

# NEWSLETTER

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



## DOROTHY HODDINOTT, EDUCATOR

A highly esteemed educator and human rights advocate will be guest speaker at the Library's Annual Luncheon. At Parliament House Sydney on 15 September, Dorothy Hoddinott AO will speak on the topic, 'The Fourth 'R': Human Rights and Education'.

Dorothy has been Principal of Holroyd High School in outer western Sydney since 1995. Over 60% of students at Holroyd High are refugees or asylum seekers. And for almost two decades Dorothy and her team at the school have been channeling the aspirations and hard work of refugee students. The school, classified as disadvantaged, achieves well above expectations, an average 40% of students going on to tertiary studies compared with a national average of 30%. But, says Dorothy, 'It's not just a culture of expectations. We build the idea that you are a member of society and you put back into society'.

This is the philosophy she has espoused all her life. A passionate commitment to social justice was apparent during her schooldays. She was deeply shocked to learn about the Holocaust, and later about the Sharpeville massacre in South Africa. She was also profoundly affected in her early adult life by time spent in London and Milan. Having finished an Arts degree and Diploma of Education at the University of Sydney in 1964, in 1967 she taught disadvantaged students at a London secondary modern girls' school. She then taught at Milan's International School from 1968 to 1974. She joined demonstrations in London against the Soviet Union invasion of Czechoslovakia. Italy, where she learned another language, was subject to civil unrest – demonstrations and violence including terrorist attacks; and there was revolution across Europe in 1968. She recalls the 'heady radical culture and sense of imminent dramatic social change that enthused us all'.

She is now a strong advocate of human rights for young people. In 2002 she established a Holroyd High trust fund, Friends of Zainab, supporting a young asylum seeker to complete her schooling; and then when Zainab won a place at Macquarie University but could not afford the high

international student fees, through contacts at Macquarie including Vice-Chancellor Di Yerbury, Dorothy facilitated award by Macquarie of a scholarship covering Zainab's fees. Friends of Zainab, together with a donor trust for refugee girls that Dorothy established through the National Foundation for Australian Women in 2003, provided the further financial support Zainab needed. Since then, this second trust has provided financial support for some 100 young NSW refugees in years 11 and 12 and the first two years of university. 'Sadly', says Dorothy, 'I have had to fight the same battles recently for asylum seeker students

in community detention, the subject of a formal complaint I made to the Human Rights Commission at the end of 2013'.

Through professional teachers' associations, for over 20 years Dorothy has actively promoted teacher professional development, and has worked in diverse other areas of public education – policy advice, examinations and assessment, and syllabus development. She has played a leadership role in developing English curricula at state and national levels.

Recognising her particular contribution to teaching English as a second language and service to the education of disadvantaged students, particularly refugees and asylum seekers, the University of Sydney conferred on her an Honorary Fellowship in 2006.

Then she was made an Officer of the Order of Australia in 2008. In 2012, she was awarded the Medal of the Australian College of Educators, the first educator at school level to receive the honour. This year, the University of Western Sydney made her a Doctor of Letters (honoris causa) for service to public education in western Sydney and advocacy and support for refugee communities. A Fellow of Senate of Sydney University since 2010, she enjoys the 'nice synergy in giving back to the university which gave me so much as a student.'

The Library's twentieth Annual Luncheon on Monday 15 September is a date for your diary – an opportunity to hear Dorothy, this remarkable 71 year old, talk about her inspirational ideas and ongoing work.

Margot Simington



**Annual Luncheon Monday 15 September 2014**

**Go to the website [www.nationalwomenslibrary.org.au](http://www.nationalwomenslibrary.org.au) to download the booking form**

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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

Elizabeth Evatt AC; Sir Laurence Street AC KCMG;  
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### Editorial Team

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Katharine Stevenson, Graphic Designer

## Annual General Meeting 2014

At the AGM on 12 April, we saw the departure of two Board members, Marie Muir and Katharine Stevenson, and the election of a new Board with Suzanne Marks as a new member. Suzanne joined the Annual Luncheon committee in 2013, a welcome addition to a team that has served the Library for a number of years.

Katharine's departure will be missed. She has made a considerable contribution to our *Newsletter*, website and social media strategy. Other commitments now circumscribe her work with the Library, but she intends to stay involved when other obligations allow. Her efforts have been valuable, appreciated by all working with her.

