

# NEWSLETTER

## JESSIE STREET NATIONAL WOMEN'S LIBRARY

Vol 14 No. 1  
February 2003

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### AWARDING OF JSNWL ESSAY PRIZE

Hailey Baldwin and her father joined 40 people at a dinner in Women's College on 5 December who had gathered to congratulate her on winning the inaugural JSNWL Essay Prize 2002, with her essay on Katharine Susannah Prichard. The Hon. Elizabeth Evatt, who had generously donated the prize, congratulated Hailey on her win. Hailey is a year 12 student at Immanuel College in Adelaide.

Before presenting her with a cheque for \$1000, Elizabeth Evatt told an interested audience that, during her five years at the College, Hailey had won a number of school and state awards. In 2000 she was named SA Premier's Young Historian of the Year. She was the State Champion of the National Writing Competition in 2001, and in 2002 was a State finalist in the Plain English-Speaking Award and the State Winner of the Royal Commonwealth Society Essay Competition. Hailey represented Australia at the Global Young Leaders Conference in Washington DC and New York this year and was nominated for the Young Australian of the Year. Hailey's interests are not only academic; she has represented the College in netball and volleyball and enjoys athletics and swimming.

Hailey hopes to enrol at Sydney University in 2003, but has not yet decided what degree course she will pursue. Elizabeth and the audience wished her well for the future.

You can read Hailey's winning essay on JSNWL website on [www.jessiestreetwomenslibrary.com](http://www.jessiestreetwomenslibrary.com)

The three judges of the competition, Patricia Clarke (writer and biographer), Libby Gleeson (author) and Jacquie Kent (writer, editor and biographer) were all present at the dinner to meet Hailey and congratulate her personally on her essay.

After the dinner we welcomed guest speaker

Wendy Bacon, who gave us an interesting account of the ins and outs of the legal case involving Roseanne Catt.

### ANNOUNCING JSNWL ESSAY PRIZE 2003

See page 2 for details

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**Saturday 29 March, 2003, at 10 am**  
**Sydney Mechanics School of Arts**  
**280 Pitt Street, Sydney**

### JSNWL FUNCTIONS

#### Lunch-Hour Talks

**Venue** The Lady Mayoress' Rooms, Town Hall, George Street, Sydney  
**Date and Time** Third Thursday in the month from 12 noon to 1.30 pm  
**Entry** \$20 (non-members)  
\$15 (members). Light lunch included

For catering purposes, please let us know you are coming. Contact tel (02) 9876 3927 or (02) 9265 9486 or email [shirleyjones@ozemail.com.au](mailto:shirleyjones@ozemail.com.au)

**February 2003 — Thursday 20th**  
**Susan Steggall — *From Sand to Snow and Back Again: One's Heart in Two Countries***

Susan discusses her book *Alpine Beach: A Family Adventure* the story of the ten years she, her husband John and children Zeke and Zali, spent in the Haute-Savoie region of the French Alps and their extraordinarily successful relationship with wintersport competition.

**NOTE: The MARCH and APRIL talks will be in the Southern Function Room, Level 4, Town Hall House, 456 Kent Street**

**March Talk — Thursday 20th**  
**Gina Lennox — *Voices from Kurdistan***

Editor, writer and film-maker, Gina Lennox, outlines the history, culture, experiences and political struggles of Kurdish men and women from Iraq, Turkey, Iran and Syria, based on their contributions to her book *Fire, Snow and Honey - Voices from Kurdistan*. She will also explore the ramifications of a war with Iraq from the Kurdish point of view.

**April Talk — Thursday 17th**  
**Jacqueline Kent — *The Art of Reading Other People's Mail***  
Jacquie is an author and editor and a recent award-winner for her biography of the well-known editor, Beatrice Davis.

## JESSIE STREET NATIONAL WOMEN'S LIBRARY

The Library is open to the public Monday to Friday, 10 am to 3 pm

*Australia's national women's library is a specialist library with its sole focus on collecting and preserving the literary and cultural heritage of women.*

*The Library is named in honour of the activist Jessie Street, who campaigned for the rights of women, both nationally and internationally.*

### Aims

- to heighten awareness of women's issues
- to preserve documents on women's lives and activities
- to support the field of women's history
- to highlight women's contribution to this country's development

### Borrowing Policy

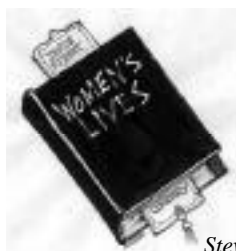
The public may borrow items on interlibrary loan. A loan collection is available to financial members of JSNWL.

