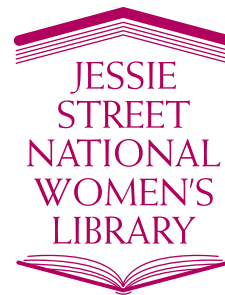


# NEWSLETTER

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



## OUR POSTERS CHALLENGE AND DELIGHT

The Library's poster collection, some 1400 items, is unique for its single focus on feminist issues, and has value by virtue of its rarity and artistic merit, particularly the screenprinted items. In 2010 a professional valuation put the Library's poster collection at a surprisingly high figure. But access to this valuable collection was restricted: only preliminary documentation had been done (1997).

The challenge has been taken up. Firstly a database. Volunteer librarian Megan Barnes completed this in 2013, organised by title, artist/designer where possible, and by general subject headings. The poster collection is now digitised and can be viewed in the Library. Copyright issues preclude addition of images to the database (in time perhaps possible for some images). Work on formal cataloguing has proceeded steadily but slowly: cataloguing to the Libraries Australia recommended standard is exacting and time-consuming. Around 110 posters are now fully catalogued, ready for uploading to Libraries Australia.

Cataloguers find their biggest challenge in the paucity of information recorded on posters. By its very nature a poster's 'life' is limited: once an event has passed most copies are discarded, thereby contributing to rarity value. Some were produced by specialist screenprinters with limited runs. Posters collected many years later become a cataloguer's nightmare. Precise details of time and place, day and date are usually provided on the poster itself but the year is often missing. Publishing dates may need to be deduced or approximated from old 7-digit telephone numbers or by an item accession date. If a Google search cannot arrive at a correct date, graphic elements may help. Depictions of people can spark lively discussion among our librarians: do hairstyles or clothing suggest the relevant decade? Often no artist's or designer's name is given. Occasionally an internet search sheds light — a thrilling moment indeed. This happened with one poster in the collection (poster 737), a beautiful promotional poster for Arlene Chai's novel, *The Last Time I Saw Mother* (1996). Sometimes a Google search

is educational, for example a poster containing a quotation by 'Sojourner Truth' led to a website dedicated to a remarkable 19<sup>th</sup> century African-American abolitionist and women's rights activist (poster 694). Links to websites for both these posters are included in the Library's catalogue record.

Obviously, delight comes not only from succeeding with the cataloguing task but also from poster content and aesthetic quality. Our posters largely date from the late 1960s to the present day. A wide range of issues feature: violence against women, health and fitness, education and training, Aboriginal issues, women's rights, human rights. Events depicted range from political rallies to social gatherings, stirring sentiments to convey a message. Posters for International Women's Day address a wide audience. The resulting collection is a pictorial history of women's achievements in their struggle for equality. While in the 1970s a female electrician or mechanic could feature striving for gender equality in job choices, contemporary posters often aim at opening up social taboos. Domestic violence or rape in marriage are society's 'secrets' which a poster like 'Real men don't rape or bash women' denounces emphatically (poster 1010). The long-running 'Reclaim the night' series of posters deals with the security of women at night in various locations. Historically important for feminists is poster 1020, a 1988 reproduction of 'Trust the

women mother as I have done', a banner painted by Dora Meeson Coates carried by the Australian contingent in the London 1911 Women's Suffrage Coronation Procession.

Artwork is often high quality, sometimes with confronting images. Some posters were professionally designed and printed such as by Harridan Screenprinters, Sydney. Canberra's Megalo Press has produced posters in limited numbers for a local

area using highly artistic designs. But most were designed and printed in-house by organisations, for example the Dale St Women's Health Centre SA with artist Chia Moan. Artistic merit contributes to value. Styles range from a



Continued on page 2

### Membership Renewal

Membership is by calendar year – see page 7. Thank you to those who have already resubscribed for 2014

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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

### Patrons

The Hon Elizabeth Evatt AC; Sir Laurence Street AC KCMG; Professor Emerita Jill Roe AO; Clover Moore Lord Mayor of Sydney

### Board of Management

Jozefa Sobski, Chair; Michele Ginswick, Vice Chair; Jan Burnswoods, Secretary/Public Officer; Jean Burns, Treasurer

### Board Members

Diane Hague, Robyn Harriott, Barbara Henery, Beverley Kingston, Marie Muir, Katharine Stevenson, Beverley Sodbinow

### Editorial Team

Kris Clarke and Margot Simington, Co-editors  
Katharine Stevenson, Graphic Designer



Our Posters ... continued from page 1

resemblance to Socialist Realism in 'Let the ruling classes tremble' (poster 1) depicting a powerful woman breaking free from her chained hands, to a pop art poster in the style of Roy Lichtenstein (poster 719). Marie McMahon's screenprinted 'You are on Aboriginal land' combines a strong message with outstanding artistry (poster 329).

