

NEWSLETTER



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

RECORDING ABORIGINAL WOMEN'S HISTORY: A LIBRARY INITIATIVE

Jessie Street National Women's Library has embarked on an innovative oral history project with the aim of increasing our holdings of material on Aboriginal women's history, as well as acknowledging the life and contribution of an inspirational local Aboriginal woman.

Euphemia Bostock is indeed an inspiration. She epitomises all that is special about Aboriginal life. She is the matriarch of an extended family, a successful artist, a political activist, a well-respected and inspirational mentor of Sydney's Aboriginal community, and founder of Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Cooperative in Sydney.

Phemie became an artist at 50 years of age and had instant success. Her artworks grace the collections of the Australian National Gallery in Canberra, the National Gallery of Victoria in Melbourne and the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney. Textiles — in particular painting on silk, and ceramics and sculpture are her specialties. Probably her most well-known artwork is the Possum Skin print. This dramatic black and gold work on cotton fabric combines images from her cultural memory and ideas taken from an actual piece of an Aboriginal possum skin cloak she saw many years ago. Australia Post used this design on a postage stamp. Her pottery pieces include coolamons and a ceramic shield held in the Powerhouse Museum collection. Phemie is currently Chairperson of the Board of the Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Cooperative, which has operated for 25 years and plays a vital part in promoting the work of urban indigenous artists.

Phemie's rich and colourful life has included participation in the Black Moratorium march in Sydney in 1972. Later on that year she followed this up with a trip to Canberra to support the Aboriginal Tent Embassy which was being threatened with removal. In 1987, she went to Paris where the department store, Au Printemps, as part of a show called 'Down Under' held fashion parades showcasing fashions designed and modelled by Aborigines. Phemie designed and made outfits for these parades, along with other artists including the well-known artist, Bronwyn Bancroft.

Phemie sees herself very much as a 'behind the scenes' person. However, she has been a strong force in the local Aboriginal and wider community for many years and is greatly admired and loved.



Euphemia Bostock with some of her works at a recent exhibition at the Chrissie Cotter Gallery in Marrickville, Sydney

Phemie's family, friends and community wanted her story to be told and she was very happy that JSNWL wanted to undertake this task. Certainly Jessie Street herself was a great advocate of Aboriginal rights who worked closely with Faith Bandler to have Australia accept the 1967 referendum proposals supporting a fairer deal for Aboriginal people.

Phemie is telling her story through a series of oral history interviews. I conducted a number of interviews with her at JSNWL in 2011, and we now have a significant amount of transcribed material. We have begun to work together on reviewing this material, assessing areas for expansion with a view to completing the project by mid-year. In writing up her story, my aim is to retain her wonderful 'voice'. This story will be published in a book that will become part of JSNWL's collection and hopefully will be placed in other libraries too.

This is an exciting and fascinating project and I feel privileged to be working with Phemie. I thank our Library Board for their continuing support.

Jenny Reeves

Membership Renewal

Membership is by calendar year — see page 7 to renew. Thank you to those who have already resubscribed for 2012.

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From the editors

For over 12 months the Library has been fortunate to have Marc de Ferranti's astute design guidance. Marc, despite his own preference for faster change towards a fresh look took a 'hasten slowly' approach with novice editors, progressively initiating refinements as we explored the technology. As of this year, Marc, with heavier work responsibilities and further tertiary study, has withdrawn, knowing Katharine Stevenson, a new volunteer and graphic designer, has joined the Team. Many thanks and much appreciation, Marc, for your absolutely invaluable contribution.

Revamping our *Newsletter* continues. In late 2011 the Board endorsed a comprehensive, new identity for the Library developed by Katharine Stevenson. This comprises a redesigned logo using a new font, and templates. Marc incorporated the logo into November's *Newsletter*; Diane Hague, another volunteer, is developing a full suite of Library fact sheets and stationery using Katharine's design work (see page 6). This *February 2012 Newsletter* expresses JSNWL's new identity more fully — including Board agreement to full colour. What do you think?