**Location:** Level 1, Town Hall House  
456 Kent Street, Sydney

### Public Transport Services

**Trains** Town Hall Station

**Buses** Queen Victoria Building,  
George St, York St and Drutt St



Stewart McCrae

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS FOR 2003

Subscriptions for 2003 are now due for renewal. A renewal form is enclosed.

Please ignore this notice if you have already paid your subscription or if you have authorised the Library to AutoDebit your credit card.

New members who joined between October and December 2002 are financial until December 2003.

## JSNWL ESSAY PRIZE 2003

We are pleased to announce the second annual JSNWL Essay Prize.

### TOPIC

## THE LIFE AND WORKS OF AN AUSTRALIAN WOMAN NOVELIST (whose books were first published between 1940 and 1975)

The competition is open to female students in their last two years of education at any secondary school in Australia. Send for nomination forms and guidelines now, or download them from our website at: [www.jessiestreetwomenslibrary.com](http://www.jessiestreetwomenslibrary.com)

The prize is \$1000. Entries close on 30 June, 2003.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**SATURDAY 29 MARCH, 2003 at 10 am**  
**Sydney Mechanics School of Arts — 280 Pitt Street, Sydney**

### CHANGE OF DATE

**Please note that the date of the AGM, given in the November newsletter as 22 March, has had to be changed to 29 March.**

### Proposed Amendment to the Constitution

The following motion will be put to the meeting:

'That 'student member' be added to the categories of membership specified in the Constitution.'

Membership categories are given in Part 1 'Definition and Interpretation, Membership.. 'Student member' will appear under (b) Associate Members.

This will apply to secondary and tertiary students up to the age of 25. Student members will receive one issue of

the newsletter per year. They will not be eligible to vote or for election to any position in the Library.

### Nominations to the Board

If you wish to nominate yourself or a friend, please send for a nomination form. Completed forms must be in the hands of the Returning Officer by Friday 14 March.

Keep the morning of 29 March free and join us at the Sydney Mechanics School of Arts.

## GRANT APPLICATIONS

We were disappointed to receive news that our two applications for 2002-2003 grants were unsuccessful.

One application was for a Community Heritage Grant from the National Library for funding to digitise slides illustrating the activities at the Women's Peace Camp at Pine Gap in 1983.

The other was for a grant under the National Women's Development Pro-

gramme given by the Office of the Status of Women. We asked for funds to digitise our poster collection to put on our website.



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## DONATIONS OF MATERIAL

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We thank the following people, organisations and publishing companies for donating material and other items to the Library.

Irene Coates  
Una Ellis  
Julia Freebury  
Jane Innes  
Eileen Jones  
Shirley Jones  
Belinda Mackay  
Robyn Mathison  
Annemarie Nelson  
Bev Perel  
Helen Ruby  
Annie Tollafield  
Mimi Zou

ABC Sound and Reference Library  
AIATSIS

Allen & Unwin  
Clouston & Hall  
Currency Press  
Hale & Iremonger  
Pan Macmillan  
Random House  
Redfern Legal Centre Publishing  
Spinifex Press  
University of Queensland Press  
University of Sydney Women's  
Group  
University of WA Press  
WEL

We also thank Jane Waddell for donating a display cabinet to the Library.

### AN AUSTRALIA DAY HONOURS AWARD

We congratulate our Patron  
**Dr Evelyn Scott**  
from Cairns in Queensland, who has been awarded an AO in the recent Australia Day Honours List for her work with Indigenous Communities. Dr Scott is cited as having served her community through leadership in the area of reconciliation, as an advocate for the empowerment of indigenous women, and as an instrumental figure in the establishment of legal, housing, employment and medical services for indigenous communities.

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## LIBRARY MATTERS

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### LIBRARY NEWS

#### Visitors

We have had a steady growth in the number of visitors coming into the Library. Among our December visitors was one from Wilmslow, Cheshire, in the UK. Students researching school assignments have included several who have joined our team of volunteers. One is an Honours student who will include the Library in the list of acknowledgements in her thesis.

#### Display Cabinet

We have recently had a display cabinet donated. We will use this to exhibit rare items and other items of interest from the Library and the Archives.

#### Farewell to Our Temporary Volunteers

We are sad to say farewell to our two volunteers, Annie Tollafield and Claire Eden, who have been in Australia on a year's working visa, and are returning to the UK early February. They have done a lot for the Library in their time here and have been fun to work with. We shall miss them.

