

Geordie taught the boys to pan for gold and expertly catch the redfin and catfish that lived in the deep pools of the creek. Hot summer days brought plentiful supplies of snakes to steal eggs or young chicks from his menagerie of chooks, ducks and guinea fowl. My nine-year-old twin sons soon had the doubtful ability to shoot a snake with Geordie's home-made musket, expertly skin it and cook it over a campfire. They also became adept at catching yabbies and breeding them to

amazing numbers and sizes in our farm dams.

The boys helped Geordie restore an old cart that first summer and were disappointed when Druid and all other 16 horses refused point blank to pull it. The donkey, Emma, was more willing and we were making slow progress along the fire trail through the valley when Emma stopped at the gate, which was hanging loosely off its hinges. She wouldn't budge. Not one more centimetre would she go.

'Old Ling must be about today,' Geordie informed us, 'no use trying to go on, we might as well turn back.' To the children's protests and our puzzled looks he responded.

'Old Ling was a Chinese market gardener. He lived down yonder along the valley. Used to deliver fruits and vegetables to the settlers. We're riding in his cart, maybe he's saying hello.'

Geordie turned Emma towards home before continuing. 'He's buried in the culvert there, fell off

a horse and broke his neck, poor old blighter, in the summer of '89 I believe. Some days none of the horses will pass this gate and sometimes you can smell opium plain as you like. He doesn't do anyone any harm though, just likes to let you know he's here I believe.'

John and I exchanged a sceptical glance but we remembered Geordie's words a few months later when travelling home in our truck after a party in a convoy of several cars and four wheel drives. The leading vehicle, a heavy van, stopped dead at Ling's gate, effectively blocking the road, and no amount of tinkering with the engine, mainly by our eldest son, who at 15 was a budding mechanic, or pushing by a combined force of several men, was successful in moving the vehicle through the gate. A strange sweet smell pervaded the air and the old time locals said, 'Old Ling, might as well start walking.' We left the vehicles and trudged the long trek home. Next day the problem car started with no trouble at all. Ling has said hello.

Geordie spent each Christmas Day with us in the years that followed. He'd arrive as usual galloping full speed across the hills with Druid rearing and snorting in indignation when pulled up. A pair of dressed guinea fowl would be tied across the front of the saddle. 'Something for dinner lass,' Geordie would say as he'd hand me the dusty carcasses. Their usual gamey flavour is the taste of Christmas to our family now.

Geordie left last summer and some of the sun seems to have gone with him. Sometimes we think we hear the far off sound of a penny whistle as the summer breeze dances through the tall grasses on the hillside. ■

## THEY HAD TO IMPROVISE

Our forebears came in convict shame from England to this shore.  
They made a life as man and wife; and being very poor,  
Kept out of debt – no cash flow yet – expenses on the rise;  
With stock to breed, and kids to feed, *they had to improvise.*

The house they built from mud and silt (no flyscreen for the flies!),  
An earthen floor, a home-made door, were easy to devise.  
They made some bunks from sapling trunks, with hessian stretched on tight;  
With wooden crates to store their plates, and tallow lamps for light.

A kero tin to keep meat in; wet bags, to keep it cool;  
A bullock hide would then provide strong shoes to wear to school.  
When leather soles wore into holes, they'd slip some cardboard in.  
To grate their food, their gadget crude was nail-holes, punched in tin.

The housewife's dream, for whipping cream, was quince-sticks; and she'd beat  
it cool, to let the butter set: with salt, to keep it sweet.  
If hats were worn, they'd husk some corn, and plait the husks when dry.  
The girls would sew the strips – just so – for hats were dear, to buy.

They had no hope of scented soap: they didn't have the cash.  
Their mutton fat, and things like that, were saved – and cooked with ash.  
It lathered well; but, oh! the smell! and ointments they made, too!  
And all they'd need to stop a bleed was cobweb, stuck like glue.

With things they made, they used to trade for things their neighbour grew.  
A hoe or rake they'd often make; a chair or table, too.  
With possum skins – some kero tins – a hammer and some nails –  
They hadn't much. It's people such as those built New South Wales.

We've learned some tricks so we can fix a problem anywhere.  
When short of tools, unless we're fools, we think outside the square.  
There's no such word as can't, we've heard! Invention's on the rise.  
And still today, we'll find a way that we can improvise.

