



NSW Department for Women

THE **NEWSLETTER** OF THE NSW DEPARTMENT FOR WOMEN

**women**space

issue 23 ♦ March 2004

International Women's Day 2004  
**Women**



INTERNATIONAL  
WOMEN'S DAY

**create**  
a better World



## Features Include:

Pull Out Calendar - IWD Events

Milestones in History

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Oral History Article

# Message

from the **minister**



**Welcome to this special International Women's Day edition of Womenspace.**

**The theme this year is "Women Celebrate".**

From its inception, International Women's Day has stood for equality between women and men. IWD continues as an important occasion for reviewing and restating the economic, social and political rights of women. With much of the turbulence that surrounded its early days gone, IWD remains an important occasion for women to celebrate their achievements, while remembering that we still have some way to go to achieve equal opportunity for women, not only in Australia, but throughout the world.

We should, and shall, celebrate the diversity of women and their leadership in our community this International Women's Day.

Since the NSW Government came to office in 1995 much has been achieved. The Government listens to the concerns of women in NSW and develops responses that go to the heart of these issues. Through the Premier's Council for Women and other means, the Premier directly hears the voices of women throughout NSW. We focus on delivering real and tangible outcomes for

women in every part of NSW. Many innovative and effective strategies have been developed. Increasingly, these strategies are delivered in partnership with non-government organisations to ensure they are accessible and responsive to the reality of women's lives.

We must aim to ensure full and equal participation of women in all aspects of society in the 21st century. Our vision must be inclusive, as must our strategies and consultations.

On International Women's Day let us recognise and celebrate that we, as women, make a difference – at home, in the community and in government. We contribute to making Australia and the world a better place for everyone.



**Sandra Nori**  
**Minister for Women**

# Message

from the **director general**



**International Women's Day is a chance to celebrate our strengths and achievements.**

International Women's Day is a chance to celebrate our strengths and achievements.

The celebration of suffrage was an occasion for us to reflect on the impact of women's achievements and acknowledge the history that has shaped our nation. In 2004 we recognise the many women through the generations who have paved the way for just and equitable conditions for women and families in society.

Australian women have come a long way. Many of the opportunities we now take for granted—to learn and work and lead our community—are opportunities we have had to fight to achieve, and they have made our society fuller and richer.

International Women's Day is also a reminder that change is a continual process.

During the IWD Week for Women many activities are planned to assist women around NSW celebrate. There is a four page lift out Calendar in the middle of this issue which gives you some highlights. Please check our Website ([www.women.nsw.gov.au](http://www.women.nsw.gov.au)) when you are planning your celebrations.

This IWD edition of Womenspace is full with interesting articles and stories. Please enjoy this edition of Womenspace.

Happy International Women's Day!



**Dr Elizabeth Coombs**  
**A/Director-General**



INTERNATIONAL  
WOMEN'S DAY

**Based on: A History of  
International Women's  
Day in words and  
images by Joyce Stevens**

# Some highlights from the history of International Womens Day

The very first IWD was held in the year **1911**, on March 19, in Germany, Austria, Denmark and a few other European countries. A million leaflets calling for action on the right to vote were distributed throughout Germany before IWD.

The most memorable IWD was held in Petrograd (now St Petersburg) in March 1917. A demonstration by women gathered strength and passion as they swept through the city, launching the first revolution in 1917.

The first Australian IWD rally took place in the Sydney Domain on March 25, **1928**. It called for equal pay for equal work, an 8 hour day for shop girls, no piece work, the basic wage for the unemployed, and annual holidays on full pay.

In **1929**, in addition to a social and dance in Brisbane and a Sydney Domain rally, there was also an IWD rally in Sydney's Belmore Park in support of the wives and families of striking timber workers. Men were far more prominent than women in the audience.

**1931** saw the first IWD marches in Sydney and in Melbourne. In Sydney about 60 women headed a march of 3-400 people with banners demanding, among other things equal pay for equal work.

**1936** was a major turning point for IWD and in Sydney the first IWD Committee embracing a number of women's groups was formed.



1976

The **1939** Sydney IWD meeting was described as the largest and most representative yet held.

During the war years from **1940-45**, IWD was a continuing vehicle for discussion about equal pay and child care, with the main emphasis on the war effort.

In **1958**, Sydney IWD held an international handcrafts and jewellery exhibition in Anthony Hordern's store. It was televised.

In **1962**, three Soviet women visited for IWD. In Sydney, the public rally for the Soviet visitors was preceded by a peace walk through the streets and this walk became an annual IWD event in Sydney and Melbourne.

The first of the large IWD marches took place in **1972**. From then on, IWD marches generally took place on the Saturday morning nearest to March 8. The term "march" is really a misnomer for mostly they were more like a walk through the streets with a party atmosphere. Estimates of the numbers who marched from Sydney Town Hall to Hyde Park in 1972 ranged from 2-5,000,

In Australia, the Whitlam government chose IWD **1974** to announce that the government was preparing an official program for International Women's Year.

During International Women's Year in **1975**, IWD was given official recognition by the United Nations.

In **1980** Sydney marchers distributed purple and white gladiolas to women shoppers, with a leaflet headed "Glad to be women"



1983



1978



1975

# Milestones in the History of Australian Women



**1880** Women are admitted to university in Australia.

**1902** The Commonwealth Franchise Act is passed, enabling all women (with the exception of Aboriginal women in some states) to vote for the federal Parliament. From this time, women were also able to sit in Parliament.

**1903** First federal election at which most (white) women in Australia could vote, and the first time women could stand for election. Four women were candidates for the federal election—Nellie Martel, Mary Ann Moore Bentley and Vida Goldstein for the Senate, and Selina Anderson for the House of Representatives.