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### A REQUEST TO MEMBERS

#### Our Unique Serials Collection!

The National Library recently contacted us about two newsletters which we hold and they don't. They became aware of this because Helen O'Rourke, one of our volunteer librarians, has been meticulously cataloguing our serials. The National Library wanted to know the publisher details so that they could try to get copies. We hold only one copy of each newsletter *Australian Women in Archeology Newsletter* and *Networking to Win*.

We (and the National Library) would be interested in obtaining more copies of these newsletters if any of our members have any at home or any knowledge about them.

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#### Books from the ABC

We have been the fortunate beneficiary of a downsizing of the Sound and Reference Library at the ABC, part of their Archives and Library. The library had inherited material from other departments, much of which was no longer



being used. The ABC has donated to JSNWL a large number of valuable books about women, from the library of the former Women's Unit, now disbanded. These books have been accessioned and shelved. Most have been placed in the Research Collection, some in the Loan Collection.

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### ARCHIVES NEWS

#### Helen Leonard's Archives

Our latest acquisition is a large amount of material from Helen Leonard's archives. This huge collection includes audiotapes, videotapes, photographs, computer disks, posters and papers, which document Helen's long and varied career in the women's movement. There is a huge amount of work required in the reorganising and sorting of material, but fortunately the Library has several volunteers, including new ones, willing and able to help with the sorting and boxing.

#### New Volunteer

Shelley Brann is a new volunteer who is to help with archives. Shelley is a student at Sydney University and a niece of Lola Sharp, who is a volunteer with our Oral History group. We are finding that quite a number of our volunteers are being drawn into the ranks by other volunteers, who like the work and appreciate the friendly atmosphere.

#### New Material

Judith Larter, a new member from Queensland, has donated a copy of a diary written by her husband's great-grandmother on her voyage from England to Australia. She left England in September 1865 and arrived in Australia in January 1866. This is a quite fascinating account and we are grateful to Judith for donating it.



(Photograph not available)

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## OCTOBER LUNCH-HOUR TALK

**SPEAKER: BEVERLEY SODBINOW**

***“Keeping Women’s Words Alive:  
The Importance of Preserving Our Archives”***

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*Beverley Sodbinow, Archivist at JSNWL, gave a most interesting and informative talk in the Lord Mayor’s Reception Room on 17 October.*

All my life I’ve been interested in women’s words. My earliest childhood memories are the voices and laughter of women. During WWII with my father in the army, my mother did hairdressing at home. The house was frequently full of women and there was lots of chatter and laughter as they shared their experiences.

My three aunts, two of whom were journalists, went overseas in the 1950s and never returned to live in Australia. They wrote to my grandmother religiously and I remember being fascinated when she read me their letters. She also had a bundle of letters written by her husband while he was at sea. After she died, a well-meaning relative came into the house to tidy things up and all the letters went. I was so angry. They were part of my family history and can never be recovered. Don’t let that happen to you. Make sure that your family treasures go to a safe place.

Archives — or primary source material — is what I want to talk to you about today. This talk is geared towards the lay person, not the professional, so is going to be very basic. Archives are the records created by people and organisations in the course of their lives and businesses. The documents we keep are our own personal archives. Among the direct users of primary source material are students, researchers, educationalists, historians, genealogists, and journalists. Information is passed on to indirect users through newspaper reports, history books, films and documentaries, and through novels based on researched facts. An archivist’s job is to collect, identify, document and

preserve archives, so that people can use them.

In Jessie Street National Women’s Library our aim is to collect and preserve primary source materials on the lives and activities of Australian women. This includes the records of women from all ethnic, racial, and socio-economic backgrounds. We collect the personal papers of individual women, papers from migrant women relating to their settlement in Australia and literary manuscripts. We like to assess a collection before it is deposited. When we accept material we ask donors to transfer copyright to the Archives.

Your collection is stored under safe and secure conditions. Your papers are placed in boxes designed specifically for archives storage. Posters and large items are stored flat in plan cupboards. Everything is properly labelled and recorded electronically on a database. All photographs that come to the archives (preferably as part of a collection of papers) must have detailed identifying information, otherwise they are useless for research purposes..

**Looking after Your Own Collection**  
You should be aware of how to look after your family archives properly. Storage materials should be acid-free. Many types of paper, cardboard and plastics contain harmful substances. Oven bags are the sensible things to store papers in at home to protect your letters, diaries and photographs. If you wish to retain documents for more than ten years, use special archival paper.

**Storage Items to Avoid**  
Do not laminate your photographs. Protect them using good plastics such as Mylar. Avoid metal paperclips and staples which rust on to paper. Use plastic or stainless steel ones. Material can be tied with white cotton tape. Don’t use pink tape, which may stain your documents if it gets wet. Store documents in plain manila folders, not coloured ones. Avoid post-it notes which leave a sticky residue that attracts insects. Make sure your hands are clean or that you wear gloves when you handle original documents or avoid

handling originals by making photocopies of them.

