



**ANNUAL REPORT
2017**

Jessie Street National Women's Library serves to:

- *Highlight the contribution of Australian women to this country's development*
- *Highlight awareness of women's issues*
- *Ensure that documents relating to Australian women's lives and activities are collected and made accessible*
- *Support the fields of women's history and women's studies*

To keep women's words, women's works, alive and powerful

Ursula K. Le Guin

CHAIR

As we progress towards 30 years since our establishment, it is worth reminding ourselves that we are more than just a library. We are a community of women committed to advancing women's equality and preserving women's social, political and cultural history and contribution to Australian social and economic progress.

The Board governed and guided the work of our team of volunteers within the framework of the Library's objectives, Business Plan, 2015-2020, its annual budget for 2017 and the general and specific performance criteria which are conditions of its lease with the City of Sydney under the accommodation subsidy grants program. We completed our Annual Review and all Quarterly Reports for the City of Sydney as required by the conditions of our lease as well as organizing our major annual fundraiser, the Luncheon at Parliament House.

Our top achievements for the year included the revision and modernization of our Constitution which was unanimously passed at the Annual General Meeting in April 2017. This will now enable Library members to make amendments to the Constitution as required each year.

Our collection of books exceeds 10,000 with nearly 500 serials and 43 theses and 360 items in our archives. Wendy Chester reviewed and updated our Collection Development Policy which was endorsed by the Board.

The City of Sydney staff at the Ultimo Community Centre continued to be courteous and helpful with all our requests for assistance. We purchased new furniture to improve the comfort and appeal to visitors and framed and hung a number of our posters. A portrait of Jill Roe AO, one of our former patrons, was painted by Barbara Henery and this will add to the history depicted on the Library walls.

Barbara also initiated a Book Club, an account of which appears later in this report. It is a welcome initiative reviving classics as well as opening up new chapters in members' reading lives!

One of our key Business Plan objectives: *increasing volunteer numbers and diversity and improving volunteer induction and training* has been given special focus and we have attracted new expert volunteers and retained others in the core volunteer team. We have been progressing through a draft **Volunteer Manual** to ensure that it is up to date and relevant to the kind of work being undertaken in the Library. This has been assisted by greater continuity achieved by Lynne Morton and our Secretary, Sherri Hilario, both of whom spend a great deal of time with volunteers who wish to work on specific projects.

The initial cataloguing of 1415 posters has been completed and digitized poster images are now accessible in the online catalogue.

The volunteer librarians and archivists undertook their exacting professional work in future-proofing the Library to maintain its high standing among libraries focused on unique specialist collections. They continued to expand the use of KOHA functionalities; implemented the policy to protect rare items and continued to upload their original cataloguing to the Australian National Bibliographic Database. Their work is challenging, but very rewarding as they maintained the currency of their

professional knowledge and skills and saw an increase in usage of library materials, in particular the use of the Library's specialist, unique items by national and international organisations.

Our revised calendar for Lunch Hour Talks attracted an average of 40 attendees a month. The leadership of Michele Ginswick with her wonderful team of volunteers has ensured the success of the transition to fewer talks. The City of Sydney provided us again with a subsidized venue and we are grateful for its continued support. The new venue at the Customs House Library has proved to be popular as well as very accessible

Under the guidance of Kris Clarke and the Newsletter Committee we produced four newsletters supporting the work of the Library and we revised our brochure to improve and update its contents. Our Facebook page has attracted a core following and we have uploaded relevant new content to our website. Diane Hague has served this social media aspect of our promotion with distinction and sound judgement. Her political and feminist instincts are vital to the crafting of our messages.

The archival team has grown in strength and the work of populating the library information system about this aspect of our collection continued with Christine Smith. Valda Rigg investigated the Cultural Gifts Program and confirmed that the library is an institution eligible to receive donations under the Program underpinned by tax incentives for donors.

Our network of computers and their functionality has operated effectively with the continued support of Howard Houliston who attends to problems expeditiously and in the fine spirit of a true professional.

The efforts and commitment of our volunteers, listed in the report, were supported by the Board in embracing ideas for improving the Library's work and promoting its profile. We signed an MOU with the Rose Scott Women Writer's Festival agreeing to promote the festival in return for its promotion of our activities. Jean Burns continued in a new term as Treasurer. Her financial reporting has enabled Board members to make fully informed financial decisions balancing expenditure with sensible assessments of income.

The Board has endorsed the introduction of Honorary Life Membership and we hope to introduce this membership category in 2018 for exceptional ongoing service to the library.

My work as Board Chair is greatly assisted by fellow Board members and by our generous volunteers. They are a multi-talented and multi-skilled, dedicated group of women and a generous man. On behalf of all library members and supporters, I thank them warmly for this continuing commitment.

My thanks to all for all the work of 2017.

Jozefa Sobski

Chair of the Board

TREASURER

The Library had a very successful year in 2017 and the continued support of the **Council for the City of Sydney** is critical to this success. Through their Accommodation Grants Program, the Council provided a significant rent subsidy for the premises occupied by the Library in the Ultimo Community Centre. Following a review of the rental subsidies by the Council, the subsidy increased by \$156.40 per month, thus reducing the Library's monthly rent by this amount. The rental subsidy was nearly \$58,000 in 2017. The ongoing financial support of the Council is acknowledged with gratitude.

Overall **Income** in 2017 was \$7,600 in excess of budget. Membership revenue increased in 2017 and was \$3,000 more than budgeted. Two new Life Members joined in 2017 resulting in revenue \$1,000 in excess of budget. Donations to support the day to day operations of the Library totalled more than \$8,800, which was \$3,800 in excess of the budgeted revenue. The Library's **Capital Investment Fund** donations totalled \$21,780. The balance of the Capital Investment Fund at the end of 2017 was \$353,370.53, moving ever closer to the target of \$500,000.

The major fundraising event for the Library is the **Annual Luncheon** held at NSW Parliament House in September. The profit from this event in 2017 was \$10,466.20, a reduction on the 2016 profit as the Library contributed \$4,000 to the charity commenced by our Guest Speaker, Dr Gill Hicks MBE FRSA, *M.A.D. (Making a Difference) for Peace*. The regular **Lunch Hour Talks** relocated to Customs House in 2017 and achieved a profit of \$2,276, a slight decrease on 2016 due to the reduction in the number of talks from nine to five per year. The Library acknowledges the support of members and volunteers who organise, work at and attend these events to ensure they continue to be successful fundraising ventures for the Library.

The Library welcomed 30 new members in 2017. **Membership revenue** was \$3,072 in excess of budget and \$4,090 in excess of 2016 revenue. It is now standard practice to issue a reminder to members to renew their membership with the November Newsletter and those members who have not renewed are sent a reminder in April each year.

Overall, **expenditure** in 2017 was around \$6,825 in excess of approved budget. This was largely due to increased costs for the Annual Luncheon as well as some purchases for Library operations. During 2017 the Library purchased the following **capital items**: 12 arm chairs (donated by Jozefa Sobski) and a Brother MFC-9140 A4 Color Printer.

At the end of 2017 the Library's Westpac **Term Deposit** was valued at \$101,289.32 with a maturity date of 3 January 2018. The Library finished 2017 with a **cash position** of \$159,170.59 plus \$353,370.53 in the **Capital Investment Fund**, a total of \$512,541.12.

On behalf of the Board I would like to thank Jann Skinner for her continued role as Honorary Auditor and for providing assistance and support to me throughout the year.

Jean Burns

Treasurer

SECRETARY

Membership of the Library reached 396 at the end of 2017, an increase on the previous year as a result of promotion strategies implemented through social media as well as the continued follow up of lapsed members.

The Constitution, as amended April 2011, was replaced with a new Constitution to comply with the Associations Incorporation Act, 2009 and Regulation, 2016.

There were 9 Board Meetings in 2017. The attendance record was:

Chair	Jozefa Sobski	8
Vice Chair	Suzanne Marks	8
Secretary	Sherri Hilario (from AGM 2017)	9
Treasurer	Jean Burns	6
Member	Michele Ginswick	9
	Diane Hague (corresponding member)	9
	Robyn Harriott	9
	Barbara Henery	9
	Beverley Kingston	9
	Vallie Rigg (from AGM 2017)	7
	Marion Shaw (from AGM 2017)	7
	Beverley Sodbinow	8

All quarterly surveys and the Annual Self-Assessment required by the City of Sydney's Accommodation Grants program were completed.

Returns required by the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission (ACNC) and NSW Fair Trading were also completed.

Sherri Hilario

Secretary

LIBRARY

Collection Maintenance

An updated Collection Development Policy was formally ratified and adopted in November 2017. It will replace the previous version on the JSNWL web page. Culling the collection using the updated guidelines, will be undertaken by librarians as time permits.

With regard to entries referring to indigenous persons, a cultural sensitivity notice, based on the notice incorporated into the AIATSIS (Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies) website, will be added both to the Catalogue's home page and the Library's website.

Improvement and enrichment of the online catalogue (OPAC) continued throughout 2017. A significant achievement has been the completion of the digitising and uploading of over 1400 poster images which are now available on the OPAC. In addition, the cataloguing and digitising of our ephemera collection has commenced, thanks to the cataloguing framework developed by student Alaoise Barkmeyer (see below). Scanned book covers, links to reviews, letters, images, etc are being incorporated into the KOHA bibliographic records. Thematic lists of resources continue to be created, highlighting both the breadth and depth of our holdings, inviting further exploration.

New volunteer Julianne Patterson, an experienced serials cataloguer, enabled a renewed focus and comprehensive review of the Serials collection. With over 500 serials in our collection, this will continue into 2018.

Acquisitions

As well as our regular approaches to feminist presses, universities and other publishers, donations of feminist satirical drawings were sought from cartoonists Jenny Coopes & Judy Horacek to add to our visual material.

Book donations

Individual donors and bequests: - Barbara Aroney, Roberta Burke, Joy Burrell, Kathy Cavaliere, Jan Craney, Lyn Eggins, Margaret Fitzgerald, Glenda Gartrell, Susan Gregory, Carole Hampshire, Gay Hendriksen, Barbara Henery, Judy Horacek, Shirley Jones, Bev Kingston, Kathleen Lamouroux, Cleo Lynch, Hanne Marks, Chloe Mason, Deidre Mason, Helen McCarthy, Marilla North, Penelope Norton, Robin Porter, Heather Radi, Jenny Reeves, Chris Smith, Jozefa Sobski and a number of anonymous donors.

Organisations:- ANROWS, Clouston & Hall, Department of Women, Finch Publishing, Women's Legal Resources Centre and Spinifex Press.

In accordance with Library policy, duplicate holdings of serials were offered to libraries to fill gaps in their collections. Boxes of surplus books were delivered to Gleebooks second-hand store, which grants credit redeemable for new publications.

JSNWL Book Club

The book club was launched on 26 April 2017 and a core group of 10-15 has been meeting every 4th Wednesday of each month at 3pm in the library. Readings have focussed on Australian women's writing: fiction and non-fiction, classic and contemporary. Book Club selections purchased by members have been donated to the Library's collection. Regular reports and reviews generated by Book Club discussions are published in the Newsletter as well as being listed on our OPAC catalogue.

Publicity

As librarians increase their interaction with the Australian library community and engage in other

forums, there has been a flow-on increase in research requests, both local and international.

The requests included material for exhibitions, the Teachers' Federation Conference, documentaries, a book about the history of feminism being published by the Smithsonian Institution (USA) and the projected involvement in Ciara Phillip's screen-printing project for the 2018 Biennale.

Facebook is proving a very useful outreach tool to feature topical material. Facebook posts were used for History Week 2017 when JSNWL participated on the topic of *Popular Culture*. This was interpreted as *Popular Culture with a Feminist Twist* citing feminist historian Michelle Arrow '*the popular is political*'. The theme featured in Facebook posts. Static displays of music, cartoons and posters from the library's collections were also displayed in the library.

As a result of the post featuring women songwriters, Kerith Power has come to the Library as an independent scholar working on a project to create an archive of Australian women songwriters.

During Reconciliation Week, the 50th Anniversary of the 1967 Referendum provided an opportunity to highlight, through our Facebook page, both Jessie Street and Faith Bandler's contribution to this ground-breaking change to Australia's Constitution.

Networking

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was agreed with the Rose Scott Women Writers' Festival. The MOU pledged agreement to publicise each other's events (our Lunch Hour Talks and their Festival) on our website.

JSNWL in the GLAM (Galleries, Libraries, Archives and Museums) Sector

Sherri Hilario and Lynne Morton attended The Australian Library and Information Science Association (ALIA) New Librarians' Symposium 8 at the National Library.

JSNWL was invited to join ALIA's Rare Books and Special Collections Forum and Lynne Morton attended its first function at the State Library of NSW.

Library Education

The Library again welcomed the two visits of Library and Information Science students and staff from Charles Sturt University, Bathurst and one from TAFE Illawarra. Students were given an explanatory talk about the Library's history, an explanation of the KOHA catalogue system and a tour of the Library's collections. The presentations for the Charles Sturt University students had a particular focus on the Archives collection.

JSNWL became a participant in the TAFE Library and Information Studies Industry Placement scheme. TAFE LIS student, Alaoise Barkmeyer, spent 2 days per week for 8 weeks, during which time she was introduced to a range of tasks, including cataloguing audio recordings and posters, editing records and digitised images, and beginning a framework for the cataloguing of ephemera, in accordance with the scheme's requirements. She extended her time in order to develop the ephemera framework and handbook. Also studying for a communications degree at UTS, Alaoise was part of a group assignment which involved a digitisation project of archival holdings relating to women, war and peace.

Barbara Henery and Lynne Morton

ARCHIVES

Once again, the Archives team enjoyed a busy and interesting year. Happily there was quite a bit of progress made. Christine Smith our IT specialist was able to enter six collections into the KOHA system.

Abortion Law Reform Australia

Betty Hart Collection

Anne Collins Collections

Margaret Allen Collection

Rouge Australian Feminist Newspaper Collection

Fang ACT Collection

The vast Louisa Lawson House Collection has been amalgamated into series. Series descriptions are being prepared to be entered into KOHA. Two new boxes of papers from Louisa Lawson House were donated by Joy Burrell and will be added to the collection.

Another new accession donated by Ann Game is a photographic collection entitled "Gender at Work". These photos were used in a book written by the donor.

There are now 23 Archive collections entered into KOHA. They are now on line and able to be accessed through the library's catalogue.

An ongoing issue of concern for the Archives team has been the storage of our banner and badges collections. Vallie Rigg approached Kate Chidlow Textile Conservator at the Powerhouse Museum for advice. I accompanied her and we were shown around the impressive closed conservation area.

Our oldest badge which welcomed aviatrix Amy Johnson to Sydney was donated by Chase Livingston and dates back to 1930. We are now putting some of Kate's suggestions into practice. We had a good rapport with Kate and were very grateful for her advice. She invited us to visit her at the Castle Hill storage unit. We hope she will visit the Library sometime in the future.

Eighteen students studying Information Technology at Charles Sturt University visited the Archives in May 2017. They were accompanied by an Academic who led the group. The students were interested in the KOHA system and the library catalogue as well as the Poster collection. Some of the students were very interested in the Archives Collection. Christine Smith was able to demonstrate to the students how the KOHA system can be adapted to make Archives accessible through the web.

Jan Burnswoods has done a remarkable job working on the Library's own records from 1989 to 2015. These records contain the history of the library. They soon will be ready for addition to the catalogue. Jan has also been working on the Pine Gap material.

Beverley Sodbinow

Archivist

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The IT Committee acknowledges the outstanding contribution of all volunteers in maintaining the smooth running of the IT equipment and our thanks are extended to all.

Most of us have some exposure to IT systems, computers and printers. Our Library system is run on the Open Source Linux system which perhaps some of us were not familiar with until we volunteered at the Library. This perhaps necessitated learning some procedures that are a little different from those with which we are familiar. Volunteers share knowledge, report or fix problems and facilitate regular maintenance. The co-operation of all contributes to a positive experience for volunteers when using the IT equipment.

The Library also has some Windows system computers which are used for administration, accounting and the newsletter pre-press.

Fortunately we are able to call upon Howard Houlston for maintenance and upgrades or for advice regarding IT matters that arise from time to time.

As with all IT systems, occasionally there are hiccups, one printer failed during the year and the IT Committee ascertained that a prompt replacement would be appropriate, rather than repair. Board approval was obtained for the expenditure and the replacement was made with minimum disruption. With Howard's advice and guidance our Web Hosting was smoothly transferred to a new provider, after our previous provider closed.

The IT Committee envisages that there will be challenges in the future which will require us to muster all the expertise we can to overcome problems and assist us make good decisions on behalf of the Library's IT systems. Sometimes this may involve cost and the IT Committee are always mindful of keeping these to a minimum.

Robyn Harriott

IT Committee Chair

ADMINISTRATION

Browsing through the visitors' book on the reception desk gives a wonderful overview of how the Library is being used by the public. It is clear that visitors are increasing each year with a surprising number popping in out of curiosity or just passing by and noticing the sign on the window. They come from all parts of the country and overseas including Canada and New Zealand.

Many people are doing research on women's issues for academic degrees and doctorates and often the library is the sole provider of specific material. The range of topics have included New Guinea women in 1920 and Needlecraft. Quite a few people come to follow up family connections and it is very rewarding when they find their answers on the shelves.

There are records of many groups of visitors including a Walking Club, students from Illawarra TAFE and the annual arrangement with Charles Sturt University librarian undergraduates.

The reception staff have responded to many telephone and email enquiries, again covering a wide range of requests for information, offers of books or archival material or requests to use posters from our extensive range. Specific requests have come from other libraries, ABC TV, Northern Territory Women's Registry, Women of the World Festival convenors and for two poster images to be used in a forthcoming book on women's liberation published by the Smithsonian Institution.

Following a request from Adelaide Women's Resources, Christine Lees and her husband once again collected material which was languishing in storage and brought many boxes back in their car after visiting South Australia.

The mail is ably managed by a dedicated group of administrators who collect, sort, record and distribute the membership subscriptions, book donations and correspondence. The membership continues to grow and many subscribers generously offer additional donations for the Capital Investment Fund or General Use.

A reconfiguration of storage, the colourful new chairs and framed posters adorning the walls have added to the pleasure of visitors and the volunteers who keep the Library alive and thriving.

Christine Lees

ANNUAL LUNCHEON

In 2018, the Luncheon was held on Monday 11 September, the significance of the date was reinforced by the choice of the speaker, Gillian Hicks, the Australian woman who lost both her legs in a terrorist bomb attack in London in 2005. Although Gill began on a light note with reference to Sydney's humidity and how it was hazardous for amputees, many of the audience were moved to tears as Gill told her story of the bombing of the London train on which she was travelling, the immediate aftermath when, lying in the debris, she made the choice to survive and how she is living this changed life as an amputee where love gives her the strength to move through the pain, seeing it as a sign that she is alive! She has since dedicated her life to building peace and finished her speech with reference to the role of Jessie Street in the struggle for peace.

Mention must be made of Margret Campbell's moving smoking ceremony, *Acknowledgement of Country*, through which she led guests into lunch and the stirring words of Baraa Omar, a Year 11 student at Holroyd High, as she thanked Gillian Hicks.

Over 260 people attended including members, patrons, supporters, public and private schools, State Members of Parliament, the NSW Teachers Federation (a member organisation), Women's Action and Information Group (WAIG) and the Women's Electoral Lobby (WEL). We were pleased to be able to support the attendance of 16 sponsored students. A profit of \$10,466.20 was achieved.

Thanks must go to the staff of the Strangers' Dining Room, who were as helpful as always. The Annual Luncheon Committee is to be congratulated on their efforts to ensure the success of the event and thanked for their enthusiastic teamwork.

Michele Ginswick

LUNCH HOUR TALKS

In recognition of the need to reduce the workload of the volunteers and to ensure the availability of good speakers, a decision was made to reduce the number of Lunch Hour Talks each year to five. In 2018 all Lunch Hour Talks were held in the Customs House Library. Thanks to the support of the Librarian at Customs House, Lydie Bacot, we settled into our new venue with few difficulties. A new sandwich provider was found in the neighbourhood, a microphone purchased and guests reminded to get off at Circular Quay station. Without the dedicated Lunch Hour Talks Team of volunteers and their steadfast focus to ensure that all goes smoothly and that everyone feels welcomed, the Lunch Hour Talks would not be as successful as they are. I thank them all most sincerely.

The speakers in 2017 were:

Thursday 16 March: Jane Eales, *Secrets, Spies and Spotted Dogs*

Jane spoke about her secret adoption just after WWII in London by a German Jewish family, and many years later, her forbidden search for her birth family and her own identity. She retraced her birth mother's life in London, to her role in the British Army, and how she discovered her mother, progressed from being a driver of high ranking officials (in a similar role to Honeysuckle Weeks in Foyles War), to becoming a spy for the Allies in an extremely dangerous mission to Arnhem in WWII.

Thursday 22 June: Alana Valentine, *Dear Lindy: letters from the public to a grieving mother*

The public have written more than 20,000 letters to Mrs Lindy Chamberlain-Creighton since 1980, when nine-week old Azaria Chamberlain was taken from the family tent by a dingo. Since 1992 Lindy has been depositing these letters in the National Library of Australia. Alana Valentine discussed the task involved in searching through the letters, choosing those which would best structure a performed narrative and then showed a video of the finished play. She also told of the meetings with Lindy.

Thursday 17 August: Colleen Z Burke, *The Waves Turn: a memoir* (2016)

This was an interesting talk made even better by Colleen's reading of her poetry which appears at appropriate places in her memoir as she reflected on her early years: her working class Irish Catholic background in Bondi and leaving school at fifteen. Sadly, we did not get much on the 1960s and political side of the folk scene as time ran out.

Thursday 12 October: Caroline Beecham, *Maggie's Kitchen*

The room looked very authentic with Union Jack bunting and Caroline gave a most entertaining talk on her book, which, although fiction, was set against the formation of the British Restaurants that the Ministry of Food established to help solve the food shortages in England during the Second World War. She talked about the fascinating research behind the book, the restorative power of food and how these communal kitchens are springing up again to help solve current food issues. Caroline also gave insights into her learning about the craft of writing and her experiences at the Faber Academy in 2012.

Thursday 23 November Marilla North, *Come in Dymphna*

With great commitment to her subject, Marilla North introduced the first of her three texts in her hybrid, multi-text, Dymphna Cusack biographical project: – *Yarn Spinners* (2016). She also foreshadowed the launch of *The Love Poems of Dymphna Cusack, a Chapbook*. *Yarn Spinners* is the tale of the friendship of between Dymphna Cusack, Miles Franklin and Florence James, told by the

weaving together of their correspondence with press excerpts and other sources from the literary world. *Yarn Spinners* sets out their struggles with the publishing industry and their activism in social justice movements and for free speech, in the era of anti-communism. The sense of place and time was amazing.

Michele Ginswick

EQUALITY RIGHTS ALLIANCE

Equality Rights Alliance (ERA) - Women's Voices for Gender Equality is Australia's largest network advocating for women's equality, women's leadership and recognition of women's diversity. It brings together 61 organisations, including the Jessie Street National Women's Library, with an interest in advancing women's equality.

The Library participates in the work of the Alliance when it is relevant to the Library's core objectives. We support various submissions and circulate or advertise relevant events.

The main projects and publications from March 2017 to December 2017 included those following. As is evident from this representation, the ERA covers the range of gender issues affecting the lived lives of women today. The full submissions and all reports can be found on the website era.admin@ywca.org.au.

1. National Women's Alliances CSW62 (United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, 62nd Session) to the Australian Government

This all-encompassing submission focused on all aspects of gender disadvantage, in particular the empowerment of rural women and girls. It noted the increased risk of men's violence and entrenched traditional values and roles that reinforce male privilege and greater tolerance of violence against women in rural areas.

The submission also reinforced the need to promote the voices of women experiencing intersectional disadvantage and discrimination.

2. Submission on Compulsory Rent Deduction for Social Housing Tenants

This report is a response to the key objective of reducing evictions from public housing leading to homelessness.

3. Mapping Domestic Advice Priorities with International Commitments

These priorities include housing affordability, respectful relationships and sex education and gender aware policies and processes.

4. **The ERA's YWAG (Young Women Advisory Group)** has been involved in several submissions including the NSW Sexual Assault Strategy, Civil Penalty regime for non-consensual sharing of intimate images and a submission to the Queensland Government on respectful relationships and sex education relevant to the use of technology in Queensland State Schools.

Marion Shaw

NEWSLETTER

In the period under review, the Newsletter Committee met four times in February, April, September and December. Its key objectives were to:

- (a) Keep our membership informed and engaged in our activities
- (b) Review the content material for the next Newsletter edition and
- (c) Coordinate the role of the Newsletter with the Library's other communications and streamline and continuously improve the production of the Newsletter itself

Four issues were produced as usual in February, May, July (each eight pages) and November (12 pages including reporting of our September Annual Luncheon.) There were 421 copies circulated – 142 by email and 279 by post.

The Committee particularly addressed the need to improve layout appearance with a better balance between text and images. This has led to more usage of the Library's extensive graphic collections such as posters, badges and assorted ephemera.

Our February edition continued the practice of reporting on how the Library is being sustained and 'futureproofed' to meet impending resources and technological challenges. This year the theme was our volunteers, past, present and future and how critical they are to the ongoing existence of the Library. Here, Jozefa Sobski pointed especially to the importance of sustaining the culture of 'goodwill, collaboration, patience and spirit of compromise and mutual respect' our volunteers have created over the years to meet the challenges ahead.

The Newsletter was again packed with informative and stimulating reading, including reports on each of the four Lunch Hour Talks and the newly initiated Jessie Street Library Book Club. There were also book reviews, articles on important Library acquisitions and tributes to volunteer members who have passed on.

The Newsletter Committee acknowledges and appreciates the work of our 2017 volunteers. These include editors Kris Clarke and Jessica Stewart, proof reader Jan Burnswoods and Barbara Henery. We also appreciate the help that Board members and volunteers provide to facilitate the Newsletter's production and distribution.

Suzanne Marks

WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Both the Library's website and Facebook page promote the Library's mission and events. We have found our sites particularly important in reaching out to women who have never heard of the Library, particularly younger women.

The Facebook page is used to showcase the Library's collections; promote Australian women authors and leaders and highlight events in Australian and international history that are important milestones for women. Both Facebook and the website promote events such as the monthly Lunch Hour Talks, Annual General Meeting and the Library's Annual Luncheon. In 2017 a selection of the Library's displays for History Week was posted to Facebook each day during the week. By the end of the year, the Facebook page had 950 friends.

The Library's social media presence has benefited from the skills of new volunteers. The Library's YouTube site has been reinvigorated, with the uploading of new videos and interviews with volunteers and the creation of a playlist of women songwriters. To date, posts on the Library's new Instagram account have focused on volunteers working in the Library, together with some reposting from the Library's Facebook page and from other Instagram accounts.

Diane Hague

BOARD 2017

Chair:	Jozefa Sobski
Vice Chair:	Suzanne Marks
Secretary:	Sherri Hilario
Treasurer:	Jean Burns
Member	Michele Ginswick Diane Hague (corresponding member) Robyn Harriott Barbara Henery Beverley Kingston Vallie Rigg (from AGM 2017) Marion Shaw (from AGM 2017) Beverley Sodbinow
Public Officer:	Sherri Hilario
Hon. Auditor:	Jann Skinner

VOLUNTEERS 2017

Sue Baker, Kathryn Berenger; Jean Burns, Jan Burnswoods, Wendy Chester, Kris Clarke, Rima D'Arcy, Dale Dengate, Isobel Dewar, Jenny Drew, Lyn Eggins, Denise Fairservice, Jennifer Furness, Michele Ginswick, Diane Hague, Robyn Harriott, Barbara Henery, Sherri Hilario, Howard Houlston, Beverley Kingston, Jane Lander, Roslyn Leal, Christine Lees, Hanne Marks, Suzanne Marks, Ellen McIlwain, Lyn Mealey, Lynne Morton, Madeleine Newington, Julianne Patterson, Lorna Paviour, Kerith Power, Vallie Rigg, Marion Shaw, Christine Smith, Jozefa Sobski, Beverley Sodbinow, Jessica Stewart, Alison Storey, Pat Sutton, Afroula Thomas, Judy Watts, Aleit-Marei Woodward.

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