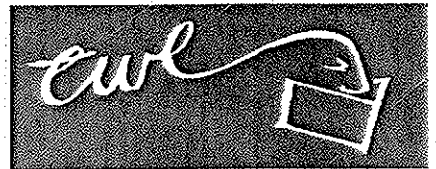


The Women's Library NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 271 NEWTOWN NSW 2042

Volume 12,
Issue 2
June 2005
ISSN 1320 601X



RECOGNIZING FEMINIST SCHOLARSHIP AND MAINTAINING LINKS BETWEEN WOMEN

The Women's Library collection is about recognizing feminist scholarship and energy. Its about celebrating and preserving our heritage, maintaining the links between women from different periods, places and persuasions. Our remarkable collection and space pays due tribute to women writers, women as initiators, as leaders and as visionaries.

The Library not only houses an extensive collection of books, journals and ephemera that celebrate the creativity, the intellect, strength and termination of these women writers past and present, it also provides a safe, inviting, inclusive meeting space. Over the past six months generous and positive volunteers have systematically conquered the Mt Everest of donated books, processing some 500 new books into the system. Lesbian Fiction, Anthologies, Poetry, Feminist Theory, Relationships, Health and Body Politics, have particularly faired well.

During this acquisition process many question arose like: What books do we keep? How do we best classify some of these new books ? Are the subject heading still relevant? Do we need some new subject headings? Where did these subject headings come from in the first place?. Resolving these questions, sorting donated books and accessioning new titles are just some of the interesting and challenging jobs our active volunteers manage. New volunteers are always welcome at the Library. You do not need to have formal training in library systems but you do need to attend a few training sessions in our library procedures. The Women's Library is very worthy of your interest, time and energy.

I have said before that working / volunteering at this library is like being on an archeological dig. The discoveries are a lot of fun and bringing the pieces together, creating order from chaos is very rewarding. For the first time in years we are seriously at risk of not only being on top of things but of having excellent workable library systems in place and enough well trained volunteers to sustain the Library. Our achievements over the past six months include : processing a huge number of new titles into the fiction and non fiction sections , the completion of a new loans and returns computer system and hundreds of hours cataloguing the collection into the computer.

This cataloging (or data entry) has proceeded ahead of our expectations to the point that now we have 80% of the collection catalogued. A new and fabulous second hand book shop to rival any in Newtown is returning a regular and reliable source of income and membership returns and donations have been solid over the past few months .The Women's Library as Women's Recreation Space is in full swing with new groups growing all the time, we currently have recreation groups for Writers, Meditation, Percussion-Chanting, Yoga. We have a Book Club, Lesbian Open House, and regular Women's Art Exhibitions.

We recently received a \$1400 equipment grant from Department of Family and Community Services. The Library is doing well at last. This past year has seen some big changes in the stability and overall development of the Association. So if you haven't been in for a while come in and give us some feedback and be surprised at what our Volunteers and your Executive committee members have achieved with your Library. Robyn Mah TWL Convenor

TWL A LIBRARY - A SPACE

TWL has always been
a very friendly place.

Visiting lately you may have seen

Some changes in the space.

New lounges that won't torture your rear.

Still a place of many books- that's clear.

But now there are also lots of groups meeting here.

Our staunch volunteers are the backbone you see.

You'll always feel welcome by a friendly smile.

It's OK to pop in, borrow books, or just stay a while.

Paintings on the wall show women's strength.

Books that can be browsed bought or lent.

In June they'll be a sleepover, and you wont need a tent!

At TWL you can have time to sit,

Let your mind be free.

Or if you're looking for that thread of connection,

TWL is the place to be.

Fiona & Shirley May 2005



One of the greatest gifts is
the passion for reading.
It is cheap, it consoles,
it excites and it gives you
knowledge of the world and
experience of a wide kind.
It is a moral illumination.

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☆☆ **Thank you sincerely to our** ☆☆☆
☆☆ **regular** ☆☆☆
☆☆ **sponsors, supporters and** ☆☆☆
☆☆ **annual donors** ☆☆☆
☆☆ We are truly grateful for your ☆☆☆
☆☆ financial assistance . ☆☆☆
☆☆ Your loyalty and on going ☆☆☆
☆☆ support is greatly ☆☆☆
☆☆ appreciated ☆☆☆
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TWL—Executive Committee

Robyn Mah,
Convener

Fiona Davidson,
Treasurer

Jeannie Sotheran,
Public Officer

Ginny Koreman,
Secretary

Joy Vivien
Katie Blake
Ordinary Members

The Women's Library

BOOKSHOP

Pre-loved books at great prices
...come in and browse in our great
NEW reorganized bookshop.

NEW shelving, NEW layout,
Extensive number of Lesbian titles.

OPEN

Tuesday to Thursday 11 - 4 pm,
Saturday and Sunday 12 - 4 pm

TWL WOMEN'S MEETING SPACE

Women's Community Groups are
welcome to join us @ the Library.
This space is now available for hire.

Call Robyn : 95577060

WHAT IS HAPPENING @ TWL

Sunday June 12th 2.30pm with Sue Gee

Women's Chanting and Percussion Group

Saturday June 25th : \$4 or \$5 per session BYO Food

Winter Overnight Retreat @ TWL

Performance, Poetry, Drumming, Short stories, Meditation,
Healing, Food, Dance, Songs, DVD's Fun, Laughter, Women.