Baiba Berzins, who valued the posters in 2010, commented on the number of high-quality screenprinted items. Just as valuable in social and historical terms are those posters never intended to survive the events and issues they publicised but which exist in the Library's

## Annual General Meeting 2014

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday 12 April at 10.30am in Littlebridge Hall (near the Library) the Ultimo Community Centre, corner of Harris St and William Henry St Ultimo, Sydney.

This is your opportunity to visit the Library, meet the Board and other members and join us for morning tea.

Nominations are called for the following positions: Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and no fewer than five and no more than nine ordinary members of the Board. Nominations close on Friday 14 March. Please consider nominating for the Board yourself or suggesting it to a friend. Nomination forms will be available from the Library.

Board meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 12.30 pm at the Ultimo Community Centre.

## About our volunteers

**Diane Hague** Energetic Library volunteer, Diane has special expertise in communication. She has done much of the work in updating the Library's leaflets and forms, has written a considerable amount of the text for the new website. and is responsible for keeping information on that website up to date. As a Library Board member, she chairs the Annual Luncheon Committee and is also the Board's liaison person with the Equality Rights Alliance.



Diane was a TAFE Teacher of Communications in Business Studies. She was an activist in the NSW Teachers Federation for many years and subsequently held positions of Editor of the Federation's journal, *Education*, of Industrial Officer and, prior to her retirement, of Media and Communications Officer. She also coordinated the Federation's Oral History Project. Diane is most proud of her work at the Federation in achieving improvements in salaries and conditions for TAFE part time and casual teachers, most of whom are women. This was achieved through award changes and TAFE policies. She also achieved the first award for teachers in TAFE Children's Centres.

collection, gradually becoming known across the world through Libraries Australia. Our poster collection will also help ensure that organisations, designers and artists and those who provide services and support for women are recorded for posterity. For some additional information on the collection see also the *Newsletter* July/August 2008 and the website.

Anyone willing to donate feminist posters to the Library is welcome to phone and discuss with Isobel Dewar and Aleit Woodward Ph 9571 5359.

*Isobel Dewar and Aleit Woodward, Poster Librarians*

## Something being done for gregarious culture

The end of the year is the time for Christmas festivity – and not least for the Library when traditionally the Board puts on a delicious lunch for all volunteers. Our 10 December 2013 party became a particularly special one. The Library's new patron, Professor Emerita Jill Roe, shared with us an intriguing glimpse into Miles Franklin's fertile imagination. Jill's remarks elegantly encapsulate promotion of the Library as a centre for women's activities. Here they are:

'On occasions such as this, I always turn to Miles Franklin. There's always something nice and flavoursome tucked away somewhere in her writings, most likely in a letter or one of her many topical essays. Her 'gregarious culture' sprang instantly to mind. I've always liked this phrase – so quirky, unmistakably Miles. I used it as the title for a selection of her topical writings published

by the University of Queensland Press in 2001. It comes from a letter she wrote to her friend and fellow writer in Western Australia, Katharine Susannah Prichard, shortly after World War II. She was not expecting the millennium – her hope for a new world fashioned out of war had been dashed in the 1920s – but still, she wrote, 'something must be done for gregarious culture'.

