

Woven Song: the journey from knowing to understanding

THE LIBRARY IS HONOURED TO HAVE YORTA YORTA WOMAN DEBORAH CHEETHAM, AO, as speaker at our Annual Luncheon on Monday 16 September. Graduating from the NSW Conservatorium of Music with a Bachelor of Music Education degree, Deborah has gone on to become an acclaimed opera singer, composer and author. She has performed in concert halls across Australia, the US, the UK, Europe and New Zealand and at the opening ceremonies of the 2000 Sydney Olympics and the 2003 Rugby World Cup.

Her passion for opera was kindled in February 1979, when her school music teacher took her to see Joan Sutherland sing in *The Merry Widow* at the Sydney Opera House. 'I sat in row L, seat number 23, and it changed my life.'

Deborah's music teacher encouraged her nascent love of opera, and she soon discovered she had a talent for classical singing. She believes this may derive in part from a natural affinity between Aboriginal culture and European opera. 'Look at the physique of an Aboriginal person - those gorgeous wide cheekbones are exactly what you need to be an opera singer. And telling a story through song, costume, dance and makeup is what Aboriginal people have been doing for a thousand generations.'

In 2007 Deborah was, to the best of her knowledge, the world's only professional opera singer of Aboriginal Australian heritage. 'It occurred to me', she is quoted as saying, 'that in my 25 years as a classical singer, I'd never once shared the stage with another Aboriginal singer. It just didn't make any sense.'

In 2009, Deborah established Short Black Opera as a national not-for-profit opera company devoted to the development of Indigenous singers. Deborah decided to write an opera for and about Aboriginal communities which in 2010 resulted in the opera *Pecan Summer* which she composed and performed in with the Short Black Opera company. Based on the 1939 Cummeragunja walk-off, it opened in Mooroopna, Victoria. Cast largely with Aboriginal performers, it drew a five-minute

standing ovation. The opera has since had several major productions around Australia. This landmark work was Australia's first Indigenous opera and has been a vehicle for the development of a new generation of Indigenous opera singers.

In 2014 Deborah was appointed as an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO), for 'distinguished service to the performing arts as an opera singer, composer and artistic director, to the development of Indigenous artists, and to innovation in performance.'

She was inducted onto the Honour Roll of Women in Victoria in 2015, and three years later received an Honorary Doctorate from the University of South Australia for her pioneering work and achievements in music. She was one of 52 people who contributed to Anita Heiss's book *Growing Up Aboriginal in Australia*, along with Adam Goodes and Celeste Liddle.

One of her major compositions, *Eumeralla*, is a war requiem for peace. A large scale work for soloists, choirs and orchestra, sung in the language of the Gunditjmara people, it is Australia's first resistance-war commemoration for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal performers. The on-country premiere will be held on 14 October this year at the Port Fairy Spring Festival in Victoria.

In 2019 she received the Merlyn Myer Prize to create a new work for the Melbourne based ensemble Syzygy. Deborah's commissions for major Australian ensembles continue to grow, including works for the Adelaide, Melbourne and West Australian Symphony Orchestras, Australia String Quartet, Rubiks Collective, Plexus Ensemble, Flinders Quartet and the Goldner Quartet.

Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to see and hear one of Australia's great icons. The booking form will be posted with the July Newsletter. You can download the booking form from our website or phone the Library and we will post you a copy.



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

Patrons

Quentin Bryce AD CVO; Elizabeth Evatt AC; Clover Moore Lord Mayor of Sydney; Professor Emerita Elizabeth Anne Webby AM

Board of Management

Jozefa Sobski, Chair; Suzanne Marks, Vice Chair; Jean Burns, Treasurer; Sherri Hilario, Secretary; Michele Ginswick, Diane Hague, Robyn Harriott, Barbara Henery, Beverley Kingston, Susan Price, Valda Rigg, Marion Shaw, Beverley Sodbinow

Editorial Team

Kris Clarke, Editor; Katharine Stevenson, Graphic Designer; Jessica Stewart

NSW Branch of ASA – Library visit

The Archives team hosted an enthusiastic and delightful group of members of the NSW Branch of the Australian Archivists' Society (ASA) on 20 March at the Library.

