

# NEWSLETTER

## JESSIE STREET NATIONAL WOMEN'S LIBRARY

Vol 18 No. 1  
February 2007

Ultimo Community Centre  
523-525 Harris St, Ultimo

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Tel (02) 9265 9486 Fax (02) 9265 9646

Email [info@nationalwomenslibrary.org.au](mailto:info@nationalwomenslibrary.org.au)  
Website [www.nationalwomenslibrary.org.au](http://www.nationalwomenslibrary.org.au)

### IN OUR COLLECTIONS

We would like to let members know about our book collections and our collection development policy (CDP). Perhaps we should start by telling you that ALL our material has been donated. It has come from a variety of sources: individuals, women going into retirement villages, retired academics, women's organisations and, for the newly-published books, from publishers making generous donations.

Jessie Street National Women's Library is primarily a research library. The organisation is self-funding, much of our income, and therefore the ability to survive, coming from membership subscriptions and donations. You can see how important you, as a member, are to the Library.

#### The Research Collection

Currently, we hold about 10,000 books in this collection, many of them now out-of-print and some of them completely irreplaceable. This collection is the heart of the Library, and we are often able to give grateful people access to books they have been searching for unsuccessfully in other libraries.

#### Non-Fiction Section

All books in this section are ABOUT WOMEN. This is the criterion we employ in taking in non-fiction. Most of the books we hold are written by women, with about 2% by men, who in earlier centuries were the main source of material on women. In *A Room of One's Own*, Virginia Woolf says 'Have you any notion of how many books are written about women in the course of one year? Have you any notion how many are written by men ... men who

have no apparent qualification save that they are not women.' 'Why' she asks 'are women ... so much more interesting to men than men are to women?'

One such book in our research collection, called simply *Woman*, is by Dr Bernhard A. Bauer, a Viennese gynaecologist, and was first published in 1926. In the introduction to the English version, the translator, Norman Haire writes 'This present volume ... gives a clear presentation of the sexual anatomy and physiology of woman, deals with her psychology and love-life, and shows how sex dominates all her activities from the cradle to the grave.' Here is an extract about 'modern' woman, where the author says, 'How frequently we hear of the patient wife and her martyrdom! It must be admitted that, to some extent, a wife must be prepared to be a martyr, but this does not mean that she has forever to carry a crown of thorns. It is merely necessary that she should have common-sense, understand the weaknesses of man, and be willing to give in, in the interest of conjugal peace.'

Times have changed and women are now raising their own voice and writing about their own lives. The non-fiction section covers all the areas of women's interests: health, reproduction, education, the law, the church, discrimination, equality and so on. Among the books are quite a number written by and about Aboriginal women and large numbers by writers from many different countries. Biography and autobiography form a substantial part of these holdings. The

*continued on page 9*

### JSNWL FUNCTIONS Lunch-Hour Talks

**Venue:** The Lady Mayoress' Rooms, Sydney Town Hall, George St.

**Date and Time:** Third Thursday in the month from 12 noon to 1:30 pm.

**Entry:** \$15 (members) \$20 (non members), Sandwich lunch included. For catering purposes, please let us know you are coming.

**To Book:** Phone (02) 9265 9486 or email [info@nationalwomenslibrary.org.au](mailto:info@nationalwomenslibrary.org.au)

#### February – Thursday 15th

##### Anne Fairbairn – An Australian Poet: Glimpses behind the Worldwide Anger

Anne is a widely-published poet and journalist. In her talk, she examines the causes of the increasing worldwide anger over the last 100 years, especially that directed towards the west. Anne has found poetry to be the true universal language, and for 25 years has been using it to build bridges of understanding between people of different racial, religious and cultural backgrounds.

#### March – Thursday 15th

##### Suzanne Leal – *Fact into Fiction: Writing 'Border Street'*

Suzanne is the author of the recently published first novel *Border Street*. The impetus for her book was her friendship with Fred, a Czech who was in Prague during the Nazi occupation. She talks about how she came to write his story, and how she transformed it into fiction. Suzanne believes no novelist can continue to write without borrowing, appropriating or stealing facets of other people's lives.

#### April – Thursday 19th

##### Jane Pollard – *Researching, Writing and Self-Publishing a Family History*

Jane is a retired librarian and a writer of short stories and poetry. She spent four years researching family history and another two years writing the book, *A Mingled Yarn – The Seifert Family and Flaxmilling in New Zealand*, which she has self-published. Jane's greatgrandfather emigrated from Germany to New Zealand in 1858 and his seven sons became the major contributors to the NZ flax industry from 1889 to the 1930s. She used her grandfather's personal letters, diaries, business correspondence, wages books and photos, in her research into the family history. Jane talks about the challenges, disappointments, and the exhilaration and satisfaction of completing such a work.

### IT'S MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME FOR 2007

We would appreciate members sending in their subscriptions early. Please complete the Membership/Renewal/Donation form on page 11 of this newsletter and forward it to the Library with your subscription.

**NOTE: General membership is now \$50 and concessional membership is \$25.  
(If you pay by Auto/Debit or have already renewed your membership, please disregard this notice.)**

## JESSIE STREET NATIONAL WOMEN'S LIBRARY

The Library is open to the public  
Monday to Friday, 10 am to 3 pm

*Australia's national women's library is a specialist library with its focus on collecting and preserving the literary and cultural heritage of women from all ethnic, religious and socio-economic backgrounds.*

### Aims

- to heighten awareness of women's issues
- to preserve documents on women's lives and activities
- to support the field of women's history
- to highlight women's contribution to this country's development

### Borrowing Policy

The public may borrow items on interlibrary loan. A loan collection is available to financial members.

**Location:** Ultimo Community Centre  
523-525 Harris Street, Ultimo

### Public Transport Services

**Trains** Central Station or Town Hall Station

**Buses** No. 501 from Railway Square (Central Station) or from George Street (opp Town Hall Station)

## GETTING TO THE LIBRARY

**Location** We are situated in the Ultimo Community Centre on the corner of Harris Street and William Henry Street. We are diagonally opposite one end of the Powerhouse Museum and directly opposite the new Ian Thorpe Aquatic Centre.

**Entry** Main entrance is at 523-525 Harris Street (just beyond convenience store). Ring the bell for admittance. The Library is up a flight of stairs. The other entrance is in Bulwara Road. We are on the level, directly across the courtyard.

