



informed

Issue 400

February 2010

TWO IMPORTANT EVENTS—THE EDNAs AND INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY MARCH AND RALLY

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Nominate someone you know for an EDNA!!

It's 2010 with a Federal Election, the Equal Pay case and much more ahead. The Women's Electoral Lobby (NSW) is inviting you to nominate someone you admire for an EDNA.

The EDNA Awards were developed to recognise the life and passion of Edna Ryan (1904-1997) who worked tirelessly to make a better world – especially for women.

The EDNAs are awards made to women who have made a feminist difference. Those whose activity advances the status of women: the troublemakers, the stirrers, the battlers, who show extraordinary commitment and determination. So who are you going to nominate?

There are 10 Award categories:

Workforce - the 2010 focus will be on equal pay, as well as improving other conditions for women workers

Government - for feminist activity in the political sphere

Arts - for creative feminism

Community Activism - for feminist activity in the community

Media/Communication - for consistent promotion of women's interests in the media

Humour - for using wit to promote women's interests

Mentoring - for sharing knowledge and ideas generously with other women

Battling - for making it against the odds

Education - for a special contribution to the education of women and girls

The Grand Stirrer - for inciting others to challenge the status quo

Nomination forms can be found at the WEL website www.welnsw.org.au or from the WEL office, phone or fax 9212 4374.

Next WEL meeting
Monday 1 March
6pm at WEL offices
Albion Street
Surry Hills
ALL WELCOME

See page 2 for details of the International Women's Day March and Rally on Saturday, 6 March.

WEL NSW Inc is a member of WEL Australia and is dedicated to creating a society where women's participation and potential are unrestricted, acknowledged and respected, where women and men share equally in society's responsibilities and rewards.

Phone/fax: (02) 9212 4374
Email: welnsw@comcen.com.au
Visit: www.welnsw.org.au. ABN 50 242 525 012

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All members are invited and encouraged to contribute or comment. Ideas, comments, articles or clippings from other media all gratefully accepted. Content may be edited.

The editor(s) happily read emails sent to welnsw@comcen.com.au and hard copy articles or letters can be posted to the WEL office.

Deadlines for contributions to the next editions: 19 March and 16 April. There is no newsletter in December.

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Editor for this edition: Lorraine Slade, Advice/Mailout Team: Anne Barber, Josefa Green.

Join the national WEL email list, email your name, email address and your WEL group (eg NSW) to owner-wel-members@lists.nwjc.org.au

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SYDNEY INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY – MARCH AND RALLY ON SATURDAY 6 MARCH

YOUR'E INVITED!!!!

How can you be involved?

- Join the march, and invite your friends and colleagues to join you
- Ask your community group/organisation to take a stall
- Join the collective (meeting on Wednesdays) – much to be done

Please put the date in your diary now – Saturday 6 March 2010



Assembling at Town Hall at 11am,
March commencing at 12 noon to Martin Place.

The IWD street banners will be going up on Sunday February 28 and staying until Sunday March 14. You will be able to find them in Martin Place, Circular Quay and in Macquarie, King, Market and Philip and Bent Streets.

The theme of the march and rally this year is

“Fair Go for Women, in Australia and around the World”

and there will be:

- Tai chi,
- artists
- speakers covering a **Fair Go** for women with the introduction of a Pay Equity Bureau
- what is not “fair” for women in Australian law – abortion covered by the criminal code in NSW
- sharing of the experience of women in other countries, such as the murder of women in Juarez city in Mexico
- and hearing what is a **Fair Go** for aboriginal and younger women, and
- **a fantastic fun-filled feminist frolic**

You can find more information on the website: <http://iwdsydney.wordpress.com/> or contact Anne on 0410.524.523 for an expression of interest form.

Hope that we will see you there.

