

The Art of Suff-Rage

Celebrating the Centenary of Women's Suffrage in Victoria 1908-2008

Fifth Edition

Spring 2008

FREE



Wilma Farrow (front), Jane Chisholm and Crusader Hillis from Gasworks Arts Park and the "Suffragists"



Suffragist Ursula Dutkiewicz at Euroa



Photographer: Tara Fritchthavong. "Suffragists" with Jenny Macklin (Federal Minister), Danielle Green, (State MP), Helen Coleman local councillor and Mandy Press (Convenor Nillumbik Women's Network)

Suffragists undeterred by snow and cold

The Art of Suff-Rage travelling installation has been on the move and saw suffragists Fern and Ursula driving home through snow from the Haddon District and Community House Fiesta on August the 10th. The icy conditions did not deter the community venturing out for an absolute fun filled day. Activities included workshops run by the suffragists that saw the creation of the most fantastic clay sculptures that will be fired and exhibited and wonderful colourful badges an excellent memento of the day. The Women's Circus out Reach workers ran workshops for kids through out the afternoon while traditional colonial music by the band Bushwazee and Maria Lorde entertained the crowd. The final event in the "Real Gold- Women of the Woody Yaloak" series will see The Art of Suff-Rage installation on display on Thursday November 6th from 4pm to 8pm. This will be a fun filled afternoon with music, coral performance, exhibitions and the unveiling of the ceramic "Woody Woman" commissioned from Ursula Dutkiewicz. For more information, contact the community house on 53427050.

Vida Goldstein celebrated

On the 15th of August The Art of Suff-Rage was held at the St Kilda Town Hall to celebrate the life of internationally renowned suffragist Vida Goldstein on the anniversary of her death. On a chilly Melbourne day, a large crowd gathered on the lawns of the Town Hall to join in the celebrations and view the installation. Adorning the steps of St. Kilda Town Hall were Ursula's one

Vida Goldstein celebrated continues

hundred ceramic suffragist sculptures and Fern's ten commemorative banners were featured for the first time in an impressive display. A warm welcome by the Mayor of the City of Port Phillip Janet Cribbes was followed by Wilma Farrow's entertaining performance as Vida. Members of the St Kilda Historical Society spoke of life in 1908 the same year women won the right to vote in Victoria. Suffragist Fern and Ursula wandered through the crowd answering questions and handing out the winter edition of The Art of Suff-Rage newspaper.

Warm welcome from the "Women of Euroa"

On August 18th Ursula travelled to Euroa with The Art of Suff-Rage as a guest speaker for one of their monthly "Women of Euroa" group dinners. The event celebrated more than a hundred years of achievements by women and looked positively toward the future. Over ninety women ventured out on a cold evening to participate in the festivities. The delicious menu was based on recipes from the turn of the last century by Mrs. Beaton. The 2006 Australian Business Innovation Award Winner, Claire Penniceard was the MC for the evening. Guest speakers were locals who included; the first female Mayor of the Strathbogie Shire, Roby Machin, Educator Sherryn Browne, and School Leaver Laura-Jane Corker. The Euroa Historical Society set up a fantastic static display with items from the turn of the last century.

The Art of Suff-Rage would like to thank the organisations, groups, associations and individuals who have keenly supported Ursula and Fern to bring the 'suffragists' and their artworks to their communities in Victoria.

Forum Theatre

Brimbank City Council presents Forum Theatre, an innovative interactive theatre performance.

Registrations are now open for Brimbank residents to become actors. No experience required, participation is at no charge.

Arts & Culture Courses - Enrolments Open
Brimbank City Council provides a range of low-cost arts and culture courses. All courses are run by professional artists and are available to people of all abilities, concessions available.

Adult courses

Watercolour painting, short story writing, life drawing, jewellery making, textile design, tarot card reading, pottery and candle making

Kids' courses

Illustration, art and design and pottery

Information contact
Hunt Club Community Arts Centre
9361 6600

huntclub@brimbank.vic.gov.au
www.brimbank.vic.gov.au

Suffragist add colour and movement

On September 8th Nillumbik Women's Network Spring Forum "Nillumbik Women Speak Out" was held in the fantastic Eltham Community and Reception Centre. In suffragist attire Fern and Ursula attended displaying part of The Art of Suff-Rage art installation. Opening the event was feminist historian, Dr Natasha Campo with a presentation on the journey for women gaining the vote in Victoria whilst exploring what we can learn from their experience. "If women in Nillumbik municipality were to prepare a petition to local, state and federal parliaments today- what would be the demands?"