**Storing Your Collection**  
Store documents and books in clean, dry places. Avoid roof spaces, areas under the house or garden sheds and garages. Don’t keep things next to a fireplace or near plumbing; high temperatures make paper brittle and humidity encourages moulds. Never store in direct sunlight or under bright lights. Keep your collection off the floor. If pipes burst it won’t get flooded.

If your papers do suffer water damage, take really important ones to a qualified paper conservator, but most papers can be dried at home using paper towels and blotting paper to absorb the moisture and a fan to help dry the water out. Put a sheet of glass over the papers as they are drying to prevent them from curling. If whole books are wet put absorbent paper about every ten pages through the book and change this every few hours. Don’t place the papers in direct light, as this causes uneven drying.

‘No Documents, No History’ was the motto of the World Centre for Women’s Archives, established in 1935 by the American historian, Mary Ritter Beard. She founded the women’s archive out of frustration she encountered in trying to locate women’s papers. She realised that before historians could interpret women’s contribution to civilisation and incorporate their accomplishments, they needed to be able to find primary source material.

Another woman who should be known to all archivists is Margu rite Durand, who lived 1864 to 1936 and was prominent in the struggle for women’s suffrage in France. She and another woman had been executors of a will in which a large and historic collection of women’s archives, painstakingly gathered, was left to the Mus e Sociale. The Mus e refused the gift and all these valuable documents disappeared. Margu rite, aware that her own collection was of value, donated it to the Municipality of Paris five years before her death. The Municipality, undertook to pay for its maintenance,

*continued on page 6*

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*To keep women’s words, women’s works, alive and powerful – Ursula Le Guin*

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## NOVEMBER LUNCH-HOUR TALK

**SPEAKER: DR JOAN WEBB**

*“Volunteer Teaching in Thailand”*

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*On 21 November, Dr Joan Webb, gave an illuminating talk about her volunteer work in Thailand lecturing to post-graduate students in environmental education.*

Some of you may be wondering how I got involved in volunteer work in a developing country. In the early 70s I was doing a masters degree in education at Macquarie University, which was very involved with education in developing countries. I did several courses on education in developing countries and became very interested.

In 1975 I went to work at Ku-Ring-Gai College of Advanced Education lecturing in science education. In 1977 a colleague took a group of students to Phranakhon Teachers College in Bangkok, where they were helping children in the nearby local schools with their English. In January 1980 the head of the science department at Ku-Ring-Gai told me he had put me on the short-list for Thailand if I were free to go.

I ended up being the one chosen. We went in July, and it was one of the most wonderful experiences of my life. The principal of Phranakhon had heard that someone who knew about environmental education was coming and I was invited to give a talk to the science staff there. I told them something about environmental education in Australia. The result was that I was invited to go back the following year to help run an in-service course for teachers. This was a problem because I was a full-time employee of Ku-Ring-Gai and at Phranakhon I was supposed to be supervising our students as they did their English-as-a-second-language teaching. I was given permission to run the course, but I still had to do my supervisory work as well.

Since 1984, while I was working full-time at Macquarie I would go back to Phranakhon during the holidays in January and July. Sometimes I went in December and January to run in-service courses for Thai elementary, secondary or tertiary teachers. The staff at Phranakhon translated all my notes into Thai and they sold them to Thai teachers. A colleague warned me I was being used, but I didn't mind. What good is

knowledge if we don't pass it on?

While I was working, I sponsored small groups of Thai staff to come out here and I could help pay their fares and accommodation, but once I retired it was a bit more difficult, especially after 1983. From that year on Ku-Ring-Gai no longer paid my fare because I was so involved with the in-service work I wasn't able to look after the Australian students.

Teaching in Bangkok has had its difficulties. One year the Phranakhon staff asked me to go to a local primary school to design some work on ecology — something the teachers could use as an activity in our in-service work. In the school grounds, I located ten different mini-sites that students could study. For example one mini-site was a big log with lush grass growing around it and a shady, damp area underneath where a lot of little bugs lived. The children could look at this and explain why it was a good place for these little bugs. A Thai friend wrote up a booklet describing each of the ten sites with questions about them. Several years later, my friends in Thailand took me to a school to see the wonderful work in environmental education they were doing. What did I find? They were using this same book that had been prepared for the school near Phranakhon. On looking round, I found a log but it was on completely dry bare ground, with not a live bug in sight. But the children were nevertheless being asked to answer the same questions about it. I could have wept, because somehow the message hadn't got through.

