

# Do all roads lead to AusAPT?

*People, cars, photographers, NFPs and lingerie do, for me!*

*Like the circles that you find  
In the windmills of your mind ...*

For me, the over-representation of Ns, and NFPs in particular, in AusAPT has not been duplicated elsewhere.

In other associations and other fields with similar core interests – theatre groups, the arts, psychology, metaphysical – I have not found many, or even a few, similar-type people, with all their synchronistic mutual connections.

In AusAPT, by contrast, synchronicities and six (or fewer) degrees of separation abound. Past, present and future connections with animate and inanimate objects continually spiral.



▲ Then: Meredith Fuller and Kaya Pripic

A collection of connections

## Meredith Fuller

My 'Workspaces' feature in this issue focuses on techno-artisan ISTPs, so it seems only fitting to use photos, along with words, to tell some little stories that value similarities, rather than differences.

Now: Meredith Fuller and Dr Kaya Pripic, NFPs,  
▼ MBTI trainers and AusAPT members



## I. Kaya

As children in the 1960s, **Kaya Pripic** and I spent a decade often working together for a number of photographers, including Athol Shmith and John Cato. 30 years on, we were delighted (and stunned) to bump into each other at an AusAPT conference. Admittedly, there were few child models back then, but we had never before come across any of them in later life.

We found we were both very clear NPs, with moderate F. When we first did the MBTI, we both scored slight E, but we're both really I. Reflecting on the similarities in our stories, we put together a list.

We are both into Jung and the MBTI. We both studied psychology at university and both hated stats: Kaya switched to microbiology, while I struggled on in psych.

## Kaya and I married our husbands on the same day

We both undertook postgraduate training in counselling. I was into psychodrama in the 1980s, and Kaya got into it later.

My childhood fantasy was to become a psychologist; Kaya's was to be a doctor or psychiatrist. At school we were both isolated. Our families struggled financially.

At our modelling jobs my maternal grandmother looked after me, while Kaya was looked after by a neighbour – a surrogate grandmother – and our two carers would chat the hours away.

We both collect elephants. We're both writers. And we're both 5 ft 3 in tall.

Most spooky of all: we each married our wonderful IN husbands on the same date, and unbeknownst to each other, we were living in the same suburb, only a couple of streets apart.



## Jo and I bought our Hondas on the same day

At AusAPT's Murder Mystery Dinner, my husband (INFJ) played the dead Jung, and Kaya's husband (INTP) was the only one to pretty well solve it ... but I digress.

When Kaya and I were modelling, various photographers used their sons with us in knitting-book shoots. I had a similar *snap!* experience with one of the boys we had worked with. 33 years later, déjà vu.

He was a postgrad psych student I taught: yes, counselling with the MBTI. And, yes, he had the same profile score as ours (al though he identified E). He had the same day job, coordinating careers services, in another tertiary institution.

I also discovered that his father, one of our photographers, was a lecturer at the same (multi-campus) university where I was working.

## 2. Jo

As INFP psychologists involved in MBTI training and accreditation, **Jo Fleischer** and I had heard of each other for a decade, but we didn't actually meet until a recent AusAPT conference.

Our initial discussions revealed myriad 'connections'. We collect similar things, such as elephants and netsukes (Japanese fastening toggles). We both play piano. We both have stepbrothers in Sydney.

And we both drive Hondas. In fact, we bought them on the same day from the same dealers – with Jo receiving the next number plate one removed from mine.

Odder still ... both of our mothers are named Judith. In the 1940s, my mother lived in a duplex in Caulfield, and Jo later lived in the duplex next door.

We had at least two friends in common (one degree of separation!) and we're sure there are more. In fact, Jo works part-time with one of my friends.

I appreciate that Oz is considered small, but this smacks of the lyrics to 'I Am The Walrus':

*I am he as you are he as you are me  
And we are all together!*

Which leads to ...

## 3. Moni

As an undergraduate in 1975, my favourite sociology lecturer was the formidably intellectual Dr **Moni Storz**. When I reflected back on my teachers, wondering what type they were, I would have said she was an INTJ.

30 years later, Moni spied me at the book launch for *Tasting And Feasting Excellence* (a group endeavour, from which came my article in the July 2004 *Review*, with NFP Paul Whitelaw's tale of his errant crayfish attacking restaurant patrons while flaming shaslicks set the curtain alight).

We were gobsmacked to run into each other at a marketing event for a book on recipes and restaurants.