Beverley Sodbinow and Christine Smith welcomed guests with a short presentation about the Library's origins and aims. A selection of the Archives' treasures was on view, including the Mary Ryan diaries and Merry Cooper's knitting sampler. The Women Against Rape collection and Eden Blair's essay demonstrated an example of archival material used in recent student research. The Library was decorated with many of our beautiful posters and a selection of our serials to further enhance the experience of our visitors.

Engagement with ASA members gave the Archives team an insight into the challenges, concerns and innovations currently facing the profession, including information

technology security in records management and archival administration; the significance of work being done by the Anglican Diocese relating to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse; as well as various undertakings by Archivists employed by the ABC, the National Archives, Canada Bay Council, University of NSW, Sydney Water and the NSW Embroiderers' Guild.

Thanks to the volunteers in attendance who were generous with their time and energy to make the event a great success.

Christine Smith

Roslyn Leal: a long-serving volunteer

I met Ros in the early days of my own volunteering at the Library. In 2004 Ros was mainly involved in helping organise the Lunch Hour Talks, a mainstay of our fundraising efforts.

Ros was indefatigable in ensuring that information about the upcoming Lunch Hour Talks was disseminated to all members to ensure a steady and hopefully growing audience for our very fine line-up of speakers each month.



The Lunch Hour Talks have been required to relocate several times. First from the Lady Mayoress' Room in Sydney Town Hall, to Ultimo Community Centre Seminar Room 1, then the Southern Function Room in Town Hall House and now Customs House Library. Ros has been involved in all these moves, and has given a great deal of time and energy to helping ensure the success of each talk. Her commitment to the care of her husband Barry when he was ill meant less time volunteering, but she always attended whenever she could, and gave willingly of her expertise, in sandwich organisation among other things! Hopefully Ros will be able to attend Lunch Hour Talks even after retiring from the team, and enjoy the intellectual stimulation provided by our speakers.

Thank you Ros, the whole team acknowledges your generous support.

Lyn Eggins

LUNCH HOUR TALKS — THURSDAY 20 JUNE AND 15 AUGUST 2019 AT CUSTOMS HOUSE



20 June: Cleo Lynch

Careering into Corrections: from housewife to prison officer

Suburban housewife and mother Cleo Lynch, midway through an Arts degree majoring in Medieval English, experienced a life changing event leading to a career in the NSW prison system. She became the inaugural manager of the first pre-release community-based facility for women in this jurisdiction. In her memoir, she tracks her career in corrections from its catalysts, through its various stages and locations until her retirement 16 years later.

15 August: Mary Montgomerie Bennett

Letters Across the Desert

An under-recognised path-breaker in the long, tortuous journey towards recognition of Indigenous Australians, Mary Montgomerie Bennett moved from London in 1927 to Western Australia to work with the Wongutha people, desert dwellers on the Eastern Goldfields. She corresponded and worked closely with Jessie Street who was a member of the London Anti-Slavery Society and Shirley Andrews of the Victorian Council for Aboriginal Rights, resulting in the establishment of a Royal Commission.

Venue/Time: 12.00-1.30pm. Customs House Library, 31 Alfred St, Sydney — on Circular Quay, enter via front of Customs House
Cost: \$16 (members) \$22 (non-members) including light lunch. Pay at the door. **Book by noon Monday before the talk.** Ph (02) 9571 5359

HER MOTHER'S DAUGHTER: A MEMOIR

It was a privilege to hear the multi-award-winning author of many books for children, biographer of Charmian Clift and now memoirist, Nadia Wheatley. Nadia's talk focused on her recent book, *Her Mother's Daughter*, the intense and complex story of her mother Neen's life, and Nadia's memories of childhood, a relationship truncated by her mother's death when she was only nine. These memories were tended by Nadia, taken out and drawn on over the years to keep her presence real.

Neen's early childhood had been idyllic, on a dairy farm in the Upper Orara Valley near Coffs Harbour. Nadia stayed on the farm for some months when her mother was recovering from a 'breakdown' and hospitalisation. She remembers taking sandwiches to the river and her mother's stories. She remembers a mother unafraid of wild dogs or snakes. In a sad echo, Nadia's story of her mother's childhood became mingled with her own. They were both motherless daughters.

