



**THE WOMEN'S LIBRARY INC.** PO BOX 271 NEWTOWN NSW 2042  
 Now Located at 8 - 10 Brown Street, Newtown Ph: (02) 9557 7060 Fax: (02) 9557 5720

# A MOVING EXPERIENCE!!

We've finally done it! At long last, The Women's Library has moved into a brand new home. We are now in a wonderful new space behind the Newtown Library. Our new building is bright and fresh - a lovely cream and olive green, with battered but politically correct bright purple shelves. It has a covered wooden walkway with a courtyard - just the spot for coffee and that good book or chat! We also have disabled ramp access to the Library, and a 'travelator' is planned for access to the Community Space on the first floor. If disabled parking is required, just call us prior to your arrival and we can arrange it for you.

So, 1998 has been a time of tremendous change at The Women's Library, and our recent relocation presents the most obvious physical manifestation of these changes.

It's interesting watching the reaction of old members when they walk into the new library for the first time. The most common response has been a moment's silence before their jaw drops and they gasp "WOW!" If you can imagine that reaction multiplied by about four hundred percent, you'll have a pretty good idea of what it was like at our Opening Night Party on May 16th. It was a brilliant evening where Lynne Spender spoke of the importance of writing in women's culture and identity. South Sydney Council Mayor, Vic Smith, spoke of the Council's ongoing commitment to the library and then thrilled us all by making a pledge to donate a further \$2,000 to assist us with our move towards computerisation and web site access.



Photo by DJ Fairweather

BETH & VERITY ELDRIDGE, DONNA WILCOX AND SOUTH SYDNEY COUNCIL'S MAYOR, VIC SMITH, AT THE TWL & COMMUNITY SPACE OPENING 16 MAY '98

## Inside >>>

CONTENTS	
Thank you .....	2
Beth's Bulletin .....	3
The In Box .....	4
Reviews .....	5,6,7
TWL National Short Story Competition	8,9
Mardi Gras Madness .....	10
TWL Know How .....	14

**OUR VERY SPECIAL THANKS**

TWL sincerely thanks the South Sydney Council for their generosity and support during our relocation.

**SPECIAL SPRING BUMPER ISSUE - 16 Big Pages!**

## The Women's Library

### Aims

★

To house a comprehensive range of novels, texts, journals and magazines, with particular emphasis on Australian lesbian and feminist books and magazines.

★

To house required reading for courses offered at Sydney tertiary institutions that address the status of women, including lesbians

★

To house the works of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women

★

To house a collection relevant to women of non-English speaking backgrounds

★

To provide a comfortable and accessible space for borrowing, reading and relaxing

★

To act as a local women's resource centre

★

To provide a children's corner with a range of great children's books

## THANK YOU

### THANK YOU ! THANK YOU!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the many, many women involved in keeping TWL operational. Without these women, the library wouldn't be able to offer the range of services and support currently available.

So a huge THANK YOU, sisters!!!

#### Stalls:

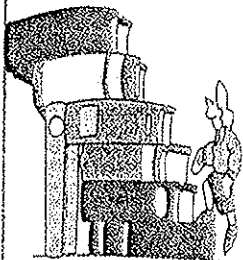
- \* Mardi Gras Fair Day - Fiona, Gail, Rachel, Ros, Tatiana, Terri, Trish & Uma.
- \* "Shop Yourself Stupid" Festival - Anne, Beth, Donna, Gail, Laura, Rachel, Tatiana & Uma.
- \* "Cracking Up" TWL Mardi Gras Event - MC Kimberly O'Sullivan; Writers: Roxxy Bent, Jan Cornell, Heather Grace Jones, Penelope Wills read for Kathleen Mary Fallon; and The Helpers: Anne, Donna, Fiona, Leila, Merrin, Rachel & Uma.
- \* Mardi Gras Dance Party - Beth, Chris, Gail, Ilana, Terri, Trish & Uma.
- \* IWD Rally - Beth, Fiona, Merrin, Rosalie, Simona, Tatiana & Uma.
- \* "Go Girl" Sydney Women's Festival - Beth, Fiona, Ilana, Leila, Patou, Ros, Terri, Trish & Uma.
- \* Women & Health Conference - Tatiana & Terri.
- \* Malabar Women's Network Fair Day - Leila & Michelle.
- \* NOWSA Information Stall - Leila, Vee, Lyn.
- \* TWL Newsletter - Beth, Gail, Ingrid, Uma, Lisa, Leila, Michelle, Tracey & Miriam.

#### Resources:

- \* Computer equipment - Rhonda Balzan and Dr. Susie Linder - Pezz.
- \* Equipment & Furniture - Judith of Dyke Energy Removals.
- \* TWL Fridge thanks to Glennifer.

## Contributions NEEDED

To all budding journos - TWL Newsletter is looking for contributions. Regular areas of contribution include interviews, book reviews, and up and coming events, but we are very open to your ideas. So if you have the time, inclination and enthusiasm, contact Beth or Gail at the Library, or just send in or drop off your submissions.



# Beth's Bulletin

The Library has undergone a series of changes since the beginning of the year, the most obvious of which has been our move to Newtown. This has contributed to a phenomenal increase in membership, which, in turn, has meant an increase in our volunteer numbers. At the risk of turning this into a thank you column, I must say that none of this would have been possible without the tremendous work done by our previous Management Committee, South Sydney Council's Interior Designer, Samantha Carrol and PR Manager, Richard Perram, our current Management Committee and volunteer army who spent countless hours in negotiations, rearrangements and Spray & Wipe to make sure we were open for business on May 5th, and in party mode by May 16th.

This spirit of co-operation was an extension of an earlier event, the Strategic Planning Day, where members were invited to workshop our aims and objectives for 1998. As a result of this meeting, we developed a series of planning and budget strategies that will allow us to extend various community outreach initiatives and continue to improve the quality of service offered to members. Like most grand plans, it will require time, money and lots of work, so I'm very interested to hear from members who have any of these resources to invest.

Another magic event was the Short Story Competition Awards Evening, where, between glasses of champagne and gorgeous food, we celebrated new women's writing. Feedback from those who came was extremely positive and everybody I spoke to said that they would have liked to have heard more readings and were keen to know when The Women's Library was going to publish. Unfortunately, the cost of production and distribution doesn't make this an option, but we are considering working with the writers to produce a web site where their work can be read. So if you entered the Short Story Competition and would like to register your interest or support for this project, please call or write to me at the Library. Naturally, we would need to receive written permission from all writers wishing to have their work included.

And, it doesn't stop there...after our reading event for Mardi Gras 98- "Cracking Up" - where we explored the frontiers of madness and sanity, Roxxy Bent, writer, performer and creative facilitator approached me about establishing a regular feature in the newsletter for new writing and possibly set up a competition with small prizes,

the winner being published in the next issue. So how about giving yourself a 500 word limit and the theme for the next issue will be: 'Obsession'. Send your entry to: Roxxy's Writers, The Women's Library Newsletter, PO Box 271, Newtown, NSW, 2042. Deadline for entries is October 30th, 1998.