The letter is in the Franklin Papers at the State Library,



dated 5 July 1946, and reprinted in full in Carole Ferrier's *As Good as a Yarn with You*, an edition of letters between Franklin, Prichard, Jean Devanny, Barnard and Eldershaw and Eleanor Dark, 1930-1957 (University of Queensland Press, 1992). In the letter, Miles reports that earlier in the week she had spoken at an anniversary lunch for the recently formed Australian Book Society, which she helped establish. Apparently there was a full house:

'among them a lot of young librarians, and some [high school] girls from Fort Street who had given up sports to attend; and a lot of bright young men whom I couldn't place, who handled their cigarettes in a challenging manner as if they were critics of the Southerly and Meanjin exaltedness, but they were the ones who caught the points and laughed the loudest. I believe all these people came to see their literary elders, and think the 2/- [two shillings] for lunch well spent. That luncheon could be a worthwhile thread in our activities. Something must be done for gregarious culture.'

It's what we all believe, and an ongoing project, to which the Jessie Street National Women's Library is making such a valuable contribution.'



Clockwise from above: Jill Roe; Lyn Eggins, Christine Lees, Deirdre Freyberg, Bev Kingston; Michele Ginswick (l), Heide Finger, Christine Smith



### LUNCH HOUR TALKS 2014 – third Thursday of the month

**20 Feb:** Deirdre & Chloe Mason Alice Wheeldon's story

Deirdre and Chloe, feminists themselves, have a family heritage of peace and social justice activism. Great grandmother Alice Wheeldon, a suffragist and courageous anti-war campaigner, was subjected in 1917 to a questionable conviction for conspiracy to murder Britain's prime minister.

**20 March:** Dr Judith Godden Adoptions and Crown Street Women's Hospital

Historian Judith Godden explores reasons for the many baby adoptions at Sydney's Crown Street Women's Hospital in the late 1960s (helping single mothers? helping infertile couples?) along with related issues – forced adoptions, trauma and interpreting memories.

**17 April:** Pat Richardson Queenie, Letters from an Australian Army Nurse

During WWI Pat's Aunt 'Queenie' Avenell nursed in Egypt (Gallipoli casualties), France and England. A government grant enabled Pat and journalist Anne Skinner to prepare for publication 107 letters from Queenie to her family. This event is a **BOOK LAUNCH**.

**15 May:** Pamela Burton From Moree to Mabo:

the Mary Gaudron story  
Canberra lawyer and writer, Pamela will discuss Mary Gaudron, first female justice of the High Court. Gaudron, passionately committed to gender equality, Indigenous rights and removal of discrimination and inequality has a significant place in Australian legal history.

**Venue/Time:** 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 the door. **Book by noon Monday before the talk.** Ph (02) 9571 5359

## FORGOTTEN AUSTRALIANS – CHILDREN’S HOMES

Joanna Penglase, a Sydney editor, writer and speaker, is on the committee of the Jane Austen Society of Australia and edits its journal, *Sensibilities*. In 2000, Joanna co-founded Care Leavers Australia Network. CLAN, a national organisation with over 1000 members, supports and advocates for more than half a million Forgotten Australians, and Joanna was involved for 10 years in running it.

Born in 1944, Joanna grew up in a Home in Sydney licensed by the NSW Child Welfare Department. Luckier than most, she was encouraged to read by one of the women at the Home, eventually winning a university scholarship. At a time when many doors were closed to women, she found work with the ABC as a television documentaries researcher. When Joanna’s daughter was eight months old, the age when she had been placed in a Home after her parents’ marriage broke up, she realised how much the separation from her mother must have affected her. This marked the beginning of her research into the system which had seen her end up in a Home.

Her parents had married in 1941 – but by 1945 Joanna and her sister were in the Home. Her father had left, deserting her mother with three little children at a time when there was very little support for parents or children in a crisis. Her mother, struggling, knew that approaching the Child Welfare Department might mean losing her children forever. She found a small Home run by a mother and daughter who, as was usual then, had no training. Although her mother visited faithfully, Joanna never really connected with her as a mother; a stronger influence was a schoolteacher, Mrs Chapman.

Eventually Joanna enrolled for an MA at Sydney University. She sought permission to search the Child Welfare Department archives, but found little on children’s Homes, and no file on her Home. So in October 1992 Joanna placed advertisements in suburban papers and wrote to all 151 country newspapers, asking people who’d grown up in a Home to make contact. The overwhelming flood of replies became the raw data for a PhD thesis. The revelations were so confronting that Joanna had to seek therapy to sort through the feelings unearthed.

