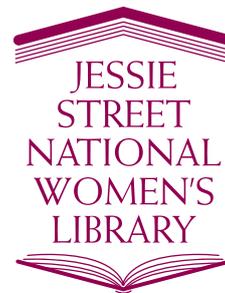


NEWSLETTER

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



STIMULATING TALKS

The Library's Lunch Hour Talks month by month engage and challenge us. Deservedly popular, they feature articulate, thoughtful women and a wide range of subject matter. The talks are informative, profound, moving, sometimes confronting, even surprising. Accompanied by delicious sandwiches and tea/coffee, this makes for a satisfying menu.

From April 1996 when the Library first ran these monthly events, the policy has been that only women are invited to speak (no gender restriction on attendees of course). It is not that men have nothing to offer, but rather that to keep women's words and works alive and powerful it is vital women have the opportunity to be heard. The current gender debate focuses on imbalance in this department. Speakers come from all walks of life. Many are writers — novelists, poets, historians, and women who have written on social issues; some are scientists, artists (including at least one sculptor), Indigenous women and others from ethnic groups, foreign aid workers, lawyers (the judiciary included), and women from the political sphere and the media. The list goes on. Interestingly, a Lunch Hour Talk speaking engagement can be the first time some women have been called on to reflect publicly about their life stories, a process perhaps useful personally which also creates a permanent public record not otherwise available.

The Library treasures their contributions to the national culture. A digital record is kept on the shelves; also the *Newsletter* reaches a wide audience with Talks reports reviewing and distilling key points, a formula speakers appreciate for getting their messages across. The Talks program is a welcome



regular income stream for the Library too. Altogether the effort of speakers (who appear gratis) and of some 20 Library volunteers led by Vice Chair Michele Ginswick is invaluable.

Page 4 reports on April's moving talk by Robin de Crespigny (above) about Ali Al Jenabi (right). It raised perplexing refugee issues — especially that of boat people.

Margot Simington



HAZEL HAWKE: A LIFE

The Sydney Opera House Concert Hall on 25 June 2013 filled quickly. Then Prime Minister Julia Gillard, Governor-General Quentin Bryce, friends and family filled seats in the front rows. The tribute commenced with Margaret Throsby, ABC broadcaster, introducing Linda Burney, Deputy Leader of the NSW Opposition, to



welcome us to country. I met Hazel Hawke in 2000 when I joined her on the Board of the Australian Children's Television Foundation. She had already acknowledged to close friends her diagnosis, but maintained her commitment to the Board and its work. I experienced all the qualities of character for which she has been praised. It was a privilege to have met her. She

was a supporter of many causes, many of them feminist. She was always warm, open, generous and good-humoured. Her care and compassion were expressed through the public duties she embraced and her family love and loyalty to friends.

The depth of feeling for her was reflected by all who spoke at the celebration of her life. Wendy McCarthy, feminist, became a close friend during the Bicentennial Year, 1988. Ralph Willis met her in 1960. A close friend of the family and a political ally of former prime minister, Bob Hawke, he remembered her humour and her parenting. He remarked on her anger when Bob was named Father of the Year. The words of her daughter Sue Pieters-Hawke and grandson David Dillon were moving tributes to a devoted mother and grandmother whose optimism and positive spirit carried them through good and bad times.

Hazel Hawke was guest speaker at the Library's Annual Luncheon in 1999, her topic 'The Story of Us All: Valuing our Multicultural Heritage'. She highlighted Heritage Council work involving ethnic communities in identifying places and objects of importance to them for listing on the NSW State Heritage Register and the role women played in this process.

I emerged from the Opera House with powerful impressions moved by those who loved her. She was taken too early from public life. The Hazel Hawke Alzheimer's Research and Care Fund will build on work to identify causes of the disease and perhaps to find a cure. Her autobiography, *My Own Life* (1992) is on the Library's shelves.

Jozeza Sobski

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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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Apology

The May *Newsletter* omitted acknowledging Helen Ruby as having prepared the transcript for Pamela Bradley's talk.