CONVENOR'S REPORT

It was a sobering beginning to 2010 for your WEL Executive. After a successful and productive discussion with the newly appointed Minister for Women, Linda Burney, we considered our tactics following another change to an even newer minister, Jodi McKay. She is also Minister for Tourism, for the Hunter and for Science and Medical Research. The portfolio has been down-graded and the instability for staff of the Office for Women's Policy has continued. It is little wonder it has been unable to run any sort of race with any issue.

At our meeting with Minister Linda Burney, we were informed that a NSW Workforce Analysis was being completed to establish some benchmarks and ascertain what barriers there were to achieving equity and more flexible workplace arrangements. WEL hopes that this work will be completed and lead to some major policy or program reforms with NSW taking a lead in responding to some of the issues identified in the recently released report : **Barriers to Women's Employment. Women and Recession Project** produced for the national women's alliances.

WEL welcomes the appointment of Kris Kenneally as Premier and we hope that she and Carmel Tebbutt will make a difference to the fortunes of women in NSW. We hope also that gender performance indicators will appear as part of the State Plan as we have argued for the past few years. The Plan was due for release late last year, but the change in state leadership has obviously delayed its release. The website says it will be released shortly with Local Action

Plans to be published in April, 2010.

As well as considering our strategy for the State election due in March 2011, we must prepare for the federal election due later this year. Talk of a double dissolution has subsided and is increasingly unlikely given the entrance of the hairy-chested Opposition trinity, punching well above its policy weight, as it tours supermarkets to find products which emit more carbon than its collective hot air. WEL is looking to employ a Project officer for the year so that we can run a coordinated campaign with WEL Australia and move straight into a State campaign. A position description has been drafted and the scope and focus of responsibilities is being refined for our March meeting.

The Feminist Conference to be held on 10th and 11th April will present an opportunity for a reinvigoration of the feminist movement and the development of a vision for a feminist future. The conference organisers are hooked into technology and inviting participation through **zine** – a do-it-yourself publication including original and appropriated articles and images. The **zine** will be distributed at the conference. Email contributions to f.the.conference@gmail.com

Join us for the IWD March and celebrations and start considering nominations for our EDNA Awards evening to be held in May.

Jozefa Sobski
Convenor

'My Murky Past' - A Suffragette's Sacrifice in the Struggle for Votes for Women, by Arabella Charlotte Scott

A gripping account of courage, bravery and suffering by a Scottish Suffragette in her role in helping in the struggle to gain the vote for women in Great Britain. At one time Arabella Scott was bodyguard to Mrs Emmeline Pankhurst and closely associated with the leaders of the Women's Social and Political Union, and the Women's Freedom League. At the height of the struggle she was one of Britain's best-known militants and underwent some of the worst prison punishment meted out to any supporter of the women's cause.

Arabella Scott also gained a teaching post in 1920 in South Africa, married and lived there. She also lived several years in Australia. In both countries she supported improvement in women's conditions.

This autobiography is available from Dr Frances Wheelhouse (who is niece to Arabella Scott and collaborated in the preparation of the story), 118 Galston Road, Hornsby Heights, NSW 2077, or email franceswheelhouse@ihug.com.au. RRP \$39.95 plus postage.

DR PATRICIA GILES AM

The following speech was delivered in the Senate by Senator Louise Pratt, ALP (Western Australia) on 4 February 2010, acknowledging the contribution made by Pat Giles on her recent appointment as a Member of the Order of Australia.

Senator PRATT (Western Australia) - It is my great pleasure tonight to speak about the enormous contribution made by former Senator Pat Giles. Last week, Dr Giles's contribution was recognised through her inclusion in the Australia Day honours list.

She was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia last Tuesday for services to the community through a number of organisations that promote the interests of women, including the Women's Electoral Lobby, through the union movement and as a senator for Western Australia for 12 years. As a fellow Western Australian and as someone lucky enough to know Dr Giles, I am delighted that her service to the Australian community and her advocacy on behalf of Australian women has received this recognition.

