Welcome to the Spring Edition of the Women and Psychology newsletter. Apart from now having our first female Prime Minister (congratulations Julia), the major event occurring since the last edition was ICAP 2010. From all accounts the event in Melbourne lived up to expectations and delivered a vibrant and stimulating week of discussions in July. The Women and Psychology Interest Group held a breakfast during the conference and about a dozen women met over croissants and coffee to welcome overseas speakers and interstate members.

The breaking news for this issue is the Women and Psychology conference to be held in Nelson, Aotearoa New Zealand (Dec 3\textsuperscript{rd} - 5\textsuperscript{th}, 2010). So if you haven’t already booked your flights do so now, as this conference will replace the annual Australian Residential Conference which celebrated its 20th year in 2009.

As always, I am excited to receive articles, items of interest or concern that you would like included in the next newsletter. Look for the news from Queensland in this edition and I am hoping for plenty more news from around the country to include in the next edition.

mailto: sal@infoxchange.net.au
Sally Northfield
CONFERENCES

1: Women in Psychology Conference

Trans-Tasman Women in Psychology Conference
Keeping our balance in a changing environment:
Women, politics and wellbeing in the 21st century
Nelson, Aotearoa New Zealand - December 3-5.

This conference heralds the revival of Trans-Tasman Women and Psychology conferences in Aotearoa New Zealand, continuing the tradition of conferences where Australasian women have come together to network and learn from one another about research and practice relevant to women. This year's conference will highlight women's and feminist perspectives on global and environmental issues, mental health and wellbeing, women's changing roles in the 21st century, work-life balance, research and psychological practice with and about women. Further information:
http://www.waikato.ac.nz/wfass/WomenInPsychology2010/Cate
Dr Cate Curtis
Psychology Department
University of Waikato
Telephone: (+64 0) 7 856 2889 ext 8669
Email: ccurtis@waikato.ac.nz

2: also in New Zealand

Women's Studies Association

Conference 2010: “Connecting Women, Respecting Differences”
19-21 November 2010
Waikato University, Kirikiriroa/Hamilton

registration form due by 31 October 2010. For general conference queries and advice on your proposal, email c.michelle@waikato.ac.nz

For further information about the conference theme, our exciting line-up of speakers and workshops, the registration form, and a variety of reasonably-priced accommodation options, see –
3: **36th Annual AWP Conference**

The 2011 Conference of the Association for Women in Psychology (AWP) will be held March 3-6, 2011 at the Hyatt Penn’s Landing in downtown Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Pre-conference workshops will be conducted on Thursday, March 3rd. The conference will open on the morning of Friday, March 4th and there will be keynotes both Friday afternoon (Lisa Bowleg on AIDS in the African American community) and Saturday evening (Dolores Huerta on immigration and activism), with a closing ceremony on Sunday afternoon, March 6th.

Proposals will be accepted from August 31–October 29, 2010 at http://awp2011.blogspot.com/

4:

**The Art of Good Health and Wellbeing, 2nd Annual International Arts and Health Conference**

The Art of Good Health and Wellbeing, 2nd Annual International Arts and Health Conference, will present best practice and innovative arts and health practice and programs, examples of effective healthcare promotion, methods of project evaluation and data from scientific research. This year's Conference will have a special focus on arts and health strategies for children and youth; the built environment, design and health; mental health and creative ageing.
CONFERENCES

Great news -- the WW 2011 'call for participation' deadline has been extended. You now have until October 11th to submit your proposals! The theme of Women’s Worlds 2011 is "Inclusions, exclusions, and seclusions: Living in a globalized world". Why? Where globalization and women are concerned, provocative questions abound. This gathering will be a place to explore these complex matters through reflection, learning, sharing. Proposals are invited from anyone working to advance women’s rights, women’s empowerment, and gender equality. They can come from individuals, groups, coalitions, networks, teams - everything will be considered.

3-7 July, 2011
Ottawa-Gatineau
Canada

APS Women and Psychology Interest Group News from the States

Update from APS Women and Psychology in Queensland. Report from Ann Aboud (Convenor Qld W&P)

We have held two seminars jointly with the College of Counselling Psychology. The first one was Drink Now, Pay Later: The Real Cost of Consumption - A presentation and discussion of the impact of drinking alcohol on the legacy we leave the next generation with an emphasis on foetal alcohol syndrome. This March meeting was presented by Dr Elizabeth Tindle and was very interesting.