Dr Una Gault, mentor and friend

Una Gault was remembered in a gathering at the Library on 15 May to honour her work and share memories of exploits and activism. There were many speakers and email tributes.



Keith Bennett, one of Una's students at Macquarie University Sydney, recollected her: feared, respected and loved; her supervision of his Honours degree made an inestimable contribution to his intellectual formation. Dr Beatriz Copello remembered Una's praise which gave her confidence after she conducted a tutorial in English, her second language.

Una was born in Young in 1925 to a strict Methodist household. She nursed her mother in the final stages of Parkinson's and after her mother's death, gained her doctorate in 1973 having earlier secured a BA and MA. Passionate about literature, she loved the sea and cats. 'Happiness is to be owned by a cat', she often remarked. Classical music and the cinema were other passions, and she delighted in food and a good bottle of wine. She was a serious woman, however, who cared deeply about the world and for people. Friends noted that she could be feisty and prickly, but this was more than matched by her warmth and the generosity and support she extended to friends. Amanda Gordon commented, 'she never let me get away with anything'.

Her involvement with the women's movement defined her contribution to her profession to which she devoted her life. She was a founding member of the Australian Psychological Society and the Women and Psychology group. She was an avid feminist, active in NSW Women in Education and Women's Electoral Lobby, and a member of the Library. Dori Wisniewski, Jan Wood, Hugh Wishart and Susan Kippax all spoke with tenderness and respect for a dear friend and collaborator. Pam Oliver, a colleague from New Zealand, praised Una for the support and reassurance she gave her as a feminist psychologist in the early 1990s. She said Una 'played an especially important part in my life as an older woman, showing me, just by being herself, how to continue in older life to be radical, and still minimise negative reaction'. She will be missed by her many friends, colleagues and collaborators.

Jozefa Sobski

LUNCH HOUR TALKS – third Thursday of the month

18 July: Lynette Curran Overcoming repression

Lynette is well known for her roles in Australian theatre, films and television, including *Underbelly* and most recently *Cat on a hot tin roof*. The recipient of many awards, including AFI awards, her talk will focus on her early difficult years and overcoming repression in forging her theatrical career.

15 August: Dr Bernice Lee
Change in the status of women in 20th century China
Major political, social, ideological and legal changes in 20th century China transformed the position of women from an inferior status long enshrined by custom. Bernice will examine how and why these changes took place and their effects on the lives of Chinese women.

17 Oct: Dr Joanna Penglase OAM Forgotten Australians

Joanna, editor and researcher, will trace her personal history of growing up in a children's home which led to her researching children's experiences of growing up in institutional care in the post-war period. She believes the often criminal, always traumatic, circumstances of their childhood deserve a place in history books.

21 November: Dr Sue Wills Sydney Women's Liberation

Sue will discuss her writing about the growth of the Women's Liberation Movement in Sydney, including the setting up in 1974 of the Elsie Women's Refuge in Sydney for women and children seeking shelter from violence (see also *Newsletter* July 2012).

Time/Venue: 12.00–1.30pm; Southern Function Room, 4th Floor, Town Hall House, 456 Kent St Sydney

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

Grants for Jessie's causes

The Jessie Street Trust was formed during the luncheon at Parliament House NSW marking Jessie Street's 100th birthday in April 1989. The committee organising tributes to Jessie decided with the Street family to establish a fund to award seeding grants to causes she would have cared about and fought for. Our Library was established also as a tribute to her that same year.