Pat Giles is part of a powerful network of feminists in the Labor Party who paved the way for the next generation of women, including women parliamentarians like myself. These women were at the forefront of critical campaigns for women's rights at work, women's leadership in the trade union movement, abortion law reform, improved education for girls, women-friendly health services, adequate support for single mothers and women's representation in parliament.

I, for one, will never forget that Pat Giles and others like her are behind many of the rights we take for granted today. She is an inspiration to me and a role model. Without her and her sisters in the labour movement, women like me would not be sitting in the chamber today.

It is easy with the passage of time to underestimate the barriers and challenges these women

faced and, therefore, to underestimate the extent of their achievement. They made extraordinary progress. When Pat Giles helped establish the Women's Electoral Lobby in WA in 1973 there were only two women in this chamber. Only seven had ever been elected to the Senate — and, I regret to say, only one of those women came from the Labor Party. Only seven women in over 70 years—an average of less than one a decade. Yet by the time Pat Giles entered this chamber in 1981 there were 10 women in the Senate. Now there are 26—and half of us are Labor women. Since WEL was formed in the early seventies, 67 women have been elected to this chamber, almost 10 times the number elected in those first 70 years.

From our position of relative strength, it is easy to fail to recognise what it must have been like to struggle to break into bastions of male privilege, this chamber included, and then to sit there, among a sea of faces, almost all of them male, and try and find your voice and try and find space for new issues and novel propositions that mattered to you and those you sought to represent. Pat Giles knew what this meant when she sat in her first few ALP National Executive meetings feeling, as she describes it, ignored, invisible and inaudible or when she spoke at her first ACTU Congress in 1977, at a time when, in her words, 'women were rarely seen and hardly ever heard' in union forums. As feminist sisters and as daughters of the labour movement, these women knew that the solution to the barriers they faced lay in solidarity, in working with other like-minded women to overcome the obstacles, challenge the conventions and shift the agenda.

Pat embraced this principle of progress through collective action as the inaugural convener of the Women's Electoral Lobby in Western Australia and of the WA Abortion Law Reform Association, as the chair of the first-ever ACTU women's committee and as the inaugural chair of the first

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Labor Caucus Committee on the Status of Women. And these new organising committees were very effective. Two years after Pat Giles first spoke at the ACTU Congress, she was part of a team running maternity leave cases coordinated by the ACTU. Now we are lucky enough to have women in key portfolios. A large proportion of the Labor caucus are women, there are women in cabinet and we have two Labor women as state premiers. So it is easy to underestimate the importance of these women's committees: the power they gave women in these early years to share insights, organise, be heard and have influence when the numbers were stacked up against them.

Like many of the women of her generation elected to parliament, Pat Giles brought with her a wealth of life experience. She was over 50 when she arrived in this place. She was a mother of five, a qualified nurse and midwife, a successful mature-age university student and a single parent for the last five years. And like many feminist activists of her generation, her first involvement in public life stemmed from and drew on that life experience as an activist for public education, first on her children's school committees and then on the WA Council of State School Parents and the Australian Council of State School Organisations. Her work as a union organiser for the Liquor, Hospitality and Miscellaneous Union, or LHMU, also drew on this life experience as she fought for a better deal for so called 'unskilled' nursing home and private hospital workers.

And it was this experience that informed and motivated her work as a parliamentarian whether she was working for the establishment of the Women's Education, Employment and Training Group within the Department of

Education, Employment and training or chairing the Select Committee of Inquiry into Aged Care, which exposed the appalling working conditions and inadequate standards of care in nursing homes, or in the international arena, representing Australia at the UN General Assembly on people with a disability, aging and Indigenous people.

