



# JESSIE STREET NATIONAL WOMEN'S LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

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*To keep women's words, women's works, alive and powerful — Ursula Le Guin*

## JNSWL: MOVING INTO A NEW ERA

Leaving the Board early this year, Shirley Jones OAM, co-founder in 1989 of JNSWL, said she was happy so many people were helping the Library move on to a new stage. Jane Pollard, resigning as Honorary Librarian, also recognised a need for succession. They left a huge gap in terms of their workload and corporate memory.

This is indeed a 'changing of the guard'. With JNSWL totally dependent on volunteers and no single overarching 'admin' position, it is now even more essential that our *teams* of people cooperate to cover all areas. This is happening — increased coordination and delegation within and across teams of volunteers running the Library and interaction between teams and the Board. There has also been proactive recruiting of volunteers to support and expand functions.

The expanded Librarian Team comprises various subsections, now more formalised, each with at least two volunteers. Experienced librarians, plus some new volunteers with library knowledge, work on accessioning and cataloguing, managing the book collection, and updating records for serial, poster and audiovisual resources.

Administration Team subsections, also more formalised, cover functions of membership, correspondence, volunteer management, technological and general maintenance functions, and rosters for reception duties (telephone calls, emails, visitors, other daily matters). A clutch of new volunteers is now being introduced to our operating procedures.

The Archives Team comprises two qualified archivists. Christine Smith has joined Beverley Sodbinow uploading information to the online catalogue. Three other volunteers work painstakingly on mountains of archival material. Our 'public face' teams working year round for monthly Lunch Hour Talks, quarterly Newsletter, and Annual Fundraising Luncheon, are more formalised too.



*Left to right: Archivists Beverley Sodbinow and Christine Smith*

Naturally, along with 'new era' initiatives, the Library continues with its traditional *modus operandi*. The Board, having overall strategic responsibility, works hard at its monthly meetings receiving Team activity reports, responding to ideas, constantly reviewing ways to publicise and promote JNSWL and ensure financial viability. A small Team assists our new Treasurer, Jean Burns. Projects, a significant element of Library operations, continue to depend on individuals inspired to follow through an idea, an example being oral history interviews currently taking place in the meeting room.

Altogether, some 30 women offer a huge amount of time and effort on a regular basis. Volunteers nominate the days they work, friendships develop, celebrations and commiserations are shared around our kitchen table. At times the Library is abuzz with various groups doing their own 'thing', at other times quiet, with perhaps one researcher browsing. Do visit the Library, 10.00am — 3.00pm Monday to Friday. For particular assistance, please book in so an experienced person can be available.

**Christine Lees**

### LUNCH HOUR TALKS — SYDNEY

**AUGUST 2011 — Thursday 18**

**Joanne Fedler**

***The Wisdom of Hunger***

Joanne will be talking about her book *When Hungry, Eat*, which is a spiritual memoir about losing weight and immigrating. When, just before her 40th birthday, she decided to lose some weight, Joanne had no idea of the spiritual journey she was undertaking which would lead her to a place of much greater hunger than the growling in her belly.

**Date/Time/Venue:** 3rd Thursday of the month 12.00—1.30pm. Southern Function Room, 4th Floor, Town Hall House, 456 Kent Street Sydney.

**Cost:** \$16 (members), \$22 (non-members) including light lunch. Pay at the door. Please book by noon Tuesday before the talk: Ph (02) 9571 5359

**OCTOBER 2011 — Thursday 20**

**Dr Sam Pari**

***Can we help prevent ethnic cleansing in Sri Lanka?***

Australian Tamil Congress National Spokesperson, Dr Sam Pari represents Tamils in human rights, political, and academic forums. Despite a 2009 government declaration of peace, Sri Lanka edges towards autocracy, and Tamil persecution, subject of a recent UN report, worsens. Dr Pari asks, 'What can we in Australia do to prevent the ethnic cleansing?'