Marie Muir departs for Perth leaving a long legacy of achievements and contributions to the Library spanning nearly 20 years. She reminded us in her modest way that she served on the original committee formed to establish the



Library, as a representative of the Union of Australian Women. Marie has been with the Library through turbulent, uncertain times as well as times of progress and change. She brought warmth and deep generosity of spirit to her many contributions, always respectful of everyone's efforts, large or small. We will all miss her as an enduring and selfless contributor to our Library, now a feminist institution. A fuller tribute to Marie Muir can be found on the website.

*Jozefa Sobski*

## Social media and the Library

In 2012, the Board decided the Library needed to move confidently into the digital age and use social media. The Library commissioned Tinderspark to design a new website, whose launch was reported in the May 2013 *Newsletter*. The website covers all aspects of Library governance, collection and events. Members and the public can easily access what is going on at the Library.

Earlier this year, we launched a Facebook page and a YouTube site. Facebook reaches out to a new, potentially younger, audience than the current membership and engages them with the Library's objectives as well as activities and events. The broad community of feminists and women's organisations across Australia has a natural affinity with the Library and the way to reach them is through Facebook.

The Library's Facebook page enables the promotion of a number of issues. It showcases Australian women authors and poets in the collection, and highlights significant events in Australian women's history, illustrated by Library posters and serials. It celebrates our work using photographs or images of books in the Library. It promotes Lunch Hour Talks, the Annual Luncheon and special events. There is

opportunity for the Library to reflect on topical issues in the context of our objectives and the collection, for example *Recognise*, the campaign for a constitutional amendment to acknowledge Australia's Indigenous peoples as the first Australians – a cause dear to Jessie's heart.

Twelve million Australians use Facebook at least once a month. Social media has changed the way people share information. By April, our Facebook page had 215 friends. The most looked-at post was the Happy Birthday to Maybanke Anderson which garnered 330 viewings.

The YouTube site has enabled the Library to upload its promotional video, 'Welcome to the Jessie Street National Women's Library' which has had 83 viewings at the time of writing. The YouTube site will be further developed this year and links added to other feminist YouTube sites.

So to all our members and supporters who use Facebook, we do hope you befriend us. Make sure you let all your other friends know. And check out our YouTube site and share that as well.

*Diane Hague*

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/nationalwomenslibrary](http://www.facebook.com/nationalwomenslibrary)

YouTube: [www.youtube.com/user/jsnwl](http://www.youtube.com/user/jsnwl)

# PRESERVING WOMEN'S PAPERS

The Archives are an important section of the Library, built up over the past 25 years. Three most interesting collections received over the past year came from extraordinary women involved in education who have contributed a great deal to the role played by women in today's society.

Joan Bielski AO, 1923-2012, was a founding member of the Council for Civil Liberties and Women's Electoral Lobby (WEL) and continued to be active in WEL throughout her life. Her family has donated four boxes containing personal papers, photographs, tapes, speeches, reports, WEL papers, Women into Politics papers, published articles and other material. Through these papers researchers will be able to gain insight into the life of an amazing woman and the issues she took up.

Dr Marie de Lepervanche, also a long-time supporter of the Library, worked at the University of Sydney in the Department of Anthropology for 30 years, retiring in 1993 as an Associate Professor. We received six boxes of papers which she had sorted and meticulously arranged. The papers mostly reflect Dr de Lepervanche's activities in the Women's Studies Program and the Association of Women Employees of the University of Sydney, and her involvement with Delvena Women's Refuge (1993-2003).

The Women's Information Group (WAIG), established in 1983 in Lane Cove is a community-based organisation reliant upon volunteers and still active. Our archives team advised the group on culling their records and the preparation of their material, and after much diligent work we were presented with five boxes of papers covering the group's activities since 1983.

A quite different and exciting addition to our collection was Aileen Beaver's generous donation of two pages of handwritten script by Dame Mary Gilmore dated 7 March 1961, sending greetings to the International Women's Day Committee.

An important forthcoming acquisition is the papers of Enid Cook (1923-2013), long-time Surry Hills resident and activist. The papers have been in the custody of the City of Sydney Archives. However, after consultation with the family, it was decided they would be more appropriate in our collection. Enid was an amazing woman, who worked tirelessly to improve the lives of women and children.

*'What do you do in the Archives?'*

This is a frequent question. We know the critical importance of preserving women's manuscripts so once we receive a new accession, we take a series of steps to achieve physical and intellectual control of the collection. It can be a real puzzle to establish provenance and the original order, and sometimes we must establish order where none was evident.