When the reactionaries amongst us allege that feminists are only interested in the rights of white middle class women, I see red because, as Pat Giles's life and work exemplify, nothing could be further from the truth. Her work before, during and after her time in parliament was all about advocacy on behalf of those without a voice—the disempowered, the disadvantaged and the dispossessed, being children, nursing home patients, pregnant women in the workplace, impoverished single mothers, unskilled workers, Aboriginal people and people with a disability. It was the lived experience of caring for the vulnerable and campaigning for the disadvantaged that drove women such as Pat to seek public office. They were convinced by this experience, not only that more women deserved to be in parliament, but also that the community would benefit from having more women in decision-making roles. Today, women in general and women politicians in particular have all kinds of advantages and protections that women lacked when Pat Giles helped establish WEL in 1973. Pat and her Labor sisters began with little and achieved a great deal and, like many other Labor women of her generation, she has kept on putting back, through the Labor Party, through community organisations and through Emily's List. It is sobering to realise that with twice the privileges I would be personally proud to achieve half as much. So I offer Pat the warmest congratulations on becoming a Member of the Order of Australia, an honour she so very thoroughly deserves. And I commit myself anew to trying to live up to the legacy left by her generation of Labor feminists.

NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS—A special welcome to new members, and many thanks to all members who renewed their membership in the past month, and especially to those who gave so generously to WEL.

GOLDMAN SACHS REPORT SUPPORTS VALUE OF Women

E-Update from Australian Human Rights Commission—1 December 2009

Sex Discrimination Commissioner, Elizabeth Broderick, said that the Goldman Sachs report released yesterday proved that closing the gap between levels of male and female workplace participation would be a financially astute move for Australia.

"This report not only makes it clear that greater participation of women in the Australian workforce would be a lucrative move for our economy, it reinforces the need for us to respond to the aspirations and desires of women around this country to be in paid work in the manner they choose," said Commissioner Broderick.

The *Australia's Hidden Resource: The Economic Case for Increasing Female Participation* report states that closing the gap between male and female employment in Australia will boost Australia's GDP by 11%. The report highlights that while raising participation is vital, bridging the gulf between historic male and female productivity rates has the potential to boost the level of economic activity by over 20%.

Commissioner Broderick said that the solution did not lie in making it necessary for women to work like men. It lies in both genders being able to work, and be remunerated, equally in the industries in which they wished to work, without being judged by or buying into stereotypes about gender and particular industries. It also lies with the opportunity to work flexibly so that both genders can involve themselves successfully in paid work and care.

"Closing the employment gap includes closing the gender pay gap, so women no longer have to endure the levels of underpayment explained in this report, nor be penalised just because they work in a particular industry," Commissioner Broderick said. "It also means that we must actively resist stereotypes about which gender works in which industry."

The report stated that young females were up to five times more likely to have a weekly average income of less than \$150 per week, and twice as likely to have an average weekly income of less than \$600. It also stated that no industry pays women more than men, and women are overrepresented in health care, social service, education and retail.

"The reason for this drop-off in the economic participation of women is that our employment structures are set up in a manner that forces women to choose between work and care," Commissioner Broderick said. "More women graduate from tertiary study than men in Australia, so it is clear that women have the desire to be economic participants, but the model is geared toward the traditional pattern of males working longer hours overtime before coming home to their families, so women are necessarily shut out of quality work."

Commissioner Broderick said the report confirmed that encouragement of a more even spread of gender throughout industries, of equal pay for equal work, and of flexible work practices that allow men and women to more effectively balance work and care, would deliver economic dividends for Australia.

"The reason for this drop-off in the economic participation of women is that our employment structures are set up in a manner that forces women to choose between work and care,"

SKIRTING SYDNEY : PUTTING WOMEN'S HISTORY ON THE MAP

WEL NSW is on the map! In a project initiated by Jessie Street National Women's Library in conjunction with the City of Sydney, a tour guide has been published as part of the City of Sydney's historical walking tours. There are twenty seven sites of historical significance and of importance to women's activity in Sydney. The map also contains references to sites memorializing the contribution of women to the development of the colony which eventually became the Commonwealth of Australia.

There was a gleam of inspiration which led to the compilation of this walking tour. Melbourne had also done it and Sydney, the cradle of the country, and the place where there was a proud feminist, women's and indigenous history could not be left off a map!

