



# MEDIA RELEASE

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BELCONNEN ARTS CENTRE  
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## Women, Words and Water

A literary event to celebrate International Women's Day

Sunday 7 March, 2010

**To be opened by:** Ariel Salleh (Author & Activist, Sydney)  
**Coordinated by:** Lizz Murphy (Poet and Project Coordinator)  
**Featuring local writers:** Nicola Bowery, Hanna Cormick, Kathy Kituai,  
Jennifer Kemarre Martiniello and Chrissie Shaw  
**Program:** 9:30am – 5.00pm, Lunch BYO, evening Happy Hour  
**Cost:** \$25 / \$15 concessions (Half day rate available)  
**Bookings:** 02 6173 3300

For lovers of the spoken and written word, come along to Belconnen Arts Centre on Sunday 7 March and be inspired by *Women, Words and Water*. This special all-day literary event features prominent female authors and performers from the ACT and interstate, sharing their stories and unique perspectives. Participants have the chance to workshop their own writing in small groups.

Ariel Salleh, activist and author will begin the day with an opening address titled *The Value of Tears*. Ariel is the editor of *Eco-Sufficiency & Global Justice: Women Writing Political Ecology* (Spinifex Press, 2009). Nicola Bowery, Hanna Cormick, Jennifer Kemarre Martiniello, Kathy Kituai and Lizz Murphy explore key ideas of *Mothering Words*, *Impulse*, *Women's Weave*, *Undercurrent* and *The Unseen River* through poetry and performance. Chrissie Shaw will perform an excerpt from *The Keeper: A Gothic Tale of Light and Dark*; a theatre show devised by Chrissie Shaw and Penelope Bartlau. *The Keeper* has been widely toured and tells the stories of a number of women who lived on lighthouse stations around Australia.

Following lunch, these presenters will run parallel sessions where participants have the opportunity to engage through conversations, stories and writing- and performance-based workshops. Visitors can hear more stories from the stage, learn to write in the ancient poetic form of *tanka*, be wild with words, discover women's wisdom through song cycles and lyrical poetry, or explore instincts, impulses and the inner voice.

A range of women's titles will be available from the event bookstore, hosted by Daltons Books. Currently on show in the Gallery is local Belconnen artist Irma Trickett's *Belconnen Landscapes* for the public to enjoy, evoking the soul of the landscape in a kind of visual poetry. The event is open to anyone of any age and gender who wishes to be inspired, has a love of words, of writing or simply exchange ideas and to learn more about women and writing.

*Women, Words and Water* is supported by ACT Writers Centre, Daltons Books and Spinifex Press. See [www.belconnenartscentre.com.au](http://www.belconnenartscentre.com.au) for the full program.

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