

# The Women's Library

## NEWSLETTER

THE WOMEN'S LIBRARY INC. PO BOX 271 NEWTOWN NSW 2042

Vol. 1 No. 1 FEBRUARY 1992

We believe *The Women's Library* already exists - on women's bookshelves all over Australia. We see it as our task to bring these resources together. But *The Women's Library* will only happen with your help. Periodically *The Women's Library* will produce a newsletter to keep you informed of our progress. This is the first.

*The Women's Library* management committee gets together frequently to work toward finding a venue, creating appropriate library structures and systems, and organising acquisitions. As yet the library receives no funding or financial assistance; the library will happen purely from the efforts of those who want to see it happen. The task is a mammoth one, but one for which there is a lot of enthusiasm and energy. We have contact with other women's libraries (both in Australia and overseas) and are looking toward creating structures that will be both appropriate and accessible for years to come.

We visualise a library and resource centre where visitors can, in comfortable surroundings, find feminist and lesbian novels as well as a comprehensive selection of women's studies texts. We aim to create a membership system that will ensure that our collection does not gradually disappear and a borrowing system that is user-friendly. But right now, we are in the early stages. Read on...

**WANTED: Enthusiastic, imaginative woman to coordinate fundraising activities for The Women's Library.**

### Book Donations

Thanks to women who have donated books to the library. We are building up a good quality collection. It is particularly thrilling to be receiving books from their authors. This is the kind of support on which the library will thrive. If you have any books that you would like to donate you can either:

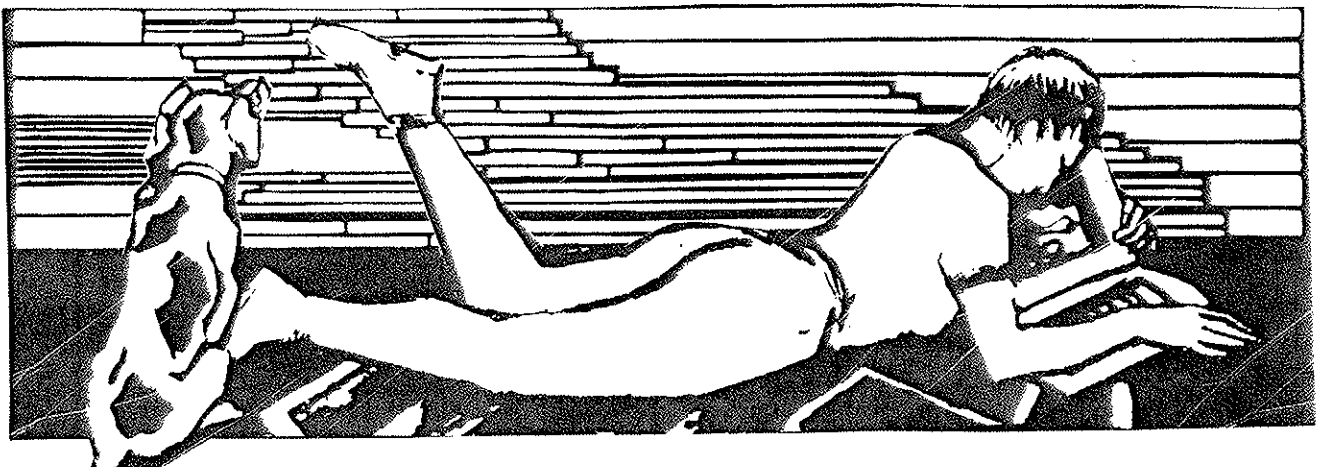
- ♦ drop them into the book box at the Feminist Bookshop, shop 9 Orange Grove Plaza, Balmain Road Lilyfield
- ♦ drop them into the book box at the Newtown Women's Centre 523 King Street Newtown, or
- ♦ contact us at PO Box 271 Newtown 2042 and we will tell you how to get them to us or arrange to pick them up.

We are pleased to receive *any* books you would like to donate. Books we do not keep in the collection will be sold to raise funds for the library.

Please write your name on a slip of paper and put it inside each book you donate as we would like to acknowledge your donation on a sticker which we will place inside each book.

Vicki Harding

**Please distribute the enclosed pamphlets to women who may be interested in The Women's Library.**



# Search for a venue

Members of *The Women's Library* management committee are following up a number of options to find a venue for the library. We are checking out the possibility of obtaining space above Burland Hall on King Street in Newtown which currently houses a branch of the City of Sydney Library. Apparently the library services located at these premises may be moving.

We will also be writing to a number of organisations and individuals requesting that they indicate their support for our application.