The second wave of the women's movement of the sixties and seventies commenced in Sydney in Glebe linked to Sydney University. Proud activist traditions have been unearthed and remembered on the map. The tour guide provides a little information and stimulates interest to delve more deeply. You can walk all or part of it

The guide is available from the WEL office and will be in the City of Sydney kiosks and other outlets. It is in purple and bright green and has Nellie Stewart, singer and actor, on its cover. The guide was launched at a reception hosted by The Women's College at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Sydney on 6th January. Get a copy. Do the tour!

Jozefa Sobski

Below is the section from 'Skirting Sydney' about the Women's Electoral Lobby, The text in the map is accompanied by images of WEL Badges.



Images: WEL Badges, private collection, Helen L'Orange and Jessie Street National Women's Library.

Women's Electoral Lobby NSW

Headquarters

66 Albion St

Surry Hills

The Women's Electoral Lobby (WEL) was established in Melbourne in 1972 by Beatrice Faust. At a meeting at the Sydney house of Julia Freebury, Caroline Graham, June Surtees and Wendy McCarthy agreed to convene a Sydney group. Forty women attended the first public meeting in Sydney on 17 June 1972. The founding members had been involved in childbirth education, women's health issues, abortion law reform and Women's Liberation. WEL continues to be an independent, feminist, non-profit lobby group working to protect the rights of all Australian women.

BARRIERS TO WORKING

Stay in the Kitchen screamed the Daily Telegraph headline in its quintessentially tabloid fashion. Beneath the headline and buried in the full story on page two was the story on the report from the National Women's Alliances calling on the Commonwealth and state and territory governments to reduce the systemic barriers to women with family responsibilities who wish to enter or return to the workforce.

The report prepared by the National Foundation for Australian Women after consultations across the country called for all levels of government to review their social inclusion strategies. This is now the code for gender equity! It manages to ignore a gender analysis and we have the feeling that that may be why governments are slowly moving to this terminology. It buries gender deeply and the specific disadvantages women face in our society and in the workplace are neglected in framing policy and program solutions.

The report makes the plea for all agencies to ensure that there is a better analysis of government statistical data by gender. Activist women feel like we have retreated to a period three decades ago when this battle was first fought. Policy and analytical expertise on women's issues is being slowly expunged from the bureaucracies administering services and programs. The Panel Arrangement of Gender Experts advertised for Tender late last year by FAHCSIA on behalf of the Office for Women confirms what is now the situation. This expensive and complex tender process will attract many, but most will have to be large consultancies, academic institutions or other corporates to qualify or have the resources to apply.

The report: **Barriers to Women's Employment** shows that VET and TAFE programs need to be re-balanced to ensure that they are financially and physically accessible to women wanting to return to work through some training or retraining and upgrading of skills and knowledge.

The systemic barriers to specific workforce participation for women are a contributor to their social exclusion. They further disenfranchise disadvantaged groups and perpetuated social inequities.

There is a focus in the report on women in remote and rural areas. Child care arrangements or lack of them were identified by women as a major barrier to workforce attachment in many areas of Australia. Access and affordability of out of school hours care, vacation care for school-age children up to age 12 prohibit many women from study and or working.

There is little that is new in the report for those who have been feminist activists for many years. The fact that these issues have to be highlighted again indicates there has been a loss of impetus for reform and a view among some politicians that all has been solved for women and now we have to move on. New generations of women are encountering the same barriers and the same lack of proper services and support.

Jozefa Sobski

Activist women feel like we have retreated to a period three decades ago when this battle was first fought. Policy and analytical expertise on women's issues is being slowly expunged from the bureaucracies administering services and programs. .

SOCIAL EXCLUSION – WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

The Rudd Government has adopted social inclusion to replace social equity, gender equity and so on. By implication, the government is attempting to address social exclusion. In a recent report commissioned by United Way in partnership with the Sydney Community Foundation, the Centre for Social Impact and other partners, these terms, underpinning the development of policy and programs, are discussed.