### How to Reach Us

#### By Bus from the city

Catch the No 501 bus in George Street opposite the Cathedral or at Railway Square near Central Station. It runs every 20 minutes and it's a 5 minute trip to the Library. The stop for the Library is opposite the Powerhouse Museum in Harris Street.

#### By Train

Get off at Central Station. To catch the bus at Railway Square, walk through the Devonshire Tunnel and up the escalator on the left.

#### By Foot from Central Station

From Railway Square, walk along Broadway, turn right into Harris Street and continue to William Henry (takes about 15-20 minutes). For a slightly shorter route, walk to the end of the Devonshire Tunnel, along the open space with the tram lines, down the lane beside the ABC building, left along Ultimo Road, and right into Harris Street.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**SATURDAY, 14 APRIL at 10.30 am**

in

**Seminar Room 1, Ultimo Community Centre  
corner Harris and William Henry Streets  
(enter via Bulwara Road)**

### Notice of Motions

We remind members that notice of motions to be presented at the AGM must be received by the Secretary no later than Wednesday 28 February 2007.

The rules governing AGM procedures are strict and no motions or amendments can be accepted from the floor.

### Nominations to the Board

We are calling for nominations to the Board. Forms for these may be obtained from the Secretary or downloaded from the website. Completed forms must be received by the Returning Officer no later than Wednesday 28 March 2007.

## NETWORKING NEIGHBOURS

### We sign a Memorandum of Understanding with UTS

The Library and the University of Technology, Sydney (UTS), signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 6 November, 2006. It was the product of months of discussions between the two organisations. The agreement was signed by the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Ross Milbourne, and the Chair of the JSNWL Board, Jozefa Sobski.



*L to r: Professor Ross Milbourne, Jozefa Sobski, Fides Datu Lawton and Dr Alex Byrne.*

Other members from UTS present at the ceremony were: Dr Alex Byrne, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Fides Datu Lawton, Acting Librarian and Gabrielle Gardiner, Research and Project Officer. JSNWL was represented by Board members Marie Muir, Olive Briscoe, Jane Pollard, Shirley Jones, and Sybil Jack; and volunteers and members Janet Peadon, Barbara Marshall, Lyn Eggins, Ros Leal, Pam Scott and Margot Simington. Fruit, cake and wine were the order of the day before the ceremony proper began. Professor Milbourne in his talk, spoke of the appropriateness of the partnership between the two organisations. He was followed by Jozefa Sobski, Chair of the Board of JSNWL, who talked of the importance to our Library of the linkage with UTS. Professor Milbourne and Jozefa Sobski then signed the Memorandum of Understanding. Jane Pollard, gave the vote of thanks to Professor Milbourne and this was followed by the loud and appropriately-timed popping of a champagne cork, heralding the toast to the venture.

The Vice Chancellor was taken on a guided tour of the Library whose collection, he recognised, represented a significant resource for students studying various aspects of women's history and their contribution to society. Users of

JSNWL will benefit in the future from website links and digitisation of parts of the Library's collection. The MOU allows the two organisations to pursue various forms of cooperation including: visits by UTS students for the purpose of study and research; visits by and interchange of staff for the purpose of research, teaching and discussions; exchange of information such as library materials and research publications; website linkages; participation in funded research or other projects; and participation in promotional projects. Dr Alex Byrne and Jane Pollard will encourage direct contact and cooperation between the teaching and administrative staff of UTS and the team of volunteers at JSNWL.

We thank volunteers Pam Scott and Margot Simington, who recorded the ceremony on videotape. A copy will be placed in our archives.

### LIBRARY NEWS

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#### Special Events

##### *Occasional Writers' Group presents an Anthology*

The Library held a small ceremony on Tuesday 28 November, when four women, of twelve who form the Occasional Writers' Group, donated an anthology of their writings to the Library. Valwyn Wishart, a JSNWL member, had arranged for the production of the anthology and the handing-over ceremony; the others who came with her were Jean Eckels, Valerie Muir (also a JSNWL member), and Barbara Shannon. Present from the Library were Beverley Sodbinow, archivist, Janet Peardon and Shirley Jones. After the formal part of the ceremony, everyone enjoyed a cup of tea and biscuits, after which each member read one of her contributions from the anthology.



*Beverly Sodbinow receives the anthology from Valwyn Wishart*

##### *Helen Reddy as a Talking Head*

On 20 November, three staff from ABC-TV came into the Library with Helen Reddy, who was being interviewed for the 'Talking Heads' program. Helen had elected to be interviewed at the Library, so that she could show some of its features and its holdings and explain why a women's library is such an important institution in Australia.

The Talking Heads program is shown on the ABC at 6.30 pm on Mondays. We are told the interview with Helen will go to air Monday 26 February, so turn on your sets!

##### **Recent Donations**

Catherine Phillips was in Sydney from the USA for the memorial service and interment of her mother's ashes on 9 December, 2006. Her mother, member Shelley Phillips, died in September (see the obituary in the November newsletter, p10). She, with her friend Ann Mather from the UK, came into the Library to donate a CD of the ceremony. Catherine also gave us the novel her mother wrote, entitled *In Search of Evangeline Melville*. Catherine and Ann were most impressed with the Library and its research collection and Catherine has become a member.

Eleanor Boydell, a new member, is writing an essay on a subject of her choice, for the Baccalaureate. She has chosen to write on witchcraft with the emphasis on its effect on women. Eleanor spent some time at the Library researching the subject, but was disappointed that we did not have a copy of *Malleus Maleficarum* (usually translated as *The Hammer of Witches*) written in 1489. However, Shirley Jones solved the problem by donating her first edition Folio Society copy to the Library. The book first formulated the doctrine of witchcraft and is a textbook on the procedure for witch trials.

During her holidays, Eleanor is working in the Library as a volunteer.

We have received a donation from Immigrant Women's Speakout (IWSO) who have sent us a copy of their 21st Annual Report. We have also been donated a report on the first Conference of Rural Culturally & Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Women in NSW, as well as their Service Directory.

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### ARCHIVES NEWS

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#### Recent Acquisitions

The latest donation from member Chase Livingston in San Francisco is a copy of an English Roll of Honour of Suffragette Prisoners 1905-1914. The list includes the name of Martha Jones, whose illuminated address, donated to the Library by Violet Patrick's son and restored and framed for us by Ryde/Hunters Hill Business and Professional Women, commemorates a previous president, Val Buswell. The address hangs in the Library's reception area.

The Roll that Chase donated is practically the only bit of information we have been able to gather about Martha Jones, although Chase has made extensive enquiries at The Women's Library in London and I have done internet searches. Another one of those sad cases of women who become invisible with time!