Meanwhile we are researching eligibility criteria for State grants or any arrangements that can be made with Councils for waiving or paying a 'peppercorn' rent to make *The Women's Library* a more financially viable proposition.

In addition, we will be approaching a number of organisations that successfully obtained minimal rent or free rental arrangements for their advice. There are a number of alternative venues for the library that we will also be checking out. ❖

Jo Morgan

## Cataloguing

This is a complicated procedure but I am researching a system to best suit the library's needs. Talking with librarians experienced in this field will help determine the type of cataloguing system to be adopted - ie. Dewy, Decimal, Library Congress etc.

A computer will hopefully be donated to the library so the book records will be accurate and readily accessible - anyone knowing of a computer company willing to participate in a sponsorship please don't hesitate to contact *The Women's Library*.

I look forward to cataloguing all the books donated and those yet to be donated (generously) - keep them coming. ❖

Roz Hanratty

## 1991 Bestsellers

Feel like donating a book to *The Women's Library*? Choose one of these:

### Fiction

*Road from Coorain* Jill Conway  
*Possession* A. S. Byatt  
*Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit* Jeanette Winterson  
*Joy Luck Club* Amy Tan  
*Beverly Hills* Katherine Forrest  
*Cop Out* Claire McNab  
*Exploding Frangipani* Anthology  
*Summer People* Marge Piercy  
*Pink Ink* Anthology  
*Journal of a Solitude* May Sarton

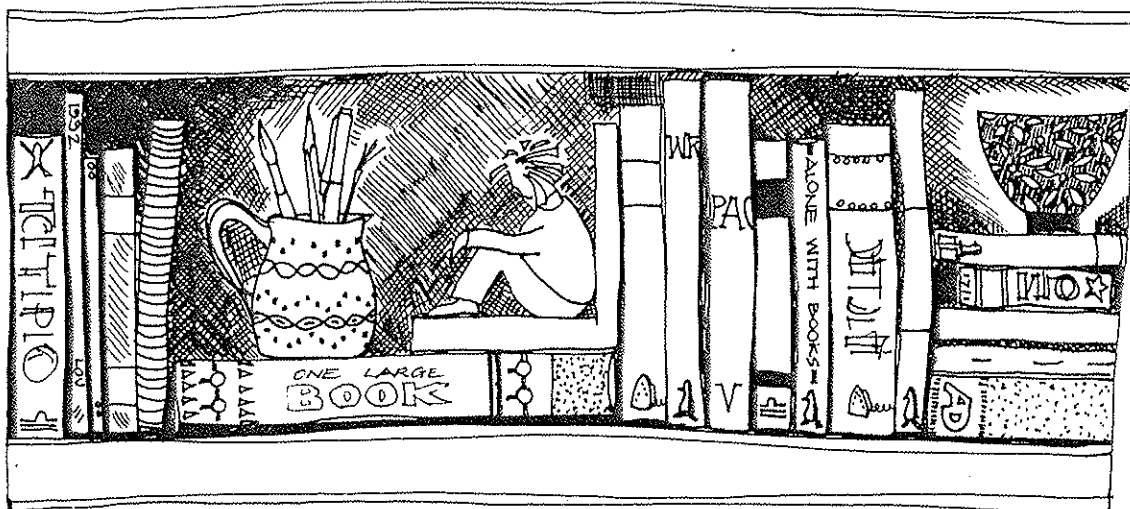
### Non-fiction

*Courage to Heal* Bass & Davis  
*Courage to Heal Workbook* Laura Davis  
*Intimacy and Solitude* Stephanie Dowrick  
*Codependent No More* Melody Beattie  
*Allies in Healing* Laura Davis  
*Facing the Unthinkable* Dymphna House  
*Beauty Myth* Naomi Wolf  
*Lesbian Sex* JoAnn Loulan  
*Lesbian Passion* JoAnn Loulan  
*Each Day a New Beginning* meditations for women

Compiled by The Feminist Bookshop, Shop 9 Orange Grove Plaza, Balmain Road, Lilyfield 2040. Tel (02) 810 2666.

## Organisations

Please display this update on your noticeboard or other appropriate place. Do you have a newsletter? Keep *The Women's Library* informed - add us to your mailing list.



# Incorporation

We have recently become incorporated as an association. Incorporation provides a number of benefits. Firstly, it is the simplest method of obtaining limited liability for the members of the committee. If an action is brought against the association, the courts will allocate responsibility to the association rather than the individual members of the committee. Conversely, if the association wishes to bring an action, it can do so using the association's name.

Secondly, many organisations (especially banks) are wary of entering into contracts with unincorporated associations. They fear the difficulties and costs

involved in, say, recovering debts or in persuading associations to fulfill their contractual obligations. Incorporation acts to ease these sorts of anxieties. It makes the business of entering into contracts (say, hiring a hall for a fundraising dance) a lot easier.