In 1996 I was part of a committee that was asked to plan a masters degree in environmental education for Phranakhon College. In 2000 they had the first intake of young people for this degree — a combined one in environmental science/environmental education. I went to Phranakhon for all of March and April 2000 as a visiting lecturer in the degree course and in October the whole class came out here for a study tour. This is the third year I've been in Phranakhon for March and April and the third year that the group has come out here for a study tour in October.

(Photograph not available)

When I lecture in this post-graduate program, I show everything that I say to them on an overhead transparency because they can read English but don't hear it very well. One of the Thai lecturers will translate for those who need it. The first overheads let them know what environmental education entails, such as: awareness; understanding; ability to help solve environmental problems; and commitment to developing behaviour that is environmentally responsible. It is important to get across to them that environmental education should provide a broad understanding of the interrelationships between social, economic, political and environmental factors. When making decisions, the environment is only part of the equation. Economic and social aspects are important too.

I set the students working in groups. After they've been given a question, they get together for 20-25 minutes to discuss in their own language the focus areas, to consider how they would set up a committee and decide on recommendations to make. Then I put up on the overhead what I would suggest as some of the focus areas.

Here is a question I gave them for discussion. 'Treat the earth well. It was not given to you by your parents. It was loaned to you by your children.' I ask them to give their opinion of these sentences. What do they say about personal responsibility, community responsibility, national responsibility? How could these sentences be used in an environmental education program?

To close, I just want to say that I have received as much from Thailand as I have given.

*Transcription and summary  
Shirley Jones*



## NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to our new members

Shelley Brann  
Lorraine Budai  
Bernadette Connole  
Sonia Fingleton  
Patricia Fontaine  
Anne Heywood  
Sandy Killick  
Judith Larter  
Sharon Ottery  
Rebecca Taylor  
Sue Wagner  
Kim Yin  
Amy Yuan

## VOLUNTEERS' NEWS

### Wendi Balbi reports

The last three months has been a time of building up teams of volunteers for particular purposes: librarians, archivists, oral historians, transcribers, ambassadors and the many other volunteers who help outside the Library. It has been a time to bring our volunteers together both through last year's Volunteer Celebration and the monthly e-mail 'Connectica'. The way forward will be to support these teams, provide training when and where required and to appreciate the wonderful achievements of all those involved.

The ongoing thrust is to publicise JSNWL whenever possible and hopefully this will lead to other talented volunteers joining our ranks.



Stewart McCrae

## VOLUNTEERS' CELEBRATION

On 27 November, about 35 volunteers gathered in the Lady Mayoress' Rooms for a champagne celebration. It was a very convivial gathering and volunteers were pleased to have the opportunity to get to know one another and to catch up with old friends.

Victoria Rubensohn, Chair of JSNWL, thanked the volunteers for the tremendous amount of time and effort they put

into the Library 'You are,' she said, 'the backbone of the Library and without you and your commitment it could not exist.'

The Library specially wishes to thank Cathy Sanderson for organising the function and Elizabeth Mooney, Alison Storey and Jenny Heidtman for providing most of the food and for helping behind the tables. These three are the mainstays of the Lunch-hour Talks functions. Marie Cavanagh again provided a delicious homemade Christmas cake to be raffled. Alison Storey, the lucky winner, felt it had made her Christmas.

*At the Celebration*

*Left to right — Kay Godfrey talking to Wendi Balbi, and Beverley Sodbinow with Alison Storey and Gwen Clarke.*

(Photograph not available)

### EXCITING NEWS FOR CANBERRA MEMBERS

A series of lunch-hour talks has been arranged by JSNWL in Canberra. The talks will be held on the first Thursday of every second month at the Canberra Museum and Gallery on London Court, opposite the Legislative Assembly. An exciting list of speakers has been drawn up for the year.

#### INAUGURAL TALK

(This is part of the IWD calendar)

**When:** Thursday, 6 March at 12 pm

**Where:** Canberra Museum and Gallery, London Court

#### CARMEN LAWRENCE Guest Speaker

Canberra member, Wendy Sanderson, has worked very hard arranging the talks, finding a suitable venue, and generally setting the whole enterprise in motion. Virginia Gordon, a Sydney Board member, has been helping find speakers.

**Keep these Thursdays free**

**6 March 1 May 3 July  
4 September 6 November**

**and bring your friends along!**

*from p 4 — Beverley Sodbinow's talk*

and it formed the basis of France's specialist women's library in Paris, the Bibliothèque Marguerite Durand.