The two organisations, separate entities, share objectives to honour Jessie's lifetime commitments. The Trust awards an annual grant to an individual or organisation to assist in activities Jessie would have championed. This year the



L to R: Elizabeth Evatt, Susan Ryan, Virginia Bell

grant was awarded to Women's Legal Services NSW to support its project to address sex, pregnancy and carer discrimination in the workplace. Both organisations invite distinguished speakers to address guests. The Hon Justice Virginia Bell AC of the High Court addressed the Jessie Street Trust Luncheon on 3 May 2013. She spoke about her introduction to Jessie's work through Eve Higson who joined the United Associations of Women in 1939 and served under Jessie's chairmanship. She transported us back to that period by exploring the prejudice against women jurors based on the view that women were incapable of rational judgement. The NSW *Jury Statute* passed only in 1947 allowed women to serve on juries 'but only if ... determined enough to apply'. Not until 1968 were women included on jury rolls 'as a matter of course'.

Justice Bell continued the journey through changes in the legal profession. She spoke with wit and humour. She was admitted as a solicitor in 1977 having graduated in Law at the University of Sydney. She has had a distinguished career and brings some balance and unique perspectives to the High Court. The Trust lunch gave all who attended not only a taste of her approach to judgements but also, through her discussion of the Superclinics Case, an insight into the process of argument fundamental to a judge's work.

The Library has a copy of her speech for our archives. In honour of Jessie Street's activism, we applaud the work of the Trust, our sister organisation. Our website has a link to its website.

Jozefa Sobski

Society of Women Writers Weekend 'Women making History'

Be inspired by outstanding writers who will join you over the weekend 18-20 October 2013 at Brahma Kumaris Inner Space Retreat Centre at Wilton, south of Sydney. Skill up and learn about new genres. Workshop, network and further your writing in a glorious setting.

Nine wonderful speakers including Susannah Fullerton, Jenny Strachan and Lynette Silver OAM will inspire you, commencing with a multi-media show on suffragettes, and then covering a wide array of genres including crime and speculative fiction, non-fiction writing and historical research.

Highlights include: guided walk in the garden or meditation to begin the day; Shibashi – a gentle exercise to relax you before lunch; a critiquing session on your 'first page'; as well as an opportunity to pitch your book to a publisher.

For more details visit: www.womenwritersnsw.org

Jessie drama at St Catherine's

On 28 May Suzanne Marks and Jane Pollard visited St Catherine's School, Waverley at the invitation of the drama teacher, Miri Jassy. Her invitation to Library members generally was to performances of plays drawing on the lives of prominent women, one of whom was Jessie Street. The performances were part of the Year 10 drama course and worth 15% of the girls' marks. They were assigned the subjects' names, then did their own research (using original source documents where possible) to devise performances of eight minutes.

The girls chose Amelia Earhart, Emmeline Pankhurst and Rosa Parks as well as Jessie Street. There were four or five players in each performance. The girls did well in capturing and expressing significant moments in these women's lives. Rosa Parks' defiance in the face of racism that forced her to the back of the bus to sit in the 'coloured' seats, Amelia Earhart seeking not money but family approval to become an aviatrix, and Emmeline Pankhurst, founder of the militant WSPU in 1903 who

was prepared to lose touch with two of her daughters rather than abandon her fight for suffrage. The Jessie Street performance – with Jessie well played by Katie Teo – focused on Jessie's decision in 1950 to



withdraw herself from the taunts and rejection she received for her equal pay and divorce law reform efforts, and move to London for a number of years (where she became an executive on the World Peace Council). The second part showed her meeting some years later with Prime Minister Robert Menzies in Canberra and trying to get his support for giving Aborigines the vote. When he said the Constitution would not allow it, she began her fight for a constitutional referendum, finally held in 1967.

These 'docudramas' or verbatim theatre performances showed a good level of involvement by the 15 year old students, and it was good to see that Jessie and others like her can still be an inspiration for school students today, not only for performances but for insight into history too.

Jane Pollard

Anne Summers at Annual Luncheon

For 19 years we have had great speakers at our major fundraising event. This year continues that tradition with Dr Anne Summers AO speaking on 'The Misogyny Factor in Australian Politics'.