On the 28th of November we received a visit at the Library from Sylvia Moffitt, granddaughter of Mrs. Alma Davis. Sylvia donated three books of minutes covering the period 1937 to 1945 when her grandmother was secretary of the Women's Union of Service. The names of some prominent women of the period are mentioned in the minutes such as Jessie Street, Muriel Heagney and Bessie Rischbieth. Reference is made to the League of Nations and WWII. The books



are most interesting and reflect the conservative attitudes of middle class women at that time. More research is required on the Women's Union of Service. I can find no mention of it at either the State or National Library. Sylvia has promised us other related material which may be helpful.

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### JSNWL RECEIVES ITS THIRD COMMUNITY HERITAGE GRANT

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In November 2006, I travelled to Canberra to receive a Federal Community Heritage Grant (CHG) on behalf of the Library. The grant certificate for \$9900.00 was presented by Senator the Hon. Rod Kemp, Federal Minister for the Arts and Sport at a ceremony held at the National Library on Wednesday, 8 November. Jessie Street National Women's Library received the grant to fund the conservation of the remainder of our Pine Gap Photography Story Board Collection. 'The awards ensure the longevity of nationally significant collections and ensure that the collections stay in the community where they belong,' Senator Kemp said at the ceremony.

Grants totalling over \$390,000 were awarded to 81 successful applicants, chosen from a field of 239. The successful applicants came from all over Australia and represent community groups who own nationally significant heritage collections. The year 2006 was the 13th anniversary of the program. During the 13 years, 506 projects have received a total of \$2 million in funding and extensive training opportunities. Jessie Street National Women's Library is proud and grateful to have received three Community Heritage Grants. This is the maximum any one group may receive, so we cannot apply for more funding from this source.

I attended a three-day intensive preservation and collection workshop held at the National Library, and its partners, the National Museum of Australia, the National Archives and the National Film and Sound Archives. The workshops were most informative and it gave me a chance to interact and network with others in similar fields.

*Beverley Sodbinow  
Archivist*

Volunteers and Board members met on 21 October, 2006 to review our achievements for 2006, confirm our high priorities and add new areas for our attention in 2007. Leonie Blair, former Board member, steered the discussion.

Our highest priorities remained: meeting our recurrent costs and generating member donations, as well as securing a significant sponsor. The Board has a sponsorship committee which met with a possible sponsor in 2006 to discuss a possible application for funding. We also raised money through a special request to members and the Debbie Reynolds concert. We will be renewing our efforts on these fronts in 2007.

Other priorities were to improve communication across the various elements of the Library and to attract, value and retain our volunteers, our most precious resource. We have formed a Library Operations Committee to support the women who give their time to keep the Library operating. We will update the Volunteer

Handbook and revise and reformat the Procedures Manual. Volunteers will be given training in procedures and will be urged to suggest ways to improve efficiency and communication.

An important change to the way we work will be the opening of Board meetings to any member who wishes to attend and posting the minutes on the Library Noticeboard for those who want to be informed. The number of Board meetings have been reduced. Specialist committees have been set up and we are looking for volunteers to join these. They are: the Parliamentary Luncheon Committee, Library Operations, Finance, Sponsorship, Special Projects and Partnerships, and a Newsletter Committee.

The Board will meet on 13 February, 10 April, 12 June, 14 August, 9 October and 13 November. The meetings commence at 12.30 in the Seminar Room at the Ultimo Community Centre. You are welcome to attend. Help us make the Library a warm and welcoming place for women who visit, browse, research or simply exchange information and link us to networks with common aims.

**Library Operations Committee**

One outcome of the Planning Meeting held in October last year was the formation of a Library Operations Committee. This consists of Board Members: Jozefa Sobski, Jane Pollard and Christine Lees; and the Library Coordinator, Janet Peadon. Clodagh Harrison, a volunteer who has a regular and demanding role in weekly Library management, attended to add valued comments.

At the first meeting, held on 16th January, it was agreed that all volunteers should have the opportunity to meet each other and learn more about all aspects of how the Library functions. The Volunteers Handbook is being updated and the Procedures Manual reformatted for easier use. It was also agreed that volunteers should have the opportunity to enhance their varied skills and interests both for personal benefit and for increased efficiency in the Library. To this end, training sessions are being arranged.

**Are You Interested in Becoming a Volunteer?**

Areas in which the Library requires help:  
**Routine Office Management** which involves record-keeping relating to the mail, membership and donations and other financial matters.  
**Library Management** which includes recording book acquisitions and the subsequent accessioning processes, and other aspects of books, audio visual and other resource records.  
**Public Relations Support** which includes helping compile information for the Newsletter; a media liaison person; a convenor of displays; and a volunteer to liaise with women's organisations overseas (sorry no free trips!)  
**The Lunch Hour Talks** team is always keen to hear of offers of help for this popular monthly event.

If you would like to become involved, please contact the Library on 9265 9486 and leave your details or email [info@nationalwomenslibrary.org.au](mailto:info@nationalwomenslibrary.org.au)

*Christine Lees, Board Member*



**DONATIONS OF MATERIAL**

We thank the following people and organisations who have generously donated material to the Library.

- Michelle Arrow
- Victoria Dodge
- Valerie Griffiths
- Shirley Jones
- Suzanne Leal
- Sylvia Marten
- Ellen McIlwain
- Jenny McNaughton
- Robyn Mathison
- Kaye Murray
- Kerry Pearce
- Catherine Phillips
- Jane Pollard
- Marian Sawyer
- Margaret Walker
- Valwyn Wishart
- (for Occasional Writers' Group)
- Margaret Young

- Allen & Unwin
- Clouston & Hall
- Crown Content Pty Ltd
- Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Women in NSW
- Currency Press
- Five Islands Press
- Golding Centre for Women's History: Theology and Spirituality
- Immigrant Women's Speakout (IWSO)
- Pan Macmillan Australia
- Simon & Schuster
- University of Queensland Press
- University of Western Australia Press

**SPECIAL GIFTS**

Our Special Gifts program is continuing. The Gifts are higher-than-usual donations that members are generously contributing towards the \$6000 per month the Library needs to keep it operative. We encourage other members to contribute to the Special Gifts program. All donations are tax deductible.