The second seminar was held on 30 September - ‘Living with Dementia: Family Experiences of Loss and Grief – Insights for the Counselling Professional.’ 53 people rsvp’d for the 2nd seminar on Dementia and the room was full. Trish Carroll, Elder Matters, workshoppped the first and last part of the 2 hour seminar and Trish Shuter gave the results of her research in the middle. Each person at the workshop identified who they were and why they were there and although most were professionals, many of these had relatives who had dementia so they had personal experience.

Trish Carroll provided an overview of the 2 hour session including her acquired knowledge and skills and Patricia Shuter’s research: nature of grief and loss, current research into predictors and protective factors
for *anticipatory* grief and its correlation with health outcomes in primary family caregivers; social and health factors for people living with dementia; community resources and how counselling can assist.

She then asked participants to brainstorm by asking “What is your understanding of dementia?” and requesting a descriptor for each letter of the word DEMENTIA. This was very effective and stirred up quite a few emotions. We were then asked to identify the positives. There weren’t many – but it did stimulate the generation of some more positive descriptors. She gave us some definitions, types and statistics from Alzheimer’s Australia, WHO, DSM-IV-TR. We were asked to name the losses and Trish drew ‘bricks’ around the words – constructing a Wall of Tears – El Muro de las Lagrimas. Trish shared her situation with us – her mother had dementia and her brother early onset dementia – and both had died recently so she had a lot of credibility. She had been part of Trish Shuter’s research population so it all integrated well.

Surprisingly despite the topic and some people becoming silently emotional it was an excellent workshop – almost therapeutic as people shared their experiences – some of which made us laugh as well as cry. The workshop was very practical: navigating the carer maze – carers’ rights, resources, community care, aged care, person-centred care, personhood and memories. In the segment: *I’m still here* I was struck by the data about the human brain which has approximately 100 billion neurons – which reduces by 40% at end stage dementia….and the question: How can we focus on the remaining 60 billion cells? – Dr John Zeisel. Trish outlined the role of counselling and understanding and caring for those affected by loss. We focussed on the strengths of the family and carer experience and what sustains us as we care. Some final thoughts: *Memory loss may confine the person to the present experience, but it may also give those without the condition the opportunity to appreciate the qualities associated with ‘being’ rather than ‘doing’* - John Killick. And another final thought: *Suffering is not a question that demands an answer: it is not a problem that demands a solution; it is a mystery that demands a presence.* Trish supplied us with a comprehensive list of references and what her *Elder Matters* offered: confidential counselling for older people and their families, carer support groups, preparing for transition to/within residential care, professional development for residential care staff, support in navigating aged care and medical systems. It was a workshop focussed on the counselling professional working with carers so every insight and skill was appreciated as it added to the professional capacity of counsellors in the field.

I only wish I had this knowledge when I had to assist my mother into a residential care facility – it was truly a maze and no-one was particularly helpful except my brother-in-law, the priest and members of the church choir (sic). I had to fight for an ACAT assessment and had no idea how to negotiate the bond when I finally found a residence that would take my mother.

I did share some of my mother’s experiences. While she was at home she had become a *life member* of the Euthanasia Society which in itself seemed a contradiction in terms. Then she decided to join Exit. When she received the forms– they were so complicated and difficult that she said it was easier to live than to join Exit. She is 95 and still here – experiencing some memory loss but not yet dementia.

**Ann Aboud**  
*Client Relationship Manager*  
*Shared Service Agency*  
*Email: ann.aboud@ssa.qld.gov.au*

**Update from Women and Psychology in Victoria**

The Victorian Group has been active in 2010 with a Planning session (February) and a well-attended workshop in May called Getting Started. The Group continued to hold potluck dinners across Melbourne and we have enjoyed several entertaining gatherings this year in Abbotsford, Burwood and a theatre night, seeing Hoa Pham’s play – Silence. (See page 8 for details about Hoa’s latest play).
Editor’s highlights (I couldn’t make the Women & Psychology symposium in the latter part of the week but I heard it was very well attended).