**NOVEMBER 2011 — Thursday 17**

**Dr Maria Hill**

***Diggers and Greeks: The Australian Campaigns in Greece and Crete***

Dr Maria Hill, military historian, expert in the WWII Greek and Crete campaigns and author of *Diggers and Greeks*, will focus on the relationships forged between Australians and Greeks during battle, how these bonds helped Australian troops survive, and the bearing of people's emotions, temperament and behaviour on what occurred on the battlefield and beyond.

**ANNUAL FUNDRAISING LUNCHEON MONDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2011 PARLIAMENT HOUSE SYDNEY**

**Book now to secure your place!**



*L to R: Ellen McIlwain and Alison Storey welcome you to Lunch Hour Talks*

**JESSIE STREET NATIONAL WOMEN'S LIBRARY**

Australia's National Women's Library is a specialist library, its focus being the collection and preservation of the literary and cultural heritage of women from all ethnic, religious and socio-economic backgrounds.

**Aims**

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

**Patrons**

Elizabeth Evatt AC; Sir Laurence Street AC KCMG  
 Dr Evelyn Scott AO; Clover Moore MP Lord Mayor of Sydney

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Jozefa Sobski	Board Member

**Editorial Team**

Kris Clarke and Margot Simington  
 Shirley Jones OAM, Joint Public Relations Officer  
 Marc de Ferranti, Graphic Design Consultant

**You're Invited to our Lunch Hour Talks**

We would so much like to see as many of you as possible at our Lunch Hour Talks. We have an excellent venue in the Southern Function Room on the fourth floor of Town Hall House where there is room to accommodate well over 50 people. The cost of room hire is quite high, despite the City of Sydney's generous discount. With more members attending, we would be able to provide more money towards the ever-increasing costs of running the Library. Our Lunch Hour Talk volunteers spend weeks preparing for these very interesting events held nine times a year on the third Thursday in the month.

Do think of joining us and bring your friends. We even have a group of friends who regularly come all the way from Newcastle.

***Ros Leal, Lunch Hour Talks Co-ordinator***

**LIBRARY NEWS**

**Serials: Improving Our Holdings Data**

JNSWL holds some 200 journal titles — serials — comprising women-centred journals and newsletters of women's organisations both Australian and international. Each title is listed on the Library's catalogue and in the National Library of Australia catalogue. However, serials holding statements (ie specific issues held) are incomplete. We're already working on this and now Koha (our open-source integrated digital library system) provides further opportunity to rationalise and update holdings data — slow and time-consuming but well worthwhile for improving access to this unique journal collection.

***Anne Bolding***



*Serials librarians - L to R: Anne Bolding, Lynne Morton*

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## LIBRARY NEWS continued

### JSNWL Hosts Seminar: New Directions for Libraries

Where are libraries heading in C21? JSNWL is hosting a free seminar, New Directions for Libraries. Guest speakers are Gabrielle Gardiner UTS Library; Ross Coleman Fisher Library University of Sydney. DATE/TIME: Wed 3 August 3.00pm. Contact JSNWL for details and to book attendance.

### Poster Collection: Progressing Copyright Clearance

Copyright law, which provides for payments to users of copyright material, has implications for the Library's ability to reproduce, exhibit and load onto our website posters from our collection. The Board has developed a **Poster Policy** for managing our poster collection. Two instruments help implement this policy: a Limited Non-Exclusive Copyright Licence Agreement to be used with artists and printmakers, and a Request for Copies for the Purpose of Private Research and Study for use with potential researchers and others.

We have now listed all 59 known or identifiable poster artists covering approximately 115 of the 1500 posters in the Library's collection, as a first step towards contacting professional associations of printmakers and the like. We need to request from each artist their agreement:

- to grant JSNWL a Limited Non-Exclusive Licence; or
- to establish whether the artists wish a restriction placed on the publication or exhibition of their work.

Board members, Sybil Jack and Jozefa Sobski, attended a Copyright Agency Limited (CAL) Seminar on 25 May as part of the Library's work to explore the implications of copyright law. CAL can provide details of printers or artists who are CAL members to assist JSNWL identify print creators and/or their current addresses towards seeking copyright clearance for 'reasonable' use of the poster collection.

