

Recorded: 03 12 2021
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Abstractor: Liz Holland

The time codes in this abstract summary have been recorded based on the original audio files. Please note that the times may differ for the online audio due to the original files being combined into one file. However, the order of content in this abstract below will match the online audio.

**Dates removed for privacy and security reasons. For enquiries related to genealogy, please apply directly to the Central Otago Oral History Project manager.*

File 01 03 12 2021

0:00 Introduction and recording agreement

0.32 Husband [KYLE MEWBURN] now wife, wrote a book "FAKING IT" about being TRANSGENDER Married 30 years, Kyle "came out" in 2017. Now 4 years as Wife and Wife. Marion did not know that Kyle didn't identify as a male since 5 years old. Kyle became an "adept liar" to keep secret. Time was right for Kyle to come out, and for Marion to accept. Stopped recording and changed microphones.

07.38 End of File 01

File 02 03 12 2021

0.32 Book "FAKING IT" about KYLE [MEWBURN] growing up as a boy in BRISBANE in 1960s, 1970s, but knowing he was a girl. Kept secret. Married 30 years "living with a lie" until 2012. MARION had 5 years keeping his secret until KYLE came out 2017. MARION accepted "him" as "her" and as her "wife". Had counselling when KYLE came out. MARION had identity crisis. Concerned she would be seen as LESBIAN, most people didn't care. KYLE "good liar" to keep safe. Reference "BOY KYLE" and "GIRL KYLE".

10.30 KYLE'S fear of being found out. 25 years unaware of what was happening. Now having fun, Kyle more relaxed. Go clothes shopping together.

14.00 Marion has grown; happy together – timing right for her to accept. Layer of stress involved. People's reaction to transgendered woman. Doesn't want to be "Just being a man in a dress", wants to be "TRANSGENDER WOMAN".

17.10 Met in IRELAND. [BOY] KYLE funny and smart. Discusses differences between boyfriend at the time and KYLE. Sexual attraction was there, but not the main thing. "Was more attraction of the souls" Soulmates. Transgendered people of the time, mid 1980s. DISCUSSED

19.30 KYLE wanted wife and children; MARION didn't. KYLE would make better mother. MARION - DEPRESSION, MILLER'S FLAT, 5 acre section with sheep and just KYLE – big change. 1992, left KYLE for a period. Not interested in building a house. MARION overwhelmed.

- 23.30 MARION had fulltime therapy as outpatient, 4 months, DUNEDIN HOSPITAL. Returned to work on orchard. DUSKY SOUND TRACK – got lost twice, didn't want to die. Retrained in crafts course – Pottery. Lived in WAITATI, new life, friends. Found purpose.
- 27.30 4 years apart, KYLE learned about TRANSGENDERED PEOPLE through INTERNET. Stayed friends. Grew into the people they were meant to be. Creative connection- Potter/ Writer. Not sexually attracted to Kyle as woman. Marion – “For me-love and sex don't go together”. Closeness, connection more important. KYLE can do everything – build; pull gun apart; kill roosters; help her chose clothes. KYLE now life of the party.
- 31.50 One bad reaction to Marion. Some think she is amazing. Book a “love story”.
- 34.00 MARION had affair 2011. KYLE successful writing children's book; NEW YORK; got a licence. Kyle wanted to live as a woman and hoping Marion would go away.
- 36.14 Lived lie 5 years with Kyle. Doctor only person she could talk to. Recommended a book – more lies. 2016 encouraged Kyle to dress as woman at home, so Marion could get used to it. Highly stressful. Marion told artistic group of friends in Dunedin – very supportive.
- 39.40 Kyle to ARGENTINA, feminisation surgery. Marion freaked out, then accepting. Had grief for a couple of days in ARGENTINA after surgery. Worth it. Feels like “Kyle's protector”. People look at Kyle. If disgust – Marion “stares them down”. Self-conscious of looking different. Kyle visits schools -students confide they will do the same. “Pansexual” – falling in love with a person.
- 48.38 Pronouns. Don't expect people to remember to say “she”, but feels very good if they do. It feels right.
- 50.02 End of File 02**