We'd love to see more women using the Library as a space for writer's groups, poets, performers, etc. so that we can establish our own literary community and play a really significant role in the production of new writing. Jan Cornall, another of our writers from the "Cracking Up" event will be starting writing classes soon. (See next page)

If you have a suggestion for a group based at The Women's Library, please write a one page proposal so it can be raised for consideration at the next Management Meeting. Bear in mind, that while you are meeting the library will be open, so proposals that may disrupt the normal operation of the Library cannot be considered, eg. Stomp classes or Primal Screaming Therapy!

BETH ELDRIDGE  
COORDINATOR
















## CREDITS TO NEW MEMBERS

The Management Committee decided to include a personal welcome to all new members in this edition of the newsletter.

We always knew the move to Newtown would see an increase in membership. What we didn't expect was an average of one new member each day, so brace yourselves as we welcome in the new! Alex, Alexandra, Alice, Alison, Amaris, Amber, Amy, Angela, Anna, Anne-Marie, Annette, Antonique, Atalya, Avra, Beth, Bronwyn, C. Moore, Carla, Caroline, Cassandra, Cate, Cathie, Cathy, Chari, Christina, Christine, Clare, Claudia, Colleen, Daphina, Daphnea, Debby, Delorie, Diann, Eileen, Eleanor, Elini, Elizabeth, Ellen, Elsa, Esther, Fiona, Francine, Hwee-Nee, Inez, Iris, Jacqueline, Jan, Janey, Janelle, Jean Marie, Jeanette, Jennie, Jennifer, Jo, Joan, Joanna, Josephine, Joy, Judith, Karen, Kate, Kath, Katie, Kay, Kerry, Kimberly, Kiri, Laykun, Leighan, Lindsay, Lindy Clare, Lisa, Lynne May, Malinda, Margaret, Margery, Marian, Marie, Mary, Meg, Merrill, Michael, Michelle, Monica, Nat, Natalie, Nerida, Nicole, Orla, Pam, Pamela, Patricia, Penelope, Penny, Renate, Rhonda, Robyn, Rosalind, Rose Anne, Sarah, Sarina, Stephanie, Susan, Susie, Suzanne, Teresa, Tracy, Uyen, Virginia and Zanette!

# THE INBOX

-  WEL – informed – monthly newsletter of the Women's Electoral Lobby. July 1998.
-  Lesbian and Gay Solidarity newsletter. May-Aug 1998.
-  National Library of Australia News. July 1998.
-  International Peace Update. April 1998.
-  Grapevine. July 1998.
-  Manic Activist Calendar. August 1998.
-  Sydney Women's Liberation Newsletter. August 1998.
-  Lesbiana. August 1998.
-  Community Matters. August 1998.
-  Mountain Lesbian News. August 1998.
-  HQ. No 60. Sept-Oct 1998.
-  Womenspace – newsletter of the Department of Women.
-  Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, NSW Bulletin. August 1998.
-  International Peace Update. June 1998.
-  Women's Calendar – Department for Women. Aug – Sept 1998.
-  Women in Focus. Winter 1998.
-  Gay and Lesbian Original Singers and Songwriters Newsletter. Sept 1998.
-  Inner Voice. Journal of the Inner Sydney Regional Council. Winter 1998.
-  Public Library News. July 1998.
-  Sisters in Crime Newsletter. Winter 1998.
-  Hooter. August 1998.

-  Jessie Street National Women's Library Newsletter.
-  Sydney Women's Liberation Newsletter.
-  News Write. Newsletter of the NSW Writers' Centre. September 1998.
-  Wellspring. Sept/Oct 1998.
-  MS. 1998.
-  Lezbiz Focus. July 1998.
-  ALGA Newsletter.
-  Liverpool Women's Resource Centre. Issue 2.
-  Choice Health Reader. March/April 1998.
-  Mountain Lesbian News. June 1998.
-  National Library of Australia News. June 1998.
-  Glasgow Women's Library. Summer 1998.
-  Gay and Lesbian Parents Coalition International Network.

## WRITING CLASSES START WRITING NOW

Writing classes with Jan Cornall at TWL, Wednesday evenings commencing shortly. \$100 for 4 sessions. Discount for TWL members. Phone TWL now to register your interest. Limited places available.

Jan Cornall has been writing songs, theatre and film for over 20 years. Best known for her musical 'Falling In Love Again' and feature film 'Talk'. Her most recent play 'At the Crossroads' about rural women is touring country Australia.

**THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!  
THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!**

A special thanks to the following:

Publishers who regularly send us books for review – Allen & Unwin; ASP House; Eight Pens Literacy Group; Harper Collins; Melbourne UP; New Sage Press; New Victoria Publishers; Oriol; Penguin Books; SHE Publishers; Spinsters Ink.

Writers for their signed copies - COAL; Emma Donogue; Constance Fazer; Marg McHugh; Gillian Mears; Lillian Ng; Helen Pavlin; Clarissa Stein.

Generous large donations of books/resources/materials from Leichhardt and Liverpool Women's Health Centres; the Women's Coordination Unit; and the many, many supporters for their generous donations.

## TRAVEL



Thanks to the generosity of SHE, our Travel section has grown into a wonderfully comprehensive source of travel information. We now have an 'awesome' set of Lonely Planet books to just about any destination you can think of! As well as all major destinations such as Hawaii, Bangkok, Canada, Singapore, Greece and Fiji, we have books to 'out of the way places' such as Antarctica, Costa Rica, Iceland, Madagascar, Rajasthan and the Solomon Islands. Some interesting titles are: Born to Shop in Italy, Slow Boat to Mongolia, and Trekking in Nepal Himalayas. Come and check them out!



# Reviews



*We are changing the format of this page to reflect the way our collection is currently housed. When requesting books in our collection, please tell us the name of the author or editor.*

BEGUIN, Rebecca "Torrid Zone"; New Victoria, Norwich 1997.

If you are looking for a good mystery yarn, with likeable characters, a steady pace, and imbued with warm but cautious optimism about lesbian life, look no further. The story is as well-crafted as the stone walls lovingly assembled by the central character, Ida, with sufficient tension around the threat of impending violence to keep you engaged - but not enough to prevent peaceful sleep. There are improbable aspects to the plot (e.g. ventures, which in real life would drag on for months, are wrapped up within the week), and the characters cooperate beautifully to bring events to a satisfactory conclusion. If you are a co-operative mystery reader you will suspend disbelief and enjoy a good read.