BESSIE JENNINGS, PORT MACQUARIE

# Life for women in 1911

*Adapted from a piece sent some years ago by Joan Garvan, Canberra*

In the mid-1800s men outnumbered women three to one and successive Colonial Governors promoted marriage as a means of *civilizing* an unruly male population. By 1911 the population became more balanced and life expectancy was 59 for women and 55 for men.

In 1911 about half the population rented their homes. The majority lived in rural areas in homes made of wood, brick, stone, calico or iron. Many country areas didn't have electricity, telephone services or refrigeration. Medical and dental services were rare and there were great problems with flies and mosquitoes.

Housework was strenuous. All cooking was done on a fuel (wood) stove or open fire in a Dutch oven – a large iron pot with legs and a lid that was set into the coals. The basic diet was tea, damper and meat. Flour, sugar, dried fruit, potatoes, oil, eggs, butter, boiled puddings, fruit cakes and biscuits were added when available.

Water was carted from creeks, rivers or lakes. In towns it was delivered though there were problems with purity. Meat was kept in a safe hung outside. Water seeped down from the top through hessian sides. The breeze evaporated the water and kept the meat from spoiling for a few days. When an animal was killed some of the meat was eaten fresh but most was salted by the housewife. The fat was used for soap, candles

or cream for face and hands, eaten as dripping on bread or used as suet instead of butter in cooking.

In country areas women's work generally included growing fruit and vegetables, keeping hens and often a cow for milk and butter. Yeast was made from potatoes or hops and surplus fruit and vegetables made into jam or pickles. The housework was endless and included dusting, sweeping, scrubbing floors, cleaning, cooking and mending. Washing clothes involved getting water, scrubbing, rinsing, wringing, drying, starching and ironing. It took most of the day.

Emigrants were advised to bring: dresses, cotton and flannel petticoats, chemises, corsets, stockings, nightgowns and caps, pocket handkerchiefs, neck handkerchiefs, bonnets, cloaks and shawls, boots and shoes. Crinoline dresses could use up to 20 yards of material. Clothes were mainly made by hand. Treadle machines appeared in the 1860s but were expensive. The first accounts of women wearing trousers also appeared at the turn of the century.

Women often looked after the family's health with home-made poultices and castor oil.

Education brought new opportunities for women and by the 1870s primary education was compulsory for boys and girls. By 1881 women were permitted to attend university. Most studied arts or science and the majority became teachers.

Few women became doctors or lawyers. Nursing became more respected and recognised due to the influence of Florence Nightingale.

Doctors attending births generally brought experience but little training. Most women were assisted by midwives and those living in isolated areas gave birth by themselves or with their husband assisting. Surprisingly the majority of families had two or three children and 18 per cent of wives had no children. Many illegitimate babies, particularly the unwanted offspring of domestic servants, were taken away. The main forms of birth control were withdrawal, abstinence and douching. Only five per cent used contraceptives. Abortions were practised though dangerous and infanticide occurred more often than we would like to think today.

Divorce was expensive and socially shunned. A man could file for divorce based on adultery but women couldn't on adultery alone. The man gained custody of the children and sole right to property.

*The Married Women's Property Act* passed in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century considerably improving women's rights.

In 1902 legislation was passed giving women the right to vote federally.

By 1911, 20 per cent of women were breadwinners. In 1907 the *Harvester Decision* had been passed declaring a family wage. This gave men an increase if he had a dependent wife and three children. This was available to all men regardless of family obligations and to *no* woman regardless of hers.

By the turn of the century women were socially active. Activist groups such as the Women's Christian Temperance Union and the Suffragettes attracted small numbers, but the Church of England's Mother's Union had thousands of members. There were a Children's Playgroup Association and a Bush Club for women in isolated areas. Literary, musical, intellectual, sporting and social clubs sprang up alongside societies for science, photography, foreign languages and philosophy. Men and women bathed separately and bicycle and horse riding became popular and women began to ride astride.

Life for most 1911 women focused on bringing up a family. Their living conditions depended far too much on generosity of their husbands but if they were lucky, with hard work, enthusiasm, some education, and an ability to reach out, they could become part of a vibrant female community. ■

***We must maintain our unique identities and homeland but have the capacity to move between two worlds and enjoy the best of both. NOEL PEARSON***



## How little we change

By Jill Conley, Mudgee

Was it really 25 years since I'd left school? In some ways it seemed like only yesterday, but in others, it felt as if a lifetime had passed.