**DONORS**

- Evelyn Abbey
- Kirsty Alternburg
- Jan Burnswoods
- Elizabeth Evatt & The Richard Southan Memorial Trust
- Jennie Keller
- Patti Kendall
- Maureen Kingshott & Barbara Guthrie
- Beverley Kingston
- Monika Law
- Belinda Mackay
- Kathy McClellan
- Alice Oppen
- Helen O'Sullivan
- Ros Pesman
- Jane Pollard
- Lee Rhiannon
- Annelise thomas
- Helen Tuckey

**Canberra Lunch Hour Talk**  
**Thursday 1 March, 2007**  
**The Reception Room**  
**ACT Legislative Assembly**  
**Building**

**SPEAKER: MATILDA HOUSE**  
***Challenges Facing Indigenous***  
***Women***

Matilda House is actively involved in a diverse range of committees and councils representing the interests of Indigenous people in the region. She was named 2006 Canberra Citizen of the Year. This talk marks the start of Women's History Month in the ACT.

Cost: \$5 JSWNL members/concession,  
\$10 non-members  
Light refreshment is provided at 12.15  
pm. The talk starts at 12.30 pm.

Please RSVP by emailing  
jsnwlcanberra@yahoo.com.au or by  
contacting Janet on 0448 348 559 by  
Tuesday 27 February.

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### **New Convenor**

We welcome Janet Tomi, our new convenor of the lunch-hour talks in Canberra, who is taking over from Kristin Blume. Janet's background is in international relations and diplomacy as an officer of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. She has just commenced long-service leave, leading into retirement later in the year. Kristin will continue to help with the talks as her work schedule permits.



## WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

### **ARM in ARM: Indigenous and non-Indigenous women working together**

The theme of Women's History Month celebrates the ways many Indigenous and non-Indigenous women have worked together. The inspiration came from the women who played a major role in the 1967 Referendum which removed from Australia's constitution the clause discriminating against Aboriginal people.

Ninety one per cent of all Australians voted "yes" to the removal of this discrimination which meant that Aborigines were counted in the census for the first time, and considered part of the Australian nation. It was the only Referendum started by the people rather than the government – and it grew around campfires, in kitchens and community halls all over Australia to become the country's most successful referendum.

Well known women such as Faith Bandler, Oodgeroo Noonuccal and Jessie Street were among those who led the constitutional campaign, but alongside them were as many again who just worked together, arm-in-arm, to achieve major change.

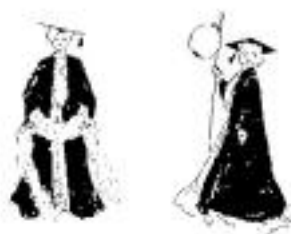
There are many similar stories about Indigenous and non-Indigenous women working together to tell and be shared through the community. WHM invites you to join them in looking for those stories, and pictures, to tell in WHM 2007, either through inclusion on the WHM site or through an event.

NB: Event holders wishing to use a different theme are encouraged to do so.

Website: <http://www.womenshistory.org.au>  
Email: [womenshistorymonth@nfaw.org](mailto:womenshistorymonth@nfaw.org)

It is particularly appropriate for JSNWL to take part in Women's History Month, since the Library was named to honour Jessie Street, Oodgeroo Noonuccal was one of the original patrons and Faith Bandler has been involved with the Library since its inception.

We are planning to join in Women's History Month in March. Information about the JSNWL contribution will be included on the WHM website. Keep in touch.



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### **MONETARY DONATIONS**

We thank the many people who have generously donated to the Library. These donations contribute towards our daily running costs and help keep the Library operative.

Marjan Ashna  
Julie James Bailey  
Jan Burnswoods  
Della Elliott  
Elizabeth Lonergan  
Audrey McDonald  
Wilga Pruden  
Jan Roberts  
Eve Stenning  
Penny Young

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### **NOTES & QUOTES**

Australians are used to the idea of working for the dole. But the Germans have taken it a step further. A 25-year old waitress who turned down a job providing 'sexual services' at a brothel in Berlin faces cuts to her unemployment benefit under laws introduced this year.

The waitress, an unemployed information technology professional, was willing to work in a bar at night and had worked in a cafe. She received a letter from the job care centre telling her that an employer was interested in her 'profile'. Only when she rang them, did she realise she was calling a brothel.

Under Germany's welfare reforms, any woman under 55 who has been out of work for more than a year can be forced to take an available job or lose her unemployment benefit. The Government considered making brothels an exception on moral grounds, but decided it would be too difficult to distinguish them from bars.

Seen in a recent *Sydney Morning Herald*



## OCTOBER LUNCH-HOUR TALK

**SPEAKER: CAROLINE THOMPSON**  
*Music for the Dance Theatre*

*On Thursday 19 October, composer Caroline Thompson illustrated her fascinating talk by playing her music to demonstrate how she set about composition and what effects she got from the instruments she used. It is impossible for this shortened version of her talk to do justice to it. The talk was very different from our usual ones, and the audience was engrossed. There were a lot of questions and comments at the end of the talk and Caroline was besieged afterwards by the many people who wanted to discuss music and dance in more detail with her.*

I had a mother who, like Plato, thought that women should be able to do everything. She nurtured me from a very early age. I was gifted in that I could play on the piano any tune that I heard. Later I had formal lessons and found I really liked performing in things like Eisteddfods. I enjoyed going in there and usually winning. Quite often it involved money and that was even better.

I studied with Raymond Hanson at the Conservatorium and he'd always encouraged me in composition. A lot of people thought some of the stuff I was writing for class was absolutely revolting but I didn't really care because he passed me and I was happy. I also had a very good friend who said 'Just become a composer. You can do it.' It's always good to have somebody who encourages you. In London I studied composition with a composer who'd written quite a lot of children's music and he was also very encouraging. It was there I also saw Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Cats* when it was a very, very small music theatre piece which grew into the enormous work it is today.

When I came back to Australia I started writing a huge work which had about six double bases, ten percussion, and a whole lot of strings and vocals. This went into the garbage bin quite a time ago. After that I started writing smaller works so that I could actually perform them myself. I met a composer who had organised a series of works to be performed at the Sydney Opera House in the Recording Hall, so I actually managed to have a piece performed there. I had an Indonesian gamelan player, I had a dancer and I played the piano myself. The piece was called *Piece for Pisces*; the dancer did her Piscean dance in a little pink silk dress with two fish swimming in opposite directions on it. Through that I met up with a whole lot of people from Sydney and Melbourne who were very supportive and this kept me composing.

I wrote the music for a lot of children's theatre such as *Noddy, Jack and the Bean Stalk*, and *Pinocchio*. I started playing piano myself around the University circuits – just little pieces – improvising. Some of these improvised pieces were taken up by the Melbourne Dance Company and quite often the choreographed pieces went to the Adelaide Festival.