Sunday June 26th : TWL Book Club @4pm -Free

Oranges Are Not The Only Fruit by *Jeanette Winterson*.

Saturday July 2nd "Off The Wall" Exhibition Opening

By Lea Kannar @ 6-8 pm ALL WELCOME

Saturday July 2nd 3-6pm All second hand books \$2.00

THE BIG LESBIAN FICTION BOOKSALE@ TWL

Saturday July 3rd @ 3pm Free

"Fingersmith" Writers Group @3pm with Jody

Sunday July 10th with Sue Gee

Women's Chanting and Percussion Group -gold coin donation

Saturday July 23rd Yoga with Prue @11am

Meditate, relax, Mats supplied, gold coin donation

Sunday 24th July 2005: TWL Book Club @ 4pm

Kinflicks by Lisa Alther—Free

August 7th @3pm with Jody- Free

"Fingersmith" Writers Group @3pm

Sunday August 14th 2.30pm with Sue Gee

Women's Chanting and Percussion Group -Gold coin donation

Sunday August 28th 2005 :TWL Book Club @ 4pm

The Beauty Myth by Naomi Wolf—Free

Saturday October 8th. LINC AWARDS upstairs and then

TWL Dinner Party 7pm . . . BYO Food and Drink to share

Lesbians celebrating : International Lesbian Day "

Saturday November 5th

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and Webpage Launch

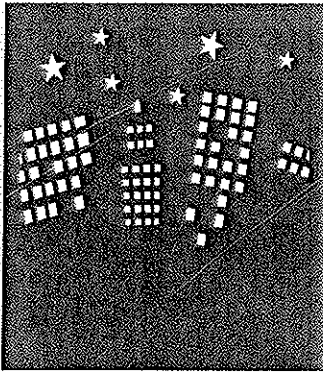
AGM @ 4pm. Webpage launch and BBQ@ 5.30pm

BYO food and drink to share.

December Sometime ?? Too far away yet! !!

TWL CHRISTMAS PARTY

For volunteers, members, Open House women, Book club and Writers group, Percussion group, Yoga, Artists and friends of the library.
Date to be set by AGM.



LINC

Lesbians Inc Grants Ceremony

Saturday 8th
October 2005

LINC invites you to a free
afternoon in celebration of their
giving of grants from 2pm-4pm.

Venue: The Community Room
above

The Women's Library.

The LINC AGM

follows from 4-6pm.



Join us to celebrate

INTERNATIONAL LESBIAN DAY

OCTOBER 8TH 2005

FUNDRAISER

WOMEN'S DINNER PARTY

6.30pm for 7.00 Dinner start,

\$12 Per Member \$18 Non Members

Come along and join us in a delicious 2 course dinner and drinks.
Performance Poets, Short Story Readers, In your face comedy act.

Pre event payment essential for food and drink planning.

Contact the Library, Or Email: twlproposal@hotmail.com

Final bookings and payments required by - 18/9/2005

Payment over the counter @ TWL is encouraged.

Your payment receipt *is* your ticket



Women's Chanting and Percussion Group

@ The Women's Library

Sunday 2pm June 12th July 10th August 14th September 11th.

Come along and join this inspiring women's group, Percussion instruments and song words provided. Musician Sue Gee will ease away any tension you have with her beautiful auto harp music, sacred chant rhythms, folk songs and energetic group percussion. A gold coin is welcome. Tea and Coffee and a social chat after, complete a wonderful afternoon at the Women's Library.

Enquiries: suegee@optusnet.com.au

Lesbian Open House

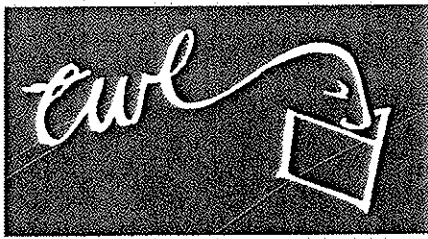
By Jeannie Sotheran

Lesbian Open House is a free, informal discussion group that welcomes lesbians of all ages and backgrounds as well as those who identify as bisexual, asexual, transgender or just don't know.

Meetings are held at the Women's Library at 7pm every Tuesday. Topics range from the serious through to the trashy; i.e. Is there a lesbian scene in Sydney and do you feel comfortable in it? Do you have to have sex with a woman to be sure you are a lesbian? Breaking up— is there an easy way to do it? The meeting lasts just over an

hour and then it's off to the pub for a coffee or drink. Usually about 20 to 30 women turn up. They range in age from 18 through to 60 and with backgrounds that include admin workers, students, scientists, artists, stay-at-home mums, backpackers, unemployed, health workers etc. The meeting is completely free. Open House is an ideal way to meet other lesbians whether you're just coming out or have been out for ages but have lost a connection with the lesbian world. Call 02 9519 7516 or check the website at sydneyopen-house.freesevers.com

The Radio Show: not only is Lesbian Open House a discussion group that meets at the Women's Library every Tuesday at 7pm, it's also the name of a radio show on Eastside Radio 89.7FM – a community radio station broadcasting to the eastern suburbs of Sydney. Have a listen at 5.30pm every Wednesday for 'news and views from the lesbian world'. There is also a brief mention of the previous night's discussion topic and a good bit of free advertising for the Women's Library. For more details on the radio show email sydneyopenhouse@yahoo.com.au



BOOK REVIEW

The Well-Heeled Murders

Cherry Hartman Spinsters Ink, Duluth, USA

Morgan McRain is an Oregon therapist who discovers she has a flair and fascination for investigating murder after she discovers the body of the clinical psychologist who shares consulting rooms in the same building as her lover Victoria. Putting her practice on hold, Morgan teams up with police detective Sam Reynolds to track down the killer. Morgan and Sam must discern just where the truth is amongst the many lies they are told by their suspects and identify the murderer.

