

Dear Friends of the Trust,

**VICTORIAN WOMEN'S TRUST E-BULLETIN  
30 OCTOBER 2007:**

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**VWT WELCOMES NEW WORK AND FAMILY INITIATIVE**

Women's organisations have welcomed the election campaign announcement by Deputy Labor leader Julia Gillard of a \$12 million work and family initiative.

Three key agencies have applauded Labor's commitment to ensuring national leadership on an issue that affects all working Australians.

**The Victorian Women's Trust (VWT), WIRE - Women's Information (WIRE), and Queen Victoria Women's Centre (QVWC) met in August with representatives from both the Coalition and the Opposition to argue the need for more support for working people and their employers.**

**These groups outlined a practical approach that had already been trialled in Victoria that would help women and men to negotiate work/life balance and family-friendly practices.**

"It is pleasing that this issue is now being taken up nationally during the election campaign. Creating a better work and family balance is something mums, dads, families and society as a whole will benefit from, and we applaud Julia Gillard for making the issue an early priority," Victorian Women's Trust Executive Director Mary Crooks said.

A targeted work and family initiative can assist small business in particular to retain skilled workers and enhance productivity.

“The grassroots nature of this policy is a real step forward to creating better work and family balance arrangements in workplaces,” Samiro Douglas, Manager of WIRE said.

“Our studies have found women in particular benefit from sharing information face-to-face. This policy will provide working women with the information they need to address this important issue,” Ms Douglas said.

### **JULIA GILLARD ON WHAT WOMEN WANT**

*“IN THE movie What Women Want, Mel Gibson plays a chauvinist called Nick who gets an electric shock from a hair dryer. The jolt means that for a brief time he has the ability to hear women's unspoken thoughts about what they really want.*

*“No man in Australian politics is ever going to be confused with the good-looking Gibson and, given some of his recent objectionable antics, no Australian male politician is going to worry about that.*

*“But it is a pity no one in the Howard Government has the power of the character Nick to hear what women want. Women will work, women will have children, and women want choices about how to put the two together.”*

To read Julia Gillard’s article, in which she cites Labor’s \$12 million pledge to addressing work/family balance issues, click the link below:

[Balancing Work & Family](#)

### **VICTORIAN WOMEN’S SUFFRAGE AND POLITICAL CITIZENSHIP CONFERENCE DETAILS**

The School of Historical Studies at the University of Melbourne, together with the Royal Historical Society of Victoria (RHSV) and the League of Women Voters of Victoria, has planned a conference to celebrate the centenary of women’s suffrage in Victoria in 2008.

To be held on 5 and 6 December this year (2007), it will feature two panels and 15 papers, including keynote addresses by 2 of the leading historians of women in Australia, Professors Patricia Grimshaw (University of Melbourne) and Marilyn Lake (La Trobe University and Director on the Board of the Victorian Women’s Trust), and a public lecture by the Hon. Judy Maddigan MLA, the first woman to be appointed Speaker of the Victorian Legislative Assembly. The conference program includes papers on a variety of aspects of Victorian women’s political citizenship up to the present, as well as on the fight for the vote.

Conference contributors will be invited to submit their papers for possible inclusion in a special issue of the RHSV’s Victorian Historical Journal to be

published and launched in early November 2008 to coincide with celebrations of the winning of the vote by Victorian women.

The conference organisers invite all those interested in attending to register now. The registration form and a draft program will soon be found on the School of Historical Studies website (<http://www.historical-studies.unimelb.edu.au/>)

**WHERE:** The conference will be held in the Fifth Floor Common Room of the John Medley Building at the University of Melbourne, commencing in the afternoon of 5 December. The public lecture, to be presented on the evening of 5 December, will be held in Theatre C Old Arts.

**WHEN:** December 5 and 6

**COST:** \$67.50 and \$35 for students (includes morning and afternoon teas, pre-lecture drinks and canapes, and lunch on 6 December).

Registrations should be sent to the School of Historical Studies, University of Melbourne. Further information can be obtained from Assoc. Professor Judith Smart ([jsmart@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:jsmart@unimelb.edu.au)), Closing date: Monday 19 November.

### **ABORTION IN VICTORIA, REMINDER FOR SUBMISSIONS AND INFORMATION CONFERENCE DETAILS**

Recently, Victorian Women's Trust Policy Officer Sarah Capper and Board Director Diana Batzias spoke with the Victorian Law Reform Commission about the Government's reference into Abortion.

The Trust will be making a written submission (due November 9), and we also encourage any member of the public to do so. While the Commission has listed questions about reforming the law of abortion in its Terms of Reference paper (which can be found accessing the VLRC's website as listed below), submissions do not need to strictly follow this format and can be a simple short statement to the Commission (for instance, if you support the removal of abortion from the Crimes Act, you can simply voice this opinion in a brief email to the Commission - it's that easy!).