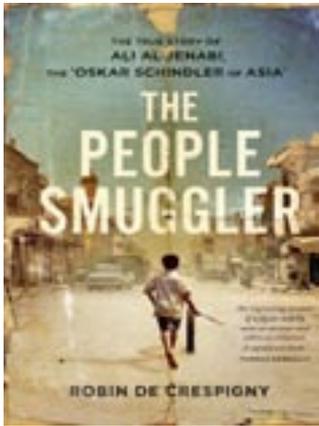
This *Newsletter* contains raffle tickets and a purchase form. I urge members to purchase tickets – so important for the Library, entirely self-funded and dependent on the Annual Luncheon as its major fundraiser. Generous sponsors have donated enticing prizes: Teachers' Mutual Bank, Marie Muir, Sofitel Wentworth Hotel, Sydney Captain Cook Cruises, New South Publishing, Jan Roberts/Beverley Kingston, Anne Deveson, Robin de Crespigny, NSW Teachers' Federation.

Get in early and book a table for yourself and friends at this year's Annual Luncheon Monday 16 September. And read Barbara Henery's review of Anne's latest book, *The Misogyny Factor* on page 6.

Diane Hague, Convenor, 2013 Annual Luncheon Committee

THE PEOPLE SMUGGLER

The People Smuggler tells the true story of Ali Al Jenabi, the Oskar Schindler of Asia, a 'non-fiction thriller and a moral maze ... one man's epic story of trying to find a safer place in the world', who triumphs over the most unbelievable odds, and survives.



Robin chose the title *The People Smuggler* because the term is so demonised by politicians and much of the press; they are seen as responsible for those dying at sea and for governments' failures in border protection policies. With her background as a film maker, she was approached to assist in publicising Ali's plight, help obtain his visa, refused by the Immigration Minister, and

show another side to people smuggling.

After six months working with Ali trying to see how his story could be made into a film, Robin found there was more to the story than Ali's extraordinary odyssey. She found him a decent human being, with a strong sense of morality and responsibility for his family and others, with great insight and self-awareness. She wanted to show the man, not just his journey. But a film would not allow the luxury of exploring his character, so it was decided that it would be best presented as a book. After many days interviewing Ali and working on the transcriptions she found what was underneath the words, what Ali was thinking and feeling.

Born in 1970, Ali grew up when Saddam Hussein was coming to power. Saddam was very popular, as he kept the oil money in the country and was funding hospitals, schools, universities, infrastructure, the arts and particularly free education. But gradually he started building a massive army and a very powerful and brutal secret police, as Saddam was a Sunni and the Sunnis were a minority. The Shiites, about 60% of the population, were frightened of him. In 1979 in a bloodless coup Saddam took over government, installing himself as President, and began eliminating the opposition, quietly and brutally. Lack of trust developed as people did not know which family member might be informing on them. If you spoke out against the regime, your brother's children might be threatened with torture.

That was Ali's background. When Robin read him the first chapter; he said nothing. Finally she saw that he was so moved tears ran down his face. From that point the door opened and delivered the most extraordinary, revealing book.

Robin wrote in the first person because she wanted to put the reader into Ali's shoes, using his story to understand why people get on leaky boats in the first place, to empathise and identify with him, and ask themselves what they would do in that situation.

When Ali was ten, he repeated something his father had said against Saddam in the playground, and that night his father disappeared. He was finally returned to the family, a completely broken man, tortured, emaciated and damaged:

they had broken his spirit. Ali was left to take over as head of the family of six children. After school he sold cigarettes at markets to provide money for the family. His father, to cope with his loss of pride, began to drink and became an alcoholic. When he smashed up the place the children became desperately afraid of him. Men in Iraq were being trained in the Army, and Ali's father was sent to fight as a commando. He came home on leave and continued to produce babies. As well as provider, Ali became like a father to these children.

The war with Iran decimated the country. Soldiers were dead or injured and there was no medicine or food. People were dying of starvation, living on food stamps and millions of refugees were created.