Although the psychology-jargon intruded a little on the dialogue at times making it seem a little stilted, overall the mystery is a satisfying one. Lorraine Barrow.

REMEMBER

In the long run the pessimist might be right but the optimist has a better time on the trip

TWL 2006 Membership Renewal

OCTOBER 1st 2005

Your TWL membership for 2006 falls due again on
October 1st 2005

Remember from now on we will be able to process your membership on the spot and issue you with your new card over the counter instantly. Pro rata fees apply when paying for mid year membership. Why not come in and get active amongst all these great gals, **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO HELP**

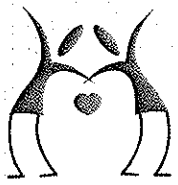
US OVER WINTER AND TO ASSIST WITH OUR MAJOR CATALOGUING PROJECT NOW IN FULL SWING

WE NOW HAVE 80% OF THE COLLECTION CATALOGUED!!!

Not a lady...

My mother gave me clear advice
When I was very young
You must grow into a lady
And some things are never done.
Ladies never sweat or swear
Or go barefoot in hot weather
They don't climb trees
Or play in mud
They keep their knees together.
Ladies never laugh or talk too loud
They're always quiet and meek
Ladies defer to the man's view
And they don't attention seek.
Even at an early age
With my life just begun
It appeared to me from what she said
Ladies never had much fun!
Later I realised that 'lady'
Was a word that kept me trapped
In placid, quiet acceptance
And I wasn't having that!
So I became a woman
A much, much stronger word
I laughed out loud
I talked a lot
I made sure that I was heard
I went barefoot in public
I did not defer to men
I was a disappointment to my mother
And wasn't sorry, now or then
So I've sweated and I've sworn
And I've worked for social change
I haven't kept my knees together either
I've been called some nasty names.
But you can call me anything
Bitch or dyke or weird or crazy
I'll have a laugh, reclaim the word
But don't ever call me Lady!

Shirley 2005



VOLUNTEER TRAINING @ THE WOMEN'S LIBRARY

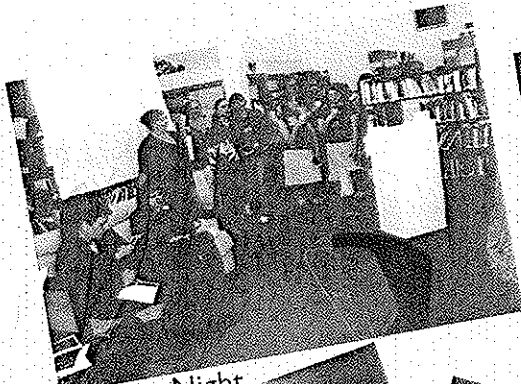
Dear Members, would you like a chance to get involved with the Library, To learn the basic front counter duties, cataloguing, accessioning, perhaps develop some new skill, or get an opportunity for some interesting work experience? Come in on Wednesdays 12-4pm (Saturdays and Sunday's by arrangement) for volunteer training in Library processes, administration, computers.

Call the Library on 95577060 for more information.

Meet new friends

@

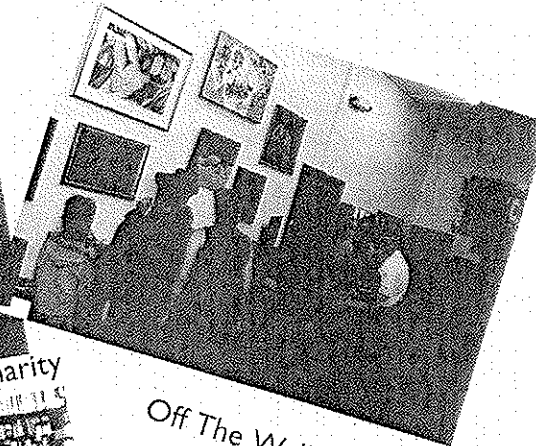
The Women's Library



Opening Night



Belinda and Charity



Off The Wall Art Space



Joint Exhibition
Opening Night Lane Cove



Robyn Mah & Laura Brown



Liz Ireland in full



Belinda Rayfield and Friends



EXHIBITION NOW SHOWING @ The Women's Library

"Domestic Devine" - Vee Malnar is a painter and a musician who recalls that the housewife mould of her mother had a huge impact on her ambitions to "become more than that." However the political issues surrounding housework have always played a major theme in her works. "Housework is undervalued and the pressure on women to do most of the housework still continues," says Vee, who enjoys ironing and making patchwork quilts. The central theme of her work, be it song, stage or canvas, always returns to the empowerment of women and the constant definition, redefinition and refinement of the female experience.

EXHIBITION OPENING JULY 2nd @ 6pm - LEA KANNER

Lea is a very gifted female artist, working mainly with acrylic and oil. Lea's art works feature water, trees, flowers and Central Australian landscapes as well as some very fine acrylic resin & bronze sculptures. Lea has won prizes @ the Dobel Festival of Art, The Henry Lawson Festival Of Art, The Royal Canberra Art Festival and many others.