Interviewed mostly by phone, 90 people yielded invaluable information. People cried or became angry and suspicious of her motives, asking why she wanted to know. But most wanted to talk about their terrible, traumatic childhoods. She teased out what had happened, recovering through oral memories a blueprint of the ‘welfare’ system: where the Homes were – the only research to date – and developed a basic database. She built up a picture of the entities running the Homes: the churches, charities, organisations such as Doctor Barnardos, and state governments.

A very interesting social history was emerging: the reasons children were placed into Homes, how they were taken there, how the Homes were run, the punishments, eating routines, the organisation of schooling, the visiting procedures. Everywhere the Homes were the same! But the system could not have been less systematic. Even the Anglican Homes were run by separate dioceses. One woman

from the Ballarat Children’s Home spoke of 200 children in her orphanage where ‘the big kids looked after the little kids’ with perhaps six adults in charge.

The PhD was finished in 1999. The ABC’s Geraldine Doogue interviewed Joanna for Radio National about her thesis for a broadcast aired in April 2000. One of Joanna’s interviewees, Leonie Sheedy, who’d been in a Home in Geelong, Victoria, had agitated for many years to have this history recognised. She and Joanna inaugurated their own organisation on 2 July 2000 – CLAN, to support and advocate for people who had grown up in orphanages, Homes, foster care and training schools. A major fillip to CLAN’s public profile resulted from Nikki Barrowclough a *Sydney Morning Herald* journalist contacting Joanna about a cover story for *The Good Weekend*. By that time CLAN’s first public meeting had been scheduled for October 2000 at the Exodus Foundation in Ashfield, Sydney. Nikki’s article in advance of the meeting helped swell attendance to over 200.

In 2001 there was a federal Inquiry into child migration to Australia at which CLAN gave evidence. After that inquiry reported, CLAN began to lobby in earnest for a further inquiry. They spoke to Labor politicians on the Social Affairs Committee and letterbox dropped; and Democrat senator Andrew Murray lobbied in Parliament – until a Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care was announced. In 2004 its report, *Forgotten Australians*, was released – a very emotional day in the Parliament. The Report concluded that at least half a million children grew up in care in 20<sup>th</sup> century Australia: a very conservative estimate according to Joanna since many records have been lost. CLAN’s research estimates there were at least 700 Homes. The Report bore out the findings of Joanna’s small thesis sample about the reasons children went into Homes: breakdown in marriage, poverty, unemployment, mental illness, and the upheavals of World War II.

However the most confronting findings were of the appallingly cruel and neglectful treatment of children by church or charity organisations and state governments – supposed pillars of our society. Some of the cruellest Homes – where children were violently and brutally treated – were run by the Salvation Army and the Catholic Church. The level of sexual abuse was widespread and extremely harmful (as the current Royal Commission into institutional Child Sexual Abuse is now uncovering). Children were molested by gardeners, cooks, teachers, as well as by other children. Children who were taken into state care were often forcibly removed by police; they were regarded as second class citizens, offspring of ‘inadequate’ families who could not keep the family together. There was



*Continued on page 6*

## SYDNEY WOMEN'S LIBERATION IN THE 1970s

Sue Wills, political scientist, university equal employment opportunity officer and activist in women's and gay movements, is writing a history of the Sydney Women's Liberation Movement in the 1970s. Her talk to an unusually large Lunch Hour Talk audience (including many of her activist friends) discussed the gestation of this challenging task.

It all began in 1978, she said, when four activists initiated The First Ten Years – A Women's Liberation Herstory Project. They began with subsidiary tasks – collecting documents for the 1970s, and planning an activity timeline and interviews. But not until 1999 could Sue and Joyce Stevens despatch the last of 50 boxes to the NSW State Library constituting the First Ten Years of Sydney Women's Liberation Movement Document Collection. Already a protracted endeavour done in spare time (people needed jobs to survive) and self-funded, the project continued. The chronology begun within various women's groups was completed by Joyce and Sue in 2007, for publication in *Australian Feminist Studies* Nos 53, 54, 55 (2007/08). With Joyce then suffering Alzheimer's, the writing was up to Sue.

