

Women's Plans Foundation is delighted to announce that Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, has accepted the position of Patron

Advance Notice

**Annual Cocktail Party
Auction of Exotica and Entertainment**

**at Lindesay, Darling Point
21st October, Wednesday, 6 to 9 p.m.**

Lindesay is accessible by ferry or
water taxi

Would you like to visualise what is accomplished with your donation? During 2008/09, WPF has helped enable activities of these four overseas aid organisations.

from Marie Stopes International Australia report:

In Timor-Leste the Midwives on Bikes have been very successful in raising awareness of sexual and reproductive health and basic family planning services amongst those who had been unaware of their reproductive choices. In their first year on the road they reached more than 6,500 people through community information and awareness raising sessions and activities. In 2008 this number increased to 10,500.

from ChildFund Australia in Vietnam report:

This year 68 participants (key stakeholders at commune and village levels) in three training courses were equipped with consultative skills on family planning. 116 education sessions were held for women between 15-49 years of age. Courses were conducted in 6 project communes. There is continuing development of integrated education and communications material, with plans to raise awareness of new population policies and new birth control methods. An examination and counselling campaign is being organised for each commune.

The WPF Alert

May, 2009

Susannah Fullerton to entertain with Samuel Pepys' Diary Morning Tea at The Women's Club Level 4, 179 Elizabeth Street 24th June, Wednesday, from 10 a.m.

Susannah Fullerton is an engaging, witty and scholarly speaker on the lives and work of many authors. She has spoken to us on Jane Austen, the Brontes, the Mitford Girls, and this year will speak about Samuel Pepys' Diary and the Restoration world and attitudes revealed in the greatest diary every written.

Samuel Pepys (1633-1703), Chief Secretary to the Admiralty and Member of Parliament, is now most famous for his diary, though he made his wife burn hers because her complaints about her life showed him in an unfavourable light. His diary has become an important primary source for the English Restoration period. Come and see through Pepys' eyes -- with Susannah's flair for reflection.

\$45 in advance, \$50 at the door

Susannah's new book *Brief Encounters* will be out soon.

from Save the Children report:

Key elements funded by Women's Plans Foundation include: Provision of Family Planning Services and Health Education in 395 Remote Villages - remote villages are visited twice a year providing family planning services and conducting health education on family planning.

Training on Reproductive Health and Family Planning for Traditional Birth Attendants - annual refresher training in appropriate topics and new volunteers will be given basis training as required.

from Sexual Health and Family Planning Australia report:

With the Solomon Islands Planned Parenthood Association, activities included 1500 Radio spots promoting reproductive sexual health to young people, schools, churches and provincial tours, dispelling myths and misinformation about SRH issues.

With Live and Learn Environmental Education, 600 women, men and young people in four provinces were reached. 9 environmental and population workshops were held in hot spots: North Malaita, West Guadalcanal, North West Choiseul and Central islands.

With HELP Resources, training was held for Men and Boys Behaviour Change programs in East Sepik Province, PNG.

Controversy and Contraception

There are many consequences to Cardinal Pell's and the Vatican's continuing opposition to condoms in third world cultures.

1. It is too often forgotten in the theological heat about permissiveness and AIDS that condoms are the contraceptive method most likely to reach families in rural poverty in Africa. Contraceptives reduce deaths from frequent births and famine.
2. Where contraceptives are accessible, sex can continue to be an expression of love and health in marriage when children are spaced and the capacity to raise children is limited.
3. Women's lives are for more than childbearing and looking after everyone's physical needs. Women are full people. The ability to space and choose the number of children who can be cherished and socialised is vital. Every child should be a wanted child and every culture should have women participating in decision-making.
4. In the last hundred years the human population has quadrupled. The largest generation ever is entering reproductive age, and there is greatest poverty in areas of rapid population rise with least resources. Of course there are boat people -- there will be many more boat people as long as the population expands when the earth doesn't.
5. Sir David Attenborough writes, "governments and environmental NGOs have observed a taboo - invented in the 1980s by a bizarre coalition of the religious right and the liberal left.... a 'silent lie'...encouraging us to ignore the vital need to stabilise our numbers by humane means (contraception) before nature does it for us by inhumane, natural means (famine, disease, war)."

The Vatican rethought its position on Copernicus and Gallileo, and many hope that now it may see the virtues of contraception.

www.womensplans.org
www.facebook.com/pages/Womens-Plans-Foundation/73565561465



On the west coast of India is a matriarchal community where, after childbirth, the new mother is taken back to her mother with the baby, and no sexual intercourse is allowed for one year.



A community in PNG has a rule that there is to be no sex after the birth of a baby until the husband has made a canoe. It takes about three months to make a canoe.



The Population Media Centre, in Vermont, USA, has been funded by UNFPA to produce radio drama series in twenty-four countries. For up to a year, people in third world countries follow characters in conflicts involving literacy, contraception, equal status of women and similar issues. Some of the characters in the long-running drama change gradually, taking the radio audience with them, identifying emotionally and learning to access education and family planning services. Bill Ryerson, the Centre's Director, has spoken to conferences and meetings in Australia and Canada in recent years, to spread the word about the effectiveness of radio soap operas in increasing attendance at family planning clinics in many countries. A new project is being developed for PNG, a country with 64 languages, radios for 30% of the population and a strong interest in listening to football. A Tok Pisin drama, complete with footballers, is being written by PNG writers specially trained for a plot of gradual enlightenment.

Our thanks to **Manuela Darling-Gannser** for her generosity and talent in giving the Cooking Demonstration Luncheon on March 26th. Manuela's next book will be launched in September.

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Patron: Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia
Trustees: Carolyn Blanden, Elizabeth Lloyd, Alice Oppen, Helen Sheffer, Stefania Siedlecky AM.
Fundraising Committee: Miranda Baker, Linda Cameron, Zeny Edwards, Jenny Hall, Marjorie James OAM, Alice Oppen, Trish Procter, Helen Sheffer, Sue Wilson.
Pro Bono: Ernst & Young's Siobhan Sellick and John Mamo provide accounting services; Julian Oppen is webmaster. Stuart Cameron of UBS assists with investment for the Trust Fund.

Please pay in advance. A receipt with further function details will be sent.

Booking and Donations (tax deductible) form, post to WPF, 3 Madeline St., Hunter's Hill, NSW 2110, tel. (02)9817-5175, oppenama@bigpond.com
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