I prepared for our class reunion with mixed feelings. Would I remember everyone? How would I recognise them? Had anyone else put on 20 kilos like me? Would they all think I looked fat and old? It would be nice to see Mavis again. I wonder if Ann will be there, and that happy girl with the fair hair and a slight limp, what was her name?

Have I got many wrinkles? I wondered, inspecting myself closely in the mirror. My hair looks nice I thought, I'm glad I picked a natural colour at the hairdressers yesterday, and I'm pleased with this dress, it makes me look thinner, I told myself hopefully.

Finally arriving at the address on the invitation, I walked up the drive with my heart beating wildly. Why

did I come? I thought, who wants to see all those old friends anyway? You do, I told myself sternly, just think, Bess and Marie might be there, remember the time we caught 32 cicadas and took them into ancient history period, and what about...

My reverie was interrupted by a voice at my elbow. 'June, is that you? Thank goodness, I was so scared I wouldn't know anyone. Can we go in together?'

It was Bess, we'd been such good friends. Seeing her again, I wondered why we'd ever lost touch.

I wondered about many people as the night wore on. We all wore name tags, but they were hardly necessary. Memories flooded back and the years rolled away.

The class extrovert was there, her hair dyed pink and orange. She had beautiful long black curls I remembered.

The beauty was about to enter her third marriage. Her features were still exquisite but the calm and serenity had gone from her eyes.

The brains was still studying. She had married a brilliant scientist, and was as sweet natured as she'd been as a girl.

The girl who was always in trouble was secretary to an MP, very highly paid and a staunch feminist.

We had one black sheep, a lady of the night. I remembered she'd been the victim of a prowler attack when we were in our first year of high school.

The girl who'd shocked us all and who had nearly been expelled for appearing in a girlie magazine at 15 was now a fashion designer, and looked sensational.

Our sports champion was a great tennis star, internationally famous, as friendly and unassuming as ever.

The girl from the wealthiest family sent an apology, she was overseas.

Our 'ugly duckling', the plumpest girl, had become a successful nightclub singer, still plump, but now happy and glamorous.

How little we change. Walking into that room, late of course, I hadn't changed either, was like walking back in time. I had the strangest sensation that the past 25 years had never happened. ■

### COUNTRY WEB FREE BOOK GIVE-AWAY

Bessie Jennings, a regular contributor to *The Country Web*, has kindly donated copies of two of her poetry books: *The Best of Bessie: 19 Original Bush Poems*; and *Grounded! Recitable Rhymes for Aussie Kids*.

To be in the running to win these great titles simply write to us and tell us in 25 words or less who your favourite poet is and why. **Entries close 28 September 2007.**

See page 2 for competition terms and conditions.

FREE  
BOOK  
GIVE-AWAY

# Your family, your farm, your future

It surprises many people to learn 75 per cent of businesses worldwide are family controlled or owner-managed. Of those, 68 per cent will face generational change during the next ten years and staggeringly... only 1.5 per cent of them are ready.

Succession planning is like the proverbial elephant in the corner of the room. It is a topic rarely spoke of and something people assume will be done later. Assumptions are prevalent – it is assumed children will inherit the land.

It is assumed they will continue on the family business. But what happens when those children don't want to follow in their parents footsteps? What happens if there are blended families?

## What happens when there is no plan?

So many families find themselves in this situation each year. Whether it is the prospect of having no children to take over the land, or too many children vying for the opportunity, it is important to have a strong plan in place.

Vicki, a farm owner has experienced the rollercoaster of succession planning twice since marrying her husband. Barry, who was one of five children, was the only family member working on the farm. When he and Vicki chose to purchase a piece

of the farm, at a reduced cost, many problems arose within the family.

'Not everyone was agreeable to the purchase of the property and a full-scale battle took place ending with a large rift between the siblings,' said Vicki. 'If we had the privilege of the information we have now, we could have come to an agreeable decision earlier, and with less emotional scarring.'

## Research and Development

National reviews, including an annual Kondinin Group survey, have highlighted succession planning as being a key issue within rural communities.

'Your Family, your Farm, your Future' Kondinin Group workshops, part funded by a Federal Government grant, provide families with an introduction into the financial, legal and communication aspects of succession planning. They look at 12 simple steps to a successful plan, allowing attendees to consider their options in a pressure-less, sales-free environment.