Jessie Street National Women's Library

Australia's National Women's Library is a specialist library, its focus being the collection and preservation of 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 records of women's lives and activities
- to support the field of women's history
- to highlight women's contribution to this country's development

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Remembering Della Elliott, former volunteer



Portrait of Della Elliott by Ivy Shaw

Della Elliott is fondly remembered by volunteers from the early days of the Library as a staunch supporter. She was a strong 'first woman' in many of the challenges she accepted towards improving workers' conditions.

Della — Kondelea Xenodohos — was born in Melbourne to a Greek migrant father in the fish-and-chip trade and an Australian-born mother, who performed in a travelling circus. The family settled in Sydney in the 1920s. The Depression resulted in Della ending her schooling at the age of 14. She took up waitressing and house cleaning, joined the Communist Party of Australia, worked for left wing organisations, and on Sundays spoke on the CPA's 'stump' in Sydney's Domain. In 1937 she married young Communist activist, Laurie Aarons, but the marriage ended after a few years. Together they organised young people and engaged in illegal underground activities after the Menzies government banned the CPA in 1940. Della joined the Federated Clerks Union, was elected to the central council and became an organiser. In 1943 she became the first female assistant secretary. As delegate to the NSW Labor Council and as an Australian Council of Trade Unions delegate in 1945 and 1947, she campaigned for recognition of women's status and right to equal pay. In 1946 she became involved with the Trade Union Equal Pay Committee, chaired by Jessie Street. She also worked as secretary to the general secretary for the Waterside Workers Federation. During the 1951 New Zealand wharf strike she met and later married Eliot V Elliott, leader of the Seamen's Union of Australia. Della worked at the SUA for 33 years as administrator and editor of its monthly journal. In 1979, her portrait painted by Ivy Shore (1915-1999) won the Portia Geach Memorial Art Award, Australia's richest and most prestigious art award open to women painters only. In retirement Della pursued her interest in breeding Scottish Terriers, and in her passion for social justice bequeathed to Women's College at the University of Sydney the gift of an annual scholarship to help female Aboriginal students.

From our Library viewpoint, a very significant activity Della pursued in retirement was volunteering at JSNWL. She joined in 1995, became a Board Member, and then was Treasurer for four years from 1996. Shirley Jones remembers Della as a meticulous treasurer. When Della retired from the Board in 1999, Marie Muir moved a vote of thanks for her rich and valuable contribution and the enormous amount of work she had done for the Library.

She died on 2 October 2011, aged 93. Vale Della.

IWD Centenary Exhibition posters displayed

The March 2011 Centenary of International Women's Day Exhibition at Parliament House Sydney, curated by JSNWL, aroused wide interest — and recently inspired Board members Jan Burnswoods and Jozefa Sobski to 'colonise' the landing in front of our Library with the colourful poster copies used in the Exhibition. Do come and see the IWD Exhibition posters before this year's IWD on 8 March, and experience the conversion of a dreary space into what now is virtually a JSNWL foyer celebrating women. Thank you to Ultimo Community Centre manager, Ray Dehon, who welcomed the idea and assisted by having wall space cleaned to enable attachment of the artwork.

Demise of a significant library

On 10 January I visited Marilyn Rolls in Adelaide and heard a sad story about the Women's Studies Resource Centre South Australia Incorporated. Once apparently the largest collection of books and other resources for, by and about women in Australia, it is now being dispersed to other libraries in SA and across the country.

The WSRC library was set up after the International Year of Women (1975) as a valuable asset for SA. State Government funding then readily available provided for paid staff, rental and purchase of books. The library was well used by local universities, colleges and individuals, especially with Women's Studies being so topical. Women returning to the workforce and mature age students benefited from courses by obtaining work or achieving specific goals.

As time passed and political interest diminished, government funds were reduced with a corresponding decline in hours for the staff. Unfortunately this meant that WSRC staff had to spend more of their time with front desk activity instead of being able to research, increase the collection and more importantly, catalogue and accession new books which had been deposited with them. As a consequence, the collection was seen to be out of date, statistics did not reflect kindly on the library's activities and, after a series of further cuts, funding eventually ceased completely. It was clear that the Centre had to close and with great reluctance the WSRC Board realised it would have to distribute its large collection to other sources.