Archives are unique and often fragile, sometimes requiring preliminary conservation work before any work can begin, such as removing pins, staples, clips and other fasteners. The records may need to be physically reorganised, re-boxed and labelled so that women's voices, whether public figures or less well-known, can be written into history.

The second step is a comprehensive process of describing and recording standard information that will enable researchers to determine the relevance of these records. Various levels of documentation are needed, including background, context, identification of the record series, item listings and access conditions.

Sometimes a donor may place access restrictions upon sensitive or confidential records and descriptive data will not be entered into the system. Once this work has been completed, the descriptive data will be available online and researchers may



*Enid Cook*

contact the Archives. *Image courtesy City of Sydney History Program*

Archives staff have been working to adapt the KOHA system, which is primarily a Library Information System, for our collections. Specifications, modelled on established archival standards, have been developed to create appropriate archival descriptive fields in KOHA which will lead researchers to the information they need. A number of our collections have now been entered and work continues to improve the system and make our collections more accessible.

*Beverley Sodbinow and Christine Smith, Archivists*

## LUNCH HOUR TALKS – third Thursday of the month

### 19 June: Ros Moriarty Listening to Country

Ros Moriarty's memoir is a book about parallel journeys: a camping trip into the Tanami Desert; a journey across time by Yanyuwa people; a journey taking Ros and husband John's children into the tribe from which baby John was stolen; and the journey of two Australias: Black and White.

### 17 July: Dr Eileen Baldry Women, girls and pathways to prison

Eileen Baldry, Professor of Criminology and Dean at UNSW, discusses life pathways of women and girls ending up in prison. Using current case studies, she draws out the institutional, social and personal factors influencing trajectories into and out of the criminal justice system.

### 21 August: Dianne Ottley Grace Crowley: discovering an overlooked Australian artist

Dianne, volunteer guide at the Art Gallery of NSW, used Crowley's papers to research her Master of Philosophy thesis on this little-known artist. This led to her book, *Grace Crowley's Contribution to Australian Modernism and Geometric Abstraction* published in 2010.

**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



## ALICE WHEELDON'S STORY

Sisters Chloe and Deirdre Mason, related a poignant story about persecution of their forebears in World War I. The stigma dogged the family even into their own lives. Chloe and Deirdre's parents told them only in 1986 when their father was dying. Chloe visited Derby in the UK to find that great-grandmother Alice Wheeldon was still known as a poisoner – a sinister, evil mother of evil children.

In 1916 Britain's wartime government was under pressure: domestic unrest, food shortages, women's rent strikes, labour strikes, 'Home Rule for Ireland' agitation, pacifists convicted of sedition, war casualties escalating and reinforcements demanded. A ten-fold budget increase for security surveillance stoked a climate of fear fed by censorship and the press. Conscriptio legislation in 1916 recognised the legal right to claim exemption on conscience grounds, but despite NCF (No Conscriptio Fellowship) campaigning, military tribunals rarely exempted 'COs' – conscientious objectors – or only briefly, forcing them to reapply or face prison. Emmeline Pankhurst and some other suffragettes were recruiting women for the war effort and pursuing pacifists and COs with white feathers.

In December 1916, Alice Wheeldon's daughters Nellie and Hettie, an NCF branch secretary, lived in Derby in a CO 'safe house'. Alice's third daughter Winnie lived in Southampton with husband Alf Mason, a dispensing chemist (thereby exempt from call-up) helping support the fourth sibling: Will, imprisoned after an unsuccessful CO claim, then on the run after his release.

At Christmas, 'Alex Gordon', a Ministry of Munitions security agent posing as a CO, knocked at Alice's house, seeking a bed. He offered to arrange safe passage to the US for COs Will, Alf and another friend in exchange for poison for guard dogs at a London internment camp. 'Alex Gordon' produced Herbert Booth, another agent posing as a CO on the run. Alice got the poison from Alf and passed it to 'Alex Gordon' in Booth's presence. The agents then reported a plot to poison the Prime Minister Lloyd George and others.

A well-publicised show trial followed in 1917. Emmeline Pankhurst addressed the Court condemning the Wheeldon and Mason women. Summing up to the jurymen, the Judge described Alice as 'steeped to the lips in crime', Booth as the 'witness for truth'. Alice, Winnie and Alf went to gaol. Protest by Hettie Wheeldon, Bertrand Russell, unions, Women's Co-operative Guilds, and questions in the House of Commons were fruitless. The government and media barons used the 'Derby poison plot' to discredit anti-war feeling, and promote hatred of the enemy. Alice's burial with sister Elizabeth in an unmarked grave in 1919 was reported internationally, including in Australia.