### JSNWL at Miranda Ladies Probus Club

'Jessie Street was not a conventional woman, for her time or our time', Jozefa Sobski began. 'She was an inspiration and used her status and personal wealth to advance causes which touched her. She did not shelter within in her class origin to enjoy the fruits of her birth. She took to life and living with courage, conviction and determination to improve the standing of oppressed peoples, but women in particular'. Jozefa was speaking in Sydney on Thursday 14 July to Miranda Ladies Probus Club. One of many such clubs, it comprises mainly retired women and organises speakers, bus tours, friendship groups and dinners, nurturing a supportive community of women through mutually enjoyed activities.

Most of the women that day were over 60, lively and alert. Some were aware of Jessie Street but had never heard of her feminist life and peace activism; many had never heard of the Library. Jessie Street would have been comfortable in their company, but would have urged more social and political engagement. Jessie would have spoken out, commenting astutely on her society, its economy and women's role. She would have actively participated in civic life. Her part in the Australian delegation in 1945 to the United Nations Conference in San Francisco was critical to placing women and their equal participation in UN agencies on the agenda. Global

travels shaped her politics. Her visit to Hiroshima affected her so profoundly that she became involved as an executive member in the World Peace Council. There were questions about JSNWL, its location and borrowing policy. Asked about Jessie's views on gays, Jozefa could not cite a documented position but speculated that given a lifetime's work against discrimination and oppression, it is highly likely her views on gays would have been supportive of their full equality and human rights.

The Club expressed interest in visiting JSNWL. Jozefa assured them they would be welcome, with some notice so volunteers could prepare displays of books, posters and other holdings of interest.



*In front of the Yurabirong Tree*

*L to R: Artist Vic Simms, Elizabeth Mooney, Dr Tim Entwistle*

### An Aboriginal Memorial for Sydney

The Library often participates in NAIDOC Week honouring Indigenous Australians. This year, as well as Norma Tracey's Lunch Hour Talk on 21 July which looks at how traumatised Aboriginal people kills dreaming, longstanding volunteer Elizabeth Mooney invited volunteers to a ceremony dedicating a memorial to Sydney's original inhabitants.

Elizabeth has realised her long-held vision for such a memorial by funding Aboriginal artists Vic Simms and Glen Timbery to carve traditional markings on a forest red gum in Sydney's Royal Botanic Gardens (CBD Rotary also provided some funds): tree carving has traditionally enabled Indigenous people to communicate ownership of land. Elizabeth was guest of honour at the ceremony on 24 February, when Indigenous children from Our Lady of Mt Carmel School danced in front of the tree. The then Executive Director of the Botanic Gardens, Dr Tim Entwistle, dedicated the tree as 'Yurabirong', or 'people of this place', and declared it a memorial to endure for 'many, many centuries'. (See also Botanic Gardens website [www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au), *Daily Telegraph Best Weekend* 5-11 March 2011.)

### Annual Luncheon Raffle and Silent Auctions

1st Prize	Quarantine Station Hotel Package for two
2nd Prize	Sydney Harbour Bridge Climb for two
3rd Prize	Cruise Express Tour & Lunch for two.
	And many more!

#### Silent Auctions

- Framed Poster of International Women's day 1995, and
- Framed Postage Stamp and Signature Set — 'Advancing Equality: Australian Legends 2011', featuring Eva Cox, Elizabeth Evatt, Germaine Greer, Anne Summers.

## ***Riding the Wave: Opportunity from the Biology Revolution***

*With a career spanning cutting-edge genetic research in the 70s and 80s, high-level management in the CSIRO, academia and the biotechnology industry, and now company director and management consultant in that sector, Marilyn Sleigh opened up to her audience the exciting and extraordinary change in the biomedical field since the mid C20.*

The last 60 years have seen an amazing wave of advances in medical research. Why? How has this affected the community and those like myself lucky enough to participate in this biology revolution?