For more information visit the Law Reform Commission's website:  
[www.lawreform.vic.gov.au](http://www.lawreform.vic.gov.au)

**UPCOMING CONFERENCE:** Abortion in Victoria: Where are we now?  
Where do we want to go?

*Join us at the ground-breaking conference at which a range of outstanding speakers will provide answers to these important questions.*

**WHEN:** Friday 30th November 2007, 9:00am – 4:00pm

**WHERE:** Theatre A, Elizabeth Murdoch Building, The University of Melbourne

Presented by: The Key Centre for Women's Health in Society, The Royal Women's Hospital, Women's Health Victoria, Family Planning Victoria

Speakers include:

- Dr Margaret Sparrow, President, ALRANZ, Abortion Law Reform Association of New Zealand
- Senator Lyn Allison, Leader, Australian Democrats
- Dr Jo Wainer, Director, Gender and Medicine Research Unit, Monash University
- Professor Jenny Morgan, Faculty of Law, The University of Melbourne
- Dr Maggie Kirkman, Key Centre for Women's Health in Society, School of Population Health, The University of Melbourne
- Dr John Edington, Acting Chief Medical Officer, Director, Intensive Care, Bendigo Hospital
- Annarella Hardiman, Manager, Pregnancy Advisory Service, The Royal Women's Hospital
- Dr Chris Bayly, Associate Director Women's Services, The Royal Women's Hospital
- Therese McCarthy will chair a panel discussion in the final session.

To register visit: <http://www.kcwhs.unimelb.edu.au/news/conferences>

For registration, accommodation and travel enquiries contact Atlanta Zwar at [enquiries-kcwhs@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:enquiries-kcwhs@unimelb.edu.au) or tel: + 61 3 8344 4417

### **THE 7<sup>th</sup> HUMAN RIGHTS ORATION: AUTHOR AND JOURNALIST DR ANNE SUMMERS 'PUTTING EQUALITY BACK ON THE AGENDA'**

Author and journalist, Dr Anne Summers is to deliver the 7<sup>th</sup> Human Rights Oration 2007 – 'Putting equality back on the agenda'

Equality for women has been off the political agenda for too long now. No human rights agenda can be complete without the inclusion of a clear commitment to the equality of women.

**WHAT:** Human Rights Oration with opening address by Attorney-General, The Hon Rob Hulls MP and a special performance by Vardos

**WHEN:** 12.30pm to 1.30pm, Monday, 10th December 2007

**WHERE:** ZINC at Federation Square, Corner of Flinders and Swanston Streets

Join us on 10 December as we mark United Nations Human Rights Day and please spread the word across your networks. The Oration is a free event but registrations are required. Registrations can be lodged by emailing: [alex.manning@veohrc.vic.gov.au](mailto:alex.manning@veohrc.vic.gov.au) or phone 9281 7144

For more information visit the [Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission's website](#)

## **TRUST FUNDED PROJECT - CASTLEMAINE ART GALLERY WOMEN'S EXHIBITION**

The *Centenary Celebration First Australian Exhibition of Women's Work 1907* is currently being held at the **Castlemaine Art Gallery & Historical Museum from 21 October - 9 December 2007**

This exhibition brings together over 100 works from the original exhibition which showed over 16,000 pieces in the Exhibition Buildings in Melbourne. A beautifully illustrated catalogue (for \$20) accompanies the exhibition and highlights the pioneering achievements of women working in arts and crafts. The Victorian Women's Trust was pleased to assist in funding this important exhibition and encourages people to take the opportunity to visit Castlemaine to view this wonderful piece of history.

**WHERE:** Castlemaine Art Gallery & Historical Museum  
14 Lyttleton Street, Castlemaine, Victoria 3450  
Tel 03 5472 2292

**WHEN:** Open: Mon-Fri 10am – 5pm, Weekends 12-5pm.

**COST:** Admission: \$4.00, concession \$3.00

## **PATHWAYS TO MEANINGFUL LIVING**

Just a reminder about the upcoming conference, 'Pathways to Meaningful Living'. This conference is an initiative of the *Healing Relationships Institute*, bringing together a group of people with diverse views on how to foster and maintain a sense of meaning in an increasingly complex world. Victorian Women's Trust Executive Director Mary Crooks will be speaking at the event. For information click on the link below:

<http://www.healingrelationshipsinsitute.com.au/home.shtml>

## **WHO IS THE CANDIDATE FOR BENNELONG?! KEVIN RUDD HAS A BOB EACH WAY**

Having trouble deciding who to vote for this election campaign? Look no further! Magazine Marie Clare has put all the 'tough' questions to Prime Minister John Howard and Opposition leader Kevin Rudd, as cited by ABC program, 'The Insiders', last Sunday.

BARRIE CASSIDY, INSIDERS, SUNDAY OCTOBER 27: *And everybody's pitching in, trying to help you in getting to know the leaders even better, and Marie Clare helped this week, they put some quick questions to John Howard and Kevin Rudd through their fashion magazine:*

- Hillary Clinton or Princess Diana? *John Howard – Diana, Kevin Rudd – Hillary*
- Jennifer Aniston or Angelina Jolie? *John Howard – Angelina, Kevin Rudd – Jennifer*
- Maxine McKew or Jana Wendt? *John Howard – Jana, Kevin Rudd – Both*

PANEL: [Laughs]

BARRIE CASSIDY: Who is the candidate for Bennelong? Not Jana!

If you do not wish to receive further information regarding events, updates and other general information from the Victorian Women's Trust (VWT) please type "unsubscribe" in the subject section of a reply e-mail and your information will be removed from the VWT e-mail database. Please see the homepage (left bottom) of our website [www.vwt.org.au](http://www.vwt.org.au) for our Privacy Policy.