The Mason sisters remember their Grandma Winnie who played with them, painting and rambling hedgerows picking flowers to press. Grandfather Alf was clever and exotic. Their father Peter Mason had a strong political sense and loathed social injustice. He and their mother shared these values with their daughters and son but not those key events shaping their lives. As teenagers, Deirdre and Chloe believed their grandma's prison term stemmed from women's suffrage, and had no idea of their grandfather's imprisonment, or of the impact on their father. 'We only began to tackle it after our mother died, in some ways too late to answer the many questions'.

After World War I, autobiographies by court officers, secret agents, journalists, social historians and former COs hinted all was not right. But refutation awaited later research. Official documents were embargoed for 75 years or more. In the late 1970s, doctoral student Nicholas Hiley showed how the purview of 'Gordon' and Booth's unit charged with collecting 'intelligence on labour unrest' included socialists, women's suffrage and anti-war activists. How familiar!

In 1980 feminist historian Sheila Rowbotham dramatised Alice Wheeldon's story in a play performed in northern England. In 2012 the Derby People's History Group campaigning to clear Alice's name held a public meeting. The Mason sisters spoke and Dr Hiley imparted further research findings: 'Alex Gordon', a habitual criminal (formerly in Broadmoor Hospital for the criminally insane), whom the prosecution did not call at the trial and whose identity it concealed from the defence, had been despatched to South Africa.

By 2013 Alice had become a Derbyshire 'great'. On her house a blue plaque now reads: 'Alice Wheeldon 1866-1919, anti-war activist, socialist, suffragist'. Recently BBC War Centenary filming – notably Jeremy Paxman's *Britain's Great War* (2014) – has also helped reframe Alice's story. The Masons are now seeking to have the wrongful convictions quashed.

Whether or not the complex legal process succeeds, Chloe warned that even today truth and conscience are vulnerable: secret services are 'everywhere', as shown recently by the SBS TV program on ASIO and their conduct can jeopardise the rule of law. Lack of disclosure, as in Australia for asylum seekers, can lead to miscarriage of justice.

Deirdre and Chloe's story resonates powerfully in today's Australia'. Thanking them, Chair Jozefa, herself a daughter of parents displaced after World War II, empathised with the sadness of vacuums in family life. She hailed the 'wonderful convergence for us here'. 'In a climate with so much derision and hatred whipped up – over asylum seekers for instance – it takes courage to stand against a tide of so many resources, media barons, security

*Continued on page 6*



## CROWN STREET WOMEN'S HOSPITAL AND ADOPTION

Judith began with an outline of Crown Street Women's Hospital, from its beginning in 1893. Commonly referred to as the 'baby factory' and renowned for maternity care, it became the largest women's hospital in NSW. Priding itself on never turning away a patient and dealing with emergencies, it was also a referral hospital for women from all over the State and beyond. From 1952 to 1972 there were over 5,000 births a year. Its chronic overcrowding was greatest in the early 1970s, during the 'echo' baby boom. Women had beds in corridors and nurseries were dangerously overcrowded.

After a dramatic drop in maternal mortality, in the 1960s hospitals like Crown Street focused on combatting neonatal mortality. The importance of patient experience was not yet appreciated.

Crown Street had a commitment to disadvantaged women. In the protests against its closure, Aboriginal leader Mum Shirl claimed that 90% of Aboriginal women chose to give birth there. It also had the largest intake of public patients. From the 1890s Crown Street took in 'waiting' patients; these were women who needed to be near medical facilities and had nowhere else to stay, including pregnant single women who had been thrown out of their homes. Crown Street also admitted many women who had chosen an alternative to adoption and ended up with life-threatening infections after an illegal abortion.

Only a small number of women have testified about their experiences of adoption at Crown Street. Judith acknowledged the pain and grief of the women reliving their experiences. Some said they surrendered their babies because there was no way they could look after them; others considered their babies were stolen from them. The crucial factor appears to be whether or not the women had support from the family or the baby's father. Staff remember a broad range of women. Many midwives especially recall the young pregnant girls, often incest victims. Trish Farrer writes of a midwife saying that she 'will never forget' a twelve year old admitted to the maternity ward, clutching her teddy bear.