**1921** Edith Cowan is elected to the Legislative Assembly of the Western Australian Parliament, thus becoming Australia's first woman parliamentarian.

**1925** Millicent Preston Stanley is elected to NSW Parliament.

**1933** First birth control clinic in Australia is set up in Sydney.

**1943** Dame Enid Lyons, representing the United Australia Party, and Senator Dorothy Tangney, representing the Australian Labour Party, are elected to the federal Parliament.

**1947** Senator Annabelle Rankin, representing the Liberal Party, becomes Opposition Whip in the Senate, the first woman in the Parliament to hold that office.

**1949** Dame Enid Lyons is the first woman to hold Cabinet rank when she becomes Vice-President of the Executive Council in the Liberal-Country Party coalition ministry of Prime Minister Robert Gordon Menzies.

**1950** Basic Wage Inquiry held - female basic wage, but not equal pay established.

**1951** Senator Annabelle Rankin becomes Government Whip.

**1966** Senator Annabelle Rankin becomes Minister for Housing, and thus the first woman to oversee a government department.

**1966** Bar on married women as permanent employees in the Federal Public Service abolished.

**1966** First female indigenous woman ordained as an Anglican priest.

**1967** Indigenous women finally gain the vote.

**1970** Senator Ivy Wedgwood chairs one of the first of the Senate's new Legislative and General Purpose Standing Committees, the Health and Welfare Committee. The report, concerning an inquiry into handicapped persons in Australia, was the first report to be tabled by these influential committees.

**1975** Senator Kathy Martin (later Mrs Kathy Sullivan, MP) is appointed Assistant Opposition Whip in the Senate, and later the same year Assistant Government Whip.

**1976** Senator Margaret Guilfoyle, who was appointed Minister for Social Security in 1975, becomes first woman to be a member of Cabinet and to also oversee a government department.

**1983** Senator Susan Ryan, representing the Australian Labour Party, is the first Labor woman federal minister. As the Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Status of Women, Senator Ryan introduced the Sex Discrimination Act 1984.

**1986** Mrs Joan Child, MP, representing the Australian Labour Party, becomes the first woman to be Speaker of the House of Representatives.

**1986** Senator Janine Haines becomes the first woman to lead an Australian political party, the Australian Democrats.

**1987** Two women Senators, representing the Liberal Party, Senator Margaret Reid and Senator Susan Knowles, become Opposition Whip and Deputy Opposition Whip.

**1990** Senator Janet Powell becomes the second woman to lead an Australian political party, when she succeeds Janine Haines as Leader of the Australian Democrats, and the first woman member of either House to have a private bill passed by both Houses, the Smoking and Tobacco Products Advertisements (Prohibition) Act 1989.

**1990** Carolyn Jakobsen is elected chair of the Federal Parliamentary Labour Party (the caucus), the first woman to hold this position, and Elaine Darling and Mary Crawford are elected vice-chair and secretary respectively.

**1993** Senator Cheryl Kernot becomes the third woman to lead an Australian political party, the Australian Democrats. She is succeeded by Senator Meg Lees in 1997.

**1993** After the 1993 election, Senator Cheryl Kernot is elected Parliamentary Leader with over 80% of member's votes.

**1995** Senator Margaret Reid becomes the first woman to be elected as Deputy President of the Senate.

**1996** Senator Margaret Reid becomes the first woman elected as President of the Senate.

**1997** Senator Suzanne West elected as Deputy President of the Senate.

**1997/1998** NSW Inquiry into Pay Equity held.

**2000** On 30 June 2000, the NSW Industrial Relations Commission makes a new Equal Remuneration and Other Conditions principle.

**2001** Carol Martin First Aboriginal woman elected to an Australian Parliament - WA.

**2002** The first decision by the New South Wales Industrial Relations Commission under the state's Equal Remuneration Principle hands library workers a sweeping victory, granting substantial pay rises of up to 26 per cent; and ratifying a single award for all librarians, library technicians and archivists employed by NSW Government bodies. An average of 16% increases apply to librarian information workers across several public service agencies.

**2003** Linda Burney, first indigenous woman in NSW parliamentary history.

**2003** Marion Scrymgour, NT, becomes the first Aboriginal female government minister.



## Women's Political Rights in Australia

States	Right to vote	Right to sit	First woman elected
South Australia	1895	1895	1959
Western Australia	1899	1920	1921
New South Wales	1902	1918	1925
Tasmania	1903	1921	1948
Queensland	1905	1918	1929
Victoria	1908	1923	1933



# Gigi and the generosity of women

By Rosemary Block



*We met at nine -*

*- We met at eight*

*I was on time -*

*- No, you were late!*

*Ah yes, I remember it well*

*A carriage ride -*

*- You walked me home*

*You lost a glove -*

*- I lost a comb!*

*Ah, er, yes, I remember it well*

Those who saw the film 'Gigi' will recognise the dialogue between the characters played by Maurice Chevalier and Hermione Gingold. Those poor souls who do not, should go instantly to hire it from the local video shop. Who then had the better memory – he or she? The answer is probably she has – or at any rate she seems more definite about her facts. Of course what she truly does remember (and so eventually does he) is how they felt about each other on that romantic night.

The magic of oral history is that not only can one remember how one felt, but oftentimes those feelings are reinvoked. It is not only the detail of the story but the feelings as well that interest us. There are many stories told by women, and by men about women, which sometimes consciously and sometimes unconsciously reveal the times. To illustrate this let me recount two stories from the oral history collection.

When Frank Hinder (born 1906) was interviewed about his life as an artist, he talked about his wife, Margel Hinder, a sculptor in her own right.