The first event was an invited symposium called Personal, professional and political: Applications of feminist ethics to research and practices. Jean Pettifor from Canada and Heather Gridley from Australia gave the audience provocative historical accounts of the path to establishing guidelines for psychological practice with women. It was fascinating to hear the struggles spanning many decades in both countries and importantly, we now have these histories documented via the conference presentations. Geraldine Moane enlightened us on the Irish situation, a far more recent and it seems more rapidly evolving development in guidelines for inclusive psychological practice. Finally we heard Ingrid Huygens’ evocative account of her innovative application of a feminist and antiracist ethical framework to her research into The Treaty Education Movement in Aotearoa New Zealand. The Symposium underlined the importance of considering the ethical implications across all areas of psychology including research, supervision, education and practice.

The second highlight was an invited keynote called Talking race and prejudice ‘Down Under’ from Martha Augoustinos, a well-known voice on racism in Australian from the University of Adelaide. Martha reminded the audience of the insidious nature of the language we use and how more blatant forms of racism have been replaced by more covert patterns of talk, with the category of ‘nation’ increasingly taking over from race in legitimising oppressive practices and sanitising racist discourse.

Executive Director: Women’s Health Victoria

Women’s Health Victoria is a statewide and national leader in health promotion, information and advocacy. Collaborating with other community organisations, health professionals, policy makers and business, recent campaigns and projects have led to major legislative reforms, innovation in health care for women and award winning health promotion strategies.

Reporting to the Board, this high-profile position will see you working closely with the Board to develop and implement strategies for projects and programs that make a real difference in women’s health, and position the organisation as the provider of unique community services for women. You will lead a dedicated team and ensure cultural vitality and an integrated organisational approach.

Key to your success will be your ability to establish and maintain effective relationships with major stakeholders. This will include building partnerships at all levels of government, and with other organisations to promote Women’s Health Victoria and the issues it is concerned about.

This is a great opportunity in the not for profit sector for a woman with outstanding leadership and communication skills, and an approach to program delivery and advocacy that is strategic and innovative. A background in a relevant area such as health, education or government will give you an edge. You will identify closely with Women’s Health Victoria’s values and be committed to achieving improvements in women’s health. Don’t miss this once in a lifetime career opportunity. Equal Opportunity Exemption No. A178 of 2008.

Please respond by quoting ref. no 2008660 via email to resume@sacsconsult.com.au (in Word format) or telephone Clare McCartin on 03 8622 8517 or Kate Sawyer on 03 8622 8509 for a confidential discussion.
Seize the Moment

UNIFEM Executive Director - Inés Alberdi:

New UN Gender Entity a Historic Step for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

Message from UNIFEM Executive Director Inés Alberdi Welcoming the Creation of UN Women

Dear Friends and Partners,

Today is a historic day. This afternoon, the United Nations General Assembly unanimously decided to establish UN Women, the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. The creation of a strong UN organization that will be a champion to promote and advance the rights of women and girls worldwide has been a goal we have been advocating for many years, and I know that you will join me in celebrating and embracing this momentous achievement.

As you will know, UN Women will merge UNIFEM with its three existing sister UN entities working on gender issues — the Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW), the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women (OSAGI), and the UN International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW). For many years, we have effectively worked with national, regional and global partners to generate a stronger public policy response to previously under-recognized women's rights issues, such as ending violence against women, increasing women's political participation, and prioritizing women's leadership in forging peace and security.

At the same time, we have faced serious challenges in our efforts to support countries to implement commitments to gender equality, in part because of inadequate funding and because there was no single recognized driver to lead the UN response for gender equality support. This is why we wholeheartedly joined UN Member States and women's rights advocates in the call to strengthen the UN system to render even stronger support to the advancement of gender equality.

Today marks a great new beginning, not an end. The kind of work that UNIFEM has supported will continue as we merge into an institution that will be more robust and coherent, better positioned and resourced than the sum of its constituent parts. I count on all of you to continue to be with us on this exciting journey. Your support throughout the years and your tireless engagement on behalf of the world’s women has made this success possible.

UN Women will become fully operational on 1 January 2011. It is important to note that until then we will continue to be fully operational as part of the new entity. Agreements made with UNIFEM, whether in the context of partnerships, programmes or funding arrangements, will then be transferred to and honoured by UN Women.

Over the past decades, there have been many achievements in advancing the women’s rights and gender equality agenda, yet much still needs to be done. We now know that we will be stronger in pursuing our joint efforts for women and girls globally. Let’s seize this moment, and the momentum, and work with renewed energy and enthusiasm.
As part of the 2010 Melbourne Fringe Festival, Girls at Work celebrates the diversity of female theatre artists with a stunning collection of shows and events that highlight the quality of their work. Girls at Work will also provide master classes and discussions throughout the three-week season.

