

A CHORUS OF WOMEN'S MISSION

We stand
in the ancient sacred lineage
of the Chorus.

As women citizens
we sing out
in the theatre of life,
commenting and telling
what must happen.

We affirm the citizens' place
in the public life of our country.

We give voice
to matters at the heart
of our communities,
weaving integrity, compassion
and respect for the Earth
into Australian democracy.

Honesty, clarity and wisdom
are our aims,
artistic expression
a means to these ends.

CONTACTS

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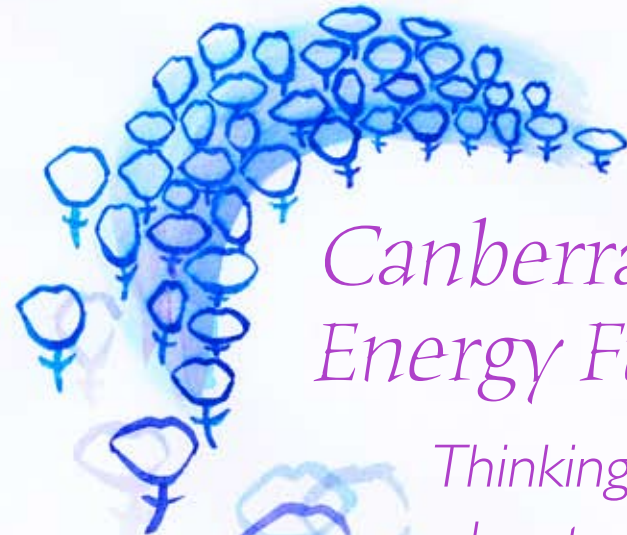
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or Glenda Cloughley on 6239 6483

a chorus of women

in collaboration with ANU Climate Change Institute



Canberra's Energy Future

*Thinking together
about ways forward*

The first in a series of

CANBERRA CONVERSATIONS

ACT Legislative Assembly, 26 February 2009

A CHORUS OF WOMEN EVENTS MARCH & APRIL 2009

UNIFEM INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY LUNCH

Thursday 5 March, International Conventional Centre

During this important annual event in the Canberra calendar we will sing an original song to guest speaker Fozilitun Nessa that honours her work with the Bangladeshi Acid Survivors' Foundation.

TWO FIRES FESTIVAL

10.30 - 11am Saturday 28 March, State Theatre, Braidwood

At the conclusion of the Festival Forum, Jungian analyst and singer-composer Dr Glenda Cloughley will speak about activating the roles that artists could play in helping to heal the social crisis of inaction on climate change. Festival goers will then be treated to a preview of *The Gifts of the Furies* performances that will take place in Canberra on the following two evenings.

THE GIFTS OF THE FURIES

6.30pm Sunday 29 March & Monday 30 March, The Great Hall, ANU

Please come to one of these premiere performances of our epic story song about climate change, which is perhaps the first Australian artwork to recognise the mythic scale of the climate change crisis. The purpose of men, women and children in the big Citizens' Chorus is to sing back some ancient wisdom about right relations between people and nature.

The wisdom comes in part from *The Oresteian Trilogy* with which the poet Aeschylus won the annual theatre festival of Athens in 458BC. In these dramas he warned his fellow citizens about the fragility of democracy and the imperative of restoring harmony between the city-state and Gaia, the Earth, before The Furies of Earth hurled a bloody tide of destruction against humankind. Like the ancient plays, our work moves from the dark core of our present situation to the possibility of reconciliation with nature. For tickets and more information, see www.chorusofwomen.org/whatsnew or phone Gill Christie (tickets) on 6251 4243 or Glenda Cloughley (info) on 6239 6483.

2ND CANBERRA CONVERSATION

6 - 9pm Thursday 30 April, ACT Legislative Assembly

Watch our website for announcement of the topic – www.chorusofwomen.org

ABOUT CANBERRA CONVERSATIONS

Canberra Conversations are a series of citizen conversations on topics of importance for our future. They will include information sharing, small group and facilitated larger group discussions together with A Chorus of Women's artistic representation of the social and ethical challenges these subjects present to our community. The aim is to see how community engagement and wise decision making could be helped by a more open dialogue among citizens, scientists, artists, business people and policy makers.

CANBERRA'S ENERGY FUTURE

We have chosen the topic of Canberra's energy use to launch 'Canberra Conversations' because most people agree that this is a vital matter for our future. Many people are trying to save energy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. But our actions often seem like a drop in the bucket in the context of the city's total energy use. How can we — the citizens of Canberra — make some sense of all the information that comes with calls to use less energy, news about new technologies and proposals to develop new infrastructure?