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On a "soapbox", six local women responded to the question from their particular standpoint. Some of these included; a stay at home mother, a mother with disabled children, a career mother. A particularly moving moment was when a woman spoke of the impact of domestic violence on her life and asked her 'Silent Partners' to come forward, during the course of her talk fifteen or so women, who had experienced violence joined her on stage. Federal and State Parliamentarians, Jenny Macklin and Danielle Green responded to the key themes and priorities emerging from the speakers. The outcome of the forum was "yes" we had come along way since women got the vote however, highlighting the need for more work to do toward women's equality.



Greens member Janet Powell with *suffragists*

Suffragists welcome Greens

The Greens State Conference for this year celebrated the Centenary of Women's Suffrage in Victoria. Fern and Ursula as suffragists spoke of their Art of Suff-Rage installation and the suffrage movement in Victoria creating an authentic atmosphere for the opening day. Conference participants signed a Victorian Women Voters banner honouring the Monster Petition, a massive document of over thirty thousand signatures presented to parliament in 1891. Speakers stood against the backdrop of one of Ferns commemorative centenary banners "Our Bodies, Free Safe Abortion" which is currently being debated in Parliament. The Conference acknowledged the importance of women taking part in the political process; the sentiment echoes the first wave of suffragists. Topical issues noted were; "... formalised equality has not achieved full equality... [currently] in Victoria ... domestic violence is the biggest cause of death and disability for women between 15 and 44 years old... Women earn 80-85% of what men earn for comparable jobs... Only 28% of parliamentarians representing Victoria are women." This was a heartening event to be a part of with an emphasis on encouraging women's involvement in the political process.

The Age of Suff-Rage would like to thank Gasworks Arts Park, Crusader Hillis, Ian Roberts (Harold Mitchell Foundation), Joan Kirner, Terry Bracks, Kris Coad, Women's Circus, the Office of Women's Policy Victoria, League of Women Voters Victoria, Women's Electoral Lobby Victoria.

Diary Dates for October

6th October Brimbank Festival Glass cabinets - Ursula will have her ceramic suffragists on display.

14 Oct Conversation Hanna get the banner
An event at Gasworks Art Park. *Around tables* include; League of Women Voters Victoria, Women's Electoral Lobby Victoria, RMIT University students, Business Professional Women and Union of Australian Women, Ursula Dutkiewicz and Fern Smith. They will be available first hand to talk to about the centenary year and how to be in the community encouraging equality.

18th October 8:00 pm at Boite - World Music Cafe - Mark Street North Fitzroy - "Composing Women" The Boite celebrates an evening of original contemporary local women's music. Composer Cathy Connor is organising the event and will present a composition of her own. Ursula and Fern as suffragists will be displaying their artworks.

19 Oct Brimbank Festival Brimbank Festival will be held Sunday 19 October 2008 from 11am to 5pm at Errington Reserve, St Albans - Roving Suffragists Ursula and Fern with artworks in tow.

26 Oct Walk of Art Sunday -11:00 am - 1:30 pm A *Walk of Art* from Federation Square with your art via Parliament House to the Queen Victoria Women's Centre - Roving Suffragists Ursula and Fern with artworks in tow. A *Walk of Art* exhibition at the Queen Victoria Women's Centre until 29 November 2008

The Art of Suff-Rage available for hire
Art installation ceramic suffragists and banners "Suffragists" Ursula and Fern with Art of Suffrage newspaper

Artists

Ceramic murals by Ursula Dutkiewicz
Banners and workshops by Fern Smith
Contact for information through websites

Ursula: www.ursuladutkiewicz.com
Fern: www.fernartz.com

Diary Dates for November

6 November Haddon Community Centre will be holding their final wrap with the unveiling of the "Woody Women" sculpture commissioned from Ursula.

10th November 2pm Deer Park Library Ursula Dutkiewicz will be presenting tales of the suffragists

Tuesday 11th November 2pm Sydenham Library Station Street, Fern Smith will be presenting tales of the suffragists.

Thursday 13 November 5.30 to 7.30 pm Cocktail Party, Incinerator Arts Complex 180 Holmes Rd, Moonee Ponds. Launched by: Judy Maddigan MLA for Essendon, *The Art of Suff-Rage* - Ursula Dutkiewicz & Fern Smith. RSVP 3/11/08 uawv@vicnet.net.au Ph 9654 7409 Union Australian Women

Saturday 15th November 1pm Keilor Village Library Fern Smith will be presenting tales of the suffragists

23 November Parliament House will be having an open day featuring the 100 years of women's suffrage in Victoria. Office of Women's policy are currently organising the event. Watch out for Catherine Connor composer and her brass troupe, League of Women Voters Victoria and Women's Electoral Lobby, Ursula and Fern, RMIT University student's original publications of 12 significant women of Victoria. <http://www.women.vic.gov.au>

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