

THE SEAHORSE SOCIETY OF N.S.W. INC.

RITE OF PASSAGE No. 3
(A response reply from Rite of Passage)

October 7, 2008

Dear Jack,

(Human Rights Commissioner NZ)

Thank you for your email. So you can put our information on your database. You have my email address and at the moment this communication program is part of my duties and contribution to our society as being the President of the NSW Seahorse Society.

I also have created a contact data base throughout Australia and New Zealand, where I endeavour to communicate with my counterpart at least once a month, to see what they are doing, e.g. Club and/or social programs etc, and sharing thoughts and ideas that may enrich and widen our services to all transcommunities.

So far the responses have been very positive. I would like to describe to you how I approach all these people with an emphasis on a couple of principles.

These are, ONE that I am not an expert, and please excuse my blunderings of terminology, lack of computer skills, and ignorance of their own policies and protocols.

SECOND, I am not on a campaign of taking over any other organisations, and making people follow what ideas I present or suggest. I emphasize that we all need to maintain our own individuality and strengths of purpose.

However, having said that, I emphasize that we all need to have one forward and uniting direction, if we are to achieve this "Rite of Passage", as I call it. Simply, this is to get a basic acceptance by the wider general societies as to our different journeys and life styles. We all live and exist in our own states and countries. However, how can we expect the general public to try and understand us and see that we actually are not a threat to human society, if we cant

understand ourselves, accept ourselves and explain clearly, but not aggressively, who we are, what we are, and how we personally see ourselves coexisting with the mainframe of our own countries' societies.

Third, and to this end, we all need to avail ourselves of the opportunities of discussion that Government bodies are now inviting us to participate in. However, we cannot do that effectively if we do not have the knowledge and self-understanding to answer the obvious questions. So, how can we get this knowledge and necessary resources quickly? Which brings me to my next point.

Forth, communication and sharing of our own clubs and Societies resources. We have this wonderful electronic technology at our disposal. I ask everyone to come on line and join in this journey to enlightenment. Like the old simple concept of "Show and Tell", you show me yours and I'll show you mine principle. By using not only material produced in book form or articles, papers etc., I have, and still do, advocate the use of "The living Book Principle".

There are a few of us around, who have reached the majority of years, experienced the learning, not just of studies at university, but from living the actual life of the trans-community as a transperson, and having the direct experiences of emotional upheaval, attitudes, behaviour problems, relationship nightmares, and found some acceptable compromises and solutions. If we don't pass some of this information on and share it backwards and forwards between all of us, what have we actually achieved?

You only have to look at the "slow" changes of attitudes by all of us over the last 60 to 80 years, caused in part by a lack of communication and understanding. Worse still, if the wrong information is being put out in public, often created by misguided people, who do not have any idea about what they expound, or are driven by intolerance or self-positioning, bitter because their own life journey has not been fulfilled or come to their expectations, so they go on campaigns of criticising any one or any organizations trying to do something about change.

It is easier to be negative - or simply put any suggested ideas of change into the "Too Hard Basket", rather than to step out, occasionally blindly, into the public arena and share knowledge, in a

non-confronting way, and to take the attitude and hope that through sharing facts and points of view we may all learn something and change public perceptions, thus creating a peaceful co existence, as best one can achieve, within society.

As an old entertainer's saying is, "You won't win with everybody – and you won't win all of the time, but you can certainly increase the percentages into your favour". We are all individual and different. "Viva La Difference".

I think I had better get off my "Soap box" now. I hope I have not bored you or stepped over the line as it were. However, I thought it was time that I explained to you, in some detail, where I am going with this program, and what I am trying to achieve for all of us living in the trans-community.

STOP PRESS

I just had another idea. This is only if you feel it would be beneficial to your own situation and database. I can send you a list of the contact email addresses of my contacts here in Australia, those who I know are realizing the important work you are doing, as well as our own government people here in Australia.

In my next monthly communication going out to the Australian organizations, I can try to encourage them to become a part of your communications by sending you a short description about their own individual organizations and providing their email and web addresses for further contact. Speaking of which, the Seahorse Society of N.S.W. web address is www.seahorsesoc.org and the name of our web mistress is Christine. Even if only to receive the publication by email of "To Be Who I Am".

Any way, Jack, it is nice to meet you and please, take encouragement from me on behalf of our Society, as to the work that you and your staff are doing at the moment for not only the trans-community, but for everyone who are in need for their Human Rights to be qualified, explained and nurtured.

I don't envy the task ahead of you, but if I can be of any assistance regarding information etc., in the area of living in the trans-community. Please don't hesitate to call on me or email me. Hope

to hear from you. And please keep sending me "To Be Who I AM".
With regards

Phil/Julia Crawshaw
(PRESIDENT OF THE SEAHORSE SOCIETY N.S.W. INC.)