



# The WPF Alert

## Invitation to Events

### RESEARCH?

Financial factors, political pressures and legal concerns are among the obstacles that have impeded the research and development of new contraceptive products in the United States. Private funders may be hesitant to back contraceptive research and development, despite market potential, because of the large investment required to develop a successful product. Product development costs for pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies in many cases exceed expected returns. Insofar as contraception is bound up with sexuality, it is subject to the same cultural, moral and religious influences, and therefore has political as well as personal dimensions. The growing threat of lawsuits, even those resulting in favorable outcomes, has imposed substantial costs on the pharmaceutical industry and chilled its involvement in contraceptive research. Guttmacher Institute

### MICROBICIDES

The Australian Reproductive Health Alliance has announced that it hopes to initiate a partnership among a pharmaceutical company, AusAID, a peak AIDS organisation and the Burnet Institute, and encourages advocacy for research and much greater community awareness. Microbicides, often referred to as "the invisible condom", are not expected to become available to the public until at least 2010, as a gel or cream to be used by women.

*Women's Plans Foundation urges the potential of microbicides for women in areas of poverty overseas. There is great need for this protection to be available with a contraceptive factor. The cost of not having this will be greater.*

### Susannah Fullerton to speak on the Brontes at a Traditional Morning Tea June 6<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday from 10 a.m.

**"Wyaldra", 3 Madeline Street, Hunter's Hill**

Susannah Fullerton is an engaging, witty and scholarly speaker on many authors of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. She is President of the Jane Austen Society of Australia, which last year kindly directed its annual charitable donation to the Women's Plans Foundation. "Wyaldra" is composed of two cottages joined, with portions dating from before 1861, the 1870s, 1880s and 1970s. Cost of the Morning Tea and Talk is \$40, and numbers will be limited.

### Evening in Darling Point for Cocktail Auction at historic Callooa and its gardens Thursday, November 1<sup>st</sup> (note new date) from 6 p.m.

"Callooa" is a restored and extended house begun in the 1840s, with verandahs and views overlooking Rushcutters' Bay. We anticipate an evening in the garden enjoying wine and canapés with enticing silent and live auction items on offer.

*Fabulous opportunity: Orion Expedition Cruises has donated one half of a two-person package for a 10 day Kimberley Cruise in 2008. This is a superbly luxurious way to travel along Australia's striking northwest coast, with the choice of venturing up remote rivers in small water or aircraft. Cuisine by Serge Dansereau.*

### Booking & Donation form (see reverse for mailing address)

Function: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation (tax deductible, year end): \_\_\_\_\_j

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Card: Mastercard                      Visa

Card No.

Expiry Date:   /

Name as on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## FUNDRAISING

A *Degustation* on March 9<sup>th</sup> raised \$2,160, with palates pampered and conversations animated. A kitchen fire at The Royal Exchange necessitated a change of venue, and Fusion Catering's Martin Johnson and Tim Lassig rose to the occasion and put on an excellent presentation of foods and wines in The Pavilion, in Darling Park. Our thanks to them for a quick rescue of the event, and to Linda and Stuart Cameron, who made the event possible.

A **Cooking Demonstration** was given on April 26<sup>th</sup> by Manuela Darling-Gansser, author of *Under the Olive Tree*, a book which combines a family-album-view, stories and recipes, with colour photos of Italy and Switzerland. Sixteen participants shared a sunny lunch which they had watched being prepared. Thanks to the idea and energy of Sue Wilson, and Manuela Darling's great generosity, \$1,720 was raised.

## AND COUNTING...

"Of the estimated 210 million pregnancies that occur worldwide each year, 40% are unplanned."

The Guttmacher Institute

"Over the past 107 years, which is almost within the bounds of living memory, the world's human population has quadrupled from 1.6 to 6.6 billion people, often at the expense of the populations of other species." Peter Strachan, "StockAnalysis Report, Feb. 07, reprinted in SPA Newsletter No. 73.

**DR. MAL WASHER** is the new Chair of the Parliamentary Group on Population and Development. This cross-party Group contains Commonwealth, State and Territory Parliamentarians. At this year's conference in Bangkok on implementation of ICPD goals, Dr. Washer supported moves to increase the percentage in aid budgets that donor nations devote to population and reproductive health programs.

## *International Planned Parenthood Federation*

Dr. Gill Greer, the new Director-General of International Planned Parenthood Federation, spoke in Canberra and Sydney in February. IPPF is a voluntary NGO, with 151 member associations in 180 countries. IPPF works to strengthen the capacity of these countries' reproductive health organisations and to facilitate network connections, for example, between Palestine and Israel. A New Zealander, Dr Greer was humorously frank, elegantly forceful. She quoted Robyn Hyde, a New Zealand poet, who wrote that, "under the sea, all lands are joined together".

Of our area, she said, "**The Pacific is invisible to the rest of the world, yet will be a nightmare in the future.**" On the world scene, she gave figures showing that research proves that education in sexuality makes a positive difference to health and survival rates, with Denmark showing the way.

**"Blaming sex education for sex is like blaming umbrellas for rain."**

**"Those who judge from the high moral ground about abstinence forget that what they are judging are not immaculate conceptions."**

**"Non-reproductive men in skirts make far too many decisions about women and reproductive health.... Issues for morality and mortality become fatally intertwined."**

Women will go to a family planning clinic, but not to an HIV clinic or hospital. Family Planning sees people through an integrated continuum of seventeen reproductive services. Yet the U.S. withdrew funding as George W. Bush's first act as President, causing many deaths.

Gill Greer made a compelling case for increased funding and focus on international sexual health as critical for international social health. Women, particularly, should be encouraged to take control of their reproductive lives. **The largest generation ever is coming along.**

## ANY IDEAS?

We welcome suggestions and offers of practical assistance. Please write suggestions and your contact details overleaf. We seek ways to use funds to greatest advantage in enabling people in areas of poverty to plan family size.

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Trustees: Carolyn Blanden, Megan Cornelius AM, Joan Johnson, Evan Oppen, Alice Oppen, Stefania Siedlecky AM.

Fundraising Committee: Linda Cameron, Jenny Hall, Marjorie James OAM, Joan Johnson, Alice Oppen, Trish Procter, Helen Sheffer.