When JSNWL was approached it was agreed some of their posters could be incorporated into our own substantial collection of posters. I collected these plus a selection of books recently when conveniently passing through Adelaide with car and caravan. But although some WSRC books were being distributed, Marilyn (former WSRC Board executive) and others had had to move a still

WAAAF papers find a home

JSNWL archives recently received Women's Auxiliary Australia Air Force papers. The WAAAF, the first Australian military women's service (excluding the Nursing Services) was formed on 15 March 1941. When it closed in July 2011, there was no clear avenue for preserving its papers. By chance a contact with Sybil Jack, Board Member, alerted WAAAF to JSNWL's existence. A mutually pleasing solution: JSNWL archives is very happy to accept this unique material which includes documentation of Australian women's participation in WWII. We thank the WAAAF and Mrs Val Wakefield, former Sydney Branch Secretary, for these records and their financial donation which will assist processing.

vast collection of over 16,000 books to temporary premises at Panorama TAFE in Adelaide pending final disposal. According to Marilyn it seems that if the Resource Centre had had just a couple more years of grants or other funding they could have turned the corner and continued to be a valuable resource for South Australia and the rest of the country.

A depressing and cautionary tale. Forward planning for any organisation is essential, but even more so for one like JSNWL is the requirement for an independent financial base which does not rely upon patronage subject to the swings and roundabouts of politics and governments. It is fervently hoped that JSNWL's Capital Investment Fund, launched in 2009 and now at some \$80,000, will grow speedily to the \$500,000 required as the minimum we need to generate a reasonable income stream, thus providing for very basic Library running costs. Indeed, food for continuing thought and action.



Marilyn Rolls presents *Herstory in History (1985)* to Christine Lees

Christine Lees

LUNCH HOUR TALKS 2012 — SYDNEY

FEBRUARY — Thursday 16

The Hon Margaret Renaud

Legal reasoning amidst emotion

Margaret, former barrister and Family Court Judge, reflects on stereotyping in the 60s and 70s of women barristers practising family law as 'not real lawyers'. Yet, because 'every unhappy family is unhappy in its own way', this emotive, complex, dynamic area of law requires unique, just outcomes.

Date/Time/Venue: 3rd Thursday of the month 12.00—1.30pm. Southern Function Room, 4th Floor, Town Hall House, 456 Kent Street Sydney.

Cost: \$16 (members) \$22 (non-members) including light lunch. Pay at the door. **Please book by noon Monday before the talk:** Ph (02) 9571 5359

MARCH — Thursday 15

Heather Saville

Friends in deed: are we helping the people who need help most?

Do we do any good? How could we do it better? — questions raised in Heather's book, *Friends in deed*, about Quaker Service Australia (QSA) and its overseas aid work. Formerly QSA Chair, she discusses QSA's experience over 50 years, including with small-scale agriculture and food and water security in SE Asia and Africa.

APRIL — Thursday 19

Suzanne Baker

Beethoven and the Zipper — the story of Musica Viva

Musica Viva, largest entrepreneurial chamber music organisation world-wide, was founded post-war in Sydney by Viennese Jew refugee, Richard Goldner, who made a fortune from zippers. Suzanne (Academy Award winner for her film 'Leisure') sets Goldner's memoirs in the context of Australia maturing, 1930-1970.

MAY — Thursday 17

Rosemary Arnold

First females above Australia

Rosemary, Australia's first woman helicopter pilot, flew a Hughes 500 across the US 1969, founded the Helicopter Association Australia 1977, and lectured at university level in aviation history. A marriage celebrant since 2004, her book of 100 short biographies salutes 100 years of Australia's female flying firsts 1909-2009, highlighting women flyers in a 'boys club' industry.

The genocide of the Tamil people — an untold story

Dr Sam Pari possesses vast experience as a volunteer worker in the post-tsunami regions of north east Sri Lanka, and has represented the Tamil community in numerous human rights, political and academic forums.

Sri Lanka, a tiny island south of India, began with three kingdoms — the kingdom to the north and east, predominately Tamil, and two other kingdoms in the south where Sinhalese lived. Despite speaking different languages, Tamil and Sinhala, they learnt to coexist and maintain their own cultures. However, in 1505 the Portuguese invaded, followed by the Dutch. In 1796 the British took control. The Portuguese and the Dutch allowed people to live in their own parts of their land, but the British in 1833 artificially merged the island for administrative convenience and ruled the island under one umbrella. When the British left Sri Lanka in 1948, they left it a unitary state. Since Sinhalese comprised the majority of the population, in parliament, successive Sinhalese-dominated governments change legislation, imposing rules and openly persecuting Tamil people. Soon after the British left, 33% of Tamils were disenfranchised — told that they did not belong to the island and had no right to vote. Sinhalese colonisation started to take place and Sinhalese moved into Tamil homelands, further diluting Tamil voting power.