Let me relate an incident that happened to us. We had a call from a woman called Maryrose in Melbourne who was trying to locate a videotape of a public lecture given by Gloria Steinem at Sydney University in 1987. Telephone calls to the Feminist Majority in Washington and Gloria's office, revealed no copy there. Nor was there one at Smith College where Gloria's material is archived. Maryrose tried Sydney Uni again and managed to contact a woman who had been involved in the production of the video and who explained that the unit had been disbanded and all the originals thrown out. Interestingly enough, our Library holds a copy of this video, which sounds as though it may be the last one in existence. Ironically, in this lecture, Gloria talks about the loss of women's history.

To conclude may I reiterate Mary Ritter Beard's motto — 'No Documents, No History.' Jessie Street National Women's Archives is a perfect place to have your archives preserved.

*Transcription and summary  
Shirley Jones*

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## THUMBNAIL SKETCHES OF THE BOARD — 2002

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*Thumbnail sketches of Victoria Rubensohn (Chair), Jane Waddell (Vice Chair) and Christine Lees (Secretary) appeared in the November 2002 newsletter.*

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### ROBYN HARRIOTT (TREASURER)

Robyn selflessly volunteered for the hardest job at the Library – making sense of our accounts. She does a brilliant job of steering a middle course between our most extravagant ambitions and the reality of our income. She brings to the Library a long and impressive career in accounting, having worked in such diverse areas as Harness Racing and Concrete Recycling – no connection.

However, there is much more to Robyn than her very much appreciated accounting skills. She also has a great affinity for music and has taken part in a Music Ministry both as organist and as a choir member for the past seven years. She is a member of the National Gallery of Australia and, lest anyone should think an accountant boring, she is also a member of the Alfa-Romeo Owners Car Club.

Multi-skilling is a byword on our Board and Robyn has fitted in beautifully. Always keen to lend a hand, she has attended most of our functions including Lunch Hour Talks, Sunday Afternoon Talks and, of course, the greatest trial of all for our Treasurer, the Parliamentary Luncheon. Members would understand that a lot of work goes into this function but few would know that for the Treasurer (and the Secretary) it is almost a full-time job for the month leading up to the event.

We consider ourselves fortunate to have the services of such a talented individual.

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### BOARD MEMBERS

#### SUZANNE DAVIES (Melbourne) Director, RMIT Gallery, Melbourne

Suzanne's training as both an artist and art historian and extensive experience in, and knowledge of, the Arts community in both Sydney and Melbourne give the Board an invaluable insight into the workings of the industry. She co-founded the National Association for the Visual Arts and has served as President of the Print Council of Australia. She is currently President, Museums Australia (Vic), a member of the Boards of the Australian Business Arts Foundation and Tax Incentives for the Arts, and a member of the Senate, Australian Academy of Design. She has also been Chair of the Biennale of Sydney, President of Family Planning NSW and a board member of the Sydney Spring International Festival of New Music.

Suzanne has been a Board member of the JSNWL for five years and is the immediate past Chair. Like all our interstate Board members, Suzanne joins our monthly meetings by teleconference.

#### VIRGINIA GORDON

Virginia is a marketing, media and political strategist with extensive experience in public affairs and has run her own consultancy business for the past six years. She is the Public Affairs Manager for the audio-visual copyright society

Screenrights, the Australian Youth Orchestra and the Australian Society of Authors. She has had experience as Marketing Manager for ABC Radio National and has also provided strategic campaign and media advice to SBS Independent in their successful campaign to secure ongoing government funding, and to the ASA for the successful Public Lending Right campaign. She has worked in marketing and/or sponsorship with many of Australia's leading arts non-profit organisations including Musica Viva, the Australian Chamber Orchestra and the Sydney Symphony Orchestra.

Virginia not only brings this enormous expertise to the Library but willingly and effectively utilises it for our benefit.

#### SHIRLEY JONES (Public Relations Officer)

Shirley was born and brought up in New Zealand. After completing a BSc she began a BA and has taught both science and English in secondary schools in New Zealand and England. In Australia, she worked as an editor with a CSIRO institute and later as a freelance editor.

Shirley was co-founder of Jessie Street National Women's Library and in 2001 was presented with an Edna Ryan award for her tireless efforts in the creation of this organisation. She is a member and supporter of various women's organisations, and is a long-past secretary of the NSW branch of the Australian Federation of University Women Graduates. She reads widely and is passionate about libraries and books and about reconstructing women's history. The Library owes its existence to Shirley's determination, care and conviction. She has held almost all executive positions at one time or another and is now recognised as a walking finding aid for anything to do with the Library.