I began in medical science when a friend of my mother gave me *The Life Savers* (1961) by English popular science writer/journalist, Ritchie Calder. He had exciting chapters on great medical discoveries: early vaccines for polio, smallpox, yellow fever; discovering early antibiotics – sulpham drugs, penicillin; aspirin and cortisone (terrific drugs that would not be approved today because of side effects); heparin preventing blood clots; and early drugs for heart disease. But in fact 50 years ago medicines were primitive, and had little more than trial and error to support their use. Discoveries were partially accidental – perhaps a traditional medicine like digoxin derived from the foxglove plant to stimulate a failing heart, or sulphonamides, a chemical dye accidentally found to kill bacteria. Making new drugs was largely a matter for chemists – identifying a useful one without too many side effects. The nature of diseases like diabetes, arthritis and cancer was not understood and there were no tools to find answers.

Scientific knowledge generally advances in small steps, building on what has gone before, sometimes reaching a plateau blocked by a technical or knowledge barrier. Eventually there is a breakthrough, like a huge flood wave breaking through a dam and sweeping downstream with far-reaching consequences. This happened in 1953 when Watson and Crick (later jointly awarded the Nobel Prize), famously described the structure of DNA – the chemical containing our genetic information. Their discovery, like the first crack in a dam wall led to a huge wave of discovery revolutionising both the treatment of disease and the practice of science itself.



Watson and Crick's insights built on existing theory. People had known that DNA contained in chromosomes in a cell nucleus was made up of four different types of subunits joined together in a chain. Genes, which are sections of chromosomes and made of DNA, each contain the information to control a particular function. Scientists thought the DNA's repeating subunit structure somehow embodied a genetic information code, but did not know how, or how information got from the nucleus to elsewhere in the cell where the proteins carrying out gene functions were generated. Watson and Crick discovered and described DNA structure explaining how the genetic code is organised, and predicted how a gene can be copied so its information can be sent to other parts of the cell. Their paper, quite short, contains one of the greatest understatements of all time. *'This structure has novel features ... of considerable biological interest'*. This has certainly proved to be the case.

The second breakthrough, which really did for the dam wall, was discovery of a class of enzymes (proteins) that bacteria use to protect against invading viruses; these *restriction* enzymes cut up the virus DNA, making it useless and can be harnessed to help study DNA and its functions. Imagine not one cell but millions of cells in a tissue sample or in blood cells, each with identical DNA, and each DNA cut to generate identical pieces which can be separated out, studied, even joined to other DNA bits cut up in the same way. This approach can be used to isolate whole genes, and make them work in new ways.

In 1981, nearly 30 years after Watson and Crick, and six years after discovery of most restriction enzymes, the gene with the code to produce insulin was introduced into bacteria so that as the bacteria grew, they made human insulin. Purified, this is now used for essentially all diabetic insulin – cheaper and safer than previously-used pig insulin. Similar stories about new medical applications for natural proteins abound eg growth hormone to correct stunted adolescent growth, hormones stimulating blood cell production to counter side effects of cancer chemotherapy, a human antibody injected annually to protect against osteoporosis, and so on.

Watching genes in action has provided tools for understanding arthritis, osteoporosis, diabetes, some types of cancer etc, meaning better ways to target treatment, better testing of new medicines, and new diagnostic agents. For example, markers predicting patient survival after pancreatic cancer surgery have been discovered: if key proteins occur in the cancer, the outlook is poor with or without surgery; in their absence, chances for a patient of longer term post-surgery survival are high. Repairing faulty body parts now seems feasible: an Australian company Mesoblast has developed different groups of human adult (ie not embryonic) stem cells to help regenerate joints, cartilage, bones, heart tissue. In the future, stem cells may produce human insulin within a diabetic person's own body, thus making insulin injections a thing of the past.