## Looking at the options

There are many different paths when considering the future. It is important to ensure that attendees know all their options so they can make sure they are choosing the path right for them. Some of these options include:

- Selling
- Aggregating
- Transferring to the next generation
- Leasing

- Taking on a strategic partner/equity partner
- Share-farm
- Alternating the property's use
- Appointing a professional manager
- Liquidate

The workshops offer a safe environment for attendees to view their options. Because there are no sales, people are not forced into committing to something they are unsure about. This process allows them to take their information to their current provider and obtain more information. Essentially, the workshop gives them the confidence to take control of their future.

The stress Vicki and Barry went through with the original farm transfer was fresh in their minds when a similar situation arose within their own family.

'Barry and I have five children, four girls and one boy, and in 2004 we decided to have a family succession meeting with a facilitator. Our son wanted to return to the farm and we did not want a repeat performance of what we had been through,' said Vicki.

'After attending the succession planning workshop we were able to go home with some positive goals after much soul searching and tears.'

Arrangements were made to suit all of the children, both those on and off the farm. Everyone was happy with the decisions made.

## Communication the key

To develop an awareness of different behaviour styles, the workshop gets attendees to analyse their own personalities to understand how and why they communicate the way they do. This provides tools to communicate more effectively with family members and professional advisers.

Understanding how the family communicates was important to Vicki, who believes that it helps resolve issues before they come to a head.

'It will be of enormous benefit to all families and I felt if our family had been able to attend a seminar of this nature initially, we could have resolved a number of matters earlier and easier.'

## Keeping it local

Workshops are being held in 100 rural centres across NSW. Local businesses who are involved in elements of succession planning, like accountants, lawyers and counsellors, are encouraged to provide their contact details so local services can be promoted and keeps business local.

Succession planning workshops show people how to control their future and develop retirement choices. They provide useful tools to identify options, make uninfluenced decisions and communicate more effectively to involve the whole family. ■

# The Pioneer Women's Hut

By Patricia Styche, Project Officer, The Pioneer Women's Hut

The Pioneer Women's Hut is a small national museum representing rural women and their families. Run by local community volunteers, the museum's collection reflects everyday domestic life and is cleverly themed. It highlights the ingenuity of women in finding solutions to the challenges of looking after a family in early rural Australia.

The museum looks for objects with a clear provenance – the stories behind the diverse collection make this one of the most innovative small museums in Australia. The museum is also the birthplace of the National Quilt Register.

The National Quilt Register began with 1000 quilts nationwide and The Pioneer Women's Hut has its own personal collection. A wonderful collection, the display covers the lives of many women from the essential duties of caring for a home and family to the beautiful handcraft pieces. Not on display, but still available to view are boxes of wonderful treasures just waiting for you to discover – just

put on a pair of gloves and you can handle all the items in the museum.

We are also proud to be a source of material used in exhibitions by the Power House Museum and the Old Parliament House Museum. The Museum is also used in on-site tutorials. There is a history room loaded with scrapbooks that are filled with paper clippings covering interesting news items from the region and dating back to early 1960. Newly acquired is a Cook's Galley dating back to pre-World War I. There is also a machinery shed.

The Pioneer Women's Hut caters for about 60 bus tours a year bringing about 2500 visitors. Another 2500 visitors come by private car.

The Pioneer Women's Hut is situated in Tumbarumba, at the foothills of the beautiful Snowy Mountains. The museum is open to the public on weekends from 10 am to 4 pm and on Wednesdays from 11 am to 4 pm. Entry is free.



**KONDININ**  
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INDUSTRY  
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## Your Family, Your Farm, **YOUR FUTURE**

An introductory workshop on the steps involved in preparing for your future  
*Focusing on succession planning and communication*

### Did you know

- 75% of businesses worldwide are family controlled or owner-managed?
- 68% of family businesses will face generational changes during the next 10 years?
- **Only 1.5% are ready?**

Places are limited, so  
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# Rural women leading the way for primary industries

## Supporting women with a vision for sustainable primary industries & rural communities



*Deborah Bain, 2007 RIRDC Australian Rural Women's Award Winner*

Deborah Bain, a woolgrower from Victoria, was awarded the prestigious title of 2007 Australian RIRDC Rural Women's Award Winner at a special Dinner held at Parliament House Canberra in May. South Australia's Abi Spehr, a rural facilitator and mediator from the Limestone Coast was named the 2007 Australian Runner-Up.

Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC) Managing Director, Dr Peter O'Brien, said that the winner and runner-up for the national award are innovative and tenacious, just like Australia's rural sector.

'Deb and Abi were selected from the state winners for their inspiring visions for rural

industries and their capacity to make a real and lasting contribution to rural Australia and its people,' he said.