Don't miss these significant artists, now exhibiting @ the Women's Library.

BOOKS AND JOURNALS JUST SHELVED - - - ♀ - - -

Domestic Violence Liaison Committee
Glasgow Women's Library News Issue No 31
Grapevine
Jessie Street National Women's Library Newsletter, May 2005
Lesbian and Gay Solidarity Newsletter Issue 4 No 40
Inner Sydney Voice, Journal for Sydney Regional Council for Social Development
LOTL - Leading Lesbian Magazine, May 2005
Mountain Lesbian News 2005
National Library of Australia News Network, May 2005
Newsletter of the Rural Women's Network
Branching Out Newsletter of the past Adoptive Resource Centre December 2004
Supplement to the Society of Women's writers NSW inc December 2004-A Collection of Prize winning entries in the 2004 members Poetry and short story competition
Newswrite, Newsletter of the NSW Writers Centre
Queensland Women, December 2004, Jan, Feb 05
Women Incest Survivors Network, May 2005
Child Abuse Prevention Issue 22, Autumn 2005

Books new to our shelves!

Presumption of Death, Perri O'Shaughnessy, Published 2004
Alias Grace, Margaret Atwood (Booker Prize 2000)
Truth and Dare, Jayne Ann Krentz, 2004
Cry No More, Linda Howard Published 2004
Imitation in Death, Nora Roberts, 2004
Judy Cassab Diaries, Random House
Catch, Poems by Dorothy Cork, (signed copy)
February Dark Anne Von Bertouch (signed copy)
Life's Rhythms—
Poetry by Jogmaya Narpatsingh (signed)
Lives Obscurely Great— Historical Essays on Women of NSW— Society of Women Writers.
Like all Good Travellers An Anthology of Friday Poets. Edited by Kathryn Purnell
Each our own Star The Friday Poets and other Women Poets, Collected by Dorothy Ormerod
Sweet White Dove and Other Stories Dorothy Cork (Signed copy)
No Thanks or Regrets An Anthology of Australian short stories, edited by Jacqueline Kent
Why doesn't she leave by Marion Hosking.

Coming soon to The Women's Library GREEK..? LESBIAN OPEN HOUSE

Wednesday Nights at 7 pm

This group has been initiated by a small core of Greek Lesbian Women however once the group is established @ the Library it will expand to include lesbian women from all Non English Speaking backgrounds.
Starting date to be announced soon
Contact TWL proposal@hotmail.com

The Women's Library AIMS

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

To house required reading for courses offered at 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 from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds

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

To act as a local women's resource centre

To provide an area for children and a range of great children's books

NEW DVD COLLECTION @ THE WOMEN'S LIBRARY

We have a number of great new DVD's and a new TV with head set exclusively for our members if you wish to come in and enjoy a DVD on our couch, or you can pay a \$20 deposit and borrow a DVD for 7 days. We are keen to add to our collection so all donations of suitable DVD's are very welcome.

Lost and Delirious, Between two Women,

The Hunger (Nothing Human loves forever)

Too beautiful to die, too beautiful to live.

GIA, Fire, A Village Affair, The Lady from Shanghai,

Cleopatra, Vampyres,

Shelter Island - Erotic thriller film, The Monkey's Mask,

Sirens-Erotic Lesbian, Peter Pan,

Tipping the Velvet, KD Lang In Concert, Women to Women

We of the Never Never

Do you have a DVD you would like to donate to help us build this collection?.



Bung shoulder, Knee stuffed, Pain in the neck?

Feel like a truck ran over you?
Have you tried Bowen Therapy?

A non-invasive gentle treatment using a series of gently rolling connective tissue moves which can affect physical, emotional, mental wellbeing.

Some rebates apply!

Meredith Pitt Dip BT, Dip EH
Arkana Therapy Centre, Chippendale
Saturdays 9211 4510 or 0403 851 175
meredithpitt@aapt.net.au

COMING SOON to TWL Benefits of Yoga for Women @ The Women's Library


The path of yoga has many directions but all lead towards peace. On the journey the body may learn to walk with grace or sit without pain. The mind may turn to acceptance of what is as it feels while consciously letting go of judgement. Within this space the body mind can surrender into that place of peace that lives within each being. As your body strengthens & stretches & your mind softens & opens here is Spirit. What is Spirit? That wise voice that guides you beyond the external towards your connection to all others & the Earth.

There may be visions of yoga being for the young, the fit & the bendable. Visions of body pretzels in a row. For some young & flexible this may be their path. For any body there is a way to peace with yoga. Yoga is accessible to all body shapes, sizes, energy levels & ages. On the physical level, regular practice can reduce aches & pains and improve your posture, strength & flexibility to leave the body more equipped to handle the ups & downs of your everyday.

Yoga meets you where you are. As you bring the mind to accept the limits of your body, there is yoga. Yoga means union. Yoga is finding a union of your body, mind & Spirit, just as it is in any given moment. In my own practice of yoga, I have found more comfort & freedom to move in my body. Since my teens I experienced frequent lower back pain which made it uncomfortable to sit or stand for long periods. With regular yoga practice, I have grown into my body & got to know it & this long standing tension has been released. Yoga is not a quick fix solution but the process is part of the gift. Change that comes slowly gives you space to understand the body and what it is teaching you with its pain or openness.