This is what he says about their home: 'It's a quiet place to work. Has to be for Margel because when she's doing big jobs for sculpture out in the courtyard she makes a helluva noise. I used to stop her working at 10 o'clock at night because hammering copper – the noise! And she'd be up about 6 in the morning and the chap who came to help would

be here at 6.30. She'd get breakfast for him and they'd start to work. Then she'd get breakfast for me and she'd get morning tea for him and then she'd stop and get lunch for me and then she'd get afternoon tea for him and then he'd go home and then she'd get dinner for me and she'd go back to work till 10. She didn't waste much time.'

Margel Hinder tells about her three passions - shape and space and light.

'That's why I went into wire because I became so fascinated. I used to find light on grasses and light on cobwebs so exciting that I moved into wire. I remember coming up from the gully and the light was on the grasses and what I was doing was trying to capture that in sculptural form. I remember also driving to Newcastle on a very cold wintry day and the sun was shining through the woods and there were lots of spider webs with frost all over them and I tried to turn them into sculptures. I moved into heavier metals because I had the misfortune of winning two prizes in one year – one for the Reserve Bank and the other was the Newcastle Fountain'.

Why 'misfortune'? Margel explains that she never expected to win, but enjoyed the challenge of the creative exercise. And when she won, her troubles began.

When they returned from a short holiday they found a possum in residence inside the Reserve Bank's unfinished sculpture in their backyard. 'Frank had to wait till the possum came out at night and then he closed [the sculpture] over and set up a box on the studio wall, labelled it 'Reserve Bank', and the possum did go in there. We always called the box 'Coombs Cubby' because, like the possum, Dr Coombs, [Herbert Cole "Nugget" Coombs was the Governor of the Reserve Bank] was so very small.'

'I couldn't have done it without Frank: he offered solutions and so we did the Newcastle Fountain. We figured that it would take six days. In fact it took two years. They paid us five pounds a week each for the two years. The Town Clerk doled out the money for the expenses of the job. We couldn't handle the money and had to hire an accountant. When it

was finished everybody rushed to mention every other beautiful fountain in the world to us and nobody ever said ours was beautiful.'

Catherine Schulties, born in 1906 in Surry Hills, recounts that her father was employed briefly only once in her entire growing up life. He had a job in Liverpool and he only came home on weekends. Her mother gave her father 4 shillings every week day and he went to the markets and used the money to buy and sell fruit and vegetables and always came home with the 4 shillings and a supply of produce, so that they were well kept in fresh fruit and vegetables. Her mother pickled the rest. How generous it was of her to arrange that her husband retained his dignity and knew that he supported the household even though not through the traditional way.

As I'm writing, I realise that this article has come to be a tribute to the generosity of women, as indeed illustrated by the end of the 'Gigi' song:

*You wore a gown of gold -*

*- I was all in blue*

*Am I getting old?*

*- Oh no, not you - How strong you were, how young and gay, a Prince of Love in every way*

*Ahhh, yes, I remember it well!*

Oral history, the telling of one's story with an interviewer gives 'ordinary' people the chance to tell the story of their life. Because of the long domination by men, history is going to be very grateful for the recorded narratives of women. Now that anyone can tell her own story there will be documenting the detail and the feelings – and often the generosity - just like Gigi.

**Rosemary Block is the Curator of Oral History at the State Library of New South Wales where the interviews quoted here are included in the oral history collection.**

BOX: Editor's note: This is the first article in the series starting with this edition, titled **Stories from the oral history collection of the State Library of NSW.**



# 2004 Calendar

## IWD Week For Women

**21 February to 13 March**

**A Festival of events for the Illawarra.** Women's Wisdom - Politics, Actions and Renewal. Get involved in a host of interesting and varied events taking place in Wollongong to celebrate IWD. Call for a copy of the brochure. **Contact: Lucy Vellar or Michelle Webb. Bulli Community Health Centre (02) 4284 0355**



### 2 March

**2 March - 'Laughter in the Park'.** A laughter workshop facilitated by Shirley Hicks from Laughter Clubs Australia.

12.30pm. Paul Keating Park, The Mall Bankstown. Free. Betty Green, Bankstown Women's Health Centre - 9790 1378 [bwhc@swsahs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:bwhc@swsahs.nsw.gov.au)



**2 March - 'Creative Art Project for Women'.** Local Ashfield women (Sydney Inner West) will work with artist Astrid Reinke to produce a variety of art pieces that will reflect the celebration of women throughout history. The group will take part in two 3 hour workshops using acrylic paint, watercolour and pencils as well as different coloured papers and foils to illustrate their perception of the courage of ordinary women who have played such an extraordinary role in history to advance the status of women worldwide. The work will be publicly exhibited in the Ashfield Mall on International Women's Day.

No cost. All materials provided. Anthia Hart - (02) 9716 1866. [anthiah@ashfield.nsw.gov.au](mailto:anthiah@ashfield.nsw.gov.au)



**2 March - South Coast IWD Committee Morning Tea.** Four local women will talk about their experiences in women's movements in Wollongong since the 1940's.

