

The Women's Library



Newsletter

The Women's Library

Aims



The Women's Library will comprise a lending library, a reference library and an information exchange and community centre.



The Women's Library will house print and non-print material by, for and about women such as:

- texts that are required reading for courses offered at Sydney tertiary institutions that address the status of women, including Lesbians;
- published and unpublished papers and theses;
- published and unpublished works of fiction, with emphasis on fiction produced by Australian Women, particularly Lesbians;
- published and unpublished works of non-fiction, with particular attention to collecting in areas of special interest to Lesbian and feminist Women;
- journals, with particular emphasis on journals produced by Australian Lesbians and feminists;
- ephemera;
- photographs, letters, diaries, posters; and
- audio visual material.



The Women's Library will be a safe and supportive space, where women, including Lesbians, can relax, read, study and exchange information.



The Women's Library will be a resource particularly for researchers and students concerned with addressing the status of women, including Lesbians.



TWL Inc. will raise funds through donations, grants and activities of a commercial nature to maintain The Women's Library.



TWL Inc. will house The Women's Library in an appropriate and accessible location.



from The Women's Library Constitution 1996

TWL

AGM 2007/2008

WHEN: Sunday 21st September

**WHERE: Community Space
(above TWL)**

TIME: 1:30pm

Spring Fling

TWL Herstory
 Join us in celebrating 10 years at Newtown,
 And the launch of TWL Herstory.
 More info.. See the back cover.

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Volunteers: Our Life Blood

Convenor's Note:

What a mammoth year it has been.

The TWL space is inviting and friendly, a hub of activity. City of Sydney has shown their continued support by granting us another stay on our rent. Thank you, Thank you!

I think they were most impressed by both the library opening hours (7 days a week), and the use of the space by groups. The group library calendar is a very busy little bee, with 2 groups now waiting for evenings to become available.

The old stalwarts..AKA Lesbian Open House and Book Club, as well as Outwrite, GLOH, Tangerine Circle, 2 choirs, Wolf Study Group and Creativity & Conversation. The Off The Wall Art Space has also been busy, with 5 exhibitions this year.

These were Silent No More, Storying Our Lives, Untitled, Serendipity, Who'd Have Thought and TWL Herstory.

Enough of the great happenings, TWL wouldn't function without the many woman who volunteer their time. Many thanks to the volunteers, both new and long serving for your dedication and support. It is the volunteers energy and enthusiasm as much as the collection and space that encourages women into TWL, a very, very big huge thank you.

I would like to say how fortunate I feel to have been the Convenor in a year when there has been such a strong, skilled and committed group of women on the management committee.

Fiona Davidson

(Convenor 07/08)

Thanks to all our dedicated volunteers:

Abigail, Allyce, Beth, Carolyn, Ceci, Fiona, Fran, Gabrielle, Gail, Glennifer, Helen, Hilary, Janet, Joanne, Karen, Kay, Lauren, Renee, Rosemary, Rosalie, Shirley, Spider, Sue, Tracy, and Uma

Inaugural TWL Women's Awards

There are 3 sections to the awards.

- Women who have given their time and energy to promoting lesbian issues and support.**
- Women who have given their time and energy to the promotion and support of TWL.**
- Women who have shown a long standing commitment to the women's health sector.**

The Women's Library *ewl* 

presents
Feminist Fatalis



Women artists singing and performing their thing

An event organised Uma,
as a way of supporting female artists,
and as a fund raiser for
The Women's Library.

\$8 unwaged/TWL members

\$10 waged

\$15 you love us a lot

Price also includes light supper & a lucky door prize.

Tickets at the door.

Children welcome

Wheel chair accessible



Short Story Competition

Short Story Competition

AND THE WINNER IS:

Karen Adler,

For her story titled:

Where I Live ...

Where watching puppies play
in the window of the Pet Palace
is a spectator sport -
a child's favourite outing for the day
and an adult's reminder of
once having been
just like that child
where watching puppies
wrestle with each other
is heaps better than TV.

Where a government's apology,
long-needed, long-overdue,
is accepted with grace
and Sorry is scrawled
on footpaths and displayed
in shop windows
and welcomed
and discussed between strangers
and reminds you of when
you were proud to be Australian.

