
10.30am
Morning tea/coffee/snacks and welcome
11.00am - Discussions
Physical Changes (A sharing of your process to date)
11.30am
Coping With Alienation and Isolation
12.30pm
The Emotional Cost of Transition
1.30pm
Lunch
2.00pm
Sexuality and Relationships
3.00pm
Dealing with the Medical & legal Professions
4.00pm
Surgery
4.30pm
Afternoon tea/coffee break
5.00pm
Sharing Our Fears and Hopes
End of day's discussions

Saturday Night
We reconnect at 9pm for a night

out with the boys
Destinations and meeting point to be decided at close of Discussions.

Sunday

11.00am
Sharing of material
12.00pm
Why are we Transgenderists?
1.00pm
Lunch (provided by BWBB)
3.00pm
Ongoing Challenges
4.00pm
Where is BWBB going?
5.00pm
Afternoon tea/coffee and wind down of Conference

Note: Any topic, not included here, that you wish to be discussed can be done so during tea breaks or lunch.

I would like to be able to tape the conference discussions for archival use and also for possible publication (eg an Australian FTM Handbook). The material that will come out of these discussions will be very important to other FTM men who are yet to come in the years that follow. Only first names will be used.

I'm really looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

NEWS

LINK WITH CENTRAL COAST

We recently received an introductory letter from Edwige who works at the Central Coast Community Women's Health Centre at Gosford. Edwige identifies as an FTM man and in his letter informs us that he is a part of a transsexual support group there. His role within the organisation is as councillor including outreach work. BWBB will be added to their resource list and I also hope that a good connection will be built between ourselves and the Central Coast.

JULY FTM NEWSLETTER

We've just received the July issue of the American FTM newsletter. It's an amazing issue! There are ten crowded pages full of personal insights, reviews of gender events, cross-dressing performers, articles on FTM products, mail box, book reviews and much more! There is also a personal perspective by the editor (James) on the history of the newsletter and what the '90's holds for us men.

We've reprinted from this issue, a couple of press releases on penis prosthesis made by other brothers. I'm sure this is of great interest to us all. I'm also pleased to say that the newsletter mentions Jasper's

film as part of the S.F film festival. For a photocopy of this newsletter send \$2.50 to BWBB or write to FTM direct (see contact list).

NEW TERM FOR OLD FEELINGS

Well, I've noticed in recent overseas newsletters and in some local literature also, that we transsexuals are now referring to ourselves as "transgenderists". The change in terminology certainly makes sense, as logically, we are not changing our sexuality but our physical gender. I don't know who coined the new label but it certainly feels better than the previous one, although it takes a little getting used to. I'd be interested to see if the new term will be used within medical circles.

As a response, from this newsletter on, BWBB will use the term transgender instead of transsexual. Hopefully this will be in agreement with everyone.

BUSINESS

Please note: All monies for material or donations should be made payable to Jasper Laybutt (pref. Postal Order) as BWBB is not a registered organisation.

Important: Please let us know of a change of address. Not only do we want to keep in touch with you but we don't want this sensitive document to fall into the hands of new tenants after you have left..

ROLL CALL

By way of interest you may wish to know the first names and general location of our members to date. The list is expanding at a steady rate. We may also be put in touch with a guy from New Zealand which would be fantastic. Anyway here we all are...

NSW

Jasper (Sydney)
Elen (Sydney)
Chris (Sydney)
Tony (Sydney)
Ben (Sydney)
Alex (Sydney)
Max (Sydney)
Mike (Newcastle)
Bemi (Newcastle)
Ross (Bathurst)
Edwige (Central Coast)

VIC

Dale (Melbourne)

QLD

Julian
Jamie

Our overseas list includes Bet & Lonnie, Michael and the FTM organisation. All are in the U.S.

Local organisations who receive this newsletter are: Terisia's House (NSW), the ATSA (Qld) and the Newtown Women's Centre (NSW)

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P.O. BOX 1349
STRAWBERRY HILLS
SYDNEY,
AUSTRALIA
2012
(02) 319 2034

FEATURE

Rhonnie Reed (The Herbie Maker) is announcing the introduction of his latest product: TRAMP (Totally Realistic Artificial Male Penis)! Rhonnie says, "With Tramp you will have the ability to stand and urinate, create an endless erection, be personally stimulated during intercourse, and look and feel totally normal. Only a real close inspection will disclose Tramp as a replacement to surgery. With the cost of surgery, some of which does not perform as expected, the price of Tramp is an attractive alternative - only \$500" If you are interested in Tramp, Rhonnie will mail you an information packet. Just send a self-addressed, business-size envelope with stamps (maybe send US\$2 to cover O'seas mailing-ed).

At US\$500 the Tramp is quite expensive for us here in Australia, as it works out to be closer to Aus\$800 but hey, if it can do all that Rhonnie says then it's probably worth the cash. BWBB will send for information which we can print for us all to asses. Hopefully it will include photos and technical information. Anyway, if you're already interested here's the address: Creative Growth Enterprises, 4480 Treat Blvd, Suite 227 Concord, CA 94521 USA.

For a less expensive but basic prosthesis, here's what Randy Ingersoll has to say about his US\$65 "Transitional Prosthesis" (TP)...

"At present the Transitional Prosthesis is 85% waterproof and

will dry within approx 15 to 20 mins. Due to the harness, the prosthesis follows your body just like a penis (here's a first - you can go without underwear or a jock strap to hold it in place). It feels real; of course this is a major concern, since women tend to be more aggressive these days and may have their hand in

"If you happen to brush against someone accidentally (or on purpose) they won't feel a hard lump in your pants"

your crotch before you can stop them. If you happen to brush against someone accidentally (or on purpose) they won't feel a hard lump in your pants and wonder what the problem is...The prosthesis can be washed in the washer and easily dried on a towel. Though the TP is not an exact replica of the penis in appearance (let's face it, if they're that close they'll know it isn't real), for now I have chosen to pursue functional use.

My interest is to keep the cost down. Each TP is handmade and takes roughly four to seven hours to make. They are available in different skin tones. The life of the TP is mostly determined by how carefully you follow the instructions which are provided. I am available to anyone who has suggestions, concerns or problems. I also

guarantee complete refund if you decide that the prosthesis doesn't bring you more satisfaction and peace of mind than any other prosthesis that you have worn.

...I will be contributing a portion of the funds from the sales of the TP to support this newsletter (FTM: US) so that it will continue to serve our population along with our concerns. In this manner your funds will help you twice. I have made quite a few TP for friends of mine, and they report that this is the best, most realistic one they have ever tried, and it is very comfortable to wear. It is undetectable, unless (of course) you are naked. I know what freedom, comfort and normalcy it has contributed in my life"

Randy states that he has experimented, modified and improved the TP to the point it is now at and will continue to do so. You can get the TP in skin colours: light, medium, dark or brown. Cost is (all in US funds) One: \$65, Two: \$120, Three: \$375. Buy four or more at \$55 each. Shipping and handling is included in price! And he states that delivery can be between 2-4 weeks. Randy welcomes any feedback on his product and correspondence is confidential.

Write to him at 315 Running Brook, Mesquite, Texas 75149 USA We'll also send for information to publish in BWBB plus clear photos

Perhaps, if the product is good enough, a few of us can pool our funds to get the TP at the reduced rate (US\$55 around \$70 Aus) for four or more?