More interestingly, this is a novel which explores ethical and political dimensions of lesbian living. Briefly, the plot is two-stranded. Viv is an 'in your face lesbian babe' evading a violently revengeful co-student, whom she has exposed as a rapist. Ida is a one-time separatist now living with a modicum of contentedness as a farm-hand, but suppressing painful memories of the tragedy which scattered the members of her 'back to the land' lesbian collective. When the relentlessly, irreverently inquisitive Viv seeks refuge with the disillusioned Ida, two lesbian generations and two styles of living confront one another and crucial questions about past and present lesbian living are tossed into the air. Is lesbian-separatism (or indeed, any form of self-sufficiency) possible? Is lesbian intimacy-at-a-distance viable, or do we need to be present to relate truly? Can lesbians create community without 'blood-bonds, religious cults or political single-mindedness' to hold us together? What happens to 'raw amazonian anger' in a time of choice and pride and retaliation from boys whose power is threatened?

For me, the nub of this book is in Ida's vision of lesbian relations, which transcends 'romance, sexual liaison and scandal' and eschews subsumption and bondage in favour of the erotic attachment of two equally wild and free spirits in mutual admiration.

JANET GREVILLEA



CURTHOYS, Barbara and McDONALD, Audrey. "More Than a Hat and Glove Brigade: The Story of the Union of Australian women". Bookpress, Sydney 1996.

This book recounts the struggle of Australian women to achieve any kind of equity in Australian Society. It traces the history of the Union of Australian Women (UAW) from the battles of equal pay in the 1950's to those of the present decade.

More than a Hat. . . is a comprehensive study of the working class women from many backgrounds - Aboriginal, Anglo, as well as Migrant women, who together saw the need for organisation and change and who fought to bring these changes about. The changes included the basic rights for Women's Liberation. Some of the issues were: equal pay and access to adequate housing, schooling, child care and health care. The UAW was one of the leading campaigners for full citizenship rights for Aborigines, economic equity and Land Rights. The cost of living, working families experiencing hardship, and the anti-Vietnam War Peace Movement were also just some of the issues fought for by the UAW.

The UAW campaigned to raise the standard of living. As Jennie George, current President of the A.C.T.U. points out in her foreword in the book: "When one looks at social reforms won by women in this country there are few in which the UAW did not play a part."

Anyone interested in Women's Studies, Australian History or the Trade Union Movement will find this a useful and essential resource. The energy, intelligence, commitment and plain hard work undertaken by the many women of UAW reminds us that we need take notice of the lessons of the past, that complacency could mean a return to the repressive society that existed (and probably would have continued) but for the many women who believed in the ideals of the UAW and gave their time and energy.

Bringing such a wealth of material together in a comprehensive and readable book is an achievement.

VIDA CARNEGIE



MEARS, Gillian "Ride a Cock Horse". Pasco, Fairfield 1988.

This novel moves through a number of characters and events, using chance meetings, conversations, or just physical proximity to tie the characters of one story to the next. The stories are everyday and convincing without being boring. Through the book we get to see life from childhood to death, built up from events happening to a range of characters, with choices and their consequences explored along the way.

I really enjoyed reading this book. Mears constructed her characters so convincingly, and so emphatically, that I found myself liking and understanding even the grotty old men camped out in a caravan park. The style is so down-to-earth that I could imagine the book to be written from real life - short snippets picked up by an omniscient narrator wandering around and watching people in suburbs, on the streets, and in pubs.

Some people might find this book too quiet for them. It could be summed up as a view into a town's photo album - which isn't to everyone's taste. The memories, though, are all written in the present, which makes the book and the personal-styled histories in it very alive and very interesting.

KYLIE LOWSON

MICHELSON, Maureen R. (ed) "Women and Work; In Their Own Words"; New Sage Press, Oregon 1994.

As little as forty years ago, if a woman was bold or unfortunate enough to need to work her options were severely limited, usually to the traditionally 'female' occupations of teacher, nurse or prostitute. This book shows just how much we have achieved and can appreciate.

We are offered brief autobiographies and photos of women working in a multitude of professions, from a large cross section of cultures, races and backgrounds. Also included are articles on topics related to the general issue of Women and Employment, sexual harassment, managing job and children, empowering education for girls and young women, and a discussion of non-traditional jobs for women.

From Judge to Street Vendor, from Coal Miner to Bank President, this inspiring book shows that women can achieve anything. It also validates the experiences of all women, reminding us that we are all worthy of love and respect, and that every woman's story is important.

RACHEL MOERMAN



ROBERTS, Shelly "Robert's Rules of Lesbian Living; Thoughts on Lesbians Lives" and "Robert's Rules of Lesbian Breakups; Thoughts on Lesbian Break Up", Spinsters Ink, Minnesota 1997.

Roberts takes a witty and sometimes cynical view of the 'ins' and 'outs' of being involved, breaking up, getting back together, hating each other, loving each other, and finding the appropriate therapist for the cat.

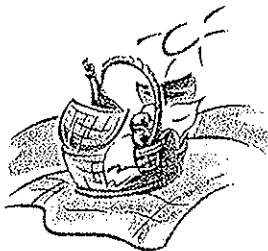
No topic is too sacred - parents: 'Your father will want to know which one of you is the boy?' Mothers who complain of their being unfulfilled because you have failed to produce the heir to the family fortunes.

A wacky, satirical look at the many and varied sacred cows of today's political correctness, occasionally hitting home with the subtlety of the proverbial sledge hammer. If cynical humour is your bag, you will enjoy this light hearted look at the trials and tribulations of lesbian lives.

These are NOT the books on which to base your postgraduate thesis, although, undoubtedly, Ms Roberts applies her own brand of feminism in not so subtle digs at the established male environs of parenthood, ownership, and marriage rights.

Roberts' follow-up book concentrates on the pain, revenge and high drama of the former 'women-in-love' severing ties. This edition contains the colourful and digging witticisms of the first thought tinged with bitterness. Can Lesbians rise above possessive heterosexual immersements? Read this book and find out. Instead of plotting revenge on your exs have a good chuckle and feel far more cleansed.

STEPHANIE BROWN



SAWYER, Marian "Removal of the Commonwealth Marriage Bar; A Documentary History", Centre for Research in Public Sector Management, University of Canberra, Canberra 1996.

'Today the concept of a marriage bar is difficult to comprehend - the idea that marriage alone could justify women losing hard-earned jobs. But only 30 years ago women were being forced to 'live in sin' or conceal their marriage if they wanted to keep their position.' Thus the opening words of Marian Sawyer's Introduction prepare the modern reader for the historical content of her monograph.

Australia, socially so advanced in many ways, was one of the last countries in the world to lift the ban (which, of course, was never gender-neutral, as its name implies), even UK having lifted it 20 years earlier.

This 72 page booklet includes documentation of the formal parliamentary process of change, as well as some vivid case histories of women affected by the bar. Bill Hayden was a key figure in ensuring that the matter stayed on the agenda. It is worth reading if only to capture some of the quaint views about the relative worth of men's and women's labour which prevailed such a short time ago.

HELEN PAVLIN



WALKER, Sarah "The Year of Freaking Out", Pan, Sydney 1997.