The Common Cause Report is a snapshot of key social issues in Sydney in 2009 using data and survey information from a range of sources. It identifies social exclusion as a broader concept than poverty. It explains that exclusion incorporates "issues such as inadequate social participation, a lack of social integration and a lack of power." One can be socially excluded without being in poverty. Many women from a range of backgrounds are socially excluded.

Social disadvantage is another term which has been in general use for decades. It can also lead to social exclusion. The disadvantaged may be poor in health, financial resources, education and skills, could be discriminated against, may be involved in anti-social and criminal behavior as a consequence.

The Common Cause Report uses a number of measures of social exclusion and disadvantage to identify and map communities in Sydney. The Report examines population distribution and its components, looks at housing, its affordability, occupancy standards, social and public housing, homelessness and so on. There is a section on economic well-being, income, employment and debt. Women have more barriers to work than men because "they reported more caring for children or elderly, and having less training and experience."

In 2006, there were 1,063,384 families in Sydney: 49.3 percent were couples with children, 33.2 percent were couples without children, 15.6 percent were one parent families...Most lone parents (87.1%) were women. These lone parent families with dependent children had low incomes, low levels of home ownership, so mostly lived in public housing.

There are few surprises in this comprehensive overview of the greater Sydney region. In the Health and Personal Well-Being section of the report based on ABS data, women rate their health as better than men by a margin of 2.6 percent. Differences in education were co-related to levels of reported health: the less education, the poorer the health, and unemployed people (16.4% of them) report their health to be fair or poor compared with the employed (8.9% of them). Of course, there is a chicken and egg argument here that would need deeper exploration.

Life expectancy in Sydney in 2008 is 83.8 for females and 78.6 for males. (NSW Department of Health, 2008) A bar chart in the report graphically illustrates the poor state of health of Indigenous Australians, with arthritis, diabetes, heart and circulatory problems being much higher among them than other Australians. Many more Indigenous Australians smoke daily. The case for more targeted programs in these areas is patently obvious.

The report contains a section on education, crime and safety, accessibility and participation and discusses its findings in a summary section. It stresses that "social problems are more common among specific social groups and geographical areas." It identifies these as Indigenous Australians, migrants and refugees, children and youth, older people and people with disabilities and health problems. Western and South Western Sydney have concentrations of the disadvantaged and socially excluded. On some indicators, the report acknowledges that women, particularly lone parents, were more disadvantaged than men in these groups and areas of Sydney.

NCOSS attempts to address some of the more severe aspects of disadvantage resulting in exclusion, with its **Community Services Stimulus Package**. It sets out a number of social and economic priorities for a fair and sustainable community for the 2010/2011 State Budget. This Submission is written in the framework of the State Plan, department by department. Its focus is the most vulnerable in our communities. It asks the state government to base effective and preventative service delivery on strong research evidence to improve outcomes for disadvantaged

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people and their communities. The NCOSS Submission makes a plea for a Charter of Human Rights as a form of "democratic insurance that helps to keep government accountable."

In the section, Premier and Cabinet, dealing with domestic and family violence, it claims that sector estimates indicate that "90% of adults in mental health, drug and alcohol services, corrective services and psychiatric units have a history of childhood sexual assault." How well will the recently introduced child protection changes work? Early detection, prevention and

support must be integral to all family and child protection.

Members of WEL may obtain more information from links on the WEL website. WEL NSW will be distilling from available information and data the relevant material for lobbying government and opposition to address some of these issues more consistently, effectively and with greater generosity in resource provision. We applaud an aim for social inclusion, but we need to target the excluded with assistance and support to achieve it.

