

Media release

23 February 2009

Council celebrates International Women's Day

Woollahra
Municipal
Council



Woollahra Council invites local residents to celebrate International Women's Day on Thursday 5 March from 4.30pm-6.30pm at Council Chambers. This year's theme is "**Women and Education**" and Mary-Ruth Mendel, speech pathologist and Founder of the Australian Literacy and Numeracy Foundation (ALNF), will be the keynote speaker.

ALNF is dedicated to raising language, literacy and numeracy standards in Australia and raises funds to develop, implement and sustain innovative projects for individuals, families and communities. ALNF also supports a broad range of individuals (teachers, carers, healthcare workers, community workers, volunteers) in building on their skills to develop good literacy practices in their families and communities. Furthermore, ALNF believes that *teaching* and *learning* how to read and write should be considered *community* activities that involve families, community members and community groups.

Mary-Ruth is passionate about her work and especially proud of the achievements of the Indigenous women ALNF works with throughout Australia. 'I feel honoured and privileged to be involved in a day that celebrates the strength of women in education. In my work with ALNF I am constantly inspired by the strength and determination of women who persevere in the pursuit of education for their children in the face of extreme difficulty', said Mary Ruth-Mendel.

Each year, International Women's Day is celebrated across the world. The day provides an opportunity for the community to recognise the achievements of women and their contribution to society. Woollahra Council's celebrations will also acknowledge the completion of the Women in Woollahra project.

The Women in Woollahra project demonstrates the contribution of women through local government through professional and business life, as well as through community service. The project includes oral history recordings and written biographies which shed some light on the careers and contribution of prominent women in the local community.

Following the formal presentations there will be an opportunity for networking with light refreshments. Bookings are essential. For more information please call Woollahra Community Services on 9391 7166

Woollahra Council Chambers are located at 536 New South Head Road, Double Bay.

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