In music there was a network of people who played around the galleries. Among them was Carl Vine who's now the musical director of Music Aviva, but I was the only female in that little group who was actually writing music and playing it. To a certain degree this was isolating.

This next work is called *Series F* and is simply written on an F scale. I wrote it in a hotel room and Jeffery Collins who now plays for the Australian Ensemble I think, multi-tracked it at night in a studio where Darling Harbour is now. You could bring a sound engineer with you and stay there all night recording. Jeffery multi-tracked that piece for flute called *Series F* and the artistic director of the One Extra Dance Company turned it into a piece called *Bush Walk*, which was performed in London and in Melbourne. [plays music]

Nowadays, with the computer, composers can actually realise their ideas quite quickly. You can put your composition on the computer, mouse it in or play it in or use different instruments and be able to hear it back almost immediately, which is absolutely fantastic. Composition becomes so much more immediate than having it on scores. However, you can print out the score and later you can go into a studio and say to people, 'Here's the score' and they will play it.

I put a little piece together for a choreographer's short ballet. It had a flute and a harmonica - a button accordion so we made a lot of sounds with that and we did that live for his piece. Then he asked me to write something a little more substantial so I composed *Aspect* and this was quite successful. It was about love and people's relationships. It was before Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Aspects of Love* that he wrote as a musical. So that little theme was written, first of all, with the choreographer's approval. I wrote the music and it was later choreographed from the score but it was played live. This piece of music I'll play you on the iPod now was basically the demo for this. [plays music]



I wrote another piece called *Doors* for Graham Watson who was part of the Sydney Dance Company. I'd go away and write some of it and then we'd just basically tape it and put it together and he'd keep choreographing [plays music] I wanted to use didgeridoos but at the time females weren't really supposed to use them, so instead I used a base clarinet and this is the middle section of it. [plays music]. I used effects on these instruments, like digital delays to sound like a siren because at the time I was living where I could actually hear the sounds of Sydney harbour, so I put things like clarinets on digital delay which made them sound like sirens. I only had to write one or two notes and then, by using digital delay in the studio, it made everything sound completely different. [plays music] That's the strings of a harp played by Louise Johnson, who still plays for the Sydney Symphony Orchestra. Before I wrote the piece I went to her house and we talked about the harp and how we could get certain effects through the use of the pedals and things like that. Then she actually put down three tracks. So it's a multi-track for harp and there are various other instruments there as well. All of those clarinets come in at different points in time to go with the dance.

Then I started writing a few things for cabaret. Little songs used to come into my head. Joy Ruby and I did a pilot for a show that was called 'The Have a Go Show', for which I wrote the tune called *Certain Millionaires*. That turned into a cabaret show which was performed in Perth and at the Adelaide Festival.

I've got another piece that I'm going to record shortly. It's been sitting on paper for a long time and it's going to need a choir so if any of you want to sing, get in touch with me. I'm going to play on the piano the chord progression for this new piece. I'll be recording it in the studio in the next few weeks. I have a double base player, an ethereal voice which will go over the top of the chord progression and basically I'll have some strings and not too much percussion in this one. [plays music on the piano in the Lady Mayoress' Rooms]

*Transcription by Helen Ruby  
Abbreviated version by Shirley Jones*

## NOVEMBER LUNCH-HOUR TALK

### SPEAKER: DR PAMELA SCOTT *My Midlife Crisis in Hanoi*



*Dr Pam Scott gave a fascinating and humorous talk on Thursday 16 November about her years in Hanoi, and her reasons for going there on each occasion. A keenly interested audience asked so many questions and drew so many extra stories of Pam's life there, that we were, in fact, treated to two talks. Because it was such a stimulating talk, Pam sold a number of copies of her books.*

I've written two books. *Hanoi Stories* covers my first eight years in Hanoi – from 1994 to 2002. People have told me that they've seen tourists in Hanoi walking around with this in their hand, using it as a guide book.

I returned to Australia in 2002 mainly because my father had cancer and I wanted to spend time with him. That's when I decided to use that time to write about all of these wonderful and surprising things that I discovered about Hanoi. When I had my first visit there, Australians didn't know very much about Vietnam. We had the images of the Vietnam war that we all saw on TV and then this image of boat people coming here and that was it. So it was a surprise to me to find that people were cha-chaing and tangoing the nights away in Hanoi, and that there was a jazz club there. Whilst jazz was earlier considered to be decadent western music, and forbidden, now the man who started the jazz club has become a 'People's Artist' which is a title bestowed by the President, and he's seen as the father of jazz in Vietnam.

In 2003, sadly, my father passed away. Suddenly, out of the blue, I got an email asking me to go back to take up a part-time consulting position with the Norwegian government there. This was an opportunity to research another book that I had in my mind, about the interesting expats living there. I wasn't interested in the diplomats and the people working for big multi-nationals. I was interested in people who, like me, suddenly fell in love with Hanoi and reinvented themselves there. My second book, *Life in Hanoi*, is a series of stories about expats -- Italians, French, British, Americans and Australians of different ages, men and women, telling their stories. I interviewed Jimmy Phan, an Australian Vietnamese who's gone back and trained street kids, and there are stories about what he did and the street kids' stories.

I was motivated to write because I found this incredible country so different to anything I expected to see. I had another reason, and that was to inspire older women that it is possible to invent a new

life. A Frenchman I interviewed said to me, 'I love my life. You don't have to be rich, very clever, or very beautiful but you can still have a fabulous adventure.' I wanted to add that you don't have to be very young either. So in 1994 when my children no longer needed me nearby, I headed out. I was 49. Vietnam was a fabulous and unexpected adventure for me.

After being defined by relationships with others all my life – a daughter, a wife, a mother -- suddenly I was alone and was free to reinvent myself. I did it with great gusto. I had dancing, singing, ping pong and drumming lessons. If you went to someone in Australia as an 'older woman' and said that you'd like to have drumming lessons, they'd say, 'What do you want to do that for?' The Vietnamese would say, 'Oh, I know a teacher,' and they'd take you along and would be very enthusiastic about the whole thing. I found them great fun.

