



e-bulletin

The Australian Education Union • www.aeuact.asn.au

JANUARY 2009

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

History: International Women's Day is celebrated in many countries around the world. It is a day when women are recognised for their achievements without regard to divisions, whether national, ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic or political. It is an occasion for looking back on past struggles and accomplishments, and more importantly, for looking ahead to the untapped potential and opportunities that await future generations of women.

IWD first emerged from the activities of labour movements at the turn of the twentieth century in North America and across Europe. Many early events involving political struggles by women helped entrench the notion of a commemorative day for women. In 1975, during International Women's Year, the United Nations began celebrating International Women's Day on 8 March.

Wins for Women: For AEU women, we have a proud history of women unionists campaigning for and winning major equalities for women working in public education:

- Equal pay for women teachers
- Removal of the bar on married women teaching
- Maternity leave - paid and unpaid
- Permanent part-time employment
- The right to return to work part-time after maternity leave
- Carer's leave
- Parental leave
- Rights to superannuation for women
- Departmental Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action for Women policies
- Sexual harassment contact officers

8 March 2009



Is your Sub-Branch represented?

Did you elect your Sub-Branch Executive, Branch Council & Women's Contact Officers? It is not too late. Go to www.aeuact.asn.au and download the proforma.

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Bulletin Board

Pamela Denoon Lecture

The Accidental Feminist: when lived experience collides with a post-feminist world

Emily Maguire - novelist, essayist and commentator

Time: Wednesday 4 March, 8:00-9:00pm

Venue: Lecture Theatre 1, Manning Clark Centre, Building 26a, Union Court, ANU

This lecture is open to the public. Entry is by gold coin donation and refreshments will follow the lecture. Enquiries: pameladenoonlecture@hotmail.com or phone 0404 190 975.

The St Vincent de Paul Society invite you to celebrate IWD - especially Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander women's achievements

Date: Wednesday 4 March,

Time: 7:00pm for 7:30pm

Venue: Canberra Southern Cross Club, Corinna Room 2

The guest speaker is Helen Moran, Indigenous co-chair of the National Sorry Day Committee [NSDC].

Gold coin donations on the night. Light refreshments are available. **RSVP by Monday 2 March to 6282-2722.**

The gains the AEU has worked to achieve for women should be celebrated, never forgotten and never ever lost. The Union has, and needs, strong women who are actively involved to ensure we continue our proud history of fighting for rights at work and building upon previous gains.

Celebrate International Women's Day in your workplace on

Friday 6 March:

- Involve students in IWD by using the resources from the link below and plan a lesson
- Plan an IWD event such as a special assembly, breakfast or morning tea
- Attend an IWD event in your local community
- Encourage women in your workplace to join the Union
- Ensure your workplace has an AEU Women's Contact Officer - go to: www.aeuact.asn.au/member-groups/women-focus.html

The AEU Federal website has a range of links to resources, lesson plans and information: www.aeufederal.org.au/Women/IWD2008.html

Cathy Smith - Assistant to the Secretary [Professional]

Amnesty International - IWD EVENT - 10 March Volunteers Needed!

Amnesty International Australia is marking International Women's Day with a major event in front of Parliament House on Tuesday 10 March. Since 2004 we have gathered support from all across the country for Australia to implement a National Plan of Action to Stop Violence Against Women. Much of this support has come in the form of people doing handprints and writing their names on banners that have been in public places all over the nation. We intend to display these colourful, symbolic, positive banners on 10 March for politicians and the general public to see.

To make this event a success AI need help in setting up. Volunteers are required to be on hand from 7:00am. If you can help for an hour please contact Community Campaigner Bede Carmody ASAP via bede_carmody@amnesty.org.au

Supporting Sudanese Women's Refugees National Network [SWNN] of Australia & NZ

You are invited to celebrate CHANGE following the election of President Barack Obama with dancing, video, speeches and Sudanese food on **Saturday 14 March from 7:30pm-1:30am at 180 London Circuit - The Theo Notaras Multicultural Centre, 2nd Floor, Function Room. Cost: \$45 and Concession \$25. For bookings contact Aguil on 0403 362 662 or Lucia on 0403 693 993 or email aguil@hotmail.net.au**