Beyond the body, the mind plays its games of telling stories, rollercoaster feelings, the drama of life's choices and the suffering of unacknowledged pain. It dances with these thoughts, never stopping. As we move the body into poses, we consciously let the mind be as it is. As you stay with the posture gently notice emotions, thoughts, sensations that are rising or flowing. Notice them while reminding the self it does not need to judge these patterns of the mind. Coming back to the body, back to the breath into mindfulness of the present moment brings peace on the mat & into your day. This process of being with the feelings of the mind can help you grow through periods of intense emotions and change in your life and ease patterns of anxiety & depression.

Deepening the breath, connecting to the feeling of your body grounded on the earth, and cultivating acceptance of your body, mind & self can lead to less stress & more joy in your daily life. During the yoga classes at the Women's Library I will be leading a 1 hour class suitable for all beings. We will work on connecting to the breath, & moving the body to increase energy, gently relax & find peace within. So come along & try it & see how it feels for you. **Namaste.** This is a greeting that means, 'The flame of joy within my heart, Greets the flame within each of you'.

 SATURDAY 11am Starting July 23rd

Prudence Topperwien Yogini

HOW TO CONTACT US

The Women's Library
8-10 Brown Street
PO Box 271
Newtown NSW 2042
Phone 9557 7060
Fax 94278022

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Robyn Mah- Convener

2005 Newsletter Deadlines:

1 September 2005

Email your book reviews,
poetry, events, Interviews & Art photos
to : twiproposal@hotmail.com
Material published is at the
discretion of the editorial team.

The Women's Library Webpage

Katie Blake and Jeannie Sotheran have
been working on our new website

Our site includes the following:

- The Women's Library
- Opening Hours
- Library Training Information
- Volunteers Information
- Monthly Volunteers Shift Rosters
- Women's Library Collection-incl Journals
- Current Library Projects / Photographs
- "Off the Wall" Art Exhibition Space
- Herstory (TWL History ,old Newsletters)
 - Library Contact details
 - Open House Lesbian Forum
 - Library Facilities/Meeting space
- Committee List & Annual General Meeting
- Annual Financial and Members Reports
- **The site will be launched at the
AGM on Sunday November 6th**

The Feminist Bookshop

Shop 9, Orange Grove Plaza,
Balmain Road, Lilyfield 2040

Tel (02) 9810 2666 Fax (02) 9818 5745

Email feministbookshop@iprimus.com.au

Open Monday-Friday 10.30am-6pm

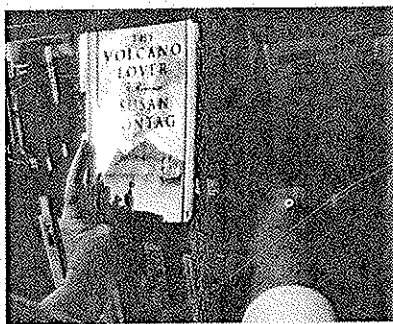
Saturday 10.30am-4pm. Closed Sunday

The Women's Library would like to thank the
Feminist Bookshop for their interest and assistance
with handing out our brochures and
publicity material.

TWL KNOW HOW

Ways You Can Support The Women's Library

How



The Women' Library Works

Membership ♀

To be eligible to borrow book, you must become a member of The Women's Library

Membership fees per year including holding deposit

\$ 70 Funded Institution

\$46 Unfunded institution and waged individuals.

\$40 part waged individuals \$34 students

\$16 High School Students.

Deduct \$10 if you are renewing your 2005 Membership

The Women's Library accepts Visa, Bankcard and Master-Card. with ID. Receipts are always given.

Loan Period

Two weeks for all books. members can borrow up to six books at a time. Videos can be borrowed for one week only. See loan deposits.

Loan Deposit

Members must lodge a \$10 deposit with us before borrowing. This deposit is retained by the Women's Library if a book is not returned or is returned damaged. It may also be retained if a book becomes very overdue. This deposit is held by the Women's Library until you are no longer a member. Active volunteers are exempt from this deposit.

Periodicals

Serials, magazines, journals, and reference material can not be borrowed but may be read in the library.

Long Distance Borrowing.

If you live outside the metropolitan area or have a great deal of difficulty getting here, The Women's Library will be happy to send particular titles to you. This service is available to members only and the library requires you to finance the cost of all postage by way of stamped, return-addressed large envelopes.

Borrowing Video's and DVD's

Videos /DVD are available for loan by members for a period of one week and require a refundable holding deposit for each loan \$50 for institutions and \$20 for individual members.

A receipt must be produced for all video deposit.

Renewals

Loans may be renewed in person or by phone unless they are on reserve.

Become a Member ♀

Please fill out the form attached to this newsletter and become a member of The Women's Library. The Women's Library is unfunded and membership fees keep the library alive. As a member you are entitled to borrow books from the library, receive *The Women's Library Newsletter*, attend TWL social events, and are eligible to vote at our Annual General Meeting usually held in October each year..

Become an Active Member

The Women's Library relies on volunteers to staff the library everyday, you can assist by becoming and active volunteers in the library.

Buy a Book to Join the Library

You can buy a book to donate to The Women's Library in lieu of Membership fees.