Neen's mother had died when Neen was a small child and Neen left the farm to live with stern grandparents in Sydney. Her treasure was an illustrated bible, the only distraction permitted on the Lord's Day and it showed her an exotic world. She vowed that one day she would visit the fabled lands of Palestine and Greece. And in World War II, trained as a nurse, she went. Neen's photos show a woman with a rediscovered sense of joy. She went on to work with the world's first international refugee agency, the United Nations Relief & Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA).

How this fiercely independent woman came to marry Nadia's father was a mystery. Dr J.N. Wheatley was Chief Medical Officer at UNRRA with extraordinary administrative skills, but he was a sadist and a bully. Nadia's only explanation is that it was a 'war marriage'— her parents were working in Germany in the shadow of World War II and on the frontier of the Cold War. Neen became pregnant quickly despite being 42. Though her husband urged her to have an abortion, telling her the child would be a 'mongol', she returned to Australia in 1949 and Nadia was born. This was the beginning of a hellish time living in suburban Sydney. Her father pursued unlikely business ventures and seemed to delight in tormenting his family. Nadia remembers him telling her nightmarish stories about a man who killed his wife and buried her in the backyard.

This was a time when women's voices were all but ignored. Though her mother was a highly experienced nurse, her persistent chest pains were dismissed and she was unable to get a medical diagnosis. Her husband told her that 'she could do with losing a bit of weight' and doctors saw her as menopausal. Eventually, she was admitted to a psychiatric institution by her husband and given electric shock treatment. Coming much too late, the eventual x-ray showed a huge carcinoma.

One of the few joys in those dark days was visits from the incredible women who had served with Neen during

the war. Nadia remembers straining her ears, listening to the tales from the Palestine 'Sisters' Mess'. She saw her mother transform into something other than a mother and wife. She clung to her on those visits, sensing that she might lose her completely,

When her mother died, Nadia was not told. She had been sent to stay with a friend's family and never went home again. Heartbreakingly, when she eventually learnt of her mother's death, she wondered what she would wear to the funeral but that was long past. She lived in a strange limbo-like state, believing for years that her mother would come back.

Happier memories were of her love of books and reading. She remembers the moment when she realised she could read her favourite book of nursery rhymes. She wrote her first novel at six years old and 'obsessively' wrote down her mother's stories. Nadia brought along some precious items her mother had collected over the years, solid evidence marking places and experiences in her mother's life — a reassurance that they had, indeed, been real. Nadia showed us a treasured possession, a porcelain mother bird and chick which she loved to hold. She told us it represented a perfect fusion — the mother and child unable to be separated.

Jessica Stewart



Twitter

The Library is now Tweeting!
You can find our account on Twitter at Jessie Street National Women's Library @WomensLibraryAu!



Book Club update

Members enjoyed all four books read so far in 2019.

The 2017 Miles Franklin winner, *Extinctions* by Josephine Wilson, was hailed by the judges as 'compassionate and unapologetically intelligent' – no argument here! Biography *Blue Ribbons, Bitter Bread* by Suzanna de Vries tells the story of a world famous and brave Australian woman, Joice NanKivell Loch, who saved the lives of many Jews and Poles in World War II, but surprisingly is not widely known in Australia. Excellently written and a real page turner!

Where The Trees Were by Inga Simpson was a most enjoyable modern novel, exploring many themes – the rural/city divide, the exploitation of Aboriginal art works, the strong bonds of childhood friendship, public service life in Canberra. *Thea Astley: inventing her own weather* by Karen Lamb was enjoyed by all. We thought it shed a lot of light on the precarious relationship between writers and their publishers.

Upcoming readings

22 May: *Moral Hazard* by Kate Jennings
26 June: *Maurice Guest* by Henry Handel Richardson
24 July: *Coonardoo* by Katherine Susannah Pritchard

IT WAS A NOTABLE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held at Ultimo Community Centre on 9 April 2019 celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Library, with about fifty attendees.

Chair Jozefa Sobski paid tribute to the founders of the Library and members of the committee who had the vision to make the Library happen. She described founder Shirley Jones as 'unstinting, unwavering, and determined' and acknowledged the significant contribution of co-founder Lenore Coltheart.

When Jozefa joined the Library in 2005 she was apprehensive about the Library's future. She made it her task to build relationships with other women's libraries and compliance with international standards. She spoke of the importance of futureproofing the Library and the progress made with digitisation: with posters now online the next objective is to digitise serials. Succession planning is challenging as current volunteers give way to a younger generation, encouraged by our student placement programs. Jozefa summed up that it is all only possible with the work of volunteers and our generous supporters. Jozefa paid tribute to long-standing volunteer, Marie Muir, whose Celebration of a Life was held on 17 February.