In 1990 Saddam invaded Kuwait, probably to get more oil to revive his country. Ali was a Shiite who lived in the south and when the Americans pushed the army back they encouraged Shiites to rise up, as they couldn't very well blow Saddam away since they were allies providing him with arms during the Iran/Iraq war. They thought that if the Shiites did it for them, they could support them. The Shiites rose up and the Americans went home, leaving them with no air cover or ground support. Saddam motivated his army again and sent them through the south, taking all the men and boys of fighting age.

Ali and his brother Akmud were arrested and sent to Abu Ghraib, the infamous prison known for its torture and brutality. Separated from his brother and father he was put in a tiny cell with thirty others, where those surviving torture were thrown back into the cell with no medication or clean water for wounds, often dying from infections. There were arbitrary executions and bodies were thrown into mass graves. Families never knew what happened to their relatives as there was no contact with them. Ali was released arbitrarily after four years, and went back to the south to re-establish his life. But after what he'd seen in Abu Ghraib he wanted to bring down Saddam. He went to Kurdistan, a safe haven, and worked for the resistance. The CIA, MI6 and others were funding different resistance groups, and it was fragmented with a profound lack of trust. After a couple of years Ali decided to get his family out of Iraq. Eventually they got to Iran, but then Saddam invaded Kurdistan in the north. They waited near the border for smugglers to help them with the difficult mountain crossing, but threatened by chemical bombs, the city was vacated in a matter of hours. The smuggler gave them back their money and joined the exodus.

After a couple of years in Iran the regime changed and it was more difficult to stay there. Then they heard that Australia was a signatory to the United Nations *Convention for Refugees*, meaning if they were escaping persecution they could apply for asylum in Australia. They sent application forms to the UN; after nine months a letter came rejecting their application. Evidently they hadn't been persecuted enough!

Ali was determined to get to Australia, and with a false passport got as far as Indonesia but was left on the beach by a smuggler, despite having paid in advance. Desperately he agreed to work for a people smuggler, who in exchange would get his family to Australia for free. Ali realised he was working

Continued on page 7

WOMEN'S WORK IN JANE AUSTEN'S WRITING

It was the English gentry on which Jane Austen focused so brilliantly in her six major works. Born into a family on the fringes of that class in 1775, she knew it well. Four hugely popular novels appeared (anonymously) during her lifetime – *Sense and Sensibility*, *Pride and Prejudice* (1813), *Mansfield Park* and *Emma* – and two more after her death in 1817, all traversing the lives and challenges faced by gentry, especially women. Her work attracts the extensive literary criticism behoving an oeuvre containing one of the world's great novels.

Celebrating the 200th anniversary of *Pride and Prejudice*, Marlene Arditto, former Vice-President, The Jane Austen Society of Australia, shared some of her own fascinating insights. In the 1990s she heard Roy Walker's paper at the Society identifying how Jane Austen's various carriages indicate character, wealth, social standing and pretensions: the snobbish Sucklings' barouche landau; Mrs Rushworth's stylish chariot; Mr Collins' basic jig; Mr Willoughby's sporty curricle. Marlene, an experienced needlewoman, suspected a parallel in respect of 'women's work' – needlework and crafts performed inside the family social network. Her research vindicated this idea. As she said, "every word in a Jane Austen novel is there for a purpose".

Marlene stressed that, with commercial machines yet to be developed, sewing was still manual, an everyday activity integral to household economics. A woman always had multiple tasks in hand – sewing and mending from the household or poor basket, fine embroidery, baby clothes, fringing, cording, knitting, netting etc. Types of work reflected social status and character traits. Women of Jane Austen's class would intersperse tedious work with creative, imaginative projects and Jane, herself accomplished in needlework, believed women should not be idle. Sewing skills, essential in a girl's education, demonstrated discipline and effort useful in the marriage market. *Pride and Prejudice* shows Mr Bingley puzzled how 'young ladies can have patience to be so very accomplished' – they 'all paint tables, cover screens and net purses'. In *Mansfield Park* the charismatic Henry Crawford plans to flirt with, then dump, Fanny Price but falling in love with her, writes to his sister: 'had you seen her this morning, Mary, attending with such ineffable sweetness and patience to all the demands of her aunt's stupidity, working with her, ... her colour beautifully heightened ...'.