### **DEBORAH BAIN**

Deborah works with her husband David on their wool growing property in western Victoria. She has a passion for promoting the importance of agriculture to the broader economy and to the urban population.

In 2006, Deb pioneered the concept of Farm Day, providing the opportunity for a city family to be hosted by a farm family for the day. Farm Day is a simple and effective way to promote agriculture and to profile farmers as effective and efficient business people.

Farm Day enables farmers to showcase their skills and their commitment to producing food and fibre and to protecting their environment. City people are given a unique chance to connect with a family on the land in a positive and hands-on way, providing them with a new insight and appreciation of the realities of farming.

Farm Day was successfully trialled in Victoria last May. It was overwhelmingly positively received by farmers and agricultural organisations alike as a simple and effective way to promote agriculture.

Deborah's vision is to go national with Farm Day and provide an opportunity for at least 350 city families across Australia to visit a farm.

Deborah will use the Award to help develop her business and governance skills, which will be critical to supporting the project after Farm Day's national debut in May 2007.

Her project has the potential to deliver significant and long-term gains to agriculture in bridging gaps and in changing the mindset of the urban population towards farming and rural communities.

Deb is establishing Farm Day as a not-for-profit entity and has appointed a board of directors to ensure all principles of good business are followed and to explore other avenues to help bridge the city-country divide. Her aim is for Farm Day to become a recognisable and eagerly awaited annual event.

Interested families can register for 2008 Farm Day at: [www.farmday.com.au](http://www.farmday.com.au)

### **ABI SPEHR**

Runner-up, Abi Spehr, is partner in a fourth-generation mixed grazing and cropping property on South Australia's Limestone Coast, and a successful rural facilitator and Regional Farmbis Coordinator.

She has held a number of positions on boards within the region, including Regional Farmbis Coordinator and member of the Limestone Coast Regional Tourism Marketing Committee

Abi believes that sustainable and prosperous agriculture is not just dependent on economic factors but intrinsically tied to environmental and social factors. She also believes that family relationships along with succession planning are critical to the long-term stability and sustainability of the family farm business.

Her particular interest is the relationship between the mother and the daughter-in-law in family farm situations. The lack of quantitative and qualitative research data on relationships has become the inspiration for her project to write and publish a book on mothers and daughters in law.

Her proposed activity involves a fact finding tour of rural and regional South Australia, interviewing women involved in family farm businesses about their relationships, before publishing a book and developing and facilitating an education program based on her findings.

Abi hopes the project will open up conversations within the family farm unit and provide

government departments and community groups with a new insight and understanding of the issues facing family farms. She hopes that her book will act as a catalyst to improving family farm dynamics and the viability of farm businesses.

'Deb and Abi are both positive about the long-term future of rural Australia and are committed and determined to ensure its long-term sustainability and its human resource base,' Peter said.

'They each have a busy and exciting year ahead of them, in raising the profile of the contribution women make to agriculture and to rural Australia in the national arena. The Award will also raise their profile and open up exciting new opportunities for personal development and exposure to new ideas and people.'



The Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation (RIRDC) Rural Women's Award recognises and encourages the vital contribution women make to rural Australia.



Marie Russell, Tilpa with Barry Buffier, NSW DPI Director-General, Eleanor Cook, 2007 NSW RIRDC Rural Women's Award Winner & Janet Moxey, NSW Farmers' Association, at the 2007 National Award Dinner in Canberra.

It supports women with a strong and positive vision for the future of rural Australia and provides them with an exciting opportunity to develop their skills and make a difference.

The Award provides a \$10,000 bursary for the winner and the opportunity for the winner and runner-up to participate in the RIRDC Australian Institute of Company Directors Course.

The Award is open to all women involved in agriculture, including forestry, fisheries and natural resource management and related service industries.

For a 2008 application package, Ph: 02 6391 3620 or email: [allison.priest@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:allison.priest@dpi.nsw.gov.au)

RWN also has a list of past winners and finalists who are happy to mentor women applying for the 2008 Award.