Christine Lees acknowledged Jozefa's role as Chair and announced the results of the election of office bearers: all were re-elected from 2018 (see page 2).

In honour of the 30th anniversary, honorary life memberships were presented to long-serving members. Recipients were founders Shirley Jones and Lenore Coltheart, librarians Myra Keay and Jane Pollard, Marie de Lepervanche, Bridget McKern, Beverly Sodbinow, Jan Burnswoods and Meredith Burgmann.

Lenore Coltheart announced a surprise birthday present for the Library. She is currently writing a full biography of Jessie Street, a companion to the edited memoirs of Jessie Street published some time ago. The biography aims to place Jessie in the broader context of international feminism and will be published by the National Library of Australia in 2021.

We were honoured to have present two of our patrons - Elizabeth Evatt and Quentin Bryce, who was Chair of the Library 1996-1998. The meeting closed with a few words from Myra Keay, the first Librarian, who remembered the trials of moving to different locations in the early years, and paid tribute to the volunteers. Among the guests was young Jessie Street, daughter of Sir Laurence and Penny Street. A Library pin for members was a fitting memento of the anniversary.

After the meeting, celebrations continued with a toast in the Library and a delicious lunch. An anniversary cake supplied by Cake Girrrl was cut by the founders and much enjoyed by all.

Kris Clarke

A new look for the Library

Members may have noticed that the Library has refreshed its website and the Newsletter is changing too. The vibrant raspberry and purple colours and redesigned layouts give a more contemporary feel and will take the Library into its next thirty years with style!

AG



A selection of AGM photographs showing the Board and honorary life members, and attendees enjoying lunch after the meeting.

ing 30 years



Interview with founder Shirley Jones and long-time librarian Jane Pollard

What inspired you to come up with the idea of a women's library?
When Shirley went to the State Library to research books written by women she was directed to a small shelf in a dark room, and was disappointed when unable to find what she was looking for. Shirley needed the books for the Continuing Education Women's Studies course at the NSW Writers Centre, and chatting in the car with Lenore Coltheart, an idea began to form.

Obtaining materials, staff and a location

Shirley talked to women's groups about the Library and volunteers came. She solicited books from publishers, and cultivated an arrangement with the Feminist Bookshop at Lilyfield - she would advertise their books in the Newsletter and they would donate copies to the Library. She transported books to the Library in her van. The archives collection grew when the Library was able to save many materials from women's organisations which had folded due to falling numbers. The most important collection was from the Canberra Women's Archive.

Jane recounted how in 1993, she was doing a course at the Writers Centre and she saw Shirley and Myra Keay working in the Women's Library where it was then housed. Jane joined and worked alongside Myra for several years. The Carr Government elected in 1995 provided a grant of \$100,000 which was used to buy a computer and employ two paid archivists. When the money ran out, Beverley Sodbinow stayed on as a volunteer.

In 1997 computerisation was making an impact and moving from the manual card catalogue system to Athena was a significant advance. In 1999 the Library moved to Town Hall House and having the catalogue available on the City of Sydney's network brought it into the public sphere.

Both Shirley and Jane agreed that finding space for books and materials was, and still is, a major issue.

Finding the time

Shirley's children had left home by then and she was determined to make the Library happen, so she devoted her energy to speaking to the right people and spreading the word. Lenore came up with ideas and Shirley was the one who put them into action. She recruited other volunteers. Shirley toiled tirelessly; not only in various roles on the Management Committee, but she introduced the Lunch Hour Talks, and produced the Newsletter.

What is your strongest impression of the value of the Library?

In the monetary sense, the value of the Library's collection has increased significantly over the years: from a valuation of \$13,000 it now stands at \$5 million. Its existence has created a snowball effect encouraging other women's groups to conserve and collect materials. The Library is part of an international network, externally acknowledged and recognised. Jane referred to its 'symbolic value for women'.

Both women agreed that a unique aspect of the Library is that it is independent of government funding. Apart from one-off grants for specific purposes, the Library is self-funding and that is something of which we can be very proud. And that's worth celebrating!