THIS IS HOW YOU DO IT. The only books we can accept in place of fees must be purchased from a list of titles lodged with the Feminist Bookshop. The **TWL List** contains titles that we especially would like to house in the library and this system will ensure that we do not receive multiple copies of some titles and no copies of others. The minimum value of book donations is \$30. Simply bring in your book, membership form and receipt to the Women's Library during opening hours and we will be happy to process your membership.

Book Donations

The Library has a no strings attached donation policy. The Women's Library reserves the right to decide whether a donated item will be integrated into the collection, exchanged or sold.

Tax Deductibility

To make it more inviting for you to donate money to The Women's Library your donations are tax deductible. Similarly, you can donate a collection of new books (which must be valued by an approved valuer) or any item that has been purchased by you within the past twelve months and you can claim the value of that donation as a deduction on your tax return.

Bequests

Maybe you would like to consider making provisions for leaving your personal library and or a donation to The Women's Library in your will. Contact the Library Convenor for details and assistance : Ph 95577060.

All new members pay their holding deposits up front, this \$10 deposit is refundable after 30 hours of Volunteers time on request in writing to the Treasurer

The Executive Committee Members—The Low Down!



Robyn Mah Convenor 2004/5, Library Processes Sub Committee, Volunteer Coordinator, Newsletter Editor, Off the Wall Exhibition Coordinator, Grants.

When I am not at The Women's Library in Newtown I am the Director of a community centre working in community cultural development, music tuition, visual arts, exhibitions and event management. I have been an active TWL member for over seven years now with an ongoing interest in the development of The Women's Library Association and its remarkable collection of books, journals and ephemera. I am very keen to see consistent library processes re-established, and a secure income source established for the library through our new second hand bookshop.

We are also looking at training opportunities for volunteers, especially library training, computer and internet skills. We have recently taken on Centrelink and WOW volunteers for training and hope to investigate further training possibilities in the future.

I am pleased with the recent support and energy from TWL members and amazed at the work that has been achieved over recent months by the committee and a small army of volunteers. Work like accessioning, cataloguing, establishing our new second hand bookshop (which now rivals any in Newtown). The library is once again a proactive social and intellectual space for women, a space, that should continue to flourish as the women's community hears about the collection, our events and our interest groups/clubs. So come in and see for yourself what The Women's Library has to offer these days...you just might get a surprise. Better still... stay awhile and participate with your ideas, energy and experience. We are a very friendly group and you will be warmly welcomed by all.



Ginny Koreman Secretary, Library Processes Sub Committee, I am a student of the University of Sydney living in Newtown.

When I discovered The Women's Library I found not only a valuable resource of specialised literature, but also a group of strong and diversely talented women from whom I have learned much over the past year. The unconditional acceptance I have received from the other members and volunteers has inspired me to take on the additional responsibility of Secretary of the Management Committee. I am excited to be able to give service to this important organisation.

Fiona Davidson, Treasurer, Membership Coordinator, Handywomen with the toolbox! Hello to all you Trekkies!

I've been involved with the Women's Library for about 4 years. During the last 3 I have been on the management committee. This year I am the membership processing person, and the Treasurer. My qualifications include: Nursing, Welfare Diploma, Bachelor of Teaching (Early Childhood), Bachelor of Education (Hons). My employment has included: numerous nursing positions, Disability support, setting up the Richmond program Mullewa women's detention centre, Social Educator, teaching, numerous positions, Director of childcare centre, Child development officer Parenting consultant, Dept of Ed., Community involvement: TWL (of course), RSVP (response to sexual violence project), Bankstown Women's Health Centre (chairperson). I am excited about the changes in the space at TWL, and its increased usage by women. What am I passionate about? The rights and safety of women and children, supporting women in their own journeys, from a feminist philosophy.



Katie Blake, Ordinary Member, Catalogue & Website Designer, Grants, Book Club Founder / Facilitator

I have been on the Committee for eight months now. I've lived in Newtown for fifteen years and like many regular library users the delicacy and depth of women writers has great appeal to me. My career began in librarianship, but I've been involved in electronic information management systems since the 1970s. The last five years I worked with a small company that designed library systems using Inmagic's DB/Textworks software, for special libraries in law, health and government. I'd often thought about being a volunteer, so I wandered into TWL one day when Robyn was behind the counter. "I'd like to join your library," said I. That's great so would you like to be a volunteer as well?" said Robyn. "Oh, why not?" I replied. There ensued a discussion of what I might be able to do with my computer skills for the library. The TWL catalogue, loans and returns system needed a re-design, and thus was born "Katie's Catalogue". It has been a great challenge. Apart from the joy of developing a new system for the library with new software, it has been a real delight to get to know the other hardworking members and volunteers at the library. I am now busy writing with grant writing and working on The Women's Library Website which we hope to have ready for launching by November.



Joy Vivien Ordinary Member, Book Club Founder / Facilitator, Co Editor Newsletter

I was delighted to discover the existence of The Women's Library a few years ago. It was just what I needed—a relaxed meeting place, with women, books and ideas. I was pleased to find such open acceptance of all women regardless of background or sexuality. I have long believed it is in women's interest to come together politically and as a community and the Library seems to foster this ideal of community.

I was a keen student in Women's Studies at Macquarie in the 1980s, so have enjoyed looking through this great collection of books by, for and about women, I am a clinical nurse specialist in drug and alcohol services and have two adolescent sons. I enjoy watching them play soccer and play with the Flying Bats myself. I facilitate a Monthly Book club at the Library with Katie. I enjoy to write poetry, and browse through the fantastic collection at TWL.