Jozefa Sobski

REPORT FROM THE WEL AUSTRALIA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FOR 2009

At the 2009 Annual General Meeting, Eva Cox reported on the range of activities undertaken by WEL Australia during that year. These included:

A number of submissions and interventions, including to the Henry Review, Pensions, Childcare (two separate submissions), minimum wage and fair pay, IR reports, EOWA review, Public Service review, not for profit, national NGO, paid parental leave, surrogacy, human rights, WomenSpeak, AUSAID guidelines and meetings and consultations with a range of organisations, governments and individuals, work on Equal Pay Day and numerous media contributions.

The work of all those who contributed was acknowledged, particularly Sue Hammond who is currently preparing the minimum wage submission.

Eva listed the following among a number of continuing issues: Henry Review; ageing; elections (Federal and State); minimum wage; health reforms; and income management.

Pat Richardson provided a brief update of the work she and others were doing on the international scene on behalf of WELA through the IAW,

Consider a Bequest to WEL NSW

A bequest enables you to perpetuate your ideas and make a difference far into the future. Please remember WEL in your will.

The following wording is recommended:

I bequeath the sum of (amount written in words and figures) free of all debts, duties and taxes, to the Women's Electoral Lobby (NSW) Inc (ABN 50 242 525 012) for its general purposes, and I declare that the receipt of the Treasurer for the time being of the Women's Electoral Lobby (NSW) Inc shall be complete discharge to my executors for this gift, and that my executor shall not be bound to see to the application of it.

If '**RENEWAL**' is stamped in your newsletter and/or a renewal form is enclosed or attached to your email copy, your membership renewal is now due. Please renew your membership of WEL NSW

Don't forget to let WEL know if you change address.



connected

Next WEL Members' Meeting

Monday

1 March

**66 Albion St
Surry Hills**

6-8pm

ALL WELCOME

Lunch Hour Talks organised by the Jessie Street National Women's Library

The speakers are women from many different walks of life, but whether they are writers, scientists, flyers, sculptors, journalists or fundraisers for charities, they all have a fascinating story to tell.

The talks are held on the third Thursday of the month, 12 noon to 1.30 from February to November. The entry fee of \$22 for non members and \$16 for members covers a sandwich lunch with tea and coffee. Everyone is very welcome and from March The talks will be back in the Town Hall – a much easier venue to access via public transport.

- *18 March* Aleit Woodward will talk about her family wanderings round Germany from the time they had to leave Poland when the Russians occupied it at the end of World War 2.
- *15 April* Anne Ferguson, a highly successful sculptor.
- *20 May* Gaby Kennard, the first Australian woman to do a solo flight around the world.
- *17 June* Marjorie Deasey, who, with her husband, lived for years with a tribe in Papua New Guinea.

Booking is essential. Ring the Library on (02) 9571 5359 or email info@nationalwomenslibrary.org.au

Here is a fantastic opportunity to support Australian women film makers - and celebrate IWD at the same time.

What: **Australian short film showcase**

When: Tuesday 9 March 2010

Where: NSW Parliament House Theatrette

Time: 11.45am for 12 noon morning tea, 12.30pm opening address by Hon. Jodi McKay, MP, NSW Minister for Women

Cost: \$10 adult / \$7 concession / \$5 Women in Film and Television (WIFT) members - includes morning tea

Eight stimulating short films, both fiction and documentary, showcase the diversity of Australian shorts made by women. After the screening meet the filmmakers: Michelle Blanchard, Venetia Taylor and Sandy Widyanata.

For more information on the movies, go to their website: <http://www.wift.org/wow/index.html>

Bookings essential ph/Txt 0402 264 601, email: wowfilmfestival@wiftnsw.org.au

WEL NSW Executive

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Treasurer: Tabitha Ponnambalam
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Kavanagh, Lorraine Slade

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website : <http://welnsw.org.au>

To join WEL NSW

Download a membership form from
<http://welnsw.org.au> or phone (02 9212
4374) for a membership package

IF NOT CLAIMED WITHIN 7 DAYS PLEASE RETURN TO:

WOMEN'S ELECTORAL LOBBY (NSW) Inc
66 ALBION STREET
SURRY HILLS NSW 2010
AUSTRALIA