Commencing on September 23 the program includes one to watch
I Could be You: a play by award winning author, psychologist and previous W & P Newsletter editor (!) Hoa Pham

Date: 23 Sep 2010 - 09 Oct 2010
Time: 8.30pm: 23rd, 24th, 25th Sept / 7.00pm: 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th Oct
Price: $25 Full / $20 Conc. / $15 Tuesday, Matinees & Grp 6+ / $75 Season Pass [+bf]
"I'm invisible because you refuse to see me..."
Shireen, an Indian international student is taken to a detention centre. She is visited by Huong, a Vietnamese-Australian lawyer, and the mysterious Ania. Shireen begins to hear voices and goes mad...Or does she?
'I could be you" is a visceral experience immersing the audience through a journey of madness and hope. Based on the history of the Maribyrnong Detention Centre site "I could be you" wonders about the state we are in.

The Girls at Work program also includes
PaPer Man & the 499th day: physical theatre and dance
La Petite Mort – The Orgasm: one of Adelaide Fringe top shows
The She Sessions: premier of three new solo works
Instability Strip: a return to public stage of theatre luminary Alison Richards
All shows are at Theatre Works at 14 Acland St, St Kilda (Cnr St Leonards Ave)
Details and booking available on www.theatreworks.org.au 9534 3388 or www.melbournefringe.com.au
Nominate a remarkable woman for the 2011 Victorian Honour Roll of Women now!
Nominations for the 2011 Victorian Honour Roll of Women are now open.
Celebrate the achievements, leadership, strength and contribution of Victorian women

The Victorian Honour Roll is open to women of achievement who have contributed to their communities or to a particular field of endeavour. Women can be nominated in a wide range of fields, including education, social justice, medicine, science, the arts, and media.

Nominations close 13 October 2010. Inductees to the 2011 Victorian Honour Roll of Women will be announced in March

Dear all,
In the lead up to the state election on November 27, Women’s Health East, together with a number of other Victorian women’s health services, has developed an innovative way of supporting pro-choice Members of Parliament (MPs). The I Vote For Choice website allows users to send a message of support or disappointment to their local MPs, depending on how they voted on abortion law reform in 2008.

The I Vote For Choice website also features information about abortion in Victoria, community attitudes, and links to information about service providers. This important initiative is one way we can let our pro-choice MPs know that they have our support.

We encourage you to sign up for updates, go to the ‘take action’ page to send an email to your local MP, and also share the site with your networks. You can also become a fan of the site on Facebook – another great way to spread the word to friends and family.

It’s your opportunity to let your MPs know that you value the right to choose and support MPs that support choice!

Kind Regards,
Liz Smith
Health Promotion Officer

Women’s Health East
28 Warrandyte Rd
Ringwood VIC 3134

Ph. 9845 8029
Fax 9879 6519
Email: lsmith@whe.org.au
Website: http://www.whe.org.au
The gender myth


This article was sent to me by a member of the Women and Psychology Interest Group. Unfortunately we do not have permission to reproduce it here in full so I urge you to follow the link. The article begins with the line "It's the mainstay of countless media articles. Differences between male and female abilities - from map reading to multi-tasking and from parking to expressing emotion - can be traced to variations in the hard-wiring of their brains at birth, it is claimed." Sound familiar?

Dr Cordelia Fine is an academic psychologist and writer who resides and works in Melbourne and is quoted in the article disputing this adherence to the notion of hardwiring in the brain. "Many of the studies that claim to highlight differences between the brains of males and females are spurious. They are based on tests carried out on only a small number of individuals and their results are often not repeated by other scientists. However, their results are published, and are accepted by teachers and others as proof of basic differences between boys and girls.

"All sorts of ridiculous conclusions about very important issues are then made. Already sexism disguised in neuroscientific finery is changing the way children are taught."