I've got a confession to make - as an adolescent I was a compulsive reader of those American teenage romances in which beautiful cheerleader types followed a cliched path to love and fulfilment. Thankfully, young adult fiction has moved on to a more honest account of adolescent life, such as portrayed by the likes of Sarah Walker herself.

This funny and insightful book tells the story of 17 year old Kim coming to understand her feelings for another young woman, Rachel. It's about growing up, being honest with your friends, and being true to yourself.

Walker captures beautifully the bittersweet, tragic-comic world of young people. For example, the urgency we ascribe to things when we're young, from the mortal embarrassment of a moment of daggyness, to the way one looks, from the person you like, has you talking on the phone about it for hours. There are real issues in this story: conflict with friends (and of course, family), drink-driving, sexual abuse. Walker weaves these together in a way that avoids moralising or patronising the reader.

If you're a young person in search of 'real' fiction, or someone who wants to remember your youth, check this book out.

MERRIN THOMPSON

TWL SPRING PICNIC SUNDAY 11 OCTOBER  
ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS  
Everyone welcome!  
Meet at the Bronze Horse from 12 noon. Bring some fabulous food and drink to share.  
Celebrate SPRING with your TWL friends. (Call the library for more details)

WEBB, Cynthia "No Daughter of the South", New Victoria Publishers, Norwich 1997.

Initially, I thought this was going to be another unremarkable mystery romance about a promiscuous bisexual lesbian, Laurie Coldwater (White), in pursuit of hot sex with diaper-hanging earth mother mid-wife, Samantha Wilson (Black).

The story proved more interesting and engaging as its moral, political and psychological dimensions unravelled. The lovers, Laurie and Sammy, now living in New York City, grew up, unknown to one another, in the same racially segregated area of the South, Port Mullet. Reluctantly, Laurie agrees to return to her home town to belatedly investigate the mystery of Sammy's father's untimely death. Sammy hopes to face up to her past; Laurie has a macho urge to dig up the simple bone of truth and drag it home as a trophy to Sammy. The truth isn't as obvious, tangible, or simple as they imagine.

I could identify with Laurie's reluctance to visit her family, to be diminished and trivialised as 'Baby Sister', experiencing family values as oppressive and belittling and resisting the small town imperative to become a proper woman owned by one man and serving the interests of all men; realising that resisting the lies without knowing what the lies were; probing deeper, prising and peeling the veneer from the apparently homogeneous, calm, polite, proper, charming surfaces of individuals, families, and institutions. Laurie discovered menace, moral confusion, ruthless self-interest and murderous violence.

Laurie has clearly resisted the imperative of Southern ladyhood, loudly and brashly declares herself 'no daughter of the south'. Laurie's persistence with her investigation leads her to the realisation that all actions, including her own, have consequences and social meaning and that she can begin to act authentically to affirm her own values in the world, rather than the sexist and racist values of the violent and violating fathers. I appreciated the feminist consciousness informing this novel and the way Webb explores the question of how lesbians might develop self-possession in a possessive and oppressive society. It also creates places of belonging for themselves without replicating the ownership dynamics that define the patriarchal family. I hope that she is writing a second novel and look forward to reading it.

CAROL ROSE



ZAHAVI, Helen "Dirty Weekend", Flamingo, London 1991.

Murder most horrid can be beautiful, sweet and funny. Enter Helen Zahavi. Ever feel alone and vulnerable waiting for a train late at night? Uncomfortable sitting in a bar waiting for a friend? Uneasy catching a taxi alone? So has Bella and she knows what to do about it.

If you want a feel good, witty and empowering read, this book is for you. Brighton Bella will win your heart as she cleanses her soul and all the garbage that crosses her path. You don't have to hate men to enjoy this book (although it helps) but by the end of it you will want to.

TERRI ZERFA

# Don't Forget!



## TWL AGM

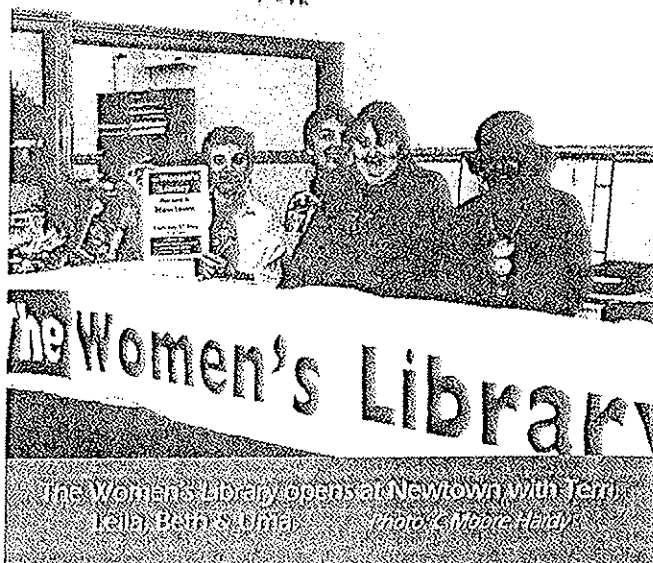
8th December 1998

6.30pm for 7.00pm

Upstairs

All members welcome

Light supper provided



# 1998 WOMEN'S LIBRARY NATIONAL SHORT STORY COMPETITION

## Short Story Competition Goes from Strength to Strength

The winners of the second National Short Story Competition were announced on Friday 3 April at an Awards evening hosted by The Women's Library at the Balmain Boatshed. The competition attracted over 350 entrants this year with representation from every state and territory. The widespread support and participation by budding writers across the country (and one lone Australian in New York) has proved the competition has a very bright future indeed.

Individual works of fiction, 2,500 words each, were submitted to a panel of five judges whose task was to read and re-read each story - they do tell us it was a pleasure. From the 350 stories, 19 were short-listed.

Runner-up at last year's awards, Jennifer Moore from the Northern Territory, scooped equal first prize this year with two of her stories:- *The Dress* and *My Mother's Chair is Empty*. As you can imagine, the judges were quite amazed when they discovered the two stories selected for equal first were actually written by the same author - particularly as the two were very different in style.

On the Awards night, Jennifer read *The Dress* for us, truly highlighting the reason for her first placing. Jennifer will also be published in the esteemed Australian Women's Book Review.

Equal second place went to Annie Cossins (NSW) for her story *My Boy* and to H. Joyce Smith (VIC) for *Cicada*



Our favourite chamber group, Syriax, who performed at the 1998 National Short Story Competition.



Some of our fantastic 1998 Short Story Committee Members  
From left to right: Kylie Lawson, Michelle Pearce, Katalin Virag, Catharine Clements, Sarah McLean & Simone Ford.

*Summer*. Four writers were highly commended: Judy Johnson (NSW) for *Green Plums*, Kate McAllan (NSW) for *Upstairs*, Morgana Oliver (QLD) for *This Small Feast* and Carmel Macdonald Grahame (WA) for *Falling Inflection*.