Her main challenge is not sources. The important State Library Collection contains all the publications of Sydney Women's Liberation and the records of related groups with some gaps – in particular, some Elsie Women's Refuge documents no longer exist. Supplementing many interviews already done by other people for other reasons, especially by the ABC and the National Library of Australia's program of recording significant Australians, Sue continues an interview program, her priorities being women older, frailer or unwell, and women not already interviewed or who've not written memoirs or autobiographies. Digitally recorded and transcribed interviews with interviewee photos (by Digby Duncan) will be lodged with our Library, as eventually will a duplicate Document Collection. There are the usual mainstream newspapers, books, articles, student newspapers etc. As for official sources, Sue observed drily the time taken getting around to consulting them though not 'deliberate' has been 'beneficial': Hansard records are now online; Commonwealth cabinet documents for the period are released; and the National Archives of Australia website now has ASIO files on Sydney Women's Liberation 1970-1980 ('not as exciting as you might expect', she quipped).

Her aims are clear. Firstly, to record what Sydney Women's Liberation did – its campaigns, organisation, those involved, goals, issues (whether taken up or not). Secondly, to examine common assertions: that Women's Liberation was a 'middle class movement'; that it was just about 'victim feminism' or personal liberation; that it lacked continuity with earlier feminist activities because it sprang from the New Left. Thirdly, she wants to tell a story engaging the reader.

Sue's special challenge lies in that third aim and her passion 'to convey a sense of what it was like being part of a movement' which she felt had not previously been done well, if at all. The broader context of the 1960s and 1970s is important and difficult to convey to a younger generation: Women's

Liberation was a movement of ideas and ideals emerging at a time of ideas and high ideals, an exciting time. As Clive James wrote in his *Unreliable Memoirs III*: 'It is so hard to register the thrill of discovery. You have to think yourself back to a time when part of what built you was not there.'

Thinking about how to approach the writing she noticed some books published around the turn of the century, like Peter Ackroyd's *London: The Biography* and Phillip Knightly's *Australia: A Biography of a Nation*, using 'biography' in the title towards conveying a sense of a city or a country's character. Virginia Woolfe's observation that, 'the aim of biography is to weld [truth and personality] into one seamless whole' suggested to her the potential for using these two elements to record the Movement's activity and evoke participation in it. Sue read leading biographers (Hermione Lee, Hazel Rowley, Don Watson, Michael Holroyd), 'biographies' of small groups (including Bloomsbury) and of large canvasses (Beevor, Tuchman, Manning Clark), women's liberation histories by American and English activists, histories/memoirs of aspects of the women's movement in Australia (Henderson, Kaplan, Sawyer, Kinder, Curthoys, Summers).



In the course of researching the importance of university students in the US, UK and Australian women's movements, she noticed how little attention was paid to what university women studied or the fiction they were reading. In 1970 the Glebe Group of Sydney Women's Liberation listed books of interest in Sydney bookshops: 1950s-1960s

publications – like Thompson and Hobsbawm, Marcuse, Raymond Williams, Goffman, Norman Brown, Laing and Cooper, Fanon, Szasz, Wright Mills, Roszak – were on reading lists for radicals but not yet on university reading lists. That 1970 booklist also included fiction by women. What Sue's interviewees were reading before becoming involved in Women's Liberation points to the importance of Doris Lessing's Martha Quest series and *The Golden Notebook*, Edna O'Brien, Margaret Drabble's early novels and Mary McCarthy's *The Group*. Perhaps, she surmised, Julian Barnes was right to suggest that fiction is more likely to raise questions foreshadowing change than learned tomes.

She noticed too how pen portraits enliven writing about Women's Liberation. Alice Echols' history, *Daring to Be Bad – Radical Feminism in America 1967-1975*, lacks the energy, the verve of Susan Brownmiller's *In Our Time – Memoir of a Revolution* which vividly portrays the individuals involved. She knows describing people still alive is hard, but thinks it is important to 'put people in' and considers this approach practical, given Hermione Lee's advice – 'just pretend that

*Continued on page 7*

# BOOK REVIEW

Marie Williams *Green Vanilla Tea*

Sydney, Finch Publishing, 2013; 256 pp

ISBN: 9781921462993

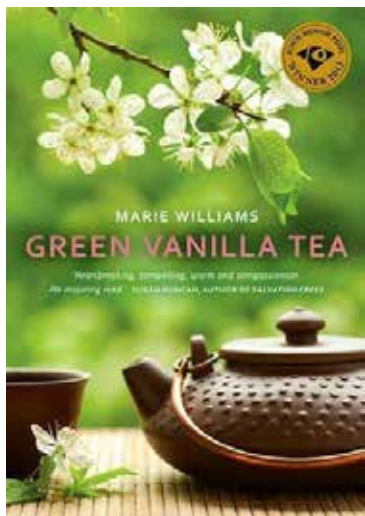
Dementia is an old person's condition isn't it? Well, that's what I thought until I read this memoir. It may be rare but dementia can attack younger people.

