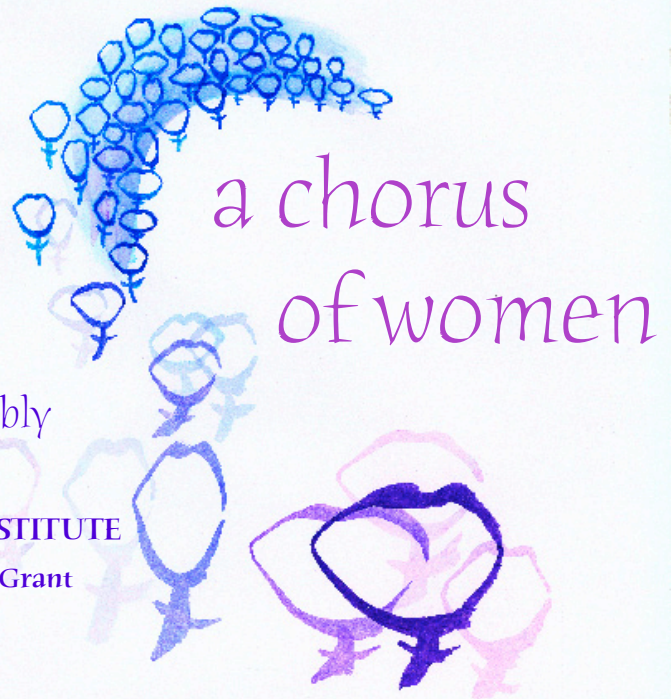


the fifth in a series of

CANBERRA CONVERSATIONS

Thursday 4 March 2010, 6 - 9pm
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



Finding wisdom on climate change across the political divide

RSVP by 1 March to hoffie@iinet.net.au

At this Canberra Conversation we will consider the recent debate in Australia about emissions trading and the outcomes of the Copenhagen summit, and facilitate a community dialogue around the following questions:

- o Can we turn a 'diabolical policy issue' into an opportunity for wise action?
- o How could our political leaders and parties work together to find common ground?
- o Can Canberra lead the way as a city of citizen engagement with political leaders working together across the political divide?
- o Could citizens encourage and empower political leaders to act wisely?

While focusing on climate change, the aim of this conversation will be to explore how dialogue can provide the basis for community consideration of difficult and potentially divisive issues, providing a more creative way of developing public policy.

WHO WILL BE THERE?

PROFESSOR WILL STEFFEN is Executive Director, ANU Climate Change Institute and Science Adviser, Department of Climate Change, Australian Government. He has participated in numerous international meetings about climate change, including the Copenhagen scientific meeting in March 2009 and the UN COP15 conference in December.

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 COME?

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.

OTHER CANBERRA CONVERSATIONS

See www.chorusofwomen.org for details of A Chorus of Women's previous Canberra Conversations:

- CANBERRA'S ENERGY FUTURE: Thinking together about ways forward – February 2009
- EMISSIONS TRADING: The way forward to greenhouse gas reduction? – May 2009
- SCIENCE AND THE CREATIVE ARTS: A potent collaboration for change? – August 2009
- TRANSPORT FOR THE CANBERRA COMMUNITY: Thinking together about wise moves – October 2009

CONTACTS FOR RSVP & FURTHER INFORMATION

TIME	Thursday 4 March, 5.30 for 6-9pm (light refreshments provided)
PLACE	Reception Room, ACT Legislative Assembly, Civic Square, London Circuit
RSVP	to Sue Hoffmann by COB, 1 March. EMAIL hoffie@inet.net.au
CONTACT	For further information contact Janet Salisbury: janetsalisbury25@gmail.com or Sue Hoffmann: hoffie@inet.net.au or phone 6262 7374.
WEBSITES	www.chorusofwomen.org www.anu.edu.au/climatechange



a chorus of women