Another four writers formed the commended list. Jo Kasch (VIC) for *Isaiah's Ocean*, Rowena McDougall (TAS) for *Nice Girls Don't (Talk)*, Mandy Curties (QLD) for an untitled story (although the judges thought it could have been titled 'Spike') and Anna Beth McCormack (NSW) for *Eating Cake*.

The judges were impressed enough to want to recognise another eight writers with certificates of merit, proving that the high quality of the stories made judging a very difficult task. They were L.M. Robinson (VIC) for *Pictures of Lynette*, Lyndall Hough (NSW) for *Acting Up*, Annie Condon (VIC) for *The Language of Thunder*, Christine Gillespie for *Double Exposure*, Doreen Parsons (VIC) for *The Identity Card*, Verity Morgan (QLD) for *Skin Deep*, K.R. Tuckwell (NSW) for *The Point of Maximum Tenderness* and Mara Marich (New York) for *Wog*.

## THANK YOU TO OUR EVENT SPONSORS

We couldn't have done it without you!

Sponsors of the event included Artemis Publishing (distributor of Women's Redress Press), Australian Women's Book Review, Eva Cox, Virginia Bell, Linda Sang, Syriax, Gleebooks, Porters Liquor Alexandria, Linda Marie Paterson Photography, The Feminist Bookshop, Lea Rollberg, Pearlie McNeill, Emily Clark, Cathy Gallagher, Donna Wilcox, Michelle Pearce, Anne Jones and Glenda Adams. The judges' time and commitment is also very much appreciated: Pearlie McNeill, Rosie Scott, Jane Philips, Jen Hutchinson and Maria Palotta-Chiarolli

# SHORT STORY COMPETITION CONTINUED

The Awards evening itself proved to be a huge success with MC Virginia Bell humorously hosting the evening. Speakers included TWL Coordinator Beth Eldridge, TWL Convenor Donna Wilcox and Judge Pearlie McNeill.

The Balmain Boatshed was an excellent venue once again for the Awards night with the classical sounds of 'Syrinx' wafting out onto the bay and scrumptious Asian delights provided by Linda Sang Catering.

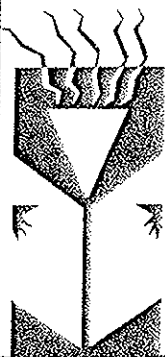
The competition was initiated by The Women's Library to foster Australian women writers and to encourage the development of the Australian short story; a literary form enjoying a resurgence of interest.

Donna Wilcox, then convenor of The Women's Library, celebrated the level of prestige that now surrounds the competition illustrated by the growing number of entrants as well as the broad support base which the library draws upon to hold such an event.

## THE 1998 TWL NATIONAL SHORT STORY COMPETITION WINNER JENNIFER MOORE



### Here It Comes Again!



Would you like to support the 1999 TWL National Short Story Competition?

If you can assist with the administration of the competition, organisation of the event, or perhaps you would like to sponsor or donate a prize, then now's the time to call Beth at the Library.

Organisation of the 1999 TWL National Short Story Competition has begun!

To receive an entry form and conditions of entry, send a business sized SSAE to TWL 1999 Short Story Comp. PO Box 271, Newtown NSW 2042. Forms will be posted from mid October.

Dear Women,

I'm writing to express my appreciation for the 1998 National Short Story Competition. Though this year it exceeded any of my personal dreams or expectations, the very existence of the Competition is significant to women who write. It provides us with the opportunity to write for an audience, to challenge our voices, a place to be heard and appreciated. This is invaluable. Because each such opportunity builds upon the previous one in incremental stages. As was so eloquently and humourously expressed at the awards evening, success does not depend on talent alone, but also on the ability to believe in yourself!

Not long before Sarah rang to let me know I was a finalist, I had been to the Adelaide Writer's Week, which I found both challenging and informative. Whilst there, I was struck with the realisation that I had not yet begun to take myself seriously as a writer. It was a daunting revelation, and following a couple of rejection slips which had already blurred the edges of my self confidence, I seemed to be moving away from, rather than towards, my goal.

Undoubtedly, the confidence of the judges in my writing has given me a belief in myself. For the first time I am able to call myself a writer. I realise that the hard work is only just beginning, but, at present, I believe I can succeed. And this is directly attributable to the enthusiastic support of the women who read, and liked, my work. Thank you.

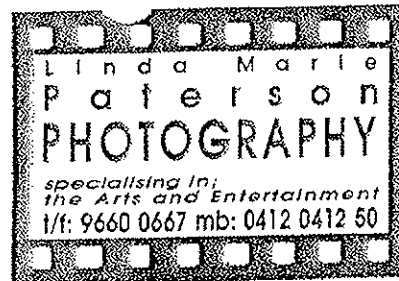
Finally, I am glad I was able to attend the Awards ceremony. It was a lovely evening, in every respect, and obviously the result of a great deal of thought and effort. I had friends and family who were able to share the evening with me, and they, too, said what a wonderful night it was.

Please pass on my sincere thanks to everyone who was involved. I know I did not speak to many of you on the evening (I find social gatherings daunting) but I appreciated everyone's support and effort.

Thank you again!

Best wishes

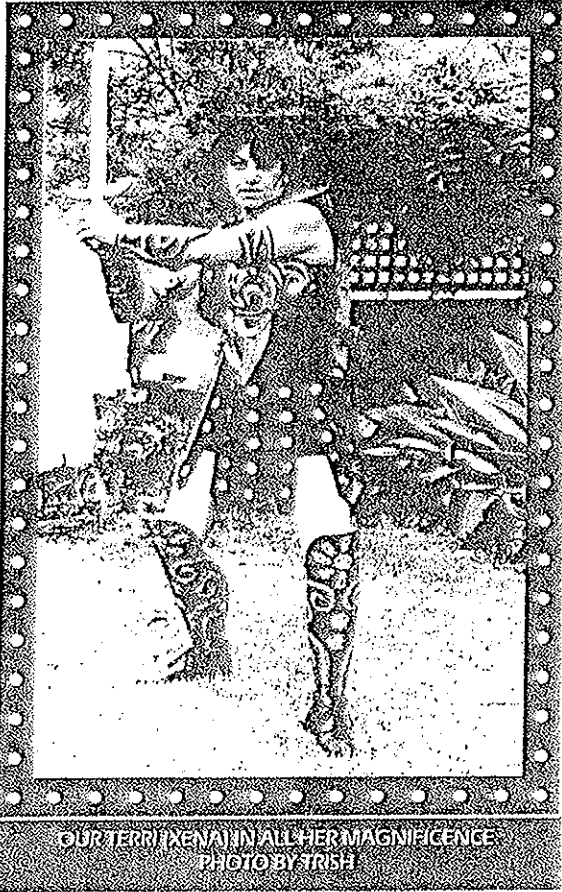
Jennifer Moore



PO BOX 419 CAMPERDOWN NSW 2050

Short Story Competition photos by L.M. Paterson  
Awards Evening photos available. Browse & order at TWL

# ZILLIONS OF XENAS AND MARDI GRAS MADNESS!



OUR TERRI XENAI IN ALL HER MAGNIFICENCE  
PHOTO BY TRISH

During my time on the Parade Committee of the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras, I've seen a lot of change. For the last three years, my main role has centred on producing the official Mardi Gras entry called the Marching Girls. This year was a perfect example of how positive change has influenced the nature of this most important Parade entry.

For the first time ever, we did not hold auditions - we just held a "Registration Day". Hooley Dooley! I don't think anyone anticipated the turnout on this eventful day! It was wonderful. The start time for Registration was not until 11:00 a.m. on a very hot and humid Sunday, 1st February. I got to the office at 10:00 a.m. but already women were waiting outside. Some had been there since 9:00 a.m. (I guess the old rumour machine had been given a good going over and they were determined not to miss out on being a Warrior Princess). I

remember going straight to the Parade Manager's Office and telling Di Lynne about this unprecedented situation. Di, in her normal calm manner, takes all things in her stride. No doubt that's why she's the Parade Manager. The crowd built up and I had several conversations with Brenton, the Parade Director, along the lines of what to do if more than 100 women turned up. We decided to wait and see.

In the meantime, the 'helpers' were briefed about how we would handle the 'intake'. The women would be given a card numbered from 1 to 100 and a rego. form as they came up the stairs. Well, the doors opened and in they streamed! Within minutes the 100th card had been handed out! A quick decision from Brenton enabled the excess 22 women to be included in the Marching Girls (budget? . WHAT budget?) and the doors were closed. The time was 11:20 a.m. Needless to say, more women turned up later in the day and we did our best to place them elsewhere in the Parade.

I will never forget what it was like to be with 122 budding Xenas in the rehearsal room at Mardi Gras on that day,- a room with heat intensifying under the tin roof, surrounded by windows which mostly didn't open! Ah! But the bliss of being with so MANY enthusiastic women!!! (And NO - they don't all live in Leichhardt).

Over the ensuing weeks, we worked tirelessly in the Workshop - cutting, sewing, painting, glueing and glittering our costumes. Our only panic came when the machine making the moulded breastplates broke down about 10 days before the Parade. Luckily, it was speedily repaired and with all hands on deck, we continued with our task.

Before we knew it, it was rehearsal time. I'd told the choreographer that the Xenas should be sexy, slutty and sleazy. We wanted impact with a capital "I"!! And I will hand it to Virginia because - that's exactly what we got (impact).

The women in this year's Marching Girl Troupe were GREAT! It is, without doubt, one of the most committed and enthusiastic groups of women I have worked with during my time on the Parade Committee.

For the most part, I attribute this to the openness of having a Registration rather than an audition because it encouraged women to apply who ordinarily might not have considered it. For the first time ever, we had a mixture of all different shapes and sizes - girls wearing glasses and hearing aids; older women--yippee! and a myriad of nationalities.

What else can I say. I feel proud to have worked with these women and I hope that they have learnt some things from the experience, that they will cherish the memories and, above all, that they will register again next year!

**JULIE EARNGEY**

## Flute and String Chamber Group



Syrinx and her sister Daphne were daughters of the River God Ladon, in Arcadia.

Syrinx was loved by the God Pan, who almost caught her but she called upon her father to change her into a reed.

To console himself, Pan cut some reeds and fashioned them into a flute, giving it the name of Syrinx or Pan-pipes

Keille Grennan Ph (0411) 384 975

## PORTERS LIQUOR

QUALITY. EXPERIENCE. EXPERTISE

Porter's Liquor Alexandria \* 70 Henderson Rd, Alexandria NSW 2015 Phone: (02) 9310 4937 Fax: (02) 9699 9606

THE WOMEN'S LIBRARY  
MARDI GRAS LITERARY EVENT

## THE ART OF THE AFTERNOON TEA

Hostess - Kimberly O'Sullivan

Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> February, 1999 in the community space above The Women's Library from 1 - 5 pm.

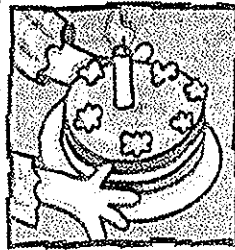
Do you yearn to experience the nostalgia of a leisurely afternoon sharing stories in an atmosphere of feminine elegance? Relive the time when women ruled the afternoon tea with a firm hand and steady scone. A time when conversation was an art.

Think fabulous frocks, savoury delights, perfect scones and lace tablecloths covered with exquisite china. Willing, eager and suitably attired maids will be on hand to serve your every need. A strict dress code applies: fabulously femme, elegantly androgynous, or stunningly butch.

The afternoon will be punctuated by readings befitting the theme of the day, Noted Sydney writers will be reading their own work and readings from the work of women whose life and writing epitomized gracious indulgence.



For more information contact Beth at The Women's Library on 9557 7060.



## BIRTHDAY BASH GOES OFF WITH A (SHE) BANG!

TWL celebrated its fourth year as a lending library in August with our traditional raffle and Birthday Party.

This year the party was held in the Community Space above our new premises in Newtown. Around 150 women - and one man - turned up for a night filled with food, wine (the mulled stuff went down a treat), rhythm, performance and dance.

Rhonda Carling-Rogers acted as the Mistress of Ceremonies, lending a strong note of comedy to the evening. The drummers, 'Shebang', had everyone stamping their feet and clapping their hands and the belly dancers from Newtown School of Middle Eastern Dance were divine. One of the highlights of the night was the group lesson in Latin American dancing at the end of their performance.

The evening was rounded out with a delightful reading from the best selling book *Confessions of an S&M Virgin* by author Linda Jaivin. DJ Mignon, from Waves Music, saw the night out with a great mix of tracks that had everyone grooving on the dance floor.

The party was a huge success, and all who came enjoyed a fantastic time as well as helping to raise over \$2000 for the library.

Special thanks to the Party Organising Committee, Tamaris Cameron, Susan McGuckin, Robyn Mah, Stephanie Brown, Ilana Kaplin and Merrin Thompson, along with all those dedicated volunteers who helped out with preparations before or on the night.

Thanks also to Camperdown Cellars, Newtown Fine Wines, The Landsdowne Hotel, and Franklin's Big Fresh Marrickville for their donations and subsidies.

AMANDA ELLIOT & MERRIN THOMPSON

## DISABILITY SEMINAR

ACCESS PLUS - a working party on issues affecting Gays, Lesbians, Bisexuals and Transgender with disabilities or HIV/AIDS.

Access Plus is holding a seminar, 'Spanning Identities' in October 1998. The seminar aims to:

1. Identify barriers to access to services.
2. To provide a forum in which people can share their experiences.

### PROGRAM -

- \* Access & Equity to Social, Cultural and Political Life
- \* Violence - including domestic, sexual and institutional homophobia
- \* Images in Media
- \* Living in institutions
- \* Identity politics.