Dr Hugh Saddler (Sustainability Advice Team, Energy Strategies, and ANU Crawford and Fenner Schools), and **Mike Johnson** (former specialist engineer, ActewAGL) will share information with us about current energy production and use in Canberra. **Professor Will Steffen**, Director, ANU Climate Change Institute, and other ANU researchers will provide background information on the nature of climate change and its implications for energy systems. The discussion will be facilitated by **Dr Janet Salisbury**, a Director of the science information consultancy Biotext and member of A Chorus of Women.

NEXT CANBERRA CONVERSATION

Thursday 30 April, 6–9 pm, ACT Legislative Assembly

Topic to be announced -- keep an eye on our website www.chorusofwomen.org



a chorus of women

I AM ETHOS

I am
I am Ethos

I am the spirit of this place
I am the spirit of its people

I am the original spirit
I am the spirit of now

I rise from the earth
and I reach for the sun
I bring together
the old and the new

In me there is
no violence
no war

In me there is
only peace and reconciliation

In this place
I am the love and peace

I am the beauty
of this place

I am the spirit
of Canberra

I am Ethos in the people



Words by Tom Bass, the sculptor of Ethos
Music by Glenda Cloughley

VOICES OF THE CHORUS TODAY

Annie Didcott
Cedar Newton
Gill Christie
Glenda Cloughley
Janet Salisbury
Johanna McBride
Meg Rigby
Merilyn Jenkins
Nicky Grigg
Regina Mackenzie
Sue Hoffmann
Zahira-Madeleine Bullock



PIANO Johanna McBride
CLARINET Nicky Grigg
GUITAR Meg Rigby



MUSICAL DIRECTION

Johanna McBride Judith Clingan AM Meg Rigby



THANK YOU

We would like to thank Professor Will Steffen and the ANU Climate Change Institute for supporting this venture. And many thanks to Annie Didcott and her chorus of helpers for organising the refreshments.



LAMENT FOR GAIA

Sorrow in the dry wind
Longing cries in the soil and the streets
No rain falls The land takes no seed
Where are the Songs of Life?



Our ancestors tell that when Earth's child –
her beloved creation – is stolen and raped
the bountiful Earth withers with grief
so rain does not fall and the land takes no seed



When the laws of harmony are broken
and discord shouts down the Songs of Life
Listen to Nature the ancestors teach
Her lament is the start of renewal



Waiting and wailing
in the wells of grief
Dreaming of Gaia
and the Songs returning



Words and Music Glenda Cloughley

with thanks to Jill Hayman of Canberra
for translating parts of The Homeric Hymn to Demeter (c.800BC),
on which some of the lyric is based.

TALK FOR OUR PLANET'S SAKE

Talk for our planet's sake
Talk with heart and reason
Care for nature Care for humans
Care for our children's future

Words and Music Johanna McBride



DEAR EARTH

Dear Earth
Living Earth
Will you be our home?
We need to protect you
Reconnect with you
Deep in our bones
You are our home!



Precious life
Fragile lives
All within the web
We need to protect you
Reconnect with you
Deep in our souls
We are one whole!



Words Johanna McBride (verse 1) with Gill Christie (verse 2)
Music Johanna McBride

WE ARE THE WEATHER MAKERS

Inspired by Tim Flannery, who wrote in his book *The Weather Makers* (2005):

'... we are the generation fated to live in the most interesting of times,
for we are now the weather makers, and the future of biodiversity
and civilisation hangs on our actions.'

*We are the generation
That needs to take a stand
We are the weather makers
The future's in our hands*

Earth's climate is a-changing
There's no time to wait
If we don't stop burning carbon
It's going to be too late

The scientists have warned us
For over 20 years
That those CO2 emissions
Will only end in tears

Will we listen to the science
Or just party on?
And will our children ask us
'Where has our future gone?'

It's time for love to rise up
Together we must stand
To save our precious planet
The future's in our hands



Words Janet Salisbury
Music Several Chorus women, arrangement Judith Clingan

WE ARE THE PEOPLE

*We are the people
so many different voices
Building a Chorus
Singing together we will be heard*

How to find a common voice
when the theme is energy —
Must we conserve it? Can we spend it?
Old or nu - clear? Dirty or clean?

Does our planet have enough
to keep firing up our lives?
Do we need to be stingy killjoys?
What is the future for our children?

Seeking truth with an open mind
Leave behind our fixed agenda
Free to follow the flow of ideas
Ready to find the common ground

Talk and listen with empathy
Courage to feel uncertainty
Giving voice to our deepest values
Sharing our common humanity

Straight to the core Let's all aim true
Think with our hearts and we'll find good answers
Let us all speak of our hopes and fears
Let us together go straight to the heart



Words Verses 1 - 4 Johanna McBride Verse 6 Judith Clingan
Refrain Music - Johanna McBride Verse Music - Seikillos Song, 1st century Greek