10.30am. Wollongong Town Hall. Entry Fee \$8. Contact: Doreen Gillam, South Coast IWD Committee - (02) 42840192 [doray@fishinternet.com.au](mailto:doray@fishinternet.com.au)

### 4 March

**4 March - For Women, By Women.** Come along to a free concert for women only with all performances by women.

6.45pm Bankstown Town Hall. Free. Contact: Bankstown Women's Health Centre - (02) 9790 1378. [bwhc@swsahs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:bwhc@swsahs.nsw.gov.au)



**4 March - Asquith Girls High School IWD Breakfast.** Student leaders, staff, parents and community will join for breakfast to raise funds for Panshir Valley Girls School in Afghanistan through Mahboba's Promise. Guest speakers are Mahboba and one of the school's Afghan students. 7.15am - 8.30am, Asquith Girls High School, \$20. Contact: Kris Needham, Principal - (02) 9477 6411. [kris.k.needham@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:kris.k.needham@det.nsw.edu.au)

### 5 March

**5 March - Zonta of Coffs Harbour IWD Breakfast.** Guest speaker is Hon Melinda Pavey, the newest member of the Legislative Council in NSW. She will speak about being a woman in politics. 7.00am, Coffs Harbour Ex-Services Club, \$20 Bookings required. Contact: Glenis Hunter. (02) 6651 2770 bh. [casadmin@tpg.com.au](mailto:casadmin@tpg.com.au)

**5 March - Western Sydney IWD Breakfast.** All proceeds to UN Development Fund for Women Pacific Projects Theme - 'Women, Peace & Security - Leadership in the Pacific'. Guest speaker is Bernadette Rounds Ganilau from Fiji. Parramatta Leagues Club, \$35 or \$22 for students. Bookings required Contact: Patricia Lawson, (02) 8824 8951. [PLLawson@bigpond.com](mailto:PLLawson@bigpond.com)

### 6 March

**6 March - 'A Night with Ita'.** A celebration of Business Women in the Hastings region. Dinner with guest speaker Ita Buttrose AO OBE, and entertainment by 'Sibling Rivalry' Port Panthers, Port Macquarie. Contact: Kellie Mills, President Hastings Business Women's Network - (02) 6583 1600, [Kellie@millseaton.com.au](mailto:Kellie@millseaton.com.au)



### 6 - 14 March - Shoalhaven IWD Events

Workshops, performances, lunch and picnics are just some of the activities planned in Nowra to celebrate IWD.

The theme this year is 'Womanhood - A Journey of Transformation'

To find out more, contact: Michelle Gouldi at Shoalhaven Council on (02) 4429 3111



# IWD Week For Women



## 7 March



**7 March - Greek Festival of Sydney** Special IWD Performance of The Virgin Club (a one woman show) and open panel discussion. The Edge Theatre in Newtown will be taken over by Greek-Australian and non-Greek women wanting to share their stories on sex, virginity and love!

3pm, The Edge Theatre, Newtown, \$25 or \$20 concession, includes champagne & light refreshments. Contact: Greek Festival of Sydney, (02) 9750 0440. [kskoumbas@goc.com.au](mailto:kskoumbas@goc.com.au)



**7 March - Do It Yourself Women!** Series of DIY workshops including Helpful Home Handy Hints, Special Paint Effects, Glass Mosaic - New Product, Colour Your Garden. Event will also showcase local Women in Business, Crafts, Arts, Produce, Flowers, Fleece Production, Bee Keeping etc.

Bunnings Warehouse New Line Road Dural. 9am. Entry: free. Rae Woolnough - (02) 9843 0190 [rwoolnou@bhsc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:rwoolnou@bhsc.nsw.gov.au) [www.baulkhamhills.nsw.gov.au](http://www.baulkhamhills.nsw.gov.au)



**7 & 8 March - Significant Women of the Central Coast** A register of Significant Women of the Central Coast is being prepared. It will be displayed at Gosford Arts Centre on 7 March when a picnic will also be held in Elizabeth Ross Park, East Gosford.

On **8 March** a 'get-together' will be held at lunchtime in Kibble Park Gosford with a prominent woman speaker and entertainment.

Contact: Margaret Hardy, (02) 4369 4534. [marhardy@bigpond.com](mailto:marhardy@bigpond.com)

## 8 March - INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY

### 8 March - International Women's Day Celebration

All day celebration - Luncheon & talks.

**10am** Talk: "Being All We Are" Speaker: Noeline Bangel, Personal Growth Facilitator. Luncheon

**2pm** Talk: "Women's Legal Issues" Speakers Marion Rose and Trish Brown, Solicitors/Legal Practitioners

Cowra Family Support Service. Rooms 5 Vaux Street, Cowra. Free talks. Donation for lunch. Jan Chivers- (02) 6342 3432 [cwrafss@west.net.au](mailto:cwrafss@west.net.au)



**8 March - Women's Health Seminar** Promoting a better understanding of the health issues that face women. Topics include; menopause, HRT, bladder health, nutrition and heart disease, osteoporosis and preventing cancer. Registrations are essential.

Time: 9.00 AM. Location: East Maitland Bowling Club. Entry: Free Contact Central Hunter Health Council - (02) 4921 4801 Email - [hhc@hunter.health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:hhc@hunter.health.nsw.gov.au)/hhc



### 8 March - Spokeswomen's Expo for Women - Working in the Public Sector

See displays highlighting the services provided by many Public Sector Agencies. Hear guest speakers on a series of topics. Workshops include Communication, Stress Management, Positive Parenting, Flexible Work Practices, and Personal, Home & Workplace Security.

Time: 10.00 AM - 8.00 PM. Location: Berry School of Arts, Alexandra St, Berry. Entry Fee: Free. Contact Illawarra Area Health: Debbie Lee (02) 4422 8111, Steve Gibbeson (02) 4222 5197. WorkCover NSW, Cathy Gillott (02) 4428 6711.

**8 March - An Evening of Celebration** Celebrating local women and their achievements. A Cocktail evening with guest speakers including: Rachel Sanna - Olympic Equestrian Rider.