By the early 1950s, the practice at Crown Street was to prevent mothers seeing their baby: putting a pillow on the mother's chest when she was giving birth and whisking the baby away to the adoption nursery, often giving no information other than that the baby was dead or alive. The 'clean break' idea was that if mothers did not see their babies they would 'forget' about them and start life afresh. Many mothers considered they had no choice once their file was labelled BFA (baby for adoption), or UMFA (unmarried mother/for adoption).

Judith speculated why this horrific practice occurred. The change probably came after the retirement in 1952 of the legendary Matron Edna Shaw who believed that mothers owed it to their babies, including babies for adoption, to breastfeed them. Another probable influence was John Bowlby's 'attachment theory' (popularised in his *Child Care and the Growth of Love*, 1953): the result was a common belief that: 'if you haven't held it [the baby], you haven't lost it.' There is contradictory evidence as

to exactly when the practice ended, but it appears to be in the late 1960s, after the head social worker returned from a Churchill Scholarship studying the needs of single mothers.

Just how many adoptions? Statistics were not kept very well and there are many silences in the evidence. These silences were about mothers who successfully kept their babies, and about babies who were not adopted for social or medical reasons. The latter's fate was likely to be dire. At Crown Street from 1956



to 1958 births by single mothers almost doubled, helping to create a moral panic about the permissive society. Crown Street's statistics show an increasing number of single mothers in the 1960s; by 1968 they made up almost one third of all maternity patients.

The likely reason for contradictory statistics was two different definitions of single mothers. It is probable the Annual Reports included all mothers who were unsupported by a husband/father, including deserted wives, widows, married women giving up their children, de facto couples. At its peak just over half of these mothers' babies were referred for adoption. Judith's final two columns of statistics, taken from the Social Work Department, appear to define single mothers as those who had never married; a maximum of nearly two thirds of these mothers' babies were adopted. Adoptions dropped dramatically in 1973-4. The most important factor was the Whitlam government's Supporting Mother's Benefit. From 1973, for the first time, single mothers had some effective (though still inadequate) financial support from the State.

One theme in the evidence of women whose babies were adopted is that they were sedated during childbirth and post-natally. A number have testified that this was done to ensure the adoption papers were signed. While Judith raised the question of informed consent, she presented evidence that what we now see as heavy sedation was then routine, especially when a female patient was upset.

Judith spoke of the harsh attitude of the community towards single mothers in the 1960s, the hardest thing to get across to the current generation. She also cautioned against the still-current danger of creating a 'market' in healthy babies whose mothers have comparatively little power. Judith suggested that an answer to the question 'Who forced the adoptions?' is the community, rather than the social workers or other practitioners. A comment from the audience reflects this attitude. 'When a baby cried in the nursery, a nurse said, "Oh, it's the baby that's up for adoption who is crying, because they know they're not wanted!"'

Transcription by Helen Ruby

Report by Kris Clarke

# BOOKS: NEW IN THE LIBRARY

Spinifex Press has generously donated six of their recent publications to the Library. Five are not for the faint-hearted, being concerned with the dark side of women's experience. The sixth is a charming novella in irregular verse form by Susan Hawthorne called *Limen* (2013). It describes a camping trip taken by two women and their dog to a favourite place beside a river. Overnight the river rises and they are trapped. The women experience discomfort from being soaked, then fear as they try to escape; the dog thinks mainly of playing games in the water and of food. The book is quite beguiling, and charmingly illustrated by artist Jeanne Browne.

Three of the Spinifex titles are about aspects of prostitution. Janice G Raymond has campaigned internationally to have prostitution recognised as violence against women. Much of the evidence for this book came out of her work as the co-director of the Coalition in Trafficking in Women. *Not a Choice, Not a Job: Exposing the myths about prostitution and the global sex trade* (2013) was first published by the University of Nebraska Press and is re-issued here by Spinifex. It includes a substantial critique of legalised prostitution in the Netherlands and a discussion of the economics of prostitution, especially for women who have no choice but to sell their bodies.

Rachel Moran has written a powerful memoir of prostitution beginning with her dysfunctional childhood in Dublin. Aged 14, she was taken into care, then became homeless and at 15 was in prostitution. *Paid For: My journey through prostitution* (2013) describes this life, her experiences as a prostitute, and her escape to be able to write this book. Published originally in Ireland, this book also has been made available in Australia by Spinifex.