"With Delusions of Gender we welcome a brilliant feminist critic of the neurosciences." (Times Higher Education Supplement), "As Fine argues in this forceful, funny new book, the notion that gender accounts for differences in minds and behaviour through some biological, brain-based process is an idea as popular as it is unproven." (Boston Globe) "Fine invites her readers into a passionate, insightful and often funny discussion about how gender identity is all in the mind, not the brain" (Globe & Mail). "Fine is fun, droll yet deeply serious." (New Scientist) "This marvellous and important book will change the way readers view the gendered world." (Publishers Weekly) "[R]ead [it] and see how complex and fascinating the whole issue is." (New York Times)

She has been described as "that rare academic who's also an excellent writer" (Library Journal), "clear, engaging, humorous" (Science Books & Films), a "cognitive neuroscientist with a sharp sense of humour and an intelligent sense of reality" (The Times), "a brilliant feminist critic of the neurosciences" (Times HES) and "a science writer to watch" (Metro).

http://www.cordeliafine.com/about.html
Up Close
features work from Carol Jerrems with Larry Clark, Nan Goldin and William Yang.
Heide Museum of Modern Art
31 July - 31 October 2010

Review by Courtney Symes

“Art is a lie that helps us realise the truth”. Pablo Picasso’s powerful words poignantly linger in Carol Jerrems’ tribute to her mother Joy. This was Jerrems’ final piece of work before she passed away. Photographic images from each artist capture different aspects of life during the 1970s and 1980s, such as teenage and gay subcultures as well as party scenes of the 1980s.

Jerrems was “influenced by feminism, with an instinctive empathy for subcultures and disposed groups – especially aboriginal communities.” Jerrems’ A Book About Australian Women is a reflection of her sentiment that “this society is sick and I must help change it.” The book features a diverse cross-section of women, including writers, artists, activists and aboriginal communities from different areas of society during the 1970s. With a desire for “things to be real, to be natural” Jerrems captured her images with her “beaten up” Pentax camera with a 50mm lens in natural light. Vale St, 1975 is one of Jerrems’ iconic works, depicting local teenagers and capturing the bohemian mood and lifestyle of the 1970s. Up Close also features an intriguing collection of Jerrems’ personal writings and notebooks.

MORE SEEING IS NOT UNDERSTANDING:
PONCH HAWKES EXHIBITION

Ponch Hawkes is one of Melbourne’s most important photographers. She is part of a great generation of feminist photographers that includes Micky Allen and the late Sue Ford. Since the 1970s Hawkes has documented Australia’s social and political culture and in doing so has linked several generations of Melbourne’s vibrant creative communities.

WHERE: Monash Gallery of Art, 860 Ferntree Gully Road, Wheelers Hill
WHEN: 8 September 2010 to 24 October 2010
FOR MORE INFORMATION: Visit the Monash Gallery of Art by clicking HERE.

Ponch Hawkes has also recently been nominated for a Basil Sellers Art Prize. Click here for more information.
No More Silence!

Visual Artist brings 12 Women Activists to Life
http://www.facebook.com/rootstoresistance

Renowned award winning visual artist and creative activist Denise Beaudet is bringing forth the images and stories of 12 remarkable women in a project entitled Roots to Resistance, painting larger than life sized portraits of these women activists as well as creating postcards that spread word of their work. This project aims to create voices for us all by creating postcards and sending them around the world and saying that we won’t be silent about war, atrocities and violence against women!

Our next postcard portrays the Congolese Journalist Chouchou Namegabe. It is a critical and dangerous endeavour as she travels across the war torn Congo to record the stories of the hundreds of thousands of women who have been assaulted there. She needs our support and our voices!

The global postcard exchange is completely free and really just involves us sending postcards to those interested in being partners in the Exchange. All we ask is that you give them out in your community and spread the word and we will print them in the language spoken there!

AWID AND THE AFRICAN GENDER INSTITUTE ARE PARTNERS IN OUR POSTCARD CAMPAIGN!: http://www.awid.org/eng/content/search?SearchText=denise+beaudet

To become a partner in the Global Postcard Campaign please contact
Denise: invisible_earth@yahoo.com and for more info and images of the project: http://www.facebook.com/rootstoresistance

Thanks so much for your time! Apologies about the lack of translation!

