

A City Possessed

THE CHRISTCHURCH CIVIC CRECHE CASE
LYNLEY HOOD



Researching and writing this book often felt like the literary equivalent of a solo crossing of Antarctica. Lynley Hood

A City Possessed is a strong, compelling and shocking story about one of New Zealand's most high-profile criminal cases – a story of child abuse allegations, gender politics and the law. In detailing the events and debates leading up to and surrounding the Christchurch Civic Crèche case, Lynley Hood shows how such a case could happen, and why. Her penetrating analysis of the social and legal processes by which the conviction of Peter Ellis was obtained, and has been repeatedly upheld, has far-reaching implications – not only for our justice system, but for the way in which we see ourselves.

Ms Hood is clearly interested in the truth, and in careful research, rather than holding a view and sticking with it through thick and thin. This is an important book – clearly written, well-researched assiduously referenced, and a compelling read.

Dr Alison Jones, Director of the Institute for Research on Gender,
University of Auckland

Hood says that when it comes to the Ellis case, and the manner in which those accused of sexual abuse of children are dealt with generally, grave injustices are and have been perpetrated. Much in this case went haywire. The result is a book that will elicit strong responses; outrage and bewilderment among them.

Brian Turner, poet and publishing consultant

This book is a work of scholarship of the highest academic standard. The interpretation is a very important one, and one that is clearly supported by the evidence.

Professor Mark Henaghan, Dean of Law, University of Otago

LYNLEY HOOD

Researching and writing A City Possessed began with the question: 'What did or didn't happen at the Chirstchurch Civic Crèche?' My seven-year search for answers took me far beyond the crèche case and far beyond my personal comfort zone. I found myself digging through Layer upon layer of unsuspected cover-up and unimagined scandal.

Lynley Hood's previous books are *Sylvia! The Biography of Sylvia Ashton- Warner*, winner of the 1989 Wattie Book of the Year and the PEN Best First Book of Prose; *Who is Sylvia? The Diary of a Biography*; and *Minnie Dean: Her Life and Crimes*, a finalist in the New Zealand Book Awards. Lynley Hood held the Robert Burns Fellowship at the University of Otago in 1991.

She is a parent of three adult children and grandparent of one. She holds a MSc in Physiology, has been active in several voluntary organisations concerned with parenting and early childhood issues, and has written many articles and delivered numerous lectures to scientific, medical and lay audiences on various health issues.

Forthcoming publicity for

A City Possessed

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*The book will be embargoed until release
which is Monday 1st October*

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Sunday 30th September

• TV 3 20/20 programme. Presenter
Melanie Reid

• TV 3 News item

• *Sunday Star Times* feature/interview –
reporter Donna Chisholm

Monday 1st October

• book launch

• book released to booksellers

• NZ *Listener* extract

Thursday 4th October

• author with *Face the Nation* on TV 1
Presenter Linda Clarke

• Feature: November issue *North & South*
magazine on sale mid-October.

Reporter – Lauren Quaintance

Also following:

Kim Hill, feature in the ChCh Press,
Newstalk ZB interview.

Usual media coverage.

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SPECIFICATIONS

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