Marie Williams, the author, is a social worker and family therapist who worked in community health in Brisbane. She is the mother of Michael and Nic and the widow of Dominic. The book is about the family's journey before, during and after Dominic was diagnosed with fronto-temporal lobar dementia and motor neurone disease. It is beautifully written and exposes all the heartbreak that the family experienced over the four and half years from her first realising something was different to Dominic's death in an aged care facility.

Marie and Dom grew up in South Africa where they married. They moved to Canada, then to Brisbane. Dom was a university lecturer in town planning and regularly undertook projects in developing countries like Sri Lanka and Vietnam. Dom's behaviour started changing when he was 40. From being a loving and engaged father and husband he became withdrawn and expressionless. He also developed an obsessive need to walk day and night. These behaviours became progressively worse over a two year period. Marie also discovered that the husband, who had always managed their finances, was giving generously to what she thought looked like every charity in Australia. On one trip to Vietnam he rang and told her he had given hundreds of dollars to a taxi driver, then couldn't remember the pin on his cards which were captured by the ATM. Marie had to organise funds through a local branch of their Australian bank so he could get home.

As you can imagine, no-one could work out what was going on. Dom had refused to visit a doctor until Marie tricked him into going. Dementia was the last illness on people's minds, but in the end a series of tests discovered both dementia and motor neurone disease. Marie had to organise with the university for Dom to be medically retired, and had to take over sole management of the family. This was the more difficult because when he was lucid, Dom insisted for a long time that he wanted to drive; that he had to go to work; that he had to organise his next trip.

Throughout his decline, Marie was fortunate to have the support of a network of friends and colleagues to help her while Dom was still at home. But above all, the support she got from her sons who went from early to late teens



watching their father completely change was extraordinary and showed an incredible mental and emotional maturity. It must have been so difficult for them to explain to friends that their father, younger than some of their friends' fathers, had dementia. Of course, community services were also not set up to deal with a younger person having dementia and a family with two children in their teens.

Dom always loved the ritual of drinking tea and the book title refers to the fact that he loved to make green vanilla tea for anyone who visited although, as he declined, he often forgot to boil the kettle first. Marie says green vanilla tea is quite good cold.

Finally, the decline brought on by both dementia and motor neurone disease meant that Dom had to be admitted to an aged care facility about two years after he was diagnosed. Marie visited him every day and Nic and Michael visited regularly. Marie's friends made a quilt using all sorts of mementoes of the family's life. Marie, who is also an artist, did fabric painting and printing of special photos. The boys helped choose items for the quilt and it was hung in Dom's room at the nursing home so he would have a connection with the family. Dom's health deteriorated rapidly in the few months until his death. Many of Marie's relatives asked her to write about what had happened but she declined until Michael and Nic also asked her. They were involved in the evolution of the book.

This is an intensely poignant and searingly honest account of the Williams' journey. It is truly inspiring and deserved to win the 2013 Finch Memorial Prize by Finch Publishing for the best unpublished life story or memoir.

*Diane Hague*

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Dr Joanna Penglase *continued from page 4*

a strong belief that such children would turn delinquent, hence the notorious 'training' schools. There was no recognition of the *emotional pain* of children separated from their families. Children ran away and no-one questioned why. It was comparable to being in prison – people spoke of being an 'inmate' and 'prison routine'. Although some Homes were better than others (for example, Barnardos had learned from a postwar inquiry in Britain that rejected institutional care for children), overall it was a completely uncaring system.