Kris Clarke

Canberra Women's Archive

The Canberra Women's Archive was the most important collection ever acquired by the Library. It included over 400 posters, scores of important and rare feminist serials, banners, badges, photographs and other ephemera, audio-visual material, and boxes containing 37 collections of records of women's organisations such as the Canberra Women's Refuge, Women for Survival and Women Against Rape in War, and of individual women such as Biff Ward who had papers dealing with Pine Gap and many other protests.

Planning for the Archive started in the early 1980s, and on 1 February 1983 Frances Sutherland and Christine



Fernon took possession of a room at the Australian National University. The collection grew rapidly but the problems which have so often bedeviled women's organisations - money, accommodation and finding volunteers - had produced a crisis by 1985. A revival followed, but by 1989 the women were discussing a handover of material to the National Library or to the 'recently established Jessie Street Library' in Sydney. Finally in 1992 it was agreed that the Women's Electoral Lobby and Edna Ryan papers would go to the National Library, and the remainder of the Archive to the Jessie Street Library. The papers were donated to the Library under strict conditions that the collection was kept intact and not subsumed into other collections where the uniqueness of the material would be denied. The Library has always honoured this agreement.

The formal handover took place in July 1993, when Shirley Jones travelled to Canberra to supervise the removalists. The photograph (right) shows Shirley with some of the material in Canberra, while the one above shows her with Canberra women Frances Sutherland, Mary Hutchison, Maureen Cuminsky, Sue McGrath, Jo Saccomani and Phillya Sturgess Hoy.

It was a very brave step for the Library to acquire the Canberra Women's Archive, given its own temporary and limited accommodation at the Writers Centre. Fortunately Marrickville Council agreed to store most of the Canberra material temporarily, but as it turned out the boxes and cabinets were to remain in Petersham Town Hall for nearly six years. The Library had to vacate the Writers Centre at the end of 1997, and was then homeless until moving into Town Hall House in February 1999.

Jan Burnswoods

The Library's history continues in the next two Newsletters.

LUNCH HOUR TALK 21 March 2019

SAFFRON AND SILK

Asked how she feels about India, academic and educator Anne Benjamin says it is too complex, historically and politically, to give a simple answer. But spending three and a half years there and her long association with it was transformative, and she is comfortable to say she now feels 'part of Indian communities'.

Always wanting to write, with her career in education behind her, Anne embarked on a writing course. Given 'Where I live' as the subject, she found herself thinking about India. Her short story 'Wives of Bath' led to the publication of her memoir *Saffron and Silk: An Australian in India*.

Anne met her Indian husband when they were speaking at a conference in Canada. His specialisation working in social justice was in training programs for NGOs in leadership development. She found that they were of a very different temperament but shared an ideology, and a few months later they were married. Arriving in India in the 1980s, they lived at the Centre for Human Development and Social Change in rural Chennai. Anne's most vivid memories are of monsoonal rain, sleeping in a mud hut with no toilet, and endlessly sitting cross-legged.



India for her brings many diverse images. Public displays of affection were frowned upon, so she found it confusing that Tamil films gave full rein to what the culture did not tolerate in real life.

Eager to impress friends they had invited for dinner, Anne was to prepare an 'Australian' meal. Cooking chicken (very expensive) in a basic kitchen proved an embarrassing disaster! On another occasion, it fell to Anne to make the pavlova. Cooking it in the microwave, she was impressed when it rose, then devastated to watch it collapse. It was given place of honour on the USA Consul-General's table laid with silk tablecloth, gleaming crystal and silverware. Her friend never asked her to cook again.

After resettling in Australia, Anne has returned to India for periods of time over the years.

She spoke warmly of the companionship of Indian women, many living in soul destroying poverty. She remembered a mother and child living in a dark narrow spot in their compound; Sister Theodore who set up a school for disabled children and in her 80s opened a home for elderly women; Sister Isabella, her husband's aunt, with her strong and joyous personality. She admires Jamuna, who lives near a river polluted by tanneries and is spending her retired years bringing the river back to life. Anne praised the many women who work in their communities to break the poverty cycle.

Anne quoted research showing the positive results of a community education and leadership training program for women in South India: in 2009 she interviewed 70 participants. They had 0-7 years education, but 90 per

Speaker: Anne Benjamin

cent of these women had ensured that their children were educated. Other notable projects were carried out because the village women who had been through the program were confident to insist that bathrooms and toilet facilities be built for them, creating privacy.