**Are you involved in primary industries?  
Do you have a great idea for your industry,  
community or your own skills development but  
don't have the resources to move forward? Apply  
now for the 2008 RIRDC Rural Women's Award.  
Applications close 15 October 2007.**

RIRDC NSW RURAL WOMEN'S AWARD

you could be the next NSW winner

[WWW.DPI.NSW.GOV.AU/RWN](http://WWW.DPI.NSW.GOV.AU/RWN)



***Each year, many children are bitten or stung, usually by bees, wasps and spiders, but sometimes by funnel web spiders and snakes. During the summer the risk of being bitten is amplified, so The Children's Hospital at Westmead is advising parents to be prepared and aware of the appropriate first aid treatment to protect their families this summer.***

## **First Aid**

Ensure a member of the household knows first aid. Keep a first aid kit in the car and at home including some crepe bandages or old pantyhose handy in case of emergencies. If you have any doubt about your child's reaction when bitten or stung always seek medical attention.

## **Be alert to possible dangers**

Biting creatures can take refuge in a pile of wood, a garage, tree house or even the filter of your swimming pool, so it is important to be alert to possible dangers around your home. Take the time to explain the need for caution to your children, stress the importance of leaving these creatures alone and encourage them to call an adult to help.

## **Spiders**

Red-back and funnel web spiders are the only known poisonous spiders in Australia likely to cause death to a child, though some children can have a bad local reaction to other spider bites.

If a red-back spider bites your child, wash the area and keep it clean. If there are symptoms such as weakness, persistent pain, inconsolability, persistent crying, lots of sweating, nausea, vomiting and pale colour, seek medical attention or dial 000 for Emergency Assistance.

A funnel web spider bite is even more dangerous. These spiders occasionally enter houses, especially during the fire season.

If bitten by a funnel web spider it is critical that first aid be applied immediately. Symptoms can include pain at the bite site, lots of sweating, nausea and vomiting, difficulty in breathing and muscle twitching. Apply pressure over the bitten area with a bandage and then bandage the whole limb to slow the flow of venom around the body. Use a splint to hold the limb still and take the child to the nearest hospital immediately or dial 000 for Emergency Assistance.

## **Snake Bites**

- If a snake bites your child, do not wash the bitten area as the venom on the skin may be used to identify the snake.
- Immediately apply a broad, firm bandage around the bite and then the whole limb to cover the bite.

- Use a crepe bandage or any other flexible material (eg. pantyhose, clothing or towels torn into strips). Keep the limb as still as possible by using a splint made from any firm material.
- Go to your closest hospital or dial 000 for Emergency Assistance.

You may also call the **Poisons Information Line on 13 11 26** for further advice on spider or snake bites.

## **Health & safety fact sheets**

The Children's Hospital at Westmead has a fantastic library of fact sheets on health and safety topics providing a wealth of information relevant to the wellbeing of your family. For more information go to: [chw.edu.au/parents/factsheets](http://chw.edu.au/parents/factsheets)

## **ABOUT THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL AT WESTMEAD**

The highly respected Children's Hospital at Westmead is the largest paediatric centre in NSW, providing excellent care for children from NSW, Australia and across the Pacific Rim. Established in 1880, a stand-alone public hospital and registered charity with 3000 staff in 150 departments, The Children's Hospital at Westmead serves over 50,000 sick children and their families each year in a family-focused healing environment. Funded by the NSW Government, The Children's Hospital at Westmead provides significant extra services aided by the generosity of individual and corporate donors. For more information go to: [www.chw.edu.au](http://www.chw.edu.au)



# 2007 Hay Women's Gathering

## Program & Registration

**2-4 NOVEMBER 2007**

**OFFICIAL PROGRAM**

**FRIDAY 2 NOVEMBER**

(Note: All Gathering activities will be held at the Waradgery Club, 136 Pine Street, unless otherwise stated.)

4-7 pm **Registration & Trade Show**

An opportunity to view trade stalls including women's information, arts and crafts and more.

7-9.30 pm **Pre-Gathering get-together and supper**

Enjoy a glass of wine with music while meeting friends. A light meal will be served.

**SATURDAY 3 NOVEMBER**

8 am **Registration & Trade Exhibition**

Tai Chi on the lawn at the Waradgery Club

8.50 am **Welcome to Country:** Members of the Waradgery Tribe

**Rural Women's Network (RWN) Address:** Elaine Armstrong, Chair, RWN State Advisory Committee

**Official Opening:** The Hon Ian Macdonald MLC, NSW Minister for Primary Industries

9.30 am **Keynote Address – Forgotten Australians:** Bonney Djuric, Parramatta Girls Precinct & Christina Green, Hay Institute for Girls

10.15 am Morning Tea, Networking and Trade Exhibition

11 am **WORKSHOP SESSION A** (Various venues)

12.30 pm Lunch & Trade Exhibition

2 pm **WORKSHOP SESSION B** (Various venues)

7 pm **Pre-dinner Drinks** on the lawn at the Waradgery Club

7.30 pm **Gathering Dinner – 1970s Fever!**

Come dressed in your favourite 70s gear for Saturday Night Fever, Hay style. Enjoy a wonderful evening with the best of the 70s music, fashion parade of fabulous 70s fashion, great food and lots of fun. You will feel like dancing!