Work indicates character. Catherine Morland, 'a good little girl working at [her] sampler at home', becomes *Northanger Abbey's* charming heroine. *Sense and Sensibility* has Charlotte Palmer's embroidery on silk tinted with water colours signifying 'seven years at a great school in town': once a "giggly airhead" (Marlene's phrase), Charlotte having acquired the necessary accomplishments, marries one of Austen's wealthiest men – Mr Palmer's estate of Cleveland rivals that of Pemberley or Sotherton. In *Mansfield Park* Julia Bertram's 'faded footstool ... too ill-done for the drawing room' is relegated to the schoolroom. *Pride and Prejudice* paints a know-it-all – Lady Catherine de Bourgh looks at the girls' work, and advises them to 'do it differently'. Fanny Dashwood in *Sense and Sensibility* is

'so taken with the Steele sisters' she gives them needle books – but is scarcely generous: wealthy, parsimonious Fanny chooses inexpensive 'émigré work' (which was made by French POWs and refugees). One of Austen's most memorable characters, indolent Lady Bertram of *Mansfield Park*, sits for the entire novel 'nicely dressed upon a sofa' producing items of 'little use and no beauty' – knotting was regarded as fairly useless work requiring neither skill nor concentration.

Those lacking skills like needlework are usually found wanting in other areas of life. In *Persuasion*, Elizabeth has 'no talents or accomplishments at home to occupy her' and schemes to get a husband; Mary, lacking 'resources for solitude', becomes a hypochondriac. The Dashwood sisters in *Sense and Sensibility* handle anxiety differently: Edward Ferrars leaves Barton Cottage, his intentions unclear, so Elinor occupies herself with work; when Mr Willoughby leaves, Marianne goes into a decline. Work could be a refuge. In *Pride and Prejudice*, Elizabeth Bennet, confused by Mr Darcy's visit, 'sat down again to her work, with an eagerness ... it did not often command'. In *Emma*, to hide embarrassment when breaking news of Frank Churchill's engagement to Jane Fairfax, Mrs Weston 'resumed her work and seemed resolved against looking up'.

Knitting, an ancient craft important for warm clothing, appears for Austen's gentry to be associated with the elderly or infirm. In *Emma*, Jane Fairfax knits garters for her grandmother and Mrs Bates is a 'quiet neat old lady who with her knitting was seated in the warmest corner'. In *Persuasion*, Mrs Smith learns to knit while convalescing.

Work-boxes specifically designed for needlework appeared in the late 18th century, another pointer to social standing. In *Mansfield Park*, Fanny Price of modest family was overwhelmed by the plethora of presumably elaborate boxes given her by the extravagant Tom. Marlene notes Austen's "brilliant touch" in *Emma* to have Harriet Smith keep mementos of Mr Elton in a 'pretty little Tunbridge-ware box', a relatively inexpensive, simple item of beechwood or sycamore. Scissors, that work-box essential, are also a conduit for social observation. In *Persuasion*, attention-seeking Mary Musgrove complains that Captain Benwick sits 'poring over his book ... not know[ing] when a person speaks to him, or when one drops one's scissors'.



Women's work tools



Scissors feature in *Sense and Sensibility* when Edward Ferrars, embarrassed by the Miss Dashwoods' congratulations on his

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BOOK REVIEW

Anne Summers *The Misogyny Factor*
Sydney, NewSouth Publishing, 2013; 182pp.
ISBN: 9781742233840 paperback

The 'must read' for thinking women is Anne Summers' *The Misogyny Factor*. This feminist analysis predates former prime minister Julia Gillard's famous misogyny speech delivered in federal Parliament in October 2012. Summers spoke in Canberra in July 2012 on the quest for equality of the sexes, and then in Newcastle in August 2012 documenting vilification of Australia's first female prime minister. This book expands on those two speeches.