The two breakthroughs – understanding DNA genetic coding, and the ability to identify and manipulate whole genes – triggered this huge wave of discovery. The process of science has changed too. Before Watson and Crick, the Oxford/Cambridge model prevailed:

*Continued on page 6*

## Who Says I Can't

SPEAKER: CATHERINE DEVRYE

*Catherine, a former IBM executive in sales, marketing and executive development, has always enjoyed sport, so was 'a natural' to drive the 'Life Be in it' campaign as Director of Sport for the Victorian government. She has a Master of Science degree, has attended short courses at Harvard and lectured at Melbourne's Mt Eliza Business School. The author of eight books, she was 2010 Keynote Speaker of the Year, winner of an Australian Executive Woman of the Year Award and an Australia Day Ambassador.*

Like the Jessie Street Library, every one of us has a story. That's why I felt honoured when my story was published. I wrote it to help people turn their stumbling blocks into stepping stones. Writing my memoir *Who Says I Can't* (2005) was probably the riskiest thing I've done. It's like walking down George Street naked. Some anonymous person on Amazon wrote a bad review of my book. I thought an anonymous review shouldn't be allowed: this wasn't just a bad review of my book; it was like a bad review of my life. So if any of you enjoyed the book I would love you to say so on the website.

Starting life in an orphanage in Canada, I was about six months old when adopted. I was brought up by loving parents, and an only child. We lived on the wrong side of the tracks — girls in my neighbourhood did not go to university. But I knew that education was my way out of that neighbourhood, so I decided to become a Physical Education teacher. I started working when I was thirteen — as waitress, receptionist, life guard — to pay for my university education. I also got a scholarship and was the first person in my family who went to uni. Life was good; I represented Canada in basketball and volley ball. But in my final year of uni Dad died of cancer. Then Mum died six months later. My best friend and her husband had gone to Melbourne on a teaching exchange. So I came to Australia with a backpack and \$200 for a three month working holiday, and I've stayed over 30 years.

I boarded with an elderly couple in Melbourne, Frank and Betty Jansen, and was teaching at Broadmeadows, considered the roughest suburb in Australia. Frank told me something I never forgot: 'Every day above the ground is a good one'. That helped me start looking forwards instead of backwards. I earn a living now speaking to organisations all around the world on managing change and customer service. We have no control over change, but we have control over our attitude. We can choose to be victims or victors of change. Teaching at Broadmeadows High didn't worry me because I grew up in that sort of suburb. When I was thirteen the principal told us, 'You kids are nothing 'cause your parents are nothing or they wouldn't live in this neighbourhood'.

Arriving in the middle of Grand Final football season, the only thing the kids wanted to know was, 'Who do you barrack for?' Where I come from in Canada the equivalent of the word 'barrack' is 'root'. I had only been in the country for a couple of weeks and I thought it safest to go with the strength. I said with some degree of certainty, 'I root for Richmond' (the team then at the top of the ladder). A fourteen year old boy said 'All of them, Miss?' I said 'Of course, the whole team'. The following morning the phone was ringing with angry mothers questioning my morality. So I changed my long-held

definition of the word. Then, as the first female officer for Victoria's Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation, where we started the 'Life Be In It' campaign, I was sent to Mt Eliza Business College, the only female amongst 59 guys for a six week live-in course. Yes, there was sexual harassment but I handled it with a sense of humour, rather than getting angry. As well as the 58 big brothers I had at the College, I had two great mentors, Paul Freidman and Bert Keddie, urging me to try a growth industry in the private sector. I thought computers are going to give us extra time, and with my background in Phys Ed I can help people spend leisure time more profitably. I wrote a letter to IBM and was offered a position as a salesperson. I couldn't even sell Girl Guide cookies to the neighbours, but my mentor urged me to go for it.

I sold a lot of computers and then moved to Human Resources and transferred to Japan. Although it was a really tough working environment, it was a wonderful opportunity. I ended up very sick in hospital in Tokyo: they asked me about hereditary diseases, and I didn't know. That was the first time I told anyone I was adopted, because there was stigma about adoption. I decided then to find my birth parents, for medical reasons. I had my first contact with my birth parents the night of the closing ceremony of the 1988 Calgary Winter Olympics.