*Being and being bought* by Swedish author Kajsa Ekman Ekman shows how prostitution morphed into surrogacy into the 1970s and sexuality became a commodity. Her final chapter, 'Inside the surrogate industry' is chilling. 'In surrogacy', she writes, 'pregnancy and childbirth are made into work and submitted to the rules of the marketplace . . . motherhood is no longer sacred – it is a commodity just like everything else.' This book was first published in 2010 and translated into English with assistance from the Swedish Arts Council.

The names of Melinda Tankard Reist and Abigail Bray may be already familiar as local writers and columnists. They have collaborated to edit *Big Porn Inc: Exposing the harms of the global pornography industry* (2011) to which authors from various countries have contributed chapters. Several of the Australian contributions consider subjects such as the sexualisation of children, sexting, and justice

for victims of pornography.

In *Misogyny Re-loaded* (2013), Abigail Bray argues that misogyny is a contemporary expression of fascism. Her focus is on the growing levels of violence towards women with rape, torture, murder, and dismemberment now constantly visible on social media and the internet. The impact of such degradation is incalculable.

Finally, Deirdre and Chloe Mason have donated a copy of Sheila Rowbotham's *Friends of Alice Wheeldon* (1987). It contains both an account of Alice Wheeldon's gaoling for alleged treason in Britain during WWI and the text of a play about the trial written by Rowbotham and performed in 1980. Rowbotham then had limited historical material at her disposal and this is a skilful patchwork of research organised around Wheeldon, her daughter Winnie and son-in-law Alf Mason, and their socialist milieu in Derby. Something that strikes the modern reader is the extent of fearless and original revolutionary thinking, writing and organising in these circles such as would never be tolerated by a modern government. These

people were so far beneath the notice of the authorities that it was only wartime conscription of labour that brought their activities under surveillance. Although they had very little education, they were seriously self-educated, guided by their instincts as to what was right or wrong, fair or unfair. As those who heard the Mason sisters' Lunch

Hour Talk (reported on page 4 in this issue) will know, a great deal more research since the 1980s has unearthed a fuller account of their great-grandmother Alice Wheeldon and their Mason grandparents.

Beverley Kingston

Deirdre and Chloe Mason continued from page 4

agencies, multi-national corporations and dishonest politicians. Truth and conscience are not just casualties of war but also of these times.' Jozefa felt pacifist Jessie Street, ostracised by her class, would have been pleased to be present.

Transcription by Helen Ruby

Report by Margot Simington

## A warm welcome to our new members

Helen Antico	Mehreen Saeed Farugi
Elizabeth Howard	Anne-Marie Kestle
Barbara McGarity	Penelope Nelson
Carol Anne Shipway	Jacinda Lee Woodhead



## Governor-General's farewell morning tea

At the invitation of the Governor-General, Quentin Bryce AO, Katharine Stevenson and I attended morning tea at Admiralty House in February, representing the Library.



The Governor-General spoke with feeling of her experiences during her five year tenure – of the breadth and depth of her interactions with Australians from all walks of life. She described the courage, kindness, open-heartedness and generosity she constantly encountered, especially when people were suffering, such as during the Queensland floods and cyclones and the Victorian bushfires. She said that all those attending had been invited because we represented issues and values 'close to my heart'. Quentin Bryce was Chair of the Library from 1995 to 1998.

Katharine was busy photographing while I moved around talking to people and exchanging experiences. I was impressed with their attitudes and I thought of our dedicated members who devote their talents, skills, intellect and time ensuring that the Library thrives for the benefit of current and future generations.

*Suzanne Marks*

## General donations since February 2014

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

Joyce Allan	Marlene Arditto
Megan Barnes	Baiba Berzins
Margaret Duckworth	Jean Gledhill
Ardyce Harris	Nola Harris
Judith Harrington	Clodagh Harrison
Beverley Kingston	Anne Marie Kestler
Cathy Moncur	Valda Rigg
Jozefa Sobski	Rosalind Wallis
Sue Wills	Jacinda Woodhead

Donations of material expand our collection

Beatriz Copello	Robyn Duncan
Deirdre & Chloe Mason	Audrey Wacks
Valwyn Wishart	
Friends of Pymont	Muslim World League
Taylor & Francis	Wakefield Press

### Capital Investment Fund

Since it was launched in September 2009, the Capital Investment Fund has reached \$190,272. 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 Feb 2014

Julie James Bailey; Sue Comrie-Thomson; Beverley Kingston; Lyn Mealey; Elizabeth Nesbitt; Jill Roe

## 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**

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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

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

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