**Keynote Speaker:** The Hon Verity Firth MP, Minister for Women

**SUNDAY 4 NOVEMBER**

8.30 am **Combined breakfast & Ecumenical Service** (Bidgee Bend, Mid Western Highway)

9.30 am **WORKSHOP SESSION C** (Various venues)

11.30 am **A snapshot of the 2007 World Congress of Women:** Sonia Muir, NSW Department of Primary Industries Rural Women's Network

12.10 pm **Closing Ceremony**

12.45 pm **Changeover Ceremony**

1 pm Lunch

**DON'T MISS:  
Breakfast by the River**

A special feature of the 2007 Hay Gathering is Sunday breakfast at a beautiful Murrumbidgee Riverside Garden. You will enjoy a yummy cooked breakfast (at no extra charge) and there will be a ecumenical service with a difference! All we need is you!

## Keynote speakers

### MEMORIALISING WOMEN'S HISTORY – PARRAMATTA FEMALE FACTORY PRECINCT

Since 2003, former inmate of the Parramatta Girl's Home **Bonney Djuric** has been leading a campaign to raise awareness about this site. She argues that the Institutions of the Parramatta Female Factory Precinct are a testimony to the evolution of Australia's welfare, justice and health history, particularly in relation to women and children. Her goal is to seek the memorialisation of the precinct as Australia's first National Women's Heritage site and to establish a museum dedicated to the Forgotten Australians within the former premises of the Girls Home.

### FORGOTTEN AUSTRALIANS

**Christina Green** was one of the many young girls incarcerated at Parramatta and the Hay Institution for Girls during 1961–1974. So brutal was their time there that Hay became the subject of a Senate Inquiry into the Forgotten Australians. Christina became a Ward of the State at a very young age when she was charged with neglect (neglected by her parents) and this led her to Parramatta and later Hay. It was only her faith that kept Christina going. She will talk about surviving her years of torment.

### A SNAPSHOT OF THE 2007 WORLD CONGRESS OF RURAL WOMEN, SOUTH AFRICA

Rural Women's Network Coordinator, **Sonia Muir**, will share stories, images and insights on the recent 4<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Rural Women and pre-congress study tour. The South African gathering attracted over 2500 women and provided a unique opportunity to explore rural women's issues with a global lens. Next stop for the world congress 'train' will be India in 2010–11.

## Workshops

**1. WELLNESS WORKSHOP** – *Jenny Powell, RN, B.Nat.* Jenny is a registered nurse, naturopath, iridologist, herbalist and homeopath. She uses a holistic approach to care in her business, Riverina Natural Therapies. Come and listen to Jenny talk on prevention of disease and restoring the body to a state of health and vitality. (SESSION A)

**2. SING, SING A SONG** – *Marilyn Perrot.* Learn a song which can then be performed by the group at the service on Sunday morning. (SESSION A)

**3. HATHA YOGA** – *Linda Hathaway.* An introduction to the gentle style of Hatha yoga. This session will explain how to breath correctly (pranyana), practice gentle postures (asanas) and deep relaxation (yoga nidra). Come and enjoy the feeling of peaceful karma. Please wear comfortable loose clothing. (SESSION A) (SESSION B: 2–3.30 pm or 4–5.30 pm)

**4. OIL PAINTING** – *Jeff Wright.* Ever thought you would like to paint but didn't know where to start? Enjoy a painting demonstration from start to finish by a professional artist. (SESSION A: Portrait) (SESSION B: Still life 2–3.30 pm or Landscape 4–5.30 pm)

**5. THE 'WESTHAVEN' EXPERIENCE** – *Lyn Curtaayne.* This is a private residence and garden not to be missed. Travel by bus to the outskirts of Hay to see Lyn's unique collection of domestic objects and auction finds from many a demolished Hay building. Enjoy a Devonshire Tea while Lyn tells her story. (SESSION A) (SESSION B: 2–3.30 pm)