Jeannie Sotheran Public Officer, Lesbian Open House Facilitator, Web Page Maintenance, Promotion and Publicity.



I have been involved with the Library for about 2 years coordinating Open House each Tuesday night, I became involved in Women's Library while I was searching for a new home for Lesbian Open House. Open House now meets every Tuesday evening at the Library and many of the OH women have become members and active volunteers. Impressed with the dynamism of the Library management committee, I now do a fortnightly Saturday shift — usually behind a vacuum cleaner. I am keen to see the library increase the social groups and would like to see it become a hub of learning for women. A regular monthly movie night would also be nice with such beaut films as 'The Sound of Music'. When I am not pushing a vacuum cleaner around the library, working on the new TWL website, convening another 'name around' at Lesbian Open House, I work in an admin role at the ABC. I help present a lesbian radio show on community radio. I also like jogging on a Saturday morning with the G and L running group Frontrunners. A pastime my partner thinks is just bloody stupid!



BOOK REVIEW Pride and Prejudice

Author: Jane Austen

For those wanting something different from the average novel, Jane Austen's "Pride and Prejudice" is a great read.

Published in 1813, "Pride and Prejudice" was and still is the most popular of all Austen's novels. The story of the Bennet daughters' search for suitable marriage partners is told with humour and wit. Austen provides a host of memorable characters: there is the garrulous and pushy mother, Mrs Bennet; her cynical and sarcastic husband Mr. Bennet, and perhaps most amusing of all, the notorious groveller Mr Collins, whose obsession with rank and fortune knows no bounds. The obsequious Mr. Collins delivers much of the novel's comedy, though on another level, his character leaves the reader to ponder over some of the novel's more serious concerns. Mr. Collins, for instance is not so amusing as he is odious, when his second marriage proposal succeeds. One can only pity Charlotte, the poor woman who becomes Mr. Collins's wife, as she is in many ways a victim of her society, choosing marriage only as an alternative to facing the lifelong stigma of being a 'shelf sitter'. Who could after all love a man like Mr. Collins!?

Other ingredients in Austen's novel include a conventional romance (that of Jane and Bingley), and the unlikely courtship of the lively and articulate heroine, Eliza Bennet and the haughty aristocrat, Mr Darcy. While there are moments of heavy reading in "Pride and Prejudice", Austen's irony and witty dialogue more than compensates. Prue

TWL : VOLUNTEERS AND MEMBERSHIP ENQUIRY FORM 2005 Post to

TWL 8-10 Brown St Newtown

The Women's Library is always looking for new members and reliable active volunteers. Whether you are interested in becoming a member, assisting us with staffing the library, helping at book stalls, distributing the newsletter or brochures, accessioning new books, helping with our social events and or being part of any number of Library projects please fill out this form and we will contact you soon.

NAME _____ Mobile _____

ADDRESS _____ Postcode _____

PHONE (home) _____ (work _____)

Email _____ Occupation _____

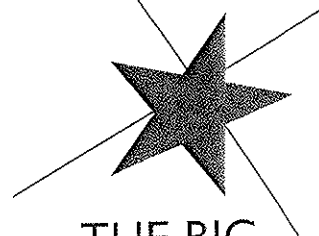
I would like to become a member of the Women's Library. Please send me a membership application form and or my membership fee of

\$ _____ is enclosed please call the Library on 95577060 for membership costs.

I agree to abide by the rules of the Women's Library.

Signed _____

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| 1 Staffing the Library (Please indicate days available below) | 8 Reviewing book |
| 2 Cataloguing (training) | 9 Desktop publishing |
| 3 Transport/ errand (type of Vehicle) | 10 Fundraising |
| 4 WebPages management | 11 Mail outs |
| 5 Grant applications | 12 Newsletter |
| 6 Second hand Book stalls | 13 Seeking donations |
| 7 Publicity (Please circle) | |



THE BIG
LESBIAN
BOOK
SALE @
THE LIBRARY
JULY 2nd 3-6pm
Second Hand
Lesbian Fiction Sale
Come along and pick up
a bargain

RECYCLE YOUR BOOKS

If you donate your old books to us, the profits from the sale of excess second hand books will be used to run the Women's Library, It's a win win for everyone.

So come in and donate your books and maybe buy a book as well. its simple, its recycling and its great for your Library.

"The Women's Library – "Winter Retreat"

WHY Cos women need to frolic, and share time together. Its about serious down time for busy women, about time to relax, meditate, share a belly laugh, socialize, eat great food, time to create sing, dance, drum, its about being happy, being together, Its about women with women.

WHERE @ The Women's Library 8/10 Brown St Newtown

WHEN: Saturday June 25th to Sunday June 26th

WHO T.W.L Members and their friends

COST \$4.00 per session, **CURRENT TWL members** \$5.00 per session, **NON- members**

Maximum payment for whole retreat is only \$ 16 members \$20 non members

NB: All cheques are to be made payable to: The Women's Library PO Box 271

WHAT TO BRING : It: **B.V.O FOOD AND DRINK**

Your registration form and full payment per session are due by June 18TH

▶ **SESSION 1 10am – 2pm**

10.00-11.00am Halina Oleskowsky will facilitate A Women's Healing and Meditation Circle.