#### BEVERLEY PEREL (Queensland)

Beverley began her very varied career with a Brisbane insurance company in 1960. In 1991 she set up her own consulting business, offering specialised administrative and management support to professional and industry associations. In 1994 the Minister for Family Services appointed her Chair of the UN International Year of the Family. From 1999-2000 Beverley was Policy Adviser, in the Women and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy Office of Minister Judy Spence, MLA. Beverley was National President of the Australian Federation of Business and Professional Women - 1982-85 and from 1985-88 she was a member of the National Women's Consultative Council, appointed by the PM. She received the 1988 Bicentennial Commemorative Medallion for this contribution. Beverley was the inaugural National President of UNIFEM Australia and from 1991 to 1993 was Secretary, World UNIFEM. In 1994 she received the UNIFEM Australia Award, acknowledging her significant contribution to UNIFEM. From 1992-93 Beverley was Vice-President of the Board of Family Planning Queensland. She has been an active member of JSNWL since 1996 as Co-ordinator for Queensland and has played an essential part in maintaining our profile in that State.

*continued on page 8*

### MARIANNE RAJKOVIC

Born in the UK, Marianne obtained a BA(Hons) from Greenwich University and a postgraduate diploma in librarianship from North London Polytechnic. She has worked in academic, public and special libraries in the UK and was a consultant to the Hong Kong Baptist University assisting with the upgrade of its library prior to the handover. Marianne moved to Perth as a Project Manager with AWA Computers and then to Sydney, where she has worked for computer companies in project management and sales roles.

In 1995 Marianne joined the City of Sydney Library, becoming Library Manager in 1996, and during her time there assisted with the lobbying to find Jessie Street National Women's Library a permanent home within the Council. Marianne currently acts as a library consultant to the public library sector. The expertise she brings to the Library is obvious and critical to the Board's deliberations.

### CATHY SANDERSON

Cathy grew up in Canberra in the 60s and 70s in a strongly politically active feminist household. This has given her sore feet, strong lungs and an abiding interest in politics. Trained nurse and midwife, Cathy has worked in Australia and England, mainly in Critical Care nursing. She completed a BA at the University of New England in 1987. For ten years Cathy was involved in the setting up and running of 'The Shack', a youth support and counselling service in Epping. She was Secretary of the group for four years then chaired the Management Committee for four years. For her work with this group, she was given a Volunteers' Award in 2001. She is a keen golfer and has a general interest in everything. In 2002 Cathy moved with her family to Harden on the South West Slopes of NSW and so is now a Country representative.

Cathy was Secretary of the Board of JSNWL from 1999 to 2001 and has since been an active Board member, working for the Library with dedication and unfailing good humour.

### SANDRA SHERWOOD (Melbourne)

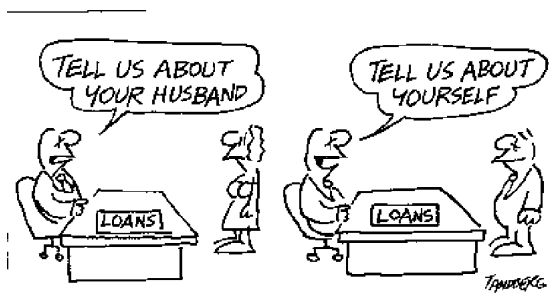
Sandra came to Australia from Canada in 2001. In Canada, she first worked as Senior Consultant with Coopers & Lybrand (now Price Waterhouse Coopers). In 1991 she became Director, Finance and Administration Training at the National Judicial Training Institute and in 1994 gained her Masters Business Administration (MBA) at the University of Ottawa. From 1995 to 1999 she was Executive Member on the Board of Directors of the United Way Agency, a voluntary organisation offering home and health support in the community. She is adept at juggling roles ranging from adviser/facilitator to implementation expert and presenter. Sandra held a position as Manager, University Relations & Business Development and Manager, Business Ventures Group with Nortel Networks and moved to Sydney when she and her husband took up positions with Nortel here.

After an interesting stint in Melbourne, Sandra has now returned to Sydney where we intend to make full use of her extraordinary energy and enthusiasm.

### PENNY STREET

Penny has had a varied career. From being personal assistant and lady-in-waiting to the wife of Sir Roden Cutler, she moved to Public Affairs Executive with Southern Pacific Petroleum, spending three years in the USA as the company's representative. This work involved liaison with government bodies and financiers as well as press relations. From 1986-89, she was Public Affairs Manager for Transfield Holdings.