**6. NO LONGER SILENCED: Congolese women share their stories of survival** – *Elaine Dietsch.* Women who have survived horrific sexual torture in the Democratic Republic of Congo have pleaded for other women around the world to please listen to them. In honour of these courageous women and girls who told her their stories, Elaine will share them with the women at Hay. The slides that accompany the presentation illustrate the majesty of this troubled land and beautiful people. They are not confronting but please be warned that the stories to be shared are very disturbing. (SESSIONS A, B, C)

**7. WINE APPRECIATION** – *De Bortoli Wines.* An informal workshop designed to educate the palate of discerning and casual wine enthusiasts. Riverina wines are used in this popular course – pure indulgence. (SESSION A) (SESSION B: 2–3.30 pm)

**8. MOSAICS FOR BEGINNERS** – *Maggie Clark.* A brief guide to the tools and materials needed to start you off on this exciting hobby. Maggie will bring her ideas and mobile workshop with her to inspire you into action as soon as you get home. This is a theory workshop only, but Maggie is happy to hook her van behind her trusty Subaru and deliver workshops in your hometown after the Gathering. (SESSION A) (SESSION B: 2–3 pm)

**9. PATCHWORK QUILT** – *Suzanne Prosser.* Want to learn a new skill? Like to work with others? Come along and learn how to use fuse and buttonhole stitch appliqué to make a patch that will be part of a quilt to be donated by the NSW Women's Gathering group to the Westmead Children's Hospital. It will be given to a child who needs to undergo a prolonged period of treatment, or who has a significant condition. (SESSIONS A, B, C)

**10. FLORAL ART WORKSHOP** – *Flowers@heart.* Christmas is just around the corner – less than eight weeks away. Come and learn how to make that special centrepiece to decorate your Christmas table. Take home your creation to use for this and many more Christmas tables. Cost: \$20. (SESSION A) (SESSION B: 2–3.15 pm) (SESSION C).

**11. THE HOME BARISTA: How to Make the Perfect Coffee** – *Nathan Guglielmino.* Learn how to make a café style coffee at home for family and friends. This workshop will look at different coffee blends, grinding coffee and how to achieve the creamiest steamed milk. Participants will practise using domestic coffee machines and coffee percolators. A must for when you want something more than instant coffee. A fun, hands-on workshop. (SESSION A) (SESSION B: 2–3 pm or 3.30–4.30 pm)

**12. A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME** – *Colleen Houston.* Learn about the Bishop's Lodge Rose Garden, famous for its found roses, and the development and care of this heritage rose collection. (SESSIONS A, B, C)

**13. TAI CHI** – *Jenny Clark.* A traditional Chinese mind-body relaxation exercise performed in a slow relaxed manner which is used to improve or maintain health, create a sense of relaxation and keep qi flowing. Comfortable casual clothing and flat-soled shoes are best. We may be able to offer beginners/advanced sessions depending on demand. Please indicate beginner or advanced course with your workshop preferences. (SESSIONS A, B, C)

**14. BELLY DANCING** – *Carol Warren.* Middle Eastern dancing in which the dancer makes sensuous movements of the hips and abdomen. Good for both the body and the soul. (SESSIONS A, B, C)

**15. LINE DANCING** – *Sue Schneider.* A type of non-partner dancing where everyone starts in a line and learns a set pattern of steps which is then repeated throughout the music. Great weight-bearing exercise for women. (SESSIONS A, B, C)

**16. MEDITATION** – *Maggie Clark.* An introduction to meditation. Learn how to relax your limbs and clear your thoughts to become one with your mind, body and soul. Let the day's worries and stress settle like mud in a glass and leave you rejuvenated, calm and focused. Session finishes with a guided meditation. (SESSION B: 3.30–5 pm) (SESSION C)

**17. PAINTING CARDS IN GOUACHE** – *The Cardwell.* Let an art expert guide you through the use of opaque water colour to create a completed art piece to take home. (SESSION A) (SESSION B: 2–3.30 pm or 3.30–5 pm) (SESSION C)

**18. CULTURAL WALK** – *Gubba Woods.* Bush walking may never be the same. A guided stroll through the local forest with an Indigenous guide pointing out all that nature has to offer as well as explaining some Aboriginal art pieces. (SESSION B: 2 pm & 4 pm)

**19. WOMEN'S SEXUAL HEALTH** – *Jean Woods.* Everything you always wanted to know but were afraid to ask. Jean will touch on all aspects of sexual health with a very light-hearted approach. Become informed on up-to-date statistics, ideas and advice in this important area of health. (SESSION B: 2–3 pm)