Should you wish to attend or present a paper at the seminar, please contact:

Access Plus	or	Ian Archer-Wright
P.O. Box 3066,		Anti - Violence Project
BELLEVUE HILL NSW 2023.		Ph: (02) 9360 6687
	or	Fax: (02) 9380 5848
		TTY : (02) 9318 2138
		(PWD NSW)

JUDITH ANN HEYDON 14.3.28 - 8.4.97



Ann maintained a lifelong love of books and learning. Her interests ranged far and wide from Anthropology to Dance and the Arts. It was Anne's wish that her library be given to TWL so that other women would benefit. Last year Anne's daughter Virginia presented TWL with her mother's incredible gift. TWL would like to extend their sincere thanks to Virginia and her family for their generous donation.

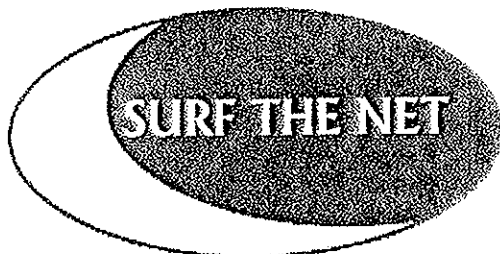


## NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR AUSTRALIAN WOMEN

P.O. Box 1465, CANBERRA CITY ACT. 2601  
 Ph: (02) 6287 4334 Fax: (02) 6287 4303  
 Ms Marie Coleman Ph (02) 6248 6937  
 Marie.Coleman@compuserve.com

NFAW - a registered company limited by guarantee (ACN 008 659 630) with a linked membership association, was established in 1989 to promote the rights and interests of women. Most managed funds are maintained within NFAW Education & Research Trust (interest is tax-exempt). Others not meeting the education &/or research criteria are investment fund maintained, but income earned on these is NOT tax exempt.

TWL would like to thank SURF THE NET for providing us with internet access. You can find us at : twl@twl.asn.au



surfthe.net.au phone: (02) 9439 9830

### Letters to the Editor

*Congratulations to those energetic & dynamic women who invented The Women's Library in Garden Street, Alexandria. From dream to reality in a handful of years - and still growing. What new imaginings and new necessities will drive growth in Newtown?*

*Will TWL's new location at the hub of transport links, with greatly increased numbers of passers-by, affect membership, finances, resources?*

*Will a main street location where galleries, bookshops, theatres, reflect a varied and lively population influence, subject specialism?*

*What proximity to schools present new problems/new opportunities?*

*Will TWL forge new affiliations with other institutions?*

*There will be new directions and emphasis, problems and solutions; and those energetic and dynamic women will continue to invent The Women's Library.*

*Laurels all round (none for resting on).*

*Sincerely, Joan Poole.*

TWL invite members to submit proposals for meeting the challenges highlighted here by Joan. How has our relocation affected you? Do you have a brilliant idea you would like us to explore, or a burning issue you would like addressed? Please write or call Beth at the library. All committees that determine library policy do so on the basis of member feedback. It's your library . . . So have your say!



## Shoe Back, Shoes Drawn and Shoes Got A Tale To Tell

I went to Jabiluka as an ideologically sound little vegemite (take that, Pauline Hanson!!). Jabiluka is located within the World Heritage listed Kakadu National Park. (Lyn, another volunteer, rode her 250CC motorbike, to Jabiluka: "just" 6000 kms... My heroine!?) Me? ho hum. I flew up.

Anyway, there I was hot and bothered - Jabiluka is no picnic! Intense heat, barely any trees, flies, mosquitoes. After two weeks, I cowardly abandoned the blockade and WENT ON A HOLIDAY. Totally unplanned!

I watched the sun setting down on Annhem land from Ubirr where there is an amazing collection of rock art.

I then jumped on a blue banana bus and went South to Coonda to go on a Yellow River (South Alligator River) cruise at 6 am

Dawn is one of my favourite times. Everything seems anew. The whole place was very quiet, slightly misty. The sun rose. Some trees were full of birds, still asleep. Magic, Woman! The water lilies were still closed but I saw many more later on at Lake Argyle. And although everybody goes "oooooh and naaah" about the crocs. (every second tourist thinks about the horrid saurians) I still can't mistress any sympathy for the salt water ones - they are women-eaters! (Yes, I know they are our last dinosaurs!)

The cruise was a great start! I still didn't realise where I was - in Kakadu, 600km escarpment of sandstone, bulk waterfalls.

Even when I stopped at Nourlangie Rock, another rock art "gallery", (I think it was at Edith Falls, where I had my first swim) that it sunk in (pun intended).

While previously overseas, I had organised a little exhibition on Australia. I was lent some posters of the Kimberleys. I had been fascinated by photos of the Purnululu gorges (Bungle-Bungle) so I flew over them, but felt I also had to go there. When you don't have your own 4WD (the only vehicles allowed in the park) you have to book a tour. It's a bit frustrating to endure five to six hours drive. There is not much time for walking on a day tour.

But it was so striking that I flew over it again on my way back from Broome. By then I had found out what I had missed and I bought a Greyhound pass (the only public transport) from a woman in a backpackers hotel, which included Kakadu, Nourlangie Rock, Coonda from where you can book a tour to Twin Falls and Jim Jim Falls.

Yep!! A bit more than a week ago I was swimming at the bottom of Jim Jim Falls and was not looking forward to wearing more than one layer of clothing, not to mention pinning for the sun, the the warm nights, the blue skies

Aaaaagh!h, I am in withdrawal  
LEILA

## FROM THE JOURNAL ROOM

Yes, the Journal Room! In case you didn't know, The Women's library has an incredible collection of journals and newsletters just waiting to be read by our members. These have been catalogued by our friendly Pom visitor Ros, and some of her able assistants, including myself and Patou. We can now look up a journal title and see what issues are currently held. We hope, now, that the Journal Room will be besieged by members looking for that elusive article or newsletter for their study, research or just pure interest! To give everyone an idea of what is held by The Women's Library Journal Room, I thought I would list some of the titles around a particular subject in each newsletter. As we have recently celebrated the second Short Story Competition, and we are all now enthused to put pen to paper and 'Come out as Writers!' (as our illustrious coordinator Beth described it), there are a number of journals that could help you in this quest. The current journals are:

- Newswrite - The newsletter of the NSW Writers Centre
- Pandora - A multidisciplinary journal reflecting women's voices and experiences (Vic)
- Sisters in Crime - Newsletter
- Women in Focus - News and stories for Independent Women
- Women in Film and TV

The library also holds back copies of these journals:

- Australian Book Review
- Out of the Aisles - Newsletter for Writers (only two issues)
- Playworks - National Women's Writers Workshop newsletter

We look forward to seeing the Journal room abuzz with members, and please don't be shy in asking for help.

MICHELLE.

P.S. I'd like to thank Ros Wall for searching for the writing titles for me.