Since 1989, Penny has been engaged in the marketing of a multi-lingual audio guide service through her company, Narrowcasters Pty Ltd which operates throughout Australia, New Zealand and Asia. While establishing her company, she completed a BA through the University of New England. Penny is a member of the Council of the Sydney College of the Arts Foundation. She has been actively associated with Jessie Street National Women's Library since its early years and is married to Sir Laurence Street, one of the Library's patrons



### DID YOU KNOW ?

that Olympe de Gouge, who lived in revolutionary Paris, was a playwright, pamphleteer, the founder of a women's club and of a national theatre for women? She demanded equal rights for women before the law and in all aspects of public and private life and covered the walls of Paris with signed bulletins demanding these rights. But the 'Égalité' proclaimed by the revolutionaries didn't extend to women.. For her pains she was guillotined but not before she had asked the women in the crowd 'What are the advantages you have derived from the Revolution? Slight and contempt more plainly displayed!'

### NOTES & QUOTES

In 1847, Dr Livingstone, his wife Mary and the two children, one a newborn baby, were living in a temporary hut, while Livingstone built them a house. He wrote to a friend 'A big [lion] came the night before last and took away a buffalo skin from the door. Mary wanted me to go and see whether the room doors were fastened, but ... I advised her to take a fork in her hand and go herself, as I was too comfortably situated to do anything of that sort.'

From Edna Healey, *Wives of Fame: Mary Livingstone, Jenny Marx, Emma Darwin* (The English Library, Hodder & Stoughton, Kent, 1986)

## NEWS OF MEMBERS

**A Plea from the Editor.** Because the Library is located in Sydney, most of the news we hear relates to Sydney or near-Sydney members. We are a national organisation and I would very much like to hear from members in different parts of the country. Please send me items that you think would be of general interest to readers — awards, new careers, births of children/grandchildren etc.

Congratulations to **Edith Gilmour**, who turned 102 on 6 January. Edith is well and happy in a nursing home in Neutral Bay, Sydney.

Congratulations to **Mimi Zou** who, along with her friend Ya'el Frisch, came dux of Sydney Girls High School in 2002. Mimi has accepted a 5-year scholarship, worth \$5000/year, from Sydney University for Outstanding Achievement in the HSC. She will study for the combined degree of Economics/Law.

Mimi has just returned from a trip to China, where she enjoyed herself immensely learning about her culture, language and food.

**Elizabeth Mooney** is back from an 8-day trip to San Diego (California) where she attended a wedding. Elizabeth featured in the *San Diego Redlands* newspaper as a special guest. She says she felt responsible for the wedding, since the bride, a friend of hers from the US, and the groom from the UK, had met and got engaged on a holiday in Australia.

**Beverley Sodbinow**, our archivist, is proud grandmother of twin girls, Olivia and Charlotte, born in Melbourne on 6 January, a wonderful new year present from her son and daughter-in-law.

We send our sympathy to **Belinda Mackay**, whose husband Don died suddenly on 8 December 2002, just two months short of his 93rd birthday. Belinda, Jessie's elder daughter, is a Life Member of the Library. Don supported Belinda's interest and himself took a keen interest in the Library's progress.



## MEMBERSHIP/VOLUNTEER FORM

Name .....(Ms/Mrs/Miss)

Address .....

..... Postcode .....

Tel (h) ..... (w) ..... Fax .....

Email ..... Date ...../...../.....

Member \$45  Concessional \$20 (unwaged/pensioner)

Donor member \$100  Life member \$500

Organisation \$100  Student \$5 (secondary/tertiary)

I wish to make a donation of \$ ..... (Donations over \$2 are tax deductible)

I enclose a cheque/cash/money order for \$ .....

OR Please charge \$ ..... to my  Bankcard  Mastercard  Visa

Card No. \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry date .....

Signature .....

I was introduced to the Library by .....

**AutoDebit An AutoDebit Authorisation** saves you time and trouble and saves JSNWL time and money on processing your membership.

I authorise JSNWL to charge this, and all future membership renewals as they fall due, to the credit card number given on this form.

I authorise JSNWL to deduct the amount of \$ ..... annually as a donation.

Signature .....

### Volunteers Required

**I would like to help with** (tick where appropriate)

Fact Files  Oral history  Web pages  JSNWL functions

Book reviews  Newsletter mailout  Tapestry project

## WOMEN'S RECORDS

Jessie Street National Women's Library wishes to contact women with archival material of interest to other women.

Name .....

Address .....

..... Postcode .....

Tel (h) ..... (w) ..... Fax .....

Email (please print) .....

Do you hold  records of an organisation or association (if so please name)

personal papers  other (please specify)

Please return forms to  
**Jessie Street National Women's Library GPO Box 2656 Sydney NSW 2001**