The experience of being an expat is very liberating. You're not judged by the norms of that society and what is especially liberating is that they admire westerners so much. It's rather ironic that I felt free in a communist society. It was incredibly safe. I could walk alone at night, and come home from restaurants or I could hop on the back of motorbike taxis and ride anywhere and never be worried. In Australia, I'm often asked both by westerners and Vietnamese now living here what was it like to live in a communist country, in a tone suggesting that it must have been terrible. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Before I went to Vietnam, I'd reached that age when women in Australia become invisible. But in Vietnam when people got to know my routine, I would hear their comments on what I was wearing and how I looked when I walked along the streets. After a few Vietnamese lessons, I recognised some of the words they were saying. I heard 'Ba dep' which means 'beautiful woman' so I stood a little straighter and pulled in my stomach and I felt I had to dress for my 'public'. When I understood a little more Vietnamese I heard that they were saying, 'the western woman is old but beautiful.' I was telling one of my Vietnamese colleagues here about the 'old' comment and he said 'That only makes the compliment more valuable. Anyone can be young and beautiful.' That was a new way of thinking about things. I didn't get too carried away with the 'beautiful' part because I found out that they think all westerners are beautiful.

Vietnamese are much more 'in your face' than other Asians. They're interested in everything – to the point of nosiness. They want to know how old you are, how much money you earn, if you're married, and how many children you have. Part of the reason they need to know your age is because they've got to select the correct personal pronoun to use and this depends on the relative age of the speaker and their status. If you pick the wrong one for them, you can insult someone, and if you put yourself too low that can go against you as well.

In 1995 when I went to the same eatery for lunch each day, I'd walk past the artificial flower sellers, who used to discuss me. After some months, one of the women summoned up enough courage to ask me how old I was. She shouted to her neighbour and I could hear it echoing down the street, 'The western woman's 50!'

The Vietnamese have a great sense of humour and a great sense of fun and what I admired was that they weren't bowed by authority. They'll always find the way around difficulties. When traffic lights first came to Hanoi, no one obeyed them, so policemen were put at the traffic lights. They hit the motorcyclists with their truncheons, but that didn't make them stop. Miss Chi, who was the receptionist at the guesthouse and a very demure little thing said to me 'Oh, those traffic lights. I just drove through and the policeman chased me but I just went very fast.'

The Vietnamese have a 'can-do' attitude. If they want to move house, they get a cyclo – a bicycle with a seat at the front and a man who sits behind and pedals. I've seen a three piece lounge suite, coffee table and the family dog in one of these things and someone pedalling it. You buy a mattress and the pedaller puts it on the cyclo and you ride home with him, or on the motorbike next to him. It's all so incredibly convenient and easy.

They can be incredibly blunt at times. I went into a newly-opened Clinique shop to buy some foundation. This sweet little thing in her white uniform who clearly had had some training but perhaps not enough, said 'Oh, your skin's very good. It's just wrinkled, and that's because you're old.' You've probably seen photos

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**KNOW HOW CONFERENCES**

**Know How Conference 2006**

The last Know How Conference was held in Mexico in August 2006. A report in the *IIAV International News* of January 2007 says: 'The enormous diversity of participants from all over the world – from grass roots organisations to women's information specialists and academics – made it an interesting, and often moving, opportunity to meet each other. An interesting topic considered was the double task of maintaining the cultural heritage of indigenous women, and at the same time, introducing new technologies as an instrument for this cultural preservation.'

**Know How Conference 2010**

This conference will be held in South Korea, hosted by the Asian Pacific Women's Information Network Center (APWINC). Lin McDevitt-Pugh, Program Director at the IIAV where the Know How Secretariat is based, says 'There is a lot of poverty in Asia, but when it comes to information technology, they are far ahead of the rest of the world.' The secretariat are already busy looking for funding for the Korean conference.

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**WOMEN'S PEACE  
MOVEMENT IN UGANDA**

The Peace Movement in Uganda is being monitored by Isis-WICCE, the women's resource centre that organised the 2002 Know How Conference in Kampala. It is working with other national and international women's organisations to ensure that women's voices are heard in the talks which are trying to resolve the conflict in northern Uganda. Isis-WICCE is recording what women think is missing from the peace process and is trying to have women's concerns incorporated into the talks. They are also collecting stories from women in southern Sudan, to try and ensure women play a role in the reconstruction of this war-torn area.

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**EUROPEAN FEMINIST  
FORUM (EFF)**

**Revitalising Feminism**

The newly-formed European Feminist Forum (EFF) aims to revitalise feminism in Europe and to create a pan-European feminist movement. In preparation for a meeting planned for the end of 2007, the EFF secretariat, based at IIAV in Amsterdam, is encouraging feminists in Europe to form affinity groups to network based on their common interests. These will be non-hierarchical, open and participatory and will explore topics EFF participants see as key to their political vision as feminists.

Among possible topics are:

What is a feminist alternative to the economic mainstream; can we build a vision for a more just economics?

How, as feminists working in different European countries and networks, can we work collectively to fight the growing threats to abortion laws?

How as feminists living in Europe do we see migration in our lives, as migrants and as women supporting migrants?

What does the EU enlargement offer for women and how can feminists ensure it offers positive opportunities for women, across the different geographical national borders?

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**WOMEN'S CONGRESS IN  
VIETNAM**

**Revisiting Vietnam**

Jozefa Sobski, Chair of the Board, has just returned from a visit to Vietnam. She reports that the English language *Viet Nam News* on January 6th reported on Vice President's Truong My Hoa's meeting with the Women's Union to prepare for the tenth National Women's Representative Congress to be held in March, 2007. She was encouraging the Union to take responsibility for the major issues facing women, including women and child trafficking, hunger alleviation and poverty reduction, improving women's skills and combating family violence. The Congress was to be the culmination of a process of consultations and meetings throughout the provinces and major cities.

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**UN WORLD HEALTH  
ESTIMATES RELATING TO  
WOMEN**

Shirley Randell, a JSNWL member, who is Senior Adviser to the SNV Netherlands Development Organisation in the East and Southern Africa Region, was recently in Uganda. She reports that a formal cessation of hostilities agreement was signed on 26 August 2006.

Her email to us quotes the latest UN Health estimates relating to women:

Up to 3 million a year lose their lives to gender-based violence or neglect.

Some 600,000 women die in childbirth, many for lack of medical attention or sanitation.

Millions are victims of infanticide in countries that value male over female children.

Women account for almost half of all HIV/AIDS cases worldwide, and in Africa nearly 70% of infected people are women. Elderly women, often the poorest, are left to care for the children of AIDS victims.

As many as 4 million girls and women a year are sold into prostitution.

Two million suffer genital mutilation, often in conditions leading to lifelong pain, infection and premature death.