Summers reflects that a high point in the quest for women's equality was reached when the women's movement presented its strategic plan to the Whitlam Government in 1972, and that forty years on, an all-time low was reached when Opposition leader Tony Abbott could without demur be filmed on television alongside a placard reading 'Ditch the Witch'!

It was the continuous vitriolic diatribe – that grossly disrespectful and sexist treatment of Australia's first female prime minister – which propelled Summers to write this book. She cites three indicators of success that women are yet to achieve: 'inclusion, equality and respect'. She identifies 'misogyny' – a 'set of attitudes and entrenched practices' – as the obstacle to women's equality. Eschewing the narrow definition of misogyny as 'hatred of women', she opts for 'misogyny factor' to indicate 'systemic beliefs and behaviour' embedded in 'most of Australia's major institutions'. It seems, she concludes, that those beliefs are predicated on the view 'that women do not have the fundamental right to be a part of society beyond the home'.

This book is a timely evaluation of feminism's past achievements and recent failures. Summers has impeccable feminist credentials. In 1975 her classic study, *Damned Whores and God's Police*, described the way in which Australia's history and culture has limited women's participation in their own society. Her hands-on activism in the early Sydney women's movement included a central role in setting up the Elsie Women's Refuge (Sydney), the first shelter for victims of domestic violence, both women and children. Her stellar career in journalism, commencing with a Walkley Award in 1976, has continued for over 30 years, including editor-in-chief from 1987 to 1989 of the New York based *Ms* magazine. In 1971, Gloria Steinem together with other women journalists launched *Ms* magazine, which became the first periodical ever to be created, owned, and operated entirely by women. By 1987, the time of Anne Summers' editorship, it had become the landmark institution in international feminism.

In *The Misogyny Factor*, Summers asks why women in public life are constantly questioned how they manage 'to do it all' whilst men are never asked the same question. Summers finds it scandalous that the 'myriad assumptions and, let's face it, prejudices that lie behind this question have not really altered in more than half a century'. Legal barriers to women's entry into the workforce were removed in the 70s, but the expectation that 'women could be everywhere' has not been

realised. She laments her society, 'supposedly run by economic rationalists', is unable to figure out that enabling women to get into the full time workforce in the same proportions as men would increase gross domestic product by 13%, even allowing for deduction of child care costs. There has been a backlash with women told not just they can't 'have it all' but that actually 'they [do] not want it'. Her conclusion is that deep down we do not believe men and women are equal. By contrast, European countries, in particular France, have 'worked out a way for women to combine having both fertility and workforce participation rates that far outstrip ours'.

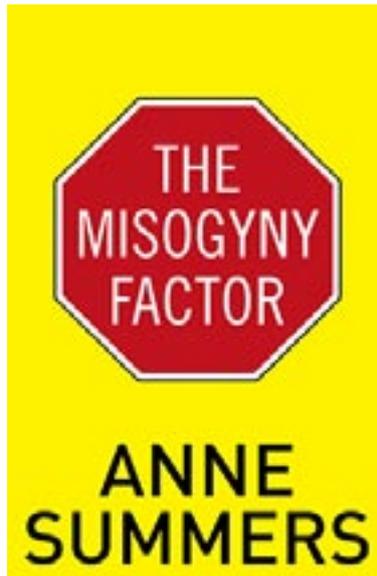
As a former editor of the *Australian Financial Review*, Summers' arguments are persuasive being firmly grounded in economic facts. The book, short and focused, examines the current economic inequality of women, citing statistics. Over their lifetime, she says, women earn at least \$1m less than men. She decries Australia's low rate of workforce participation compared with other industrialised countries as 'bad not only for women but also for the nation'. Educationally she says Australian women rank equal number one in the world but in women's workforce participation are not even in the top 40 and still do not have equal pay.