Not until the late 1970s did change start to occur – but it was several decades before the terrible history came to light. In November 2009 the Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, urged on by Jenny Macklin, apologised to the Forgotten Australians in the Great Hall in Canberra. Opposition leader Malcolm Turnbull said the words that Forgotten Australians had been waiting to hear: 'We believe you'.

Joanna eventually wrote a book about this bleak story, *Orphans of the Living – growing up in care in 20<sup>th</sup> century Australia* (2009). She ended her work with CLAN in 2010 but keeps in touch with the issues and with Leonie Sheedy, who remains a vital force advocating for and supporting this marginalised group of Australians.

*Transcription by Helen Ruby*

*Report by Kris Clarke*

Dr Sue Wills *continued from page 5*

they're dead'. At the same time she is keenly aware that portraits alone cannot bring a movement to life. Historian Ann Curthoys' technique of incorporating reminiscences into writing about women in the Peace and anti-Vietnam War movements, and her exploration with Ann McGrath into writing 'history people want to read', has generated 'useful suggestions' but 'regrettably [no] answer I can simply apply'.

Overall, Sue now believes quite often it is *fiction* that best draws the reader into a time from the present. With no intention of fictionalising her work, she is analysing techniques novelists use to evoke a whole other world, physical as well as emotional and intellectual.

We, the audience, had been treated to a fascinating perspective on changing approaches to the writing of history. We wish Sue well. Thanking her, Chair Jozefa Sobski, friend and former fellow activist, remarked 'we were full of ideas for change and blessed with many ideals'. Jozefa spoke for us all: 'Sue has come a very long way to giving us the substance of what might be a very important and scholarly history of the Movement, which also captures its life and personality, why it flourished and why we were so inspired'.

*Transcription by Helen Ruby      Report by Margot Simington*

### Attention anti-war activists

Producer Larry Zetlin is seeking participants for a video archive of interviews with Vietnam draft resisters and women who supported the anti-conscription movement, such as the group, Save our Sons. This is the basis for a television documentary 'Hell No! We Won't Go', and will be preserved in the Australian War Memorial. The AWM is keen to acquire the interview archive as part of its peace/anti-war collection. Information can be found at [www.gullivermedia.com.au](http://www.gullivermedia.com.au). If you are able to assist, either by taking part in an interview or with financial support for the project, please contact Larry at [larryz@gullivermedia.com.au](mailto:larryz@gullivermedia.com.au) or phone (07) 3148 8574.

#### Capital Investment Fund

Since it was launched in September 2009, the Capital Investment Fund has reached \$178,424. 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 November 2013:

Julie James Bailey                      Bridget McKern

#### General donations since November 2013

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

Vivian Achia                      Margaret Bettison  
Delia Bradshaw                Patricia Clarke  
Liz Fitzgerald                  Patti Kendall  
Robyn Kemmis                 Helen O'Sullivan  
Susan Stegall                    Maria Zarra

##### Donations of material expand our collection:

I Bersten                         Barbara Fisher  
Clare Wright                  Little Red Apple  
Spinifex Press                 Text Publishing

## 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

- 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 ...../.....

Signature:.....

### Auto Debit Authorisation

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

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

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**SURFACE  
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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

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

**Postal Address:**

GPO Box 2656  
Sydney, NSW 2001

**Telephone:**

(02) 9571 5359

**Email:**

[info@nationalwomenslibrary.org.au](mailto:info@nationalwomenslibrary.org.au)

**Visit our website:**

[www.nationalwomenslibrary.org.au](http://www.nationalwomenslibrary.org.au)



**WELCOME TO ALL OUR NEW MEMBERS  
Many joined at the Annual Luncheon 2013.**

Jan Barham	Lolita Barratt	Janet Forbes Bean	Janette Booy
Megan Brock	Diane Austin–Broos	Meredith Burgmann	Penelope Carosi
Anne Clarke	Mary Des Neves	Diane Deane	Denise Fairservice
Mary Farrell	Heide Finger	Catharine Gow	Cheryl Grant
Susan Ha	Jennifer Heidtman	Mary Henderson	Kathleen Johnson
Robyn Kemmis	Bronwyn Marks	Hanne Marks	Susan Merhi
Maxine Sharkey	Margaret Sheppard	Nizza Siano	Barbara Thompson
Elizabeth Watson	Fran Weston	Pamela Williamson	