Sincerely Denise Beaudet

The 12 women:
Natalia Estemirova-Chechnya-Murdered Human Rights Journalist
Malalai Joya-Afghanistan-Woman's Rights Activist
Chouchou Namegabe–Congo–Journalist/Women’s Rights Activist
Maria Gunnoe-U.S.-Environmental Activist
Aung San Suu Kyi-Burma-Human Rights Activist
Parvin Ardalan-Iran-Women's Rights Activist
Rebecca Gomperts-Burma-Human Rights Activist
Dita Indah Sari-Indonesia-Labor Activist
Wangari Maathai-Kenya-Environmental Activist
Zapatista Woman-Mexico Environmental/Indigenous Rights Activist
Marina Silva-Brazil-Environmental Activist
Yvonne Margarula-Australia-Indigenous Rights Activist
If You Can’t Stand the Heat

Shortly after I named this collection, Masterchef Australia went into full swing, and every second person on the show was saying ‘If you can’t stand the heat…’ More recently, with the strange Federal election just held in Australia, lots of politicians and political commentators have been saying it. And that’s why I love it as a cliché; you can apply it all the way from popular culture to politics – just like the cartoons in the book free-range across these areas.

I was also drawn to the title because ‘heat’ has so many different meanings in our society. The word became a gathering principle for me. The main ‘heat’ in this book is of course global warming, which is of huge concern to me. I’m hoping that being able to laugh through the terror will help us somehow. There are plenty of ways that the cartoons in the book intersect with other meanings of heat too, which I know about even if no one else notices. This is my second cartoon collection with a title that begins with ‘If’. That doesn’t really tell you anything about If you can’t stand the heat, or the earlier ‘if’ collection, If the fruit fits, it’s just something I noticed.

Editions
Scribe Publications Australia

CANBERRA LAUNCH
October 21 6 pm The Canberra launch of Judy’s new cartoon collection, If you can’t stand the heat, published by Scribe. To be launched by Helen Maxwell. Electric Shadows Bookshop, 40 Mort Street, Braddon, RSVP by 15 Oct 02 6248 8352, esb@electricshadowsbookshop.com.au

Download a pdf of Canberra invitation here
No One Eats Alone: from Sudan to Melbourne

No One Eats Alone honours the power of memory and the refugee journey from Sudan, while exploring what it means to navigate Sudanese-Australian culture as a woman and a parent with equal parts hope, frustration and a sense of wonder.

The New Hope Foundation would like to invite you to the screening of a film produced by Paola Bilbrough and Chrisoula Kanaris in collaboration with members of the Sudanese-Australian community.

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<tr>
<th>Film Premiere and Book Launch</th>
<th>Film Screening</th>
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<tr>
<td>WHEN: Friday 15 October / 1pm</td>
<td>WHEN: Thursday 21 October / 6:30 for 6:45 start</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHERE: Wingate Community Centre</td>
<td>WHERE: ACMI Cinemas</td>
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<tr>
<td>13a Wingate Avenue, Ascot Vale</td>
<td>Australian Centre for the Moving Image</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RSVP: <a href="mailto:chrisoulak@newhope.asn.au">chrisoulak@newhope.asn.au</a> / 9376 5244</td>
<td>Federation Square, Flinders Street, Melbourne</td>
</tr>
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No One Eats Alone is a Melbourne-made documentary offering an insight into what it means to be Sudanese-Australian. Twelve women build a compelling and poetic story of their journey from Sudan to life in Melbourne’s inner west with equal parts hope, frustration and a sense of wonder. Coming from Sudan where childrearing is communal, and families often eat from the same plate, to individualistic Australia is both challenging and transformative.

Anghere always imagined moving to a place where no one could tell her what to do. In Melbourne she finds herself firmly in the driver’s seat with no U-turn in sight. Adau recalls the blessing of coming from a family with ‘many mothers’, while Rose takes up cycling and observes that in Australia men ‘make their own cup of tea.’

The genesis of the film, says director Paola Bilbrough, came from hearing a woman sing a lullaby in Arabic. ‘Afterwards, she told me that the song was all she had of her mother and I found myself longing to hear more.’

The film’s co-producer, Chrisoula Kanaris, who is a Settlement worker for the New Hope Foundation, found No One Eats Alone to be an empowering experience for the women involved - all have significant stories that they want to share with a broader audience. ‘The women have a strong desire to be part of the Australian community –to have a sense of belonging, but it is also incredibly important for people to understand and accept them as individuals with a rich past and cultural heritage.’

Paola Bilbrough agrees that relationships have been central to No One Eats Alone. ‘People shared things that were very emotional. We couldn’t just pack up the camera and leave after filming, so we ended up participating in each other’s lives. It’s been a production marked by generosity and the creation of extended family.’

This project is supported by the Victorian Government through the Community Support Fund