The most alarming aspect of this book concerns violence against women. Summers deplores the fact that domestic violence is the major cause of women's homelessness. She cites recent Australian Bureau of Statistics figures that 15% of all women – 1,135,000 – have experienced violence at the hands of their previous partner, whilst 16,000 have endured violence from their current partner. She cites the horrifying statistic that Victorian police respond to almost 140 incidents every day, close to one every ten minutes. Summers earlier formulated two principles of equality – financial self-sufficiency and the ability to control one's fertility. She has now added a third principle: freedom from violence.

Readers need look no further for evidence of the misogyny factor than the article, *Men Behaving Badly* (*Sydney Morning Herald* 15-16 June 2013): 'sexist jokes, an off-colour menu, tasteless questions: the treatment of women surged into focus this week as blokes took us back to the stone age ...'. Gillard is likened to 'a woman being stoned to death in an ancient ritual.'

All women who are complacent about the achievements of 70s new-wave feminism and feel there is no more work to do, should read this book and reassess how far we have slid backwards in attempts to achieve equality. *The Misogyny Factor* should energise them 'to change the rules and change the game'. Summers regrets 'we put our faith in the government' but 'there has seldom been bi-partisan agreement even on the premise of women's equality, let alone the basic steps to achieve it.' She is now convinced that since change is usually brought about in Australian politics by pressure on government, one solution might be to create 'a powerful external lobby organisation' like those of other community groups – unions, farmers, miners and 'almost every industry group you can think of' – to represent women and influence governments.

Barbara Henery Librarian



Robin de Crespigny continued from page 4

for a shark, and deciding he could do it better, became a people smuggler himself.

People smuggling was not a crime in Indonesia at the time (2001-2002); it was made a crime in 2010. Usually the worst crime is putting too many people on a boat. Ali felt that every Iraqi he got to Australia was a triumph over Saddam. He was a hero to those he saved and he didn't overload his boats. Ali went to trial and has served a four year sentence. Although he was found to be a legitimate refugee and was cleared by ASIO, he remains on a Removal Visa which can send him home to almost certain death any day.

Transcription by Helen Ruby

Report by Kris Clarke

Marlene Arditto continued from page 5

marriage instead of his brother's, 'took up a pair of scissors ... and while spoiling both them and their sheath by cutting the latter to pieces as he spoke, said, in an unhurried voice, "you may not have heard that my brother is lately married to ... Miss Lucy Steele" '.

Jane Austen was anxious lest over a decade her writing become 'comparatively obsolete' through changes in 'places, manners, books, and opinions'. Two centuries later there is no question of her obsolescence but Marlene's talk delightfully illumined subtleties in 'women's work'. As Marlene remarked, no doubt more research would further enrich our understanding of Jane Austen's shrewd yet gentle satire.

Report by Margot Simington

Capital Investment Fund

Since it was launched in September 2009, the Capital Investment Fund has reached \$110,340. 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 May 2013:

Rosie Heritage
Beverley Kingston
Marie de Lepervanche
Belinda MacKay
Margot Simington
Sybil Unger

General donations since May 2013

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

Robin Porter

Donations of material expand our collection:

Heather Bird
Pat Richardson

A warm welcome to our new members:

Helen Campbell
Lorraine Dwyer
Leonie Ebert
Susan Mackenzie
Karen McKeown
Melissa Maloney
Toinetta Milne
Claire Moore

MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL/DONATION FORM

I wish to: join the library renew my membership
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Date:/...../.....

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

Name:

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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)

The 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
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Please charge my MasterCard/Visa with \$

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Signature:

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(You will be contacted for an interview.)

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523–525 Harris Street (cnr William Henry Street), Ultimo

Please use the intercom for admittance

For level access, enter 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 Harris Street)
- ▶ Bus 501 (Ian Thorpe Aquatic Centre stop) from Sydney Town Hall or Railway Square
- ▶ Bus 443 (Harris and Allan Streets stop) from Circular Quay or Wynyard Station
- ▶ Light rail from Central Station to Exhibition stop
- ▶ If you drive, there is limited two hour street metre parking available

Contact us:

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