### TAS FOUNDATION LIMITED

Company Limited By Guarantee  
ACN 000 043 934 Incorporated 1939

1 Rockleigh Way Epping NSW 2121  
Telephone/Fax (02) 9869 3987

The Women's Library would like to thank the TAS Foundation for their generous sponsorship of our new computer system.

## We're On The Net!

Yes, we finally have the net up and running, with access for members at only two dollars an hour!

This fabulous service has been brought to you through the combined generosity of our Computer System Sponsors:

The TAS Foundation  
South Sydney City Council  
Mary Cooney Surf The Net





INTRODUCING OUR COORDINATOR  
AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE



Back row: Coordinator - Beth Eldridge, Katalin Virag, Merrin Thompson. Secretary - Fiona Power, Stephanie Brown.  
Front Row: Michelle Bonner, Acting Convenor - Gail Wilson and Tamaris Cameron

THANKYOU  
DONNA!



Donna Wilcox Photo by L.M.Patterson

There have been some changes to the members of our Management Committee recently, so we thought we'd take this opportunity to introduce them to you .

We bid a fond farewell to Donna Wilcox, our previous Convenor, whose increasing work commitments are demanding her full attention. The Committee would like to sincerely thank Donna for her tireless contributions to The Women's Library.

At the same time we'd also like to welcome Acting Convenor, Gail Wilson to the role. Gail has been a energetic member of the TWL Management Committee since May and an active volunteer since June 1997.

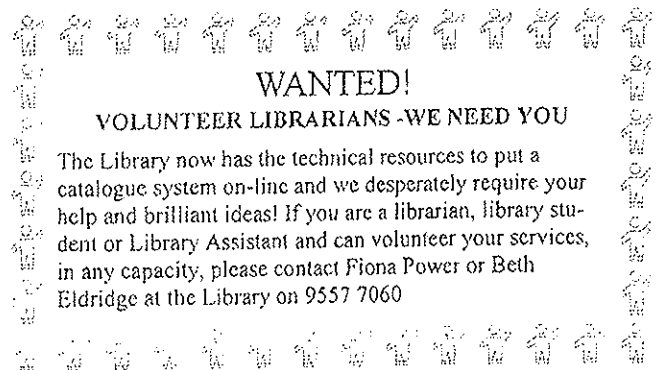
She has been actively involved in the Newsletter Subcommittee and, a future project, the Volunteer's Workshop as well as our many fundraising events.

She is looking forward to using her energies and experience in working towards realising the potential and future visions for The Women's Library.

We're Branching Out!

In 1999, TWL will be setting up a Women's Art Gallery around the walls of the library. The aim is to provide a space for the display and sale of work by women artists and to raise funds for the library through commission.

If you are a woman artist and would like to become involved in this project, either as a potential exhibitor or to work on the Committee setting it up, then please contact Robyn or Beth at the Library.


  
**WANTED!**  
**VOLUNTEER LIBRARIANS -WE NEED YOU**  
 The Library now has the technical resources to put a catalogue system on-line and we desperately require your help and brilliant ideas! If you are a librarian, library student or Library Assistant and can volunteer your services, in any capacity, please contact Fiona Power or Beth Eldridge at the Library on 9557 7060

Wed to Fri 11 - 5, Sat 11 - 3  
 Objects of Desire  
**More e M**  
**We e W**  
 Emily Bullock  
 55 Enmore Road Newtown 2042  
 Ph 02 - 557 1509 Fax 02 - 516 3387

# ESSENTIAL EVENTS

## OCTOBER

- Oct 3 – Sleaze Ball – Look out for our ‘Suck it and See’ stall selling our famous Chupa Chups, chewie and iceblocks
- Oct 4 – Local poetry group evening meeting: Temple of the Dark Muse, mixed group contact: lilly@pixie.net or ph: 9516 4753
- Oct 9-11 - Queerdoc -world’s first film festival dedicated to gay & lesbian historical documentaries, comedies, pornstars & performance artists, Chauvel Cinema Paddington More info - Ph: 9332 4938
- Oct 11 – PICNIC IN THE PARK – See page 6 for more details
- Oct 16 - ‘Putting Human Rights on the Political Agenda’ - 6-7.00 p.m. Harold Park Hotel Glebe. Cost by donation - More info Ph: 9552 1791
- Oct 16-18 - National Breast Cancer Conference for Women in Canberra. More info – Phone: Leah Salo (02) 9334 1850
- Oct 21 - Information evening for women who often feel ‘down’ or ‘flat’ and want to learn to live life more fully. Leichhardt Women’s Community Health Centre, 55 Thornley St, Leichhardt – Donation \$8
- Oct 21 - Information evening ‘Depression-A Hidden Epidemic’ - 7 - 9.00 p.m. Leichhardt Women’s Community Health Centre, 55 Thornley Street, Leichhardt More info Ph: 9560 3011
- Oct 24 – Redfern/Waterloo Fest. Redfern – Book and chupa chup sale 10 – 4 pm
- Oct 29 - Western Sydney Women & Children’s Right to Safety Rally. Meet at Cumberland Women’s Health Centre, 29 Campbell St, Parramatta 5.30 p.m. More info - Ph: 9635 3555
- Oct 30 - Reclaim the Night - annual march and rally for women and children against sexual violence. Meet at Martin Place for march to First Fleet Park
- Oct 30 – RECLAIM THE NIGHT TWL information and chupa chup stall
- Oct 22 – Dec 10 – Group for women who have experienced child sexual assault – 9 weeks Thursday evenings 6 – 8.30 pm More info – Ph: Dympna House – 9797 6733
- Oct 30 – Deadline for Roxxy Bent’s Writers – ‘Obsession’

## NOVEMBER

- Nov 8 – TWL STALL second hand books, chupa chups, etc. Newtown Festival, Camperdown Memorial Rest Park 10 – 7 pm
- Nov 14 – WILPF – Women’s International League for Peace & Freedom – Tracy de Geer - Talk on ‘Women and Peace’ More info – Ph: 9699 4449
- Nov 15 – Glebe Street Fair. TWL stall – books & sweetsies.
- Nov 19 – ‘Why Lesbian Health’ - Information evening 7-9 pm at Leichhardt Women’s Community Health Centre 55 Thornley Street Leichhardt More info – Ph: 9560 3011

## DECEMBER

- Dec 8 – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – See page 7 for more details
- Dec 8 – Dept. of Gender Studies- ‘Encore Le Corps: Embodiment now and then’ More info – Ph: Jenny Vu 9351 3638
- Dec 11 – TWL CHRISTMAS PARTY – Watch this space for more details

See you there

## 4TH BIRTHDAY PARTY RAFFLE SPONSORS

Caves House at  
Jenolan Caves  
Moon Terrace, Chatswood  
Price Attack, Macquarie  
Mr Kaplin’s Bicycles  
Piercing Urge  
Better Read than Dead  
Camperdown Cellars