

# NFAW Australian Women's Archives Project

## Welcome to the NSW Committee of AWAP

The NSW Committee of the Australian Women's Archives Project (AWAP) meets bi-monthly on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday at 5.30 pm in the Sir William Dixson Research Library, State Library of NSW, Macquarie Street, Sydney.

### Aim of the NFAW

The NFAW aims to advance and protect the interests of Australian women and to ensure the aims, ideals and the collective wisdom of the women's movement are handed on to new generations of women.

NFAW seeks to strengthen women's groups by:

- sponsoring research and advocacy
- Working to increase support for feminist goals in the community; and
- Improving communication among women's groups.

Further information on the Australian Women's Archives Project is at [www.womenaustralia.info](http://www.womenaustralia.info)

### **News - forthcoming events**

#### **Recent events:**

#### **Women in the Workforce – Wednesday, 12 March 2008**

On 12 March 2008 State Records NSW and the NSW Committee of the Australian Women's Archives Project held a seminar exploring the place of women in the workforce. State Records was represented by Emily Hanna (Senior Archivist, Access and Information) who provided an overview of the official sources in the NSW State Archives. Inspector Irene Juergens, VIP State Co-ordinator Commissioner's Inspectorate (NSW Police Force), spoke about the role and history of women in the police service in NSW.

#### **Simply the Best 2: Reflections of women through records**

Conference held in Adelaide, 10–12 October 2007

This conference included a presentation of 'Skirts on the Sacred Benches' by Dr Tiffany Donnelly (Vice-Principal, The Women's College, University of Sydney) on behalf of the authors of the paper, Rachael and Dr Emma Grahame, who were unable to attend the Adelaide event.

This presentation was arranged by the NSW AWAP Committee.

#### **Women's History Month – Monday, 5 March 2007**

The theme for Women's History Month 2007 was *Arm in Arm: Indigenous and non-Indigenous Women Working Together*. One of the presentations organised by members of the NSW AWAP Committee was given by Gabi Hollows, Founding Director of the Fred Hollows Foundation. Gabi discussed her work with indigenous communities in Australia, which began

when she travelled into the Australian bush with her late husband, Fred Hollows, in the 1970s to screen and treat indigenous people for eye disease.

Gabi Hollows formed many lasting friendships with indigenous women and she spoke about their lives and her continuing work and support for improving the health of indigenous Australians.

Gabi was joined by Jilpia Nappaljari Jones AM, who analysed her experience of collaboration between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal women.

### ***Past Projects:***

[Putting Skirts on the Sacred Benches](http://www.nfaw.org/awap-showcase/) - see <http://www.nfaw.org/awap-showcase/>

#### **1. 'Putting Skirts on the Sacred Benches' – Women Candidates for NSW Parliament**

This project, which researched the names and stories of the women who have stood for election to the NSW Parliament, was launched on Friday, 9 June 2006 by the Governor of NSW, Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC in the Jubilee Room, of the NSW Parliament House. The function was hosted by the Hon. Dr Meredith Burgmann, President of the NSW Legislative Council.

The project was funded by the Sesquicentenary of Responsible Government in NSW under the Chairmanship of Mr Rodney Cavalier.

#### **The project**

A total of 753 women have stood as candidates in NSW parliamentary elections since 1918 when women first had the right to sit in Parliament in this state.

At the launch, on Friday 9 June 2006, researchers, Rachel and Dr Emma Grahame presented some examples of the candidates researched so far.

The project title, 'Putting Skirts on the Sacred Benches', is taken from a speech by Millicent Preston-Stanley in 1925:

I'm not fool enough to suppose my going into the House is going to make any sweeping alteration. The heavens won't fall because a woman's skirts rustle on the sacred benches, so long the sacrosanct seats of the lords of creation.

### ***Current projects***

#### **'Women in the Workplace'**

Women Publicans – work is underway researching women publicans to provide supporting information for a project funding proposal.

Other projects under discussion:

- Women in Law Enforcement;
- Women in the Media.

### ***Portrait of:***

Cameo of someone who has recently been added to the register OR someone already in the register but not widely known

## ***In search of***

List of women for whom information or additional details are sought:

## **Members**

NWAP welcomes new members.

For information on how to apply for membership of NWAP see <http://www.nfaw.org/about-the-nfaw/>

## **Funding**

### **Preferred Donor Fund**

The NFAW is the only broadly focussed women's organisation to have tax-deductible status in its own right. Women's organisations or projects can access this assistance to tax-effective fund raising. Click <http://www.nfaw.org/supporting-womens-groups/> for more information and details of the Donor Funds.

## ***Contact us***

### **NSW AWAP Committee:**

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