Where Council signs
threaten fines
of up to a million dollars -
and why not a gazillion dollars? I wonder -
for dumping things
in the street
but still the residents
leave their no-longer-needed things
for others to collect
and take home
like a continuous Christmas Day
gift-giving.

Where Herbie the inventor
wears a white coat -
quite similar to Dr Frankenfurter's
as he bolts
up the street
to direct a truckload of
strange and new parts
from which to concoct
strange and new things.

Where vacant lots
with grass grown waist high
and morning glories
trailing up rusted wire fencing
take me out of the city
and back to my childhood
of open spaces and exploration
of the little country town
where everyone knew
everyone.

Where possibly the only
tuba-playing busker
in the world
sits on a milk crate
on Saturday mornings
and oom-pah-pah's
reverberate off the asphalt
as you walk towards him
with a smile
at the strange loveliness
of it all
on your face.

I quite like
where I live
these days ...

Copyright Karen Adler, 2008

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The library is funded from membership fees, sponsorship, donations, grants and fundraising events. While City of Sydney Council is very supportive of us, we don't receive any external funding. There are three choices of financially supporting the library:

- Individual membership
- WOLF sponsorship
- One off donations

We are currently seeking sponsorship from women within the community. We offer WOLF (Women's Library Friends) Sponsorship, please see attached form. The Women's Library is a registered charity and donations over \$2 are tax deductible. As a WOLF sponsor you will receive a tax receipt at the end of the financial year for your tax records.

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We 're On The Web:
www.thewomenslibrary.org.au

Books That Change Lives:

I have often been involved in discussions with other women about books that have changed our lives, made us think, caused us to question and educated us about ourselves, our roles as women and the world we live in. I often feel a bit inadequate in these conversations. Yes, I have read and learned from many feminist writers over the years – Germaine Greer, Dale Spender, Naomi Wolfe, Gloria Steinem and many others. I am always grateful to the women writers who share their knowledge, thoughts and opinions in ways that strengthen and inform other women. However, some years ago, as a working class young mother with child, job, unhappy relationship, a Year 10 education and a very embryonic feminist consciousness. I could find nothing that seemed to reflect or validate my life. I struggled to read 'Gynecology' and 'The Female Eunuch'. These were books that later I embraced, but at the time, I felt inadequate and as if my own lack of education, money and political knowledge barred me from 'being a real feminist'. The book that changed my life and my thinking was a slightly battered paperback I bought from a second hand bookshop.

I think it was the first line that encouraged my purchase '*If shitface asks me what I do with the housekeeping money once more, I'll carve him up with the pissing bread knife*'. Finally, a heroine I could identify with! 'Happy as A Dead Cat' by Jill Miller follows the life of an emerging feminist, with five children (two at the breast), a demanding husband and a best friend. She is thirty seven years old and just discovering that she is oppressed – '*Of course I'd heard the word before but I thought it only applied to black people*'. Following her journey, with all the trappings of poverty, 'acceptable behaviour', needs of her children and relationships with others helped me to begin to see the relevance of feminism in my own life. The book is both funny and, at times, tragic, and the depiction of the struggle of an ordinary woman to change her life is inspiring. This battered paperback did the rounds of the women I knew until it literally fell apart from overuse. It was only recently, in TWL's second hand bookshop, that I found another copy. However, much as I love this book acknowledging its influence is sometimes a bit challenging. Imagine the following conversation:

'What books influenced your feminism most?'

"Definitely The Female Eunuch--"

"Gynecology. Or maybe 'The Beauty Myth'

'Dale Spender – anything by her"

"The Oppression of Women"

Me: "Um – actually it was a book called "Happy as A Dead Cat..."

Shirley Kent

Generously Supported By:



Donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

Mail out of this newsletter was made possible by the Salvation Army Women's Group.

The Women's Library *ewl*

Spring Fling

It's birthday time again at TWL. Who can believe we have been at the Newtown location for 10 years. This is an important event, so come and help us celebrate. There will be: An historical display, Performers such as Maxine Kauter, Jakelene Xtreme, Jenni Nixon, the Jam Tartz, and reading of the winning entry in the short story competition. Launch of the TWL Herstory book, and Launch of the Storying Our Lives Book.

MC: Jody Ekert

Opening of Event By: Eva Cox

When: Sunday 21st September 2008 @ 2pm

Where: Community Hall Space (above TWL)

RSVP: 8th September 2008 (Very important for catering purposes!) 9557 7060

