

the eighth in a series of

# CANBERRA CONVERSATIONS

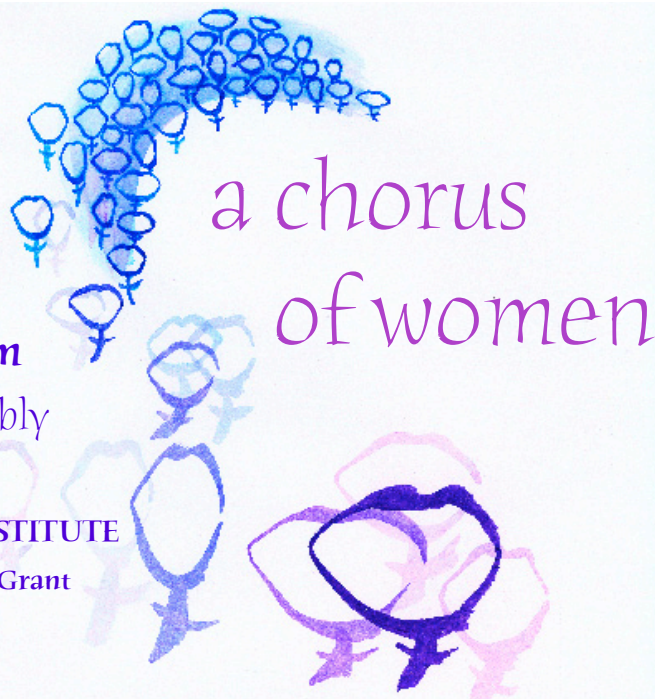
Tuesday 31 May 2011, 6.00 - 9.00pm

Reception Room, ACT Legislative Assembly

presented by A CHORUS OF WOMEN

in collaboration with ANU CLIMATE CHANGE INSTITUTE

with assistance from an ACT Government Environment Grant



## FILLING IN CANBERRA

### Can a denser city still be 'a home among the gum trees'?

Bookings are required by Thursday 26 May to [hoffie@inet.net.au](mailto:hoffie@inet.net.au)

Canberra's population is expected to increase by about 80,000 in the next 20 years. During the Canberra 2030: Time to Talk forums in 2010, and at our previous Canberra Conversation, people expressed support for 'well designed' urban infill (rather than increasing urban sprawl) to accommodate this increased population. Meanwhile, 2010 also saw community discussion about the removal of some large, well loved trees from streets and parks around Canberra, and an investigation into the management of Canberra's 'urban forest' overall.

We invite you to join us for this conversation, which will explore the following questions about the opportunities and challenges of creating a denser and more sustainable city:

- What do we mean by 'well designed'? What approaches to density offer the best sustainability outcomes – socially, culturally, economically and environmentally?
- How important are urban trees for Canberra? What contribution do they make to sustainability?
- How can we best contribute to ACT processes and regulatory frameworks for implementing 'good design'?

#### WHO WILL BE THERE?

PROFESSOR WILL STEFFEN, Executive Director, ANU Climate Change Institute; Adviser to the Multi-Party Climate Change Committee established by the Prime Minister to help build consensus on how Australia will tackle climate change; member of the Climate Commission, established by the Minister for Climate Change and Energy Efficiency to provide expert advice and information on climate change to the Australian community.

DR MAXINE COOPER, ACT Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment. Maxine recently reported on the ACT Government's tree management practices and the renewal of Canberra's urban forest.

MR NECTAR EFKARPIDIS, Developer: Managing Director, Molonglo Group

A CHORUS OF WOMEN will provide artistic input relating to the conversation.

DR JANET SALISBURY (Director of the science communication consultancy Biotext and a member of Chorus) will facilitate the discussion.

OTHER PARTICIPANTS will include business people, policy makers, members of community and environmental groups, and concerned citizens of Canberra.

#### WILL YOU JOIN US?

Canberra Conversations is a community initiative of A Chorus of Women.

## ABOUT CANBERRA CONVERSATIONS

Canberra Conversations are a series of citizen conversations on topics of importance for our future. They 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 that 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, technical specialists, artists, business people and policy makers.

## HOW DO CANBERRA CONVERSATIONS DIFFER FROM OTHER PUBLIC MEETINGS?

Most public discussion is based on debate, which is inherently adversarial. In Canberra Conversations we take a different approach, which Dr Janet Salisbury is developing in line with A Chorus of Women's mission and practice from the kind of dialogue proposed by physicist David Bohm in his book *On Dialogue* (1996).

Canberra Conversations aim to promote dialogue in which participants listen to each other with sufficient interest and empathy to understand the meaning and motivations of other positions properly. This can take participants beyond the fixed positions they might bring to an adversarial discussion and open them to engage constructively on the topic, paving the way for creative thinking and wise actions.

## CHATHAM HOUSE RULE FOR CANBERRA CONVERSATIONS

We hold Canberra Conversations under the Chatham House Rule with the aim of creating an environment conducive to open and free-flowing conversation. We ask that all participants commit to the Rule as follows:

*Participants may report the substance of the conversation to non-participants, but they may not attribute particular quotes or statements to specific individuals or the organisations they represent without the express permission of those speakers.*

## OUR NEXT CANBERRA CONVERSATION

Our next Canberra Conversation will be about our progress toward reducing carbon emissions.  
Date and venue: 1 August 6-9 pm at the ACT Legislative Assembly.

## PREVIOUS CANBERRA CONVERSATIONS

The topics for our most recent Canberra Conversations were:

- FINDING WISDOM ON CLIMATE CHANGE ACROSS THE POLITICAL DIVIDE – March 2010
- CANBERRA'S FUTURE: Thinking together about sustainability, development and growth – May 2010
- CANBERRA - CELEBRATING 2010 & IMAGINING 2030 – December 2010

See [www.chorusofwomen.org](http://www.chorusofwomen.org) for details of these and earlier Canberra Conversations.

## CONTACTS FOR BOOKINGS & FURTHER INFORMATION

TIME	Tuesday 31 May, 5:45 for 6.00 - 9.00pm (light refreshments provided)
PLACE	Reception Room, ACT Legislative Assembly, Civic Square, London Circuit
BOOKINGS	to Sue Hoffmann by COB, 26 May. EMAIL <a href="mailto:hoffie@inet.net.au">hoffie@inet.net.au</a>
CONTACT	For further information contact Janet Salisbury: <a href="mailto:janetsalisbury25@gmail.com">janetsalisbury25@gmail.com</a> or Sue Hoffmann: <a href="mailto:hoffie@inet.net.au">hoffie@inet.net.au</a> or phone 6262 7374.
WEBSITES	<a href="http://www.chorusofwomen.org">www.chorusofwomen.org</a> <a href="http://www.anu.edu.au/climatechange">www.anu.edu.au/climatechange</a>



a chorus of women