Ever since I was a little girl I dreamed of being an Olympic athlete, but my parents had never encouraged me. In my first phone conversation with my birth father, he asked what I did for a living. I said I worked for IBM and he said 'What's that?', so I asked what he did for a living, and he said, 'Oh, I'm a cowboy'. A rodeo cowboy, eight times Canadian champion. But what do you say when your father says he's a cowboy and he's never heard of IBM? Struggling for small talk, I asked if he by chance knew Malcolm Jones, a rodeo cowboy to whom my friend from Canada was married. The line went quiet...and my father said, 'I raised him from the time he was fourteen.' So I found myself one of 96 grandchildren and kids!

I went back to Canada to see my father inducted into the Rodeo Hall of Fame. Twelve thousand people were packed into the entertainment centre. They rolled out the red carpet and announced his daughter had flown in as a surprise from Australia! I was proud of him and he was proud of me. That night I thought: What if I'd been raised by my birth father and encouraged in my love of sport? Would I have fulfilled my dream of being an Olympic athlete? Then I started asking 'what if' in a different way: 'What if you'd been born a poor child in Nepal with a life expectancy of 37?'

*Continued on page 6*



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*Merilyn Sleigh continued from page 4*

scientists were often brilliant, eccentric individuals — the classic boffin image, where the main focus was on scientific theory, and experimental work was done only when necessary to test theory. Today, biological research is predominantly experimental: it is done by large teams of people; it is very much an international, competitive, technological activity; and the painstaking lab work of the 70s and 80s is now done by a machine and/or kit in a fraction of the time and cost.

I was lucky to work at Cold Spring Harbor, New York in the exciting mid-1970s when the potential of restriction enzymes was being realised and research groups were competing intensely to add the next piece to the genetic jigsaw puzzle. Returning from the US in 1978, I was in a wonderful position to apply new approaches to manipulating DNA. I got involved in a project studying how the influenza virus evolved and caused epidemics. We isolated the DNA making up the gene code for the most important protein on the outside of the flu virus, and compared that DNA over many different strains of the virus. It took me a year to determine my first DNA code for this relatively small gene, work that can now be done in a week, start to finish.

Successful scientists today, no longer isolated boffins, must be out in the field talking about their research, establishing their credentials relative to others and raising money (from government or philanthropists). Biological discovery and commercial opportunity are much closer. Scientists use the language of commerce and the finance industry and understand the processes and costs of getting a product to market.

This has changed careers in science and the range of opportunities, particularly for women. As a 1960s undergraduate, I was among some 40% of medical biology students (biochemistry, microbiology, pharmacology) who were women. Women graduates often went into hospital pathology labs — essential but boring work; men usually got industry jobs, becoming managers if successful (moving away from their scientific training); some became teachers, a few of the most talented, academics.

By the late 90s, I was back at university — in management at UNSW. Probably 60% of medical science students were now women, with hugely changed job prospects. These days machines do the routine hospital jobs. Increased funding for medical research provides a career structure in research separate from academia and the commercial development of science has opened up a major new opportunity stream. Basically, research is funded by governments and philanthropists, with discoveries carried through by a biotechnology industry built on private investment by individuals. Over 1000 Australian companies are now actively engaged in developing products for the biomedical industry (more than 100 such companies listed on the stock exchange), plus many more in agricultural and food areas. Many bright people seeking material as well as altruistic reward for their work, who might otherwise do commerce degrees, are now attracted back to science. A career entirely in Australian biotechnology is possible. Women, benefiting particularly, are everywhere in this industry, not only as CEOs and senior executives but also in venture capital, business development, legal and operational roles. In one company I work with, the CEO and three out of the four next level executives are female; a board of four has one male director.