One woman in five is a victim of rape or attempted rape during her lifetime.

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**WOMEN'S NEWS SERVICE  
IN IRAN**

*Shahzad News* started its daily online news service in Farsi in July 2006 and now has a weekly service in English online.

Editor-in-Chief, Mina Saadadi says that *Shahzad News* has received a lot of positive feedback since its launch. One visitor to the site said, 'News about the experiences of women and the media in other countries gives us tremendous support, because this way we know that we won't have to constantly reinvent the wheel.'

Look up this inspiring initiative on [www.shahzadnews.org](http://www.shahzadnews.org)

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**WORKING WOMEN'S CENTRE IN TASMANIA CLOSES**

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The Working Women's Centre in Hobart, Tasmania, has been forced to close. The funding offered by the State Government at a recent meeting would only have allowed it to keep operating for another six months, said the Director, Esther

Beecroft. The Centre also found the terms of the funding were unacceptable. They restricted staff to informing women only about the WorkChoices laws and prohibited them from doing casework. 'Casework' said Ms Beecroft, 'is our main

activity and advocacy is what our clients need more than anything else.' Similar Centres in other states, she said, receive upwards of \$300,000 in state funding each year.

## In Our Collections

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non-fiction section is a magnificent resource which is held in perpetuity for present-day and future researchers.

### Categories outside our CDP

We do not take into the Research Collection books by women, which are NOT ABOUT women. To do so would not only extend the collection beyond our capacity to house it, but also extend it to the general books which more properly belong elsewhere. Neither do we include how-to-do-it books, manuals, textbooks, or children's books.

### Fiction Section

Here the emphasis is on our own Australian women writers -- their novels, poetry and plays. The collection of novels runs from the early authors, such as Ada Praed and Catherine Helen Spence, published in the 19th and early 20th centuries, through later writers such as Miles Franklin and Dymphna Cusack, published in the mid-20th century, to the present-day writers such as Kate Grenville and Elizabeth Jolley.

We have been very lucky in the donations we've received over the years. A Sydney woman moving to Japan, donated her library of early Australian writers, many of them first editions and many of them now unprocurable. We are the only library in Australia that holds some of these books. Other women have donated out-of-print books, many of which are now irreplaceable. Our holdings by women playwrights is quite small and we are trying to obtain copies of many of the plays by Australian women that have sunk into oblivion.

### Categories Outside our CDP

We do not take fiction by non-Australian women writers. If you are in doubt when offering a donation, please contact one of our librarians.

### Access to the Research Collection

Some of the books in this collection are irreplaceable. These are not lent out, but visitors to the Library have access to them. All other books are available on interlibrary loan. This means you can order them, for the established fee, from your local Public Library, educational institution or employer organisation libraries, but you must read them at the library borrowing them.

### The Loan Collection

This collection contains about 1000 books, both fiction and non-fiction, all of which are duplicates of titles in the Research Collection. Books may be borrowed by financial members of the Library.

## Our Wish List

Inevitably, we have gaps in our holdings. In the non-fiction section, we would like more books on women artists, women explorers, women composers, conductors and performers, and on women pilots, including those who delivered planes during WWII. If you have any books you would like to donate, that fit into these categories or that you think are suitable for our collection, please let us know. On occasion, we include a Wish List in some of our newsletters, of specific books we would appreciate getting. Look in Library News for information about these.

### Making a Donation

If you wish to make a donation, please SEND US A LIST of what you have in mind. We can then let you know which of the books we already hold. Then you need send us only those books we would like to add to the collection. This saves you time and trouble and means the Library does not have to find storage space for duplicate copies.

When offering donations, please keep in mind the various categories that are outside our collection development policy.

## Talk and Display on Chinese Women's Dress

The talk by Judith Rutherford on *Chinese Women's Dress: Delicate Hands, Delicate Feet* held in the Ultimo Community Centre on 25 and 26 November 2006 was, unfortunately, very poorly attended. This was disappointing as the talk itself was extremely interesting, and the display of garments, ornaments and accessories attracted a great deal of attention from those there. Judith's explanation of what the embroidery, the styles of dress, the symbolism of the animals, flowers and insects involved, the types of dyes used in the threads and tassels, and the changes in the style of garments over time, was fascinating. From this point of view the function was a success, but from the point of view of attendance it was not. Perhaps it was held too near Christmas when everyone was too busy with Christmas parties and preparations!



Viewing a skirt with gold wrapped thread couching and couched kingfisher feathers.

## Pam Scott's talk

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of women carrying fruit and vegetables and flowers in baskets at the end of shoulder poles. Some women carry underwear for sale in their baskets, including little plastic packages of bras. I was intrigued by this so I went to buy some. You put the bras on over your clothes, in the street, with passing cyclo drivers calling out 'very beautiful.'

I feel over-regulated in Australia, these days. In Hanoi you can sit at one little eatery on the street and order a drink from another nearby. They'll bring it. Everything is easy. So that's why I always said that Hanoi was the best place for a midlife crisis. The clothes there fitted me and I didn't have to cut miles off the jeans I bought. The food was cheap and the men didn't care how old you were. You could go dancing with young men or old men. They just wanted to dance with someone who knew how to dance. You can enjoy all sorts of activities in mixed age groups. Age, experience and education are well respected so you're treated like somebody and you're not invisible. Most of all, you feel loved and useful in a country where everyone is worse off than you are and has had a harder life. It's very easy to contribute to that society. There's need all around you and the smallest things can make a difference -- just helping someone with their English, or giving them a book if they want to learn more. Foreigners have sometimes bought cyclos for young boys, so that they can earn their living while supporting a family back in the countryside. You give someone a bicycle to help them get to work. In this process of helping them, you learn so much and you enrich your own life.

Transcription by Helen Ruby  
Abbreviated version by Shirley Jones



## NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to our new members

Eleanor Boydell  
Angela Carswell  
Anna Challis  
Darelle Duncan  
Pamela Hewitt  
Pamela Lancaster  
Janet Tomi

**Bridget McKern** is one of the Library's stalwart volunteers. We are very pleased to learn that she is about to have her second book, *Everyday Heroes: Stories of Courage and Inspiration*, published in April; it will be launched at Gleebooks on 10 May.

Bridget says that one of the reasons for writing this book was to throw open some different notions of heroism by recording the stories of ordinary people. The typical hero in film and literature is depicted in male terms, but the stories of the men in Bridget's book challenge the stereotype. Women's heroic journey has not been so well documented but the stuff of relationship and negotiation is often left to them alone, and the whole family structure depends largely on their infinite capacity to bridge the gaps, keep families together, settle disputes and shape the lives of children and communities with their work.