In 1956 Sinhalese became the official language, and Tamils employed in the government sector lost their jobs overnight because they did not speak Sinhalese. In 1971 the government introduced standardisation where — to simplify — Sinhalese could get into university with scores of 60-65 but Tamils had to get 97, 98, 99. Again in 1972 the Sinhalese-dominated government changed the constitution without the participation of Tamil politicians. Buddhism became the state religion and the country's name changed from Ceylon to Sri Lanka, a Sinhalese term. Other legislative change included the Prevention of Terrorism Act, permitting arbitrary arrest of Tamils for indefinite periods.

The Tamils initially started off with non-violent struggle — hunger strikes, sit-ins, protests outside the parliament — but the Sri Lankan state always responded with violence. In 1956 there was an anti-Tamil pogrom in which 150 Tamils were killed. More pogroms occurred between 1958 and 1981 and then in 1983 (Black July) there was a massive government-backed riot, in which 4,000 Tamils were killed in the capital, Colombo, in a few days — the trigger for armed resistance to commence. Young Tamil students became frustrated at not getting the education they deserved, and this became a catalyst leading to the creation of Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, aka the Tamil Tigers. In 1983 the Tamils embarked on a fight for independence through armed struggle. So the last thirty years have been very bloody years in Sri Lanka, with indiscriminate bombing and shelling, the majority of the casualties being Tamils. But there are faults on both sides.

A ceasefire was signed in 2002 by the Tamil Tigers and the Sri Lankan government. However, in January 2008 the government pulled out of the ceasefire, abrogating it unilaterally. As from 2008, they embarked on a vicious military campaign in the north and east. I visited the northern parts of Sri Lanka during the ceasefire in 2004 as a volunteer, teaching in orphanages for a couple of months and a year later working in hospitals. Working in these postwar and

post-tsunami regions, I took a lot of medical supplies to the hospitals when I returned in 2005, bought with money from Australian donations. But Sri Lankan Government Army checkpoints would divert my donations to other areas. Being an Australian held no value when you're arguing with someone holding a gun. There are checkpoints everywhere. In the north and east, the Tamil homeland, there's a strong military presence: Tamil people are slaves in their own land. Having pulled out of the ceasefire, the Sri Lankan Government embarked on a genocidal campaign. Tamils around the world called on the international community to intervene — to force all parties back to the negotiating table. Yet the international community did nothing. We estimate that up to 100,000 Tamil civilians were killed during the war from 2008 to 2009. The former United Nations spokesperson estimates that up to 40,000 were killed.

In May 2009 the government announced it had won the war and killed the Tamil Tiger leadership. It would house the 300,000 Tamil civilian survivors in barbed wire camps. Amnesty International estimated that about 11,000 Tamils went missing because the government took them in for questioning, but no one knows what happened to them. No one has access to their names: entire families taken away and no one knows they are missing.

Post-2009 evidence of war crimes started to surface: eye witness reports, and new evidence — mobile phone videoclips made by the Sri Lankan army of executions as a reminder of their victory, armies executing bound Tamils. They were stripped naked, blindfolded, arms tied behind their backs and executed. The United Nations confirmed that these videoclips are authentic, but the Sri Lankan government says it's all fabricated.

Genocide happens on various levels. There's genocide in the way of killing someone's language and history. The Sri Lankan government bombed and burnt the Tamil library in Jaffna, the largest library in the southern hemisphere, in 1981. Stories have emerged that Tamil women who surrendered to the Sri Lankan army during the war were raped repeatedly, but until we have an international, independent investigation, no one will know the extent or severity of these allegations. In my organisation — the Australian Tamil Congress, a national organisation representing Australian Tamils, many feel strongly that Australia should be calling for an investigation. Sri Lankans say that they have been doing their own internal investigations, but Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and the International Crisis Group have said that the internal investigation is flawed. From the reports they concluded there is no genuine attempt at accountability.



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Diggers and Greeks: Australian campaigns in Greece and Crete

Greek/Australian historian Maria Hill, awarded an Army History grant in 2003 to conduct field research in Greece, throws new light on Australia's WWII campaigns in Greece in her book, *Diggers and Greeks* (2010), including a Greek perspective hitherto largely overlooked. She believes good relationships with Greeks saved perhaps 1,000 Australian lives.

My focus is the special WWII relationship forged between Australians and Greeks often referred to at commemoration ceremonies. Was this really so, or was it just propaganda?

Setting the military campaign context: from October 1940 Greece fiercely resisted Italian invasion but by February 1941, during a record cold winter, had run out of munitions and supplies. Given the need to restock but the nation's republican/fascist divide, Greece accepted British troops but reluctantly. To prevent British attempts to form a Balkan front with Greece and Yugoslavia (thereby accessing Romanian oil fields), on 22 March Hitler ordered invasion of Greece. This began on 6 April. Massive aerial bombardment by some 1400 planes (including Stukas whose high-pitched screeches when diving turned adult men into quivering wrecks) and 10 divisions (100,000 men) pounded exhausted Greek troops and the 40,000 Allied troops that had arrived from Egypt in late March — 6th Australian and 2nd New Zealand divisions and a British armoured unit. Australians fought in bitterly cold weather near the Greek/Yugoslav border without air cover or adequate clothing, weaponry and communications. The order to leave mainland Greece on 25 April — ANZAC Day — was particularly poignant given many of them had served in Gallipoli 26 years earlier. Their campaign had lasted just one month, very costly in men and equipment. Withdrawal at speed left some 8,000 Australian soldiers stranded without food or shelter amidst an alien population speaking a foreign language.

Later in Crete, although Allied troops outnumbered Germans 3:1 (65,800 Allies, 23,000 German paratroopers) the Germans captured airfields facilitating amphibious landings. The Crete campaign lasted only 10 days (20-30 May) resulting in another Allied withdrawal and more soldiers stranded. Overall 5,140 Australians were taken prisoner by Italians and Germans during the Greek campaigns. Many suffered post-traumatic stress. Greece itself suffered terribly in WWII: one in nine people died, over 300,000 from starvation alone.

Wars are not only about guns and bullets, strategies and tactics. They involve real people with feelings and emotions. Many first-hand accounts show great regard between Australian soldiers and Greeks. On arrival, Australians were amazed with the hero's welcome they received — Greeks lined the streets, threw flowers, cheered. People brought out 'cakes and sweets and oranges ... not trying to sell ... [like] Arabs and Egyptians'; 'Greeks ... treated us like their own' (p 128). Aussies were dazzled by the majesty of the Acropolis, the cafes and nightclubs, drinks with Greek soldiers. Going north to the Greek border and surprised to see old men and women mending roads Aussies offered tea and biscuits. German bombing disrupted railways: one night, a Greek train crew refused to brave the German airforce; an Australian lieutenant, pistol in hand, tried classical, Biblical, even 'fish shop' Greek to get the train moving, all to no avail; his patience exhausted, he yelled, 'Shoot the bastard'.

The Greek guard replied in good American, 'OK buddy, why don't you guys speak plain English?' Both parties kept their sense of humour! (p 182)

Australians knew there were some collaborators but admired Greeks for not bowing down under the unceasing German bombardment. Evacuating northern Greece, Signalman Reginald Tresise of 1 Australian Signals Corps noticed a Greek flag amongst village rubble. Years later he posted it back to the local Mayor, writing, 'this flag was proud and defiant ... I placed it in my haversack ... [to deny] it to the Hun' (p 177). Lieutenant-Colonel John Rogers, intelligence officer 6DivHQ, recalled that leaving Athens 'probably thousands' of Greeks cheered them goodbye and women offered ouzo and sweets. Australians were also amazed by Cretans who put their lives on the line for Allies (p 186). Australians waited up to three years before escape, surviving famine in 1941-42 only with Cretan help. Private Charlie Hunter 6DivHQ who endured 21 months behind enemy lines, was upset to find that families who had helped Australians were not recognised after the war; he wrote to Australian and Greek newspapers about the 'help and shelter given to many British soldiers and myself', and the sharing of 'very limited food, which necessitated ... families going hungry' (p 360). Some Cretans worked with Britain's Special Operations Executive helping soldiers escape, like George Psychoundakis, who wrote *The Cretan Runner* (1955) about his activities. He helped many Aussies including Sergeant John Peck who had nearly starved to death. Peck's memoir declares, 'George was determined to save me ... Without him I knew I should be dead' (p 350).

Strong emotions were engaged on both sides. Australians witnessed the suffering countless Greeks endured on their behalf. One Aussie captured in Crete tearfully remembered a young Greek girl throwing 'us' cigarettes and then a German soldier kicking her friend in the crotch: 'we heard her bones break... I would think she died' (p 371). British archives contain numerous files on torture of Greeks who assisted Allied soldiers. Aussies saw Greeks as brave warriors and found the Greek sense of loyalty not unlike Australian mateship: most felt they could trust a Greek with their lives. They admired Greeks for their honour, and their cleanliness amidst poverty and hunger; they found the generous hospitality overwhelming. Survival depended on how well they got on with Greeks. Aussies harnessed Greek goodwill by respecting values and customs (unlike their relations with Egyptians). Their humanity particularly towards children touched Greek people; and, though disliking Greek treatment of women, mindful of Greek tradition — close familial ties and family honour which strictly govern women's behaviour, especially male/female contact — they kept a respectful distance from Greek women. For their part, Greeks were very impressed that Australians were volunteers —



Continued on page 7

BOOK REVIEW

**P. D. James *Death Comes to Pemberley* Faber & Faber, 2011.
ISBN: 9780571283583**

P.D. James wrote at some length of her fondness for Jane Austen in *Time to be Earnest. A fragment of autobiography*, published in 1999 when she was in her late 70s. When she was only seven or eight, she says, she found a copy of *Pride and Prejudice* in her Sunday school library. 'It seems curious now,' she wrote (p 229), that *Pride and Prejudice* should appeal to a child so young, 'but I was hungry for books and this was one I could both read and to a certain extent understand, although the irony must have eluded me.'

Now in her 90s, James has indulged her fondness for Austen to give us *Death Comes to Pemberley*, dedicated to Joyce McLennan 'who has typed my novels for thirty-five years' and who makes several appearances in *Time to be Earnest*. James's autobiography, incidentally, is a delight, written in the form of long entries for most days spanning the year from her 77th birthday in August 1997 to her 78th in 1998. Some entries simply describe what she has been doing that day or since the last entry; others contain a precis of a talk she has given or her thoughts on aspects of writing and publishing. The discussion of Jane Austen comes in the context of a visit to Chawton House to address the AGM of the Jane Austen Society on 'Emma considered as a detective story'. Other entries explore memories of her youth, people, and places.

Death Comes to Pemberley is set in 1803, six years after the marriage of Miss Elizabeth Bennet of Longbourn to Mr Darcy, the owner of Pemberley, one of the greatest houses in Derbyshire. There are two sons in the nursery, the Darcys are perfectly happy, and life at Pemberley is calm and orderly. The evening before the annual ball at Pemberley, shots are heard in the woods and a body is found. It belongs to Captain Denny, a close friend of Elizabeth's brother-in-law, George Wickham, who is found distraught by the body, asserting that it is his fault that his friend is dead.

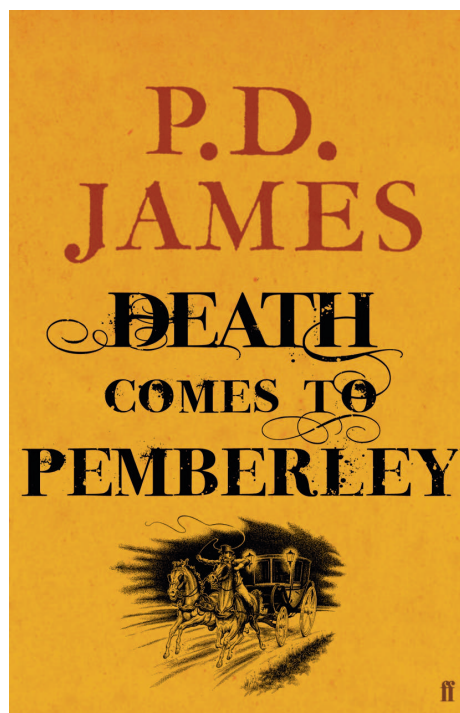
The story that follows tries to piece together the events of that night leading to an arrest, a trial, and a very intriguing outcome, written in a way that reflects and extends Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, while incorporating a crime investigation that is recognisably P.D. James, although it has no detective. The story begins slowly as we are led through the background to what was initially a surprising marriage between Miss Bennet and Mr Darcy as well as the complex family and social relationships of the many characters who are part of Austen's story. Even the Elliots of *Persuasion* turn up in a minor role. One reviewer has complained that it takes 55 pages to get to the first hint of murder. And though the investigation continues to move in a manner more Jane Austen than modern thriller, it picks up speed towards the end and becomes a 'page turner' after Darcy takes the stand himself on p 233.

Writing a crime story set in 1803 is quite a challenge. It is generally accepted that the modern crime novel dates from about the middle of C19, so there are no models for this one. Nor does our modern understanding of the criminal justice system have much relevance for this period. Indeed the first mention of police sent me scurrying to the reference books and it does seem anachronistic. The police as we know them did not come into being until 1829. In 1803 the British justice system was harsh, concerned mainly with crimes against property, and administered mostly at a local level by the landowners who served as magistrates and justices of the peace

employing a few constables and watchmen. I have no idea what a murder investigation might have been like at that time. But perhaps the focus was, as it is here, more on the motives of the suspects than on the kind of hard evidence that we have come to expect. So Jane Austen's close observation of social status and polite behaviour flows very neatly into P.D. James's exploration of the motives and responses of their characters to this dramatic, possibly disastrous death at Pemberley.

Only at the end does it become clear that James has really had her own purpose in devising this sequel to *Pride and Prejudice*. It seems she has long been puzzled by inconsistencies in character and behaviour both of Jane Austen's Mr Darcy and Miss Bennet. So she has tried to construct a plausible explanation for his initially boorish behaviour and her sudden change of mind. She does this by inventing a story about Pemberley that leads to murder. It is all very clever, quite subtle, and remarkably satisfying in the end.

Beverley Kingston



New look publicity material and stationery

Since the Board endorsed the Library's new public face, I have been working with Katharine Stevenson to incorporate her redesigned logo and templates into Library stationery and into Library facts sheets and leaflets. In late 2011, two fact sheets were developed collaboratively with various Library staff: 'About the Library'; and 'Donations and Bequests' which includes information about the Capital Investment Fund.

In 2012, we will develop a series of fact sheets highlighting elements of the collection — books, serials, archives (including Tapestry), posters, audio-visual. A facts sheet on Jessie Street will also help in promoting the Library and recruiting new members.

Diane Hague

Volunteer contributors

Diane Hague is a former TAFE teacher and union activist. Among her responsibilities as an official with the NSW Teachers Federation, she edited the Federation journal, *Education*.

Jenny Reeves, former English and History teacher, retired as Head of the History Department in a Sydney girls' school. An active oral historian, Jenny is involved in other oral history projects as well her work for JSNWL.

Dr Sam Pari *continued from page 4*

I saw what peace and independence meant to these people. During the ceasefire they knew that their homeland would not be infiltrated by the guns and the military. They knew they could live on their land peacefully. I witnessed what is possible for the Tamil people if they are given the chance to rule themselves. That's what hurts the most.

Transcription by Helen Ruby, edited by Kris Clarke

Dr Maria Hill *continued from page 5*

not conscripts, and conscious they had risked their lives to protect Greece. They washed, cleaned and fed Australians, looked after their wounds. This intimacy went beyond the Greek cultural ethos of hospitality, beyond normal friendship, and forged a strong attachment at a time when social norms and inhibitions were set aside and survival was paramount.

Australian veterans returned often to Greece, both the mainland and Crete. Some called this 'going home'. Many helped Greek families migrate to Australia. Others like Geoff Edwards, 2/11 Battalion, named his Western Australia property Prevelly Park, honouring monks in Crete who helped them escape, and erected a Cretan church financed by donations from Australian units involved. An RSL scholarship trust assists Cretan students with tertiary studies. Veterans' children maintain links: Charlie Hunter's daughter presented a plaque to the village that had helped her father.

Greece awarded Australians a medal for their service. Australia has maintained that no separate medal is warranted. Yet the campaign is sometimes called 'Australia's second Gallipoli'. A petition requesting the Government award a Greek campaign medal can be signed at www.diggersandgreeks.com.au.

Transcription by Helen Ruby, edited by Margot Simington

CAPITAL INVESTMENT FUND

Since its launch in September 2009, the Capital Investment Fund has now reached almost \$80,000. Our target is \$500,000, the interest from which will provide essential support for Library operations. If you would like to contribute, please indicate on the membership/renewal/donation form on this page.

CIF Donations since November 2011:

Michele Ginswick, Shirley Jones, Marie de Lepervanche, Jill Roe

General donations since November 2011

Donations of money help meet day-to-day running costs:

Baiba Berzins, Sylvia Brandner, Jude Conway, Zelda D'Aprano, Anne Giles, Jean Gledhill, Bridget McKern, Lyn Mealey, Elizabeth Nesbitt, Judith Newton, Robyn Porter, Wilga Pruden, Marian Sawyer, Denise Thomas, Tina Trappes-Lomax, Rosalind Wallis, Penelope Young, Wendy Young

Donations of material expand our collection:

Sue Comrie-Thomson, Cheryl Hannah, Robyn Mathison, Genie Melone, Black Inc, Fort Street Girls High School, Older Women's Network, Simon & Schuster, Taylor and Francis Group, University of Wollongong, Wakefield Press

New members

A warm welcome to our new member:

Glenys Lorraine Buselli

NOTE: NEW MEMBERSHIP FEES — FIRST INCREASE SINCE 2007

MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL/DONATION FORM

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

Date: / / Title: Mr / Mrs / Ms / Miss / Dr / other

Name:

Address:

Telephone: (h) (w) (mob)

Email: (PLEASE PRINT BLOCK LETTERS)

- Please send me the newsletter by email instead of hard copy.
- Full Member \$60 Life member \$1,000
- Concession \$30 (Pensioner/Centrelink Concession Card holders)
- Organisation \$120 Student (conditions apply) \$20

I wish to donate: \$ (donations over \$2 are tax deductible)

I enclose a cheque/cash/money order for \$

OR

please charge \$ to my MasterCard/Visa

Name of cardholder:

Card no.

Expiry date /

Signature:

I was introduced to the Library by

AutoDebit Authorisation

- I authorise JSNWL to charge this, and all future membership renewals as they fall due, to the credit card number above on this form.
- I authorise JSNWL to charge \$ annually to the above credit card as a donation to the Library.
- Signature:

Donation to the Capital Investment Fund

I wish to make a donation to the Capital Investment Fund. Please charge the amount of \$ to the above credit card.

I am willing to have my name published.

I wish to remain anonymous.

Signature:

Become a volunteer

I would like to help the Library by becoming a volunteer. (You will be contacted for an interview.)

The membership year runs from 1 January to 31 December. Members joining after 1 October are financial until 31 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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GPO Box 2656 Sydney NSW 2001

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JNSWL opening times

The Library is open to the public Monday to Friday 10.00am–3.00pm.

Borrowing policy

The public can access items using the interlibrary loan system. The public cannot borrow items, but may use them in their library of choice. A loan collection is available to financial members.

How to reach the Library

Trains to Central Station or Town Hall Station

Buses No 501 from Railway Square (Central Station) or from George Street (opposite Town Hall Station)

On Foot from Sydney city through Darling Harbour to Harris Street opposite Ian Thorpe Aquatic Centre, from Railway Square north along Harris Street

Use intercom for admittance

NB For level access, enter via Bulwara Rd (parallel to Harris Street).

CONTACT US

Street address:

Ultimo Community Centre
523-525 Harris St (cnr William Henry St)
Ultimo

Postal address:

GPO Box 2656
Sydney NSW 2001

Phone:

(02) 9571 5359

Fax:

(02) 9571 5714

Email:

info@nationalwomenslibrary.org.au

Website:

www.nationalwomenslibrary.org