11.00 – 12.30am. Women's Discussion Group Facilitator Jeannie Sotheran Topic: "A Women's Community." Do you feel part of it, is it possible to make or develop such a community?

12.30am to 2pm LUNCH AND POETRY - 1.30pm to 2pm Comic performer and Poet ,

▶ **SESSION 2: 2pm to 6pm**

2.00pm Meditation ♪ Chanting ♪ Singing ♪ Sue Gee is a well known folk music performer .

3.30pm to 5pm Short Story Readings by selected readers.

6.00 pm BBQ DINNER – Find the great chef within and startle us with a glorious plate of food.

▶ **SESSION 3 7pm to 10.30pm**

7.00- 7.30pm- Artist / Comic performer, well-known gal about town VEE MALNAR .

8pm Liz Ireland, Laura Brown + other great women drummers in concert.

9pm to 10.30 pm DVD on the big screen - Title to be decided.. Supper/coffee/hot chocolate

10-10.30pm– Girls in PJ's– A Pyjamas Parade lead by beautiful Turkish Belly Dancer Bea.

SESSION 4 10.30pm to 12 am Sunday OVERNIGHTERS.

10.30pm - Midnight Lesbian DVD on the big screen (title by democratic vote)

OVERNIGHTERS >>>> 8.30am –10 am GOOD MORNING SUNSHINE Sunday Communal Breakfast
Doors open at 12 noon



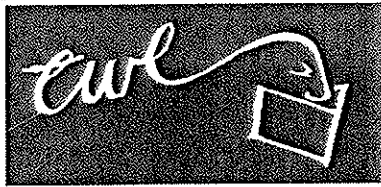
The Women's Library Book Club @ 4pm every 4th Sunday

Sunday 26th June Oranges Are Not The Only Fruit by Jeanette Winterson

How do people arrive at what each of us call "Reality?" How do they discover new realities? In this funny story, a daughter desires to explore the Land of Forbidden Fruit whilst her religious mother, who has an ability to come up with a plausible-sounding explanation for every problem that seems out of the ordinary, wants her to live for the Promised Land. Jeanette's teacher has a "problem of vision" which is symbolic of how people choose to ignore that which is obvious to some and not to others.

Sunday 24th July Kinflicks by Lisa Alther

We all live to some extent within the paradigms created in our minds by our parents. As the story Kinflicks explores with insight and humour how difficult it is for well-meaning parents to avoid indoctrinating their children with the imperatives they were indoctrinated with themselves. Many women will also relate to Alther's trap of the dutiful-mother syndrome, of becoming totally dedicated to The Other while sacrificing one's own identity. First published in 1976, Kinflicks remains poignant and relevant today at both the personal and the societal level. **Facilitators : Joy Jago and Katie Blake**



BOOK REVIEW Why Doesn't She Leave ?

The Story of a Women's Refuge

Written by Marion Hosking

Forward by Anne Summers

This book is both an interesting history of the growth and development of a women's refuge and a depiction of the damage done to our society by domestic violence. The history of women's services can easily be lost and we tend to take for granted the existence of refuges, women's health services and court

support schemes, none of which would exist without the work of staunch and committed women. In our current political climate, with resurging right wing attitudes and threats to funding for such services, this is a particularly important book.

Marion Hosking traces the history of Lyn's Place, a women's refuge in Taree in rural NSW. Using true life accounts from survivors of domestic violence, volunteers, workers and community members, she follows the establishment, growth and developments of a refuge. She also explores the manner in which community attitudes to domestic violence and to women impact at all stages of this process.

The book explores the specific issues faced by rural women, by Aboriginal women and by children experiencing domestic violence. By using the voices of real women in her text she achieves an immediacy and reality that it is both confronting and inspiring. This book does not hold back in acknowledging the level of violence against women, the physical and emotional injuries or the impact of community attitudes on women who are attempting to reclaim their lives from violence.

I would recommend this book not only to anyone interested in the history of women's services but also to anyone wishing to develop a deeper understanding of domestic violence and the need to work to eliminate violence against women in our society. Shirley

Review of Anne Summers "The End of Equality"

TWL Book Club recently discussed this book at their monthly meeting. All agreed it was a wake up call for women of all ages and backgrounds to look closely at what the Howard Government has been doing to women's rights over their years in power. Many of us would assume that women are indeed equal today but Summers systematically sets out to disprove this belief, and in fact argues that we are worse off now than we have been in past decades. By using statistics and drawing on conversations from focus groups she conducted, she builds her case and finishes with a call to action for all of us.

While many in the group found the book enlightening, I also found it a bit hard going. It is very focused on statistics and Summers uses numbers to repetitively argue the same points from different angles without too many concrete solutions offered. I, for one, would have responded more positively had there been some case studies of individual women for me to relate to. A slightly less academic approach would perhaps appeal to more women and encourage them to take a stand on what is undoubtedly an important issue.

"Fingersmiths"

The Women's Library Writers Group "Fingersmith"

@ 3pm First Sunday of every Month



Fancy yourself a writer? Beginner or experienced you should come along to the TWL "Fingersmiths" group. Meeting on the first Sunday of the Month the aim is to workshop material written by members, and do short writing exercises that can be discussed together to improve our writing skills. It's social, fun, a little challenging and - most importantly - supportive. So don't be shy - turn up to the TWL at 3pm or email Jody on

j_ekert@yahoo.com