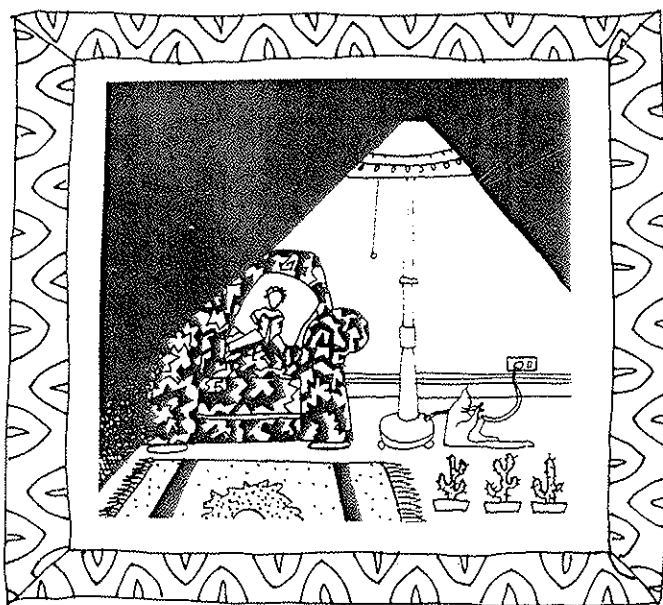
Finally, incorporation is usually a pre-requisite for government funding.

We are also in the process of registering as a charity and applying for tax exemptions. The object of these exercises is to maximise the ways in which we can raise and save money. ❖

Robbie Wilde

## Aims of The Women's Library

- ◆ to house a comprehensive range of feminist and lesbian novels, texts, journals and magazines
- ◆ to house all required reading for tertiary courses in Sydney that focus on women's issues
- ◆ to house all Australian lesbian books and magazines
- ◆ to provide a comfortable space, preferably in the Newtown area, which will be accessible to all women
- ◆ to act as a local women's resource centre



Use this form to add names to our mailing list. Please enclose a stamp or two. Also, please let us know if your details are incorrect. Send it to The Women's Library Inc. PO Box 271 Newtown, NSW 2042.

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Please add this/these name/s to The Women's Library mailing list:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## Workers

As the library opening draws nearer, we will be calling on women to help keep it all running smoothly. Because the library will probably not receive funding, volunteer help is the only way we will survive. We will need women to:

- ◆ work out ingenious ways to raise money
- ◆ catalogue and cover books
- ◆ renovate our space
- ◆ staff the library during opening hours
- ◆ help out with acquisitions
- ◆ publicise the library
- ◆ review books for the newsletter.

Please contact us now if you would like to help out in the future. Let us know what you would like to do and how much time you can devote to it. We will contact you when things need to be done. (Thanks to the women who have already contacted us - we haven't forgotten you.)

In the meantime, write to us if you have any ideas about specific projects you would like to set up in/regarding the library. Maybe you would like to establish a book exchange program, set up a video library or offer another specific skill. We would love to hear from you. ❖

## Books we are receiving & books we need

Books donated to *The Women's Library* so far cover a wide range of topics. For example, we are receiving autobiographies, women's magazines, novels, self-help books and academic texts. A large percentage are from the second wave feminist boom of the 1970s. Consequently, we have many copies of *Sexual Politics* by Kate Millett and *Sudden Death* by Rita Mae Brown. It is invaluable that the library house these titles, but in order to meet our aims, we also need more recent titles.

We want *The Women's Library* to be a place where women can find books as soon as they are released. Recent, popular titles like the ones listed in the Feminist Bookshop's 1991 Bestsellers on p2 will be constantly needed. Other urgently sought items are texts which appear on Women's Studies course reading lists. At this stage we have few ideas on how we will fund such a collection. If you can help, please contact us. ❖

Vicki Harding

## Membership

Start saving your pennies to become a member of *The Women's Library*. Membership will involve an annual fee of \$30 or \$20. Alternatively you can buy a specific new book that the library needs. We will ask all women wanting to buy a book in place of membership fees, to do so from the Feminist Bookshop in Lilyfield. The Feminist Bookshop will have an up-to-date list of what the library needs.

Once you become a member you will be eligible to borrow books from the library (as long as you respect the book security system) and to vote in annual elections for the management committee membership.

You will be able to become a member of the library in the not-too-distant future. ❖

## The Committee

Convenor: Vicki Harding

Secretary: Suzi McCouaghy

Treasurer: Julianne Reilly

Members: Roz Hanratty

Jo Morgan

Robbie Wilde (Public Officer)