Cocktails 7:00pm. Program begins at 7:30pm Baulkham Hills Shire Council Function Room Showground Road CASTLE HILL. Entry: Free - RSVP by 1 March. Contact: Rae Woolnough on (02) 9843 0190 [rwoolnou@bhsc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:rwoolnou@bhsc.nsw.gov.au) [www.baulkhamhills.nsw.gov.au](http://www.baulkhamhills.nsw.gov.au)



**8 March - Morning Tea with Blacktown Women and Girls** Join us for morning tea at Nadia's Cafe to celebrate International Women's Day.

Middle level Westpoint Blacktown. 11.00am. Entry Fee: free. Contact: Blacktown Women and Girl's Health Centre Inc - (02) 9831 2070 [bwghc@bigpond.com.au](mailto:bwghc@bigpond.com.au)



### 8 March - FITT International Women's Day Lunch

Females in Information Technology and Telecommunications. Industry journalist Beverley Head will interview a distinguished panel who have been chosen for their ongoing contribution to the IT industry and their ability to inspire. Join us for what will be an entertaining lunch to celebrate.

International Women's Day. Hotel InterContinental, Sydney

Noon - 2pm. \$70 (Corporate Tables available) To register: phone (02) 9929 9511 or visit [www.slatteryit.com.au/list](http://www.slatteryit.com.au/list)



# 2004 Calendar

## Cont.

**8 March - IWD Art Exhibition Launch** This art exhibition will feature work from women artists only and will exhibit throughout March.

10.30am. Bankstown Hospital, Eldridge Rd Bankstown. Free admission.

Contact: Sue McClelland, Bankstown Women's Health Centre - (02) 9790 1378  
bwhc@swhs.nsw.gov.au



**8 March - Women's Art Exhibition** Local women artist from a diverse background will exhibit artworks to highlight women's creativity and contribution to the community.

10 am. Holroyd City Council Foyer Art and Craft Gallery. Free admission.  
Contact: Santi Owen - (02) 9840 9910  
santi.owen@holroyd.nsw.gov.au



## UNIFEM Sydney IWD Breakfast



### 8 March

The United Nations Development Fund for Women hosts an annual breakfast attracting approximately 600 guests. This year the guest speaker is Dr Elsin Wainwright from Australian Strategic Policy Institute.

Funds raised from the breakfast will support the women of the South Pacific to build peaceful and strong communities.

**7am for 7.15am  
to 8.45am**

**The Grand Ballroom,  
The Westin Sydney Hotel**

**Individual \$45**

**Student \$30**

**Corporate table \$1,100**

**Contact: (02) 9974 5040**

**iwdsydney@unifem.org.au**

**www.unifem.org.au**

## 11 March

### 11 March - IED Luncheon

The event will focus on local women's achievements and diversity. There will be guest speakers, entertainment and food. 9.am. Holroyd Centre, Merrylands. Free for local women, bookings are essential. Contact Lisa Summers - (02) 9204 3242.  
lisasummers@centrelink.gov.au

## 12 March

### 12 March - 'Anything She Can Do I Can Do Better'



Learn about Female Competition, how it works, how it prevents women from achieving their full potential and how to turn destructive covert competition between women into constructive overt competition. The presenter, Rachael Oakes-Ash, is a writer and entertainer and is the author of 'Good Girls Do Swallow' and 'Anything She Can Do I Can Do Better'. As well as being hilarious, Rachael sends out a positive message to women. 12.30pm. YWCA 5-11 Wentworth Ave, Sydney. \$16.00 members \$20.00 non members. Contact Nicole O'Brien - (02) 9285 6237.  
nicole@ywca-sydney.com.au  
www.ywca-sydney.com.au



# IWD 2004 Calendar

cont.

**13 March**

## Sydney IWD March and Rally

**13 March** - Join in the annual march from Town Hall to Hyde Park where a rally will be held with stalls, entertainments and speakers.

**Gather at St Andrews Square, Sydney Town Hall at 11am**

**Contact: Karen Iles  
(02) 9249 0481**

**Kiles@nsw.cfmeu.asn.au**



### **13 March - IWDA 12th Annual Breakfast**

International Women's Development Agency is an Australian based non-government organisation which undertakes projects in partnership with women from around the world, giving priority to women who suffer poverty and oppression.

From its humble beginnings 12 years ago this is now a signature event and promises to sell out so book early!

8.30am. Sydney Town Hall.  
\$40 or \$35 concession.  
Contact: [www.iwda.org.au](http://www.iwda.org.au)



### **Quilts celebrating pioneering women**

The National Pioneer Women's Hall of Fame, located in Alice Springs, was founded in 1993 by Molly Clark of Old Andado Station. It is currently based at the Old Courthouse, a heritage listed building in the heart of town and is dedicated to preserving the place of women in history and their special contribution to Australia's heritage.

The NPWHF is also building up a collection of stories, photographs,

artefacts and memorabilia relating to pioneering women, as well as a library of books and video and audio cassettes relating to Australian women's history.

The quilt raffle is a fundraiser for a new building with each quilt containing over 150 autographs and inspirational messages from women who were first in a variety of fields within Australia.

Valued at \$25,000, the quilts took over two years to make and were created by Alice Springs quilters. The quilts are exquisite works of art as well as significant historical documents celebrating the achievements of Australian women over the last 100 years. There are several high public profile women

amongst the 343 women represented. There are also many women whose names are perhaps not well known but nonetheless their achievements are just as significant. Together these signed quilts represent a tremendous 'Patchwork of Empowerment' for women everywhere.

Tickets are \$5 each and the raffle will be drawn on International Women's Day, **8 March 2004**.