She spoke with empathy recalling Prime Minister Indira Gandhi 's assassination in October 1984. In the upheaval 4,000 people were massacred. It was a terrifying time.

Anne was there in December 1984 at the time of the Bhopal Union Carbide factory explosion: essential maintenance had not been carried out and between 7,000 and 10,000 died during the first few days, and a further 15,000 died in the following years as a result of the toxic gas fumes. The government's response was to paint contaminated water pumps red as a warning, but people still had to use them.

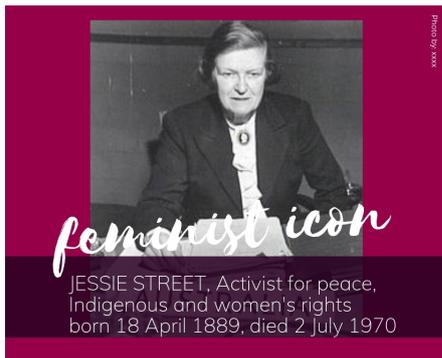
Anne concluded her talk with a poem from her tanka anthology *Gemstones*.

Anne has donated copies of both her books to the Library.

Kris Clarke



Facebook's post on the birthday of Jessie Street scored the most interest – 2591 hits! The graphic below shows one of the new templates used on Facebook and our new look website.



A warm welcome to our new members

Cassidy Booth

Patricia Francis

General donations since February 2019

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

Pamela Carter Nola Harris Elizabeth Irvine
Lynne Lancaster Penelope Nelson Caroline Phillips
Roewen Wishart Dori Wisniswski Wendy Young

Donations of material expand our collection:

Michelle Arrow Kathleen Lamoureux
Sarah Muller Kate O'Neill
NSW Retired Teachers
Redlands Library Spinifex Press

Capital Investment Fund

Since it was launched in September 2009, the Capital Investment Fund has reached \$401,783. 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/donation form on this page.

CIF donations since February 2019:

Bridget McKern

MEMBERSHIP / DONATION FORM

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

Date:/...../.....

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

Name:.....

Address:.....

Tel: (h).....(w).....(m).....

Email: (Please print BLOCKLETTERS)

Please send newsletters by email instead of hardcopy.

Membership Category

- Full Member \$60 Life member \$1,000
 Organisation \$120 Student \$20 (conditions apply)
 Concession \$30 (Pensioner/Centrelink Concession Cardholders)

A membership year runs from 1 January to 31 December. Members joining after 1 October are financial until 31 December of the following year.

Donations (donations over \$2 are tax deductible)

- I wish to make a donation of \$.....
 to the Library for general purposes
 to the Library's Capital Investment Fund
 I am willing to have my name published in the Newsletter
 I wish to remain anonymous

Payment Details

CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS: Westpac Bank is no longer accepting manual vouchers for credit card payments. Therefore, payments will no longer be issued the yellow credit card receipt. Credit card payments can still be made in the usual way and will be processed electronically. Please contact Jean Burns at the library if you have any questions.

- Enclosed is my cheque/money order for \$.....
(payable to Jessie Street National Women's Library)
 Please charge my MasterCard/Visa with \$.....
Name of cardholder:.....
Card no.....
Expiry date/..... CCV_ _ _

Signature:.....

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- 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 for general purposes or to
 the Library's Capital Investment Fund.

Signature:.....

Become a volunteer

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

Please forward the completed form to:

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

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Note: Please advise the Library if your contact details have changed.

Visit us:

523–525 Harris Street (cnr William Henry Street), Ultimo
Please use the intercom for admittance
Level access is via the Ultimo Community Centre in Bulwara Rd

Opening times:

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

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:

There are several ways to travel to the Library:

- ▶ The Library is a 20 minute walk from Town Hall Station through Darling Harbour or from Central Station via the Goods Line walk or via Harris Street
- ▶ Bus 501 (Railway Square to Ryde/West Ryde) at Ian Thorpe Aquatic Centre stop
- ▶ Bus 389 (Maritime Museum to North Bondi) at Harris and Allan Streets stop
- ▶ Light rail from Central Station or Dulwich Hill to Exhibition stop
- ▶ There is limited two hour street meter parking available



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