Amazing progress since the 60s has given us medical treatments that improve and save lives, and an agricultural revolution providing safe food to support a growing world population. There are signs of investor caution since the GFC, with greater interest in resource investment, decreased profitability in pharmaceuticals, and escalating costs of regulation requirements to market new treatments — all affecting progress in the biotechnology industry. However there seem to be no signs of slowdown in the advance of underlying biological knowledge or of the appearance of technical or theoretical barriers to cause such a slowdown. New commercial directions continue to appear. As biology becomes bigger business, its links with other industrial areas strengthen: with electronics for the bionic ear and eye, and implanted heart pumps; and with materials science to develop better materials for replacing arteries and hip joints. New polymers provide more targeted drug delivery; increasingly food and medicine boundaries blur with better understanding of nutrition and organ functioning. Next generation's scientists begin with a knowledge base never dreamed of by me and my peers 20 years ago. We cannot even imagine the advances to come in the next 50 years.

***Edited by Margot Simington***

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*Catherine DeVrye continued from page 5*

So life isn't about the 'what if'; life is about the 'what is'. And the 'what is' of my life was that I was raised by the best mum and dad in the whole world.

But this story isn't about me. It's about every single one of us. What are the 'what ifs' in your life that are stopping you from achieving what you want in your life? I am very grateful to my birth mother for giving me the opportunity of a lifetime. My memoir isn't just about adoption — it's for anyone who has adopted a child, a new country, or a positive attitude in the face of adversity. When you write a memoir you ask, 'What is truth and what isn't true?' I have kept a diary since I was sixteen, but when my memoir came out, some people didn't agree with everything in it: my diaries were true as to how I felt at that particular time.

I decided to celebrate special birthdays in a unique way. For my 40th birthday I climbed Kilimanjaro, the highest mountain in Africa. Every now and then we've got to step outside our comfort zone. Imagine standing on top of the highest mountain at daybreak with 360 degree views, Kenya on one side, Tanzania on the other, sunlight on the glaciers, minus 30 degrees C, a crashing headache and nausea from altitude sickness, crosses for people who have died. We made the final ascent in the middle of the night to avoid avalanche danger. But the real reason they got us up so early was: if we had seen what we had to do in daylight we might not have done it. Like all challenges, if you knew how tough it was going to be on the path you've chosen you might have chosen another option. All the way up this mountain it was three steps forward, two steps back. Isn't it a bit like that in life as well? I subsequently had the great honour of having dinner with Sir Edmund Hillary at his home in New Zealand who said, 'It's not the mountain we conquer — but ourselves'.

After meeting my father I decided I wanted to reset my goals: to go to the Olympics. So I went with the Australian team to Barcelona working with them as the most important part of their body — between the ears. At the Sydney Olympics, my life was at an all

*Catherine DeVrye continued from page 6*

time high: on the day of the opening ceremony I had the honour of carrying the Olympic Torch on behalf of my adopted country. I felt humbled because with every step along the way I realised I was just a small part of something bigger than myself, and collectively that small part contributes to who we are as a nation.

On 9/11 I was the keynote speaker to 1600 delegates at the world airline conference in Brisbane and subsequently wrote a book *Hope Happens* (2002) — which is the opposite of 'Shi(f)t Happens' because whether we've lost a loved one, lost our health or lost our wealth — it is important to never lose hope ... and to always look forward.

*Edited by Kris Clarke*

### CAPITAL INVESTMENT FUND

Since its launch in September 2009, the Capital Investment Fund has now reached \$75,822. Our target is \$500,000, the interest from which will provide essential support for Library operations. If you would like to contribute, please indicate on the membership/renewal/donation form on this page.

#### CIF Donations since May 2011:

Chris Burvill                  Beverley Kingston          Megan McCrae

### General Donations Since May 2011

**Thanks to those who generously donate to the Library.**

#### Donations of money help meet day-to-day running costs:

Wendy Kerr                  Megan McCrae                  Judy Newton  
Diana-Rose Orr              Connie Ross                  Penny Street  
J Wheatley                  Penny Young                  OWN Canberra

#### Donations of material expand our collection:

Heather Bird              Virginia Blain                  Robyn Catchlove  
Clouston & Hall              Catherine DeVrye              Margaret Fearnley  
Shirley Jones OAM          Penelope Nelson              Jane Pollard  
Australian Society of Authors

### New Members

**A warm welcome to our new members:**

Megan Barnes              Jean Burns                  Emma Greig  
Leonora Howlett          Jane Lander                  Lynne Morton

### Books for Sale: \$25 each

Four copies of *The Feminist Companion to Literature in English* (1990), each book signed by the editors — Virginia Blain, Patricia Clements and Isobel Grundy. To buy, please contact the Library.

### Inquiry about Rose Wilshire

Does anyone know of a Sydney woman artist, Rose Wilshire, who painted small oil seascapes and landscapes of the Sydney district in the early 1900s? Helen Ruby, Toowoomba QLD, has six of her small paintings signed R.W. (one has 'Rose Wiltshire' on the back) and would like to know more about her. Helen's contact details: 07 4637 9806; toowoombagem@hotmail.com

### Apology

Newsletter July/Nov 2010 listed Margaret Puchett as a donor of material to the Library. The correct name is Margaret Ruckert.

### Death of Marjorie Deasey

Marjorie Deasey passed away in May, aged 99. As guest speaker for the April 2010 Lunch Hour Talk, she spoke about her life as a missionary in Papua. She had explored this in her book, *Never Say 'I Can't'*, as told to Gwyneth Priestley (2000).

## MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL/DONATION FORM

I wish to:  join the library  renew my membership  
 make a donation

Date: / / Title: Mr / Mrs / Ms / Miss / Dr / other

Name:

Address:

Telephone: (h) (w) (mob)

Email: (PLEASE PRINT BLOCK LETTERS)

- Please send me the newsletter by email instead of hard copy.
- Member \$50                   Concession (pensioner/unwaged) \$25
- Life member \$500               Supporting member \$100
- Organisation \$100               Student (conditions apply) \$10

I wish to donate: \$ (donations over \$2 are tax deductible)

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

OR

please charge \$ to my  MasterCard/Visa

Name of cardholder:

Card no.

Expiry date

Signature:

I was introduced to the Library by

### AutoDebit Authorisation

- I authorise JSNWL to charge this, and all future membership renewals as they fall due, to the credit card number above on this form.
- OR
- I authorise JSNWL to charge \$ annually to the above credit card as a donation to the Library.

Signature:

### Donation to the Capital Investment Fund

- I wish to make a donation to the Capital Investment Fund. Please charge the amount of \$ to the above credit card.
- I am willing to have my name published.
- I wish to remain anonymous.

Signature:

### Become a volunteer

- I would like to help the Library by becoming a volunteer. (You will be contacted for an interview.)

**The membership year runs from January to December. Members joining after 1 October are financial until December of the following year.**

Please forward the completed form to:

**Jessie Street National Women's Library  
GPO Box 2656, Sydney NSW 2001**

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GPO Box 2656 Sydney NSW 2001

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### **JNSWL Opening Times**

The Library is open to the public Monday to Friday 10.00am–3.00pm.

### **Borrowing Policy**

The public can access items using the interlibrary loan system. The public cannot borrow items, but may use them in their library of choice. A loan collection is available to financial members.

### **Location**

Ultimo Community Centre  
523-525 Harris Street  
Ultimo (cnr William Henry St)

### **How to Reach the Library**

**Trains** To Central Station or Town Hall Station  
**Buses** No 501 from Railway Square (Central Station) or from George Street (opposite Town Hall Station)  
**On Foot** From Sydney city through Darling Harbour to Harris Street opposite Ian Thorpe Aquatic Centre  
From Railway Square north along Harris Street

Use intercom for admittance  
NB For level access, enter via Bulwara Rd (parallel to Harris Street).

### **CONTACT US**

**Address:**

GPO Box 2656  
Sydney NSW 2001

**Phone:**

(02) 9571 5359

**Fax:**

(02) 9571 5714

**Email:**

[info@nationalwomenslibrary.org](mailto:info@nationalwomenslibrary.org)

**Website:**

[www.nationalwomenslibrary.org](http://www.nationalwomenslibrary.org)