*Tasting And Feasting Excellence* launch: Dr Moni Storz and Meredith Fuller.

**Yoland Wadsworth** and **Meredith Fuller** will host a salon on applications of type in everyday life from 7.00 pm on **Thursday, 22 May** at the Epicentre, 427 Glen Eira Road, Caulfield North VIC.

Come along and join the conversation!

We were even more stunned to discover that Moni – an NFP, I learned – had left academia to work with the MBTI in her international business; was now involved in theatre (as I had been since childhood); and had co-authored MBTI material with another NFP mutual friend and AusAPT member, Glenda Hutchinson: which hooks back to Jo Fleischer and ACER, and leads into the undies in No 5. But first ...

The only reason that I uncoolly bought the photo that night was because I had a strange sensation that one day our paths would cross again. Given that I didn't even know her name, it was a tad odd!

Naturally, I emailed Yoland, wondering if it was her: and, of course, it was. We discovered we had mutual friends, including Moni, which connects back to (2) and (3).

Mary Owen Dinner group: Yoland Wadsworth (*back row, centre*) and Meredith Fuller (*back row, right*).

#### 4. Yoland

Having briefly met only a couple of times at AusAPT Christmas functions, **Yoland Wadsworth** and I will be hosting 'salon' discussion nights for AusAPT's Victoria Region this year. Spontaneously, without talking, we easily co-created the activity via a couple of short emails.

The eerie bit is that, while sorting a box of old photos for this article, I was struck by a 1980s group photo from the Mary Owen Dinner. Apart from the person who had organised my ticket, the rest of the table were strangers, but the person standing beside me seemed familiar.

After the dinner, the photographer had stood mournfully at his table, filled with multiple group shots that very few of the exiting women bothered to look at.



Meredith Fuller:  
Do all roads leads to AusAPT?

*'Even the smallest of the younger set appreciates dainty lingerie':*

Advertorial, 1960: Meredith Fuller



I was so petrified that I didn't go for my drivers licence until I was 24



*'Some lucky person will win this':*  
Miss Motorist Meredith Fuller, 1973

## 5. Triumph International survey

As part of Women's Week celebrations in March, the leading lingerie firm Triumph sponsored the UNIFEM Women's Day Breakfast in Sydney. Triumph celebrated women's friendships, and the importance of close friends in sustaining women and helping them lead more enriched lives.

I was invited to assist in creating a survey, 'Friendship in Focus', to explore the importance of women's relationships and friendships. The survey is currently being completed by thousands of women. (Type-related data will be ready for the next issue of the Review.)

Our pilot survey, of 1200 women aged 18 to 55+ across Australia, revealed that:

- 58% of women report regarding 2 to 3 best friends, while 21% regard 4 to 5. 15% opted for one friend, and 6% for 6 or more.
- Women value their close friends so highly that we're in contact at least weekly. Over 50% of our close friends live in the same city, but we still maintain close communication with those interstate and overseas.
- While 19% of our friends live in the same suburb, technology has made it easier to maintain our links (and it's being used by all ages: my 80- and 94-year-old friends are more accomplished than I am at communicating via their computers).
- The most important gift close female friends bring to our lives is listening: 40% said they always listen, no matter what the topic. Second most important, at 27%, was 'I can be myself'.

I'm revisiting my 1960s lingerie collection in 2008. The brand spokesperson, Linda Bundock (obviously an NFP), says that 'good friends, like good lingerie, are an essential part of women's daily life':

The really good ones offer support, knowing you intimately; and the exceptional ones know, appreciate and accentuate that which makes you unique and special.

## 6. Cars

This also double backs to (2), Jo's and my Honda Civics. (I could also mention NFP Elwin Hall's Honda: she's an E, so hers is a red Jazz – but returning to *this* story ...)

I was contacted by Triumph's PR agency because of a survey I'd previously designed for Honda's Type R.

As the Royal Automobile Club of Victoria's entrant in the Miss Australia quest in 1973, I had featured in promotions of the quest's car prize.



15 years later, while consulting and training for RACV, I met a cluster of AusAPT members in the HR department.

The irony is that I was so petrified about driving that I didn't go for my licence until I was 24! And I kept my P plates on for years, because I drive so slowly, it was my only ruse to placate every other driver on the road. My NFP friends and I get lost, trip on footpaths, and struggle to get the petrol cap off!

On that note, I'll cease my ruminating circle right now! ❖