

FEEDBACK FROM INVITED GUESTS

ON THE EDGE OF SILENCE IN SCIENCE WEEK, AUGUST 2007

Professor John Williams, NSW Natural Resources Commissioner, Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists:

'Your Chorus were magnificent. The structure, the drama, the music, the voice, the movement, the carefully chosen symbols were beautifully woven together....the impact on me was quite wonderful. I doubt if I realised how much of my scientific life has been lived in that tension. It is only recently have I felt and decided that all of me is important....the head, the heart and the hand. Your work has helped me.'

Associate Professor Janette Lindesay, Fenner School of Society and Environment, ANU:

'Many thanks for inviting me to be part of a wonderful event! I have come away from it with so many powerful impressions and feelings that it is difficult to put it into words.'

While the performance was moving and wonderful, I found the discussion afterwards immensely rewarding too. I enjoyed the opportunity to share some of my thoughts and feelings on the subject. I was rather concerned that I wouldn't be able to talk clearly, in fact, because I had been moved to tears by your performance and was feeling somewhat shaky - it really was very powerful. To see the absolute commitment and engagement of the Chorus, and to hear the insights of people in the audience, was empowering.'

Professor Will Steffen, Fenner School of Society and Environment, ANU:

'Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the event. I very much enjoyed it, and will certainly keep in mind future opportunities for performances like On the Edge of Silence.'

Richard Eckersley, National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health, ANU:

'... congratulations on expressing an important, and largely overlooked, dimension of a huge challenge.'

Dr Libby Robin, Fenner School of Society and Environment, ANU:

'It was a privilege to be there - and a pleasure. I also heard from several students in the Fenner school who came along because of the notice I sent around and they loved it.'

Peter Quartermaine, formerly Lecturer in Sociology, Charles Sturt University:

'Three days on and I'm still thinking about 'On the Edge of Silence' – a remarkable and unique achievement. I recently read a thoughtful and provocative review of the problems and pitfalls associated with the 'theatre of science'. In the author's view, many productions fall over because they all too easily turn into theatrical lectures, but this wasn't the problem for the Chorus of Women.

Your 'emotional and ethical drama' possessed real theatrical and thematic unity, a seamless and unforced fusion, of music, dance, autobiography, poetry, philosophy and science. No mean achievement!

As a result of the Science Week presentations, A Chorus of Women has been invited to present *On the Edge of Silence*, with audience discussion, at the 'Fenner Festival of Ideas' (3–7 March 2008), which will be a major interdisciplinary forum held at the ANU. The presentation will be on Wednesday 5th March, when the theme is 'Sustainability Transformation'.