**For more information, visit:**  
**[www.pioneerwomen.com.au](http://www.pioneerwomen.com.au),**  
**Tel: (08) 8952 9006 (Monday to Friday 10am to 5pm) or Email:**  
**[curator@pioneerwomen.com.au](mailto:curator@pioneerwomen.com.au)**



# Trafficking and illegal non-citizens in the sex industry

"I am sure you are all familiar with Ms Simaplee's case. She was a Thai prostitute, who was picked up by the Department of Immigration and Indigenous and Multicultural Affairs when it raided the brothel in which she was working. From the brothel, she was taken to Villawood Detention Centre. She died three days later from pneumonia and heroin withdrawal. Reports indicate that she died in appalling conditions. How can this happen in this day and age in Australia?"

Sandra Nori, NSW Minister for Women, Public Hearing on Illegal Non-Citizens in the Sex Industry Hearing.

The extent of the problem of trafficking of women into the sex industry in NSW and across Australia is unknown. An estimated 700,000 to four million women and girls are bought and sold worldwide either through forced prostitution, slavery or forced marriage. It is difficult to imagine that Australia has escaped this worldwide trade in women and young girls.



An absence of accurate statistical data and under-reporting makes it difficult to collect reliable information. Those women who have been identified whilst working illegally in the Australian sex industry are most often detained and promptly deported, further compounding the difficulty of collecting relevant statistics and grasping the dimensions of this trade.

In 1994, the Australian Federal Police (AFP) estimated that there were approximately 300 Asian women working in Sydney at any one time, while in one year 1,000 – 2,000 enter or leave the industry. In 1995 the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs was told that at any one time there might be 200 Asian prostitutes working in Australia who had been trafficked here by organised criminals suspected of being linked to drug trafficking.

The first prosecution under the Federal Slavery and Sexual Servitude Act, introduced in 1999, occurred in May 2003 when NSW Police referred information to the AFP and two people were charged in Auburn NSW.

In the first half of 2003, the Department of Immigration, Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs (DIMIA) had identified 160 people as working without valid visas in the sex industry. NSW Police state that they had also identified approximately 50 people in that time.

A recent Senate Estimates hearing identified NSW as the state in which the majority of illegal non-citizens are detained whilst working in the sex industry.

During May 2003, the NSW Minister for Women, the Hon Sandra Nori, MP, established a working party to examine this growing problem. The working party was established following the tragic death of Puangthong Simaplee whilst in detention in Villawood, to help address reports of women and children being trafficked into or coerced to Australia and forced to work in the sex industry.

The working party together with NSW State Government Agencies and compliance officers from DIMIA looked into the extent of the problem in NSW and what solutions may assist. A draft report and recommendations as to what action the Commonwealth Government may take to offer assistance to women and children in this situation was presented by the NSW Minister for Women at the annual meeting of the Ministerial Council on the Status of Women in Melbourne. The Ministerial Council is attended by all State Ministers for Women, the Federal Minister, who at the time was Senator Amanda Vanstone and the NZ Minister for Women.

A unanimous communiqué was issued by the Ministerial Council which condemned the trafficking of women. It was agreed that the issue would be raised with the Minister for Immigration to consider ways that traffickers of women can be pursued including a review of visas available to assist police and protect victims.

In October 2003 the Federal Government announced the Commonwealth Action Plan to Eradicate Trafficking in Persons. This was part of a \$20 million programme to assist women who may have been trafficked to Australia. A particularly pleasing part of the announcement was the possibility of giving those women some time in Australia rather than simply being dismissed as illegal citizens.

If we give people time to be counselled and informed of their rights, there is a much better chance of finding out if they have been a victim of sexual servitude – and a much better chance of helping police authorities prosecute sex-slave traders in NSW and across Australia.

Whilst the full plans have not been announced, this is certainly a step in the right direction.

# Action Plan For Women

2004

## The Action Plan 2002-2004 outlines the NSW Government's commitments, priorities & initiatives for women.

The Action Plan provides a comprehensive overview of NSW Government policies and programs for women as well as up-to-date statistical information from the 2001 Census on the profile of women in NSW. The Appendices to the Plan contain valuable information on Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Platform for Action and the policy and reporting framework for the Government's work for women, as well as a useful list of women's and gender equity units and contacts.

It is a comprehensive resource for policy makers, legislators, women's community organisations, students and anyone with a personal or professional interest in the progress of women in NSW.

For further details please see: [www.women.nsw.gov.au](http://www.women.nsw.gov.au)



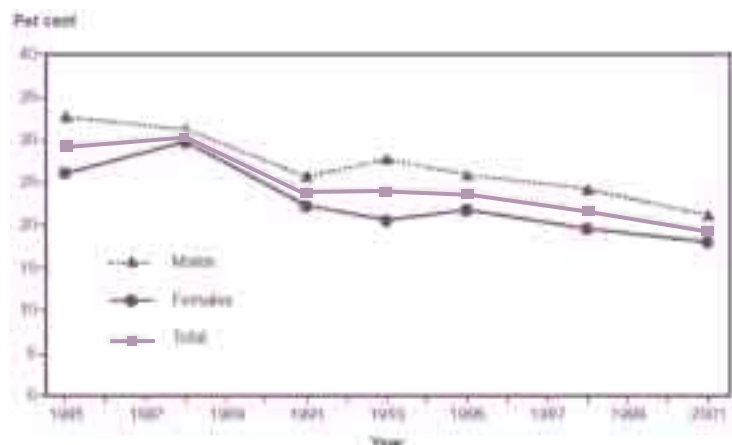
## Out of the Smoke Screen: Reducing smoking in young women 12-17 years

This project targets young women by assisting them to recognise the distorted portrayal of smoking in the media. A commercial was screened before teenage blockbuster movies shown during school holidays in 2002 and 2003. This approach was chosen because research suggests that anti-smoking advertising before movies can affect perceptions of smoking.

2038 young female cinema goers were given a questionnaire immediately after leaving the cinema. The anti-smoking advertisement helped to confirm perceptions of non-smokers that smoking is not a good thing. It also affected some smokers: having viewed the ad, they did not believe characters smoking in the movie was "OK". Movie-goers were significantly more likely to say the smoking in the movie was not "OK" if they saw the anti-smoking ad.

When an anti-smoking ad is shown before a movie, the viewer was less likely to report an intention to smoke in the future.

Paid advertising in movie theatres is a cost-effective method of reaching adolescents. Since conducting this study, the Out of the Smokescreen advertisement has been screened in theatres throughout New South Wales at an average cost of \$110 per screen per week, which, compared to television advertising is exceptionally inexpensive. It is an effective means of reaching the majority of young people in an environment where they may otherwise be actively being encouraged to smoke.



Note: Includes people aged 14 years and over.

Sources: 1985, 1987 National Campaign Against Drug Abuse Household Survey; 1995, 1999, 2001 National Drug Strategy Household Survey.

Proportion of people who are daily smokers 1985 to 2001.

# CHANGING TIMES FOR CHINESE MARKET GARDENING COMMUNITIES IN THE SYDNEY BASIN



Most produce we buy in Sydney greengrocers' shops is grown on small farms in the Sydney Basin

by families of South-East Asian or Mediterranean background.

The women who work the market gardens, are isolated socially and geographically, with small social networks and limited access to the outside world. Most do not drive. Often without English language skills, they find it hard to get even basic information relevant to their lives.



Women's Health at Work (WHAW) began working with Chinese speaking women in market gardens across the Sydney basin in 2001, assisted by the community's generosity and willingness to open itself to strangers.

As a result, many changes occurred in the lives of these isolated women between 2001 and 2003. English classes were arranged with the help of TAFE Outreach and the Department of Education and Training. Twenty women attended classes, held initially in a packing shed and subsequently in the local primary school.



TAFE Outreach helped organise computer classes in local community halls and the

primary school. Two well-attended courses have been completed and two new courses are currently underway.

The University of Western Sydney and the Women's Grants Program funded training in safe pesticide use for over 200 Chinese market gardeners, (40 per cent women).



In August 2001, the Chinese Market Growers Information Day was held at Kemps Creek Bowling Club, attracting more than 500 men, women and children. Apart from fun events and entertainment for children and a hearty Chinese meal, there were opportunities for informal discussions about community needs, with information from 14 government and non-government agencies.

A Chinese playgroup established under the auspices of the NSW Playgroup Association meets regularly. There's also an ongoing project to assess childcare needs and ensure culturally appropriate services.



An Older Women's Support Group now meets regularly in the Kemps Creek area and

arranges community outings. Visits so far have included the Zoo and the Manly Aquarium, many women crossing the Sydney Harbour Bridge for the first time.

Camden Council now employs a bi-lingual community representative, to develop strategies to strengthen links between the Chinese market garden community and local government.

WHAW's work has included helping a recently bereaved women get a pension previously denied by a government agency, helping growers make applications for drought relief and access medical practitioners on chemical contamination issues, and helping families find affordable child care.

WHAW is managed through the Multicultural Health Unit of Western Sydney Area Health.

**WHAW Program Manager, Vivienne Strong, may be contacted on (02) 9840 3768.**

## Violence against women

### Government Response to Violence against women

## THEN...and NOW

In 1980, the NSW Women's Advisory Council in its annual report endorsed the need for rape law reform including liability for prosecution of husbands for rape within marriage and provision for grading of sexual assault offences to replace the single category of rape.

The 1988/99 NSW Women's Budget paper included domestic violence and sexual assault programs, notably police training and a pilot crisis intervention

scheme, provision of sexual assault services and funding for refuges and other housing services.

By 1990/91, government programs addressing violence against women had expanded to include a range of new initiatives, such as the NSW Domestic Violence Strategic Plan and financial assistance for local domestic violence committees. Other developments included procedures and training

around sexual assault of people with intellectual disabilities, publications about domestic violence and funding to provide information about sexual assault to women in rural Aboriginal communities.

Thirteen years further on, eighteen agencies report initiatives in this area, with more than 150 initiatives overall making up the government response to violence against women, as set out in the 2003/04 Action Plan for Women.

Jessie Street's message for  
the 50th anniversary of

## International Women's Day

dated 3 March 1960  
[In the National Library papers  
2683/3/11/918].



'During the past 50 years women in many countries have emerged from a position of dependence and subjection [...] Many doors to education, training and paid employment are open to them . . . [but] women still do not have equal pay and opportunity. Little has been done to give mothers more leisure and economic independence. The vital role of bearing and rearing children places on them important national duties and responsibilities, which in any other sphere, would have due recognition and adequate compensation.

The struggle of women must continue until the principle is established that everyone, irrespective of sex, enjoys equal rights and opportunities and economic independence.'

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### Jessie Street – Activist and Eponym

Jessie Street Library was named after the activist, Jessie Street, who worked tirelessly to improve the status of women, both in Australia and overseas. Jessie campaigned for equal status for women, equal pay, appointment of women to public office and their election to parliament. She was well known internationally. Jessie attended women's conferences in Britain, the US and Europe and worked with different groups there. She was the sole woman on the Australian delegation to the founding conference of the United Nations in San Francisco in 1945. With other internationally known women, Jessie Street was instrumental in having the United Nations establish a permanent Commission on the Status of Women and became Australia's representative on the Commission.

The establishment of a national women's library for Australia coincided with the centenary of the birth of Jessie Street in 1989 – hence the naming of the library.

## If we could shrink the Earth...

If we could shrink the earth's population to a village of precisely 100 people, with all the existing human ratios remaining the same, it would look something like this:  
There would be:

- 57** Asians
- 21** Europeans
- 14** from Western Hemisphere
- 8** Africans
- 52** would be female
- 48** would be male
- 70** would be non-white
- 30** would be white
- 70** would be non-Christian
- 30** would be Christian
- 80** would live in substandard housing
- 70** would be unable to read
- 50** would suffer from malnutrition
- 1** would be near death;
- 1** would be near birth
- 1** (yes only 1) would have a college education
- 1** would own a computer

If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep you are richer than **75%** of this world.

The Jessie Street National Women's Library is a specialist library which aims to promote awareness of the cultural heritage of Australian women. It includes a library and archival collection which focus on issues of importance to women, as well as documenting the lives and experiences of women. Its collection of books was founded by a donation of 500 feminist books. The collection now includes feminist journals, an oral history collection, fiction, posters and archival materials.

[www.jessiestreetlibrary.com.au](http://www.jessiestreetlibrary.com.au)

# WOMEN AS LEADERS CREATE A BETTER WORLD

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“Numerous behavioural studies have found women to be more trustworthy and public spirited than men. These results suggest that women should be particularly effective in promoting honest government. Consistent with this hypothesis, we find that the greater the representation of women in parliament, the lower the level of corruption”.

October 1999, David Dollar, Raymond Fisman, Roberta Gatti, “Are Women Really the Fairer Sex? Corruption and Women in Government”, The World Bank Development Research Group.

On IWD, it’s timely to celebrate women around the world who, through participating in good government, are creating a better world. Corruption and poor government in developing countries can drastically increase the disadvantage suffered by women. The impact of corruption on income inequality and poverty is considerable. An increase of just one standard deviation in a country’s corruption growth rate reduces income growth by 7.8 percentage points per year for the poor.

Corruption reduces the ability of government to impose necessary regulatory controls. It increases the operating costs of government and therefore reduces the resources available for other uses, including the financing of social spending.

Of particular concern in developing countries is the possibility that corruption might reduce the effectiveness of aid distribution through the diversion of funds.

In Mongolia, since the 1990 transition, women heads of households have experienced relatively higher levels of poverty than male heads of households. The number and proportion of female heads of households have increased rapidly since the transition.

In Zimbabwe, women are not only managing dwindling inflation-hit household budgets during the four year economic crisis but have had to deal with a rise in domestic violence.

On the streets of Kabul, Guslum waits to get her voter card to ensure that the warlords who currently occupy powerful positions in the government will not retain power. Guslum is one of the only 100,000 women from a potential 10.5 million Afghan voters who is registered. She believes that it is important to vote for a candidate who would provide shelter, schools and clinics for the millions of other returnees like her.

On International Women’s Day, let’s celebrate the women around the world, just like Guslum, who through participation and good government, are fighting to create a better world.

## Celebrating South Coast IWD tradition

After 60 years of organising International Women's Day on the South Coast, the South Coast International Women's Day Committee will host its last celebration of IWD on March 2 at the Wollongong Town Hall.

The committee with the longest continuous serving record in Australia is about to hand over the reins to a new umbrella group which has organised a two week calendar of events since 2001.

The tradition of celebrating IWD with a lunch and a guest speaker began in early 1930s. The lunches were held sometimes in a hired hall and sometimes in someone's home with guests 'bringing a plate'.

The concerns of the women in those early days were mostly to do with working conditions such as the eight hour day, paid annual leave and the of course the perennial demand for equal pay for equal work.

In the late 1930s, alarm over the threat of fascism drew women from various organisations together and support for IWD became more broadly based.

During the 1960s, racial violence, social justice and Aboriginal rights became topics for the lunches. The Women's Liberation Movement in the 1970s gave an added impetus to the struggle for women's rights. Women demanded action on a range of issues such as rape, domestic violence and birth control.

The year 1979 was a milestone for the South Coast IWD Committee.

It held its first march and issued its first broadsheet, featuring Aboriginal women's rights and the exploitation of migrant women in the workforce among other issues.

"International Women's Day in Wollongong has become bigger than ever and now attracts a far more diverse range of women than in the past", outgoing secretary Doreen Gillam said.

"We're pleased that our proud tradition of political struggle to achieve equality for women is continuing, while incorporating from now on a celebration of women's cultural and artistic achievements".

Editor's note: There will be a morning tea at the Wollongong Town Hall on **Tuesday March 2 at 10am**. For further details please consult the calendar.

## Tales my mother told me - online story competition

The Department for Women, the NSW (CTC) Network and the Country Women's Association launched an online story competition to celebrate International Women's Day.

The competition was designed to encourage members of the community to participate in a digital story telling competition by sharing a story their mother told them and providing a photo.

Entries have been collected and the stories and images entered will form a virtual exhibition of images online.

There will be winners in three age group brackets: under 25 years, 26-55 years and 55+ are the categories. The winners will receive a digital camera each, valued approximately at \$1000.

The second part of the competition is when celebrating IWD at each community centre, the winning and commended stories will be showcased.



NSW Department for Women • **Level 4, Stockland House, 181 Castlereagh Street Sydney NSW 2000**

**Phone: 02 9287 1860 Fax: 02 9287 1823**

**Email:** [dfw@women.nsw.gov.au](mailto:dfw@women.nsw.gov.au) **Website:** [www.women.nsw.gov.au](http://www.women.nsw.gov.au) Womenspace is published by the NSW Department for Women. Editor: Vera Ranki, Designer: Emma French ISSN 1329-6965

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