For more information about the author and the book see the author's page on A&A Publishing Pty Ltd website: <http://aampersanda.com/index.php?section=125>

**Jane Pollard** and her husband, Brian, recently returned from their first visit to India and their first experience of joining a group tour. The tour began in Delhi, a good place to be initiated into the 'organised chaos' that is India, says Jane. In the Himalayan foothills, they stayed at Nainital, a former summer retreat during the British Raj where the snow-covered mountains provide a glorious backdrop. At Haridwar, one of the seven sacred cities for Hindus, they joined a throng of many thousand pilgrims at evening prayers and blessings beside the Ganges. The tour then took them almost to the headwaters of the Ganges where the river is fast and deep with cool green water tumbling over boulders between forested hills – a landscape very like Jane's native New Zealand. They liked the energy, vitality, colour, food, and friendliness – especially of the children -- they experienced and look forward to returning.

From India, Brian and Jane flew to China to see the terracotta warriors at Xian. Their visit was cut short when the weather turned so cold their lips became numb and they could not talk as they walked up on the great medieval wall (14 km in length) that surrounds this 'small' city of eight million people.

**Elizabeth Mooney** and her travelling mate Pat Clark have just come back from Antarctica. Elizabeth writes: We enjoyed a three-day exciting visit in Buenos Aires, before flying to Ushuaia, the southernmost city in the world. Here we joined the Russian icebreaker *Explorer* for our three-day crossing of the notorious Drake Passage to Antarctica. Contrary to expectations, the trip was unusually calm. On the way we passed immense bright blue icebergs.

We spent seven days in the Antarctic and were given nightly lectures on what we would see there. Our first day we were taken ashore, after following strict regulations and scrubbing our wellies on leaving and returning to the ship. We sighted leopard seals and dozens of different birds that live in this frozen continent including albatross, skuas and penguins in their hundreds, including the king penguin. Many species of birds harass the penguins to find the eggs they are sitting on in their pebble nests. The scenery was stunning and we took thousands of photos during this must do journey.

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### SHORTAGE OF RENTAL ACCOMMODATION

We know that it's difficult to find properties to lease in Sydney, but we didn't know things were as desperate as this!



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### 'PROSPECTS FOR WOMEN IN WRITING'

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The following extract is taken from an essay 'Prospects for Women in Writing' by Ursula Le Guin. It was written in 1986 and appears in her book *Dancing at the Edge of the World*. Readers may recognise the words towards the end of the extract. With Ursula Le Guin's permission they are used as the Library's slogan.

Ursula Le Guin writes:

Although thirty to fifty percent of books are written by women, what is called 'literature' remains eighty-eight to ninety percent male, decade after decade. No matter how successful, beloved, influential her work was, when a woman author dies, nine times out of ten she gets dropped from the lists, the courses, the anthologies, while the men get kept....

Many more women buy and read books than men. And in the last fifteen years there has been an increasing sense of strength and mutual validation among women writers and readers, a resistance to the male control over reading, a refusal to join men in sneering at what women want to write and read. ... The English profs keep sweeping our work under the rug, but that rug is about three feet off the floor by now, and things are coming out from under it. Housework is woman's work, right? Well, it's time to shake the rugs.

Who's afraid of Virginia Woolf? Every little macho dodo, from Hemingway to Mailer. There is no more subversive act than the act of writing from a woman's experience of life using a woman's judgment. Woolf knew that and said it in 1930. Most of us forgot it and had to rediscover it again in the sixties. But for a whole generation now, women have been writing, publishing, and reading one another, in artistic and scholarly and feminist fellowship. If we go on doing that, by the year 2000 we will – for the first time ever – have kept the perceptions, ideas, and judgments of women alive in consciousness as an active, creative force in society for more than one generation. ... To keep women's words, women's works, alive and powerful – that's what I see as our job as writers and readers for the next fifteen years, and the next fifty.

## EVENTS IN THE PIPELINE

### 'Talking Heads'

Peter Thompson's interview with Helen Reddy on a Talking Heads program will be shown on the ABC on **Monday, 26 February 2007, at 6.30 pm**. Part of the interview is conducted in Jessie Street National Women's Library in Ultimo, Sydney. Watch this program. (See Library News, page 3)

### Ultimo Pyrmont UPTown Festival

The 26th Annual Festival is being held on Saturday 31 March from 11 am to 5.30 pm. The chosen theme this year is Tropical Fever. Jessie Street National Women's Library is part of the Ultimo Pyrmont community and is joining in the activities.

## WOMEN'S STORYTELLING

**Come and hear Dr Beverley Kingston telling the stories of Women Living in the Tropics 2 to 3 pm on Saturday 31st March 2007**

**Jessie Street National Women's Library in the Ultimo Community Centre**

**Displays of books and posters. Raffles. Lucky door prize**

### Launch of Bridget McKern's Book

Bridget's book *Everyday Heroes: Stories of Courage and Inspiration* will be launched at Gleebooks, 49 Glebe Point Road, Glebe, on Thursday, 10 May. Members are cordially invited. The book was published by A& A Publishing Pty Ltd and more information is available on their author website:

<http://aampersanda.com/index.php?section=125>

(See News of Members, p 10)

### Women's History Month

Women's History Month takes place in March, with numerous women's organisations presenting functions. This year's theme is Arm in Arm: Indigenous and non-Indigenous women working together.

The JSNWL Canberra Lunch-hour Talk on 1 March, with speaker Matilda House, marks the start of WHM in the ACT. (See Canberra news, p 5) For further information see WHM website: [www.womenshistory.org.au](http://www.womenshistory.org.au)

## MEMBERSHIP / RENEWAL / DONATION FORM

I wish to:  join the Library  renew my membership  make a donation

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Member \$50  Concession \$25 (pensioner/unwaged)

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I authorise JSNWL to charge this, and all future membership renewals as they fall due, to the credit card number given above on this form

I authorise JSNWL to charge \$ ..... annually to the above credit card as a donation to the Library

Signature

### Become a Volunteer

I would like to help the Library by becoming a volunteer  
(You will be contacted so that an interview can be arranged)

The membership year runs from January to December.

Members joining after 1st October are financial until December of the following year.

Please forward the completed form to:

Jessie Street National Women's Library GPO Box 2656 Sydney NSW 2001

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*To keep women's words, women's works, alive and powerful -- Ursula Le Guin*