



Circulating

An experience

A place

A symbol

A sign

Honouring women's experiences

Nurturing wisdom in all people

Working for justice in our world

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10am-1pm

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March 2024



www.pixabay.com/images - thanks to 'cocoparisienne'

Time for some lighthearted relief this year!



“In ancient times, cats were worshipped as gods; they have not forgotten this...”!

Terry Pratchett

“People who hate cats will come back as mice in their next life.”

Faith Resnick



Message from the Coordinating Team

Dear Sophia Members,

Welcome to 2024 at Sophia. The Opening Celebration was a peaceful, gentle way to begin our new year. We again wrote of hopes for this coming year. We acknowledged Yalmay Yunupingu as Senior Citizen of 2024, and watched a short video about her ongoing efforts to share native language, particularly in childrens' published literature. Jenny spoke about the new focus for Aboriginal Reconciliation in 2024 by way of a Scholarship fund, which replaces the previous grants that were distributed via Flinders University to Indigenous students from monies donated by Sophia members. (see later in Newsletter for details of this fund).

Maureen spoke of the organisation 'Spirit of Woman' and the ongoing endeavour to have 'The Place of Courage' Ripples Across SA installations created across the state. These locations and installations are where people can go and reflect on women and children victims and survivors of domestic and family violence; places of peace and safety. The first such place in the Dominican Peace Gardens unfortunately met with the theft of the beautiful statue situated there. However, a new location will be established in the gardens soon, now with improved security.

Late last year we were very fortunate to receive a bequest from Nadeya Maystrenko's estate. We have used this to install CCTV around Sophia as there have been some thefts from the grounds. I like to think that in this way Nadeya is forever looking over our/her beloved gardens with protective eyes. Thank you Nadeya!

Catherine Pari has been a long term volunteer in our gardens. She recently resigned from this work. We wish to thank her for all the years of dedication, care, love and creativity, and hard work that she has contributed to Sophia, and the wider Dominican Peace gardens. Catherine will remain connected to Sophia and her friends here, and also pursue other interests and leisures. We wish her well! Robyn Garrett has been volunteering along with Catherine for some time now and will continue Catherine's work, as well as bringing her own touches. Thank you Robyn. She is well supported by Jenny and Dinali, and Kenny who also does gardening for the Dominicans. What a team!

A reminder that annual subscriptions to Sophia are due at the beginning of each year. Please contact Penny to renew yours. It is a valuable way to help keep Sophia running and functioning into the future. Thank you!

**Best Wishes,
Sophia Vogt & Wendy Jollands
Coordinator & Coordinator Support**

Instagram

You may have noticed that Sophia now has an Instagram account: [sophia.adelaide.92617](https://www.instagram.com/sophia.adelaide.92617)

If you have any photos of events etc which might be suitable for posting, please send them to: coordinator@sophia.org.au - thank you!

Sophia Indigenous Scholarship Fund

For many years Sophia has financially supported Indigenous students studying at Flinders University. This year a \$5000 scholarship will be offered from this fund. We've been fortunate that most contributors donate \$100/year or more.

If you too would like to become a donor the easiest way to contribute is to make a Bank Transfer to:
Sophia Ecumenical Spirituality BSN 035048
Acc No 256080 and add "Reconciliation" or "Recon" so it ends up in the right account!

Jenny Wightman is the coordinator of the SIS Fund and, if you do contribute to the Fund, please email her at newjenny@bigpond.com stating your name and the amount you have donated. Thanks! For further information, please email Jenny.

Below are comments from recipients of the previous grants:

"Your support meant that I could purchase my first laptop! A pretty important tool in tertiary education!"

I really appreciate your support."

Alisha Staines, Snr Project Officer for Commissioner for Aboriginal Children & Young People, SA

"The Sophia Indigenous Bursary Fund provided me with a chance to buy some of the more expensive textbooks for my first year. These books supported me throughout not only that first year but my whole degree.

I still own these books and have continued to use them in my current degree that I began after my first one.

I cannot thank the fund enough for giving me the chance to own a resource that has been invaluable to my education that I wouldn't have been able to afford on my own."

Emilee Pyrke, Student of Bachelor of Archaeology, Flinders.





Sophia News

Friends of the Dominican Peace & Sophia Gardens

We invite you to join our enthusiastic group of volunteers for a Working Bee on the second Tuesday of the month to help maintain the beautiful gardens. Delicious morning tea provided. No garden experience necessary!

Volunteer Vacancy: Garden

There are some weekly jobs that need doing around the Sophia garden. These include weeding, watering pot plants, raking paths especially under the Grevillea, cleaning and refilling bird baths. If you are interested, please contact the Sophia office. Thanks!



Opening Ritual

Some of the hopes and wishes for this year involved:

- *looking after our health and creativity;*
- *deep listening;*
- *practising gratitude;*
- *seeing the earth energies moving towards connection & oneness;*
- *seeing everyone as sisters and brothers of the human race*
- *and continuing to walk with Indigenous people's hopes & wishes.*

It seems all anyone wants is peace, connection and respect!



Childcare Volunteers & Tutors

The ESL program is looking for more childcare volunteers for the Wednesday morning classes. They would like to develop a pool of willing helpers so that it is not a weekly commitment for the carers. Please contact Sophia if you are interested in helping. Also if you know of anyone who would like to join our wonderful group as a tutor please tell them how great we are and bring them along! Thank you!

Men's ESL Group

It is hoped that a men's class will be starting so if you know of anyone who could benefit from this, please let them know. If any prospective students are interested, they can contact Sophia.

Bequest

Sophia Inc. received a generous bequest from the estate of Nadeya Maystrenko, long time Sophia member, who sadly passed away just over a year ago. Her bequest was allocated to cover the costs of having CCTV mounted around the Sophia building by our Security firm. The recordings stay on the system for three months. In the event of a theft or break-in police can check the footage for likely suspects.

Sophia is always most grateful of any bequest we receive. You may wish to consider this when you are estate planning. Such monies are always put to good use, often funding projects that are on the 'back burner,' so to speak!

Volunteer End of Year Brunch

This was a lovely meal in late November at the She-Oak Cafe at Belair.



For Sale

Juicer/mincer that hasn't been used very much! Contact Marian if interested. Was \$350 - happy to sell for \$50. mariang13@outlook.com





Sophia Library

No More Donations, Thank you!

Our storage space is still absolutely full to overflowing and we have nowhere to put any more donations, so please take any unwanted books elsewhere!

Additions to the Sophia Library

Come in and borrow!

Letting Go - The pathway of surrender
David R. Hawkins 170 HAW

Wild Dogs Under My Skirt
Tusiata Avia (poetry) 830 AVI

The Boys from St. Francis
Ashley Malle 994.93 MAL

Real Love - The art of mindful connection
Sharon Salzberg 158.2 SAL

Coniston
Michael Bradley 305 BRA

Chasing the Dance of Life-A faith journey
Cynthia Winton-Henry 920 WIN

Milkman
Anna Burns (fiction) 823.92 BUR

Virginia Woolf
Hermione Lee 920 LEE

Wandjuk Marika - Life Story as told to Jennifer Isaacs
Jennifer Isaacs 994 ISA

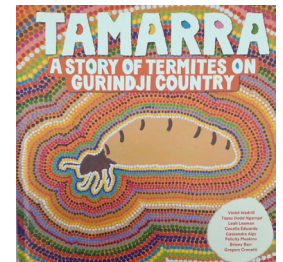
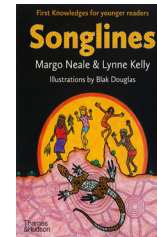
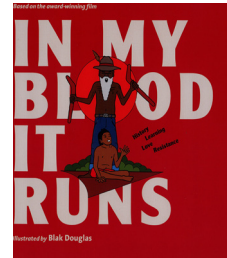
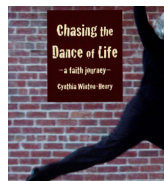
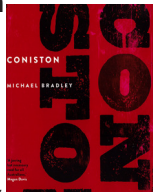
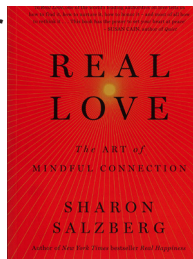
**We Can't Say We Didn't Know
- Dispatches from an age of impurity**
Sophie McNeill 920 MCN

The Time is Now - A call to uncommon courage
Joan Chittister 261.8 CHI

Drawdown - The most comprehensive plan ever proposed to reverse global warming
Paul Hawken (editor) 363.73 HAW

The Impact of God-Soundings from St. John of the Cross
Father Iain Matthew 248.22 MAT

Fragmented Women-Feminist (sub)versions of Biblical narratives
Cheryl Exum 221.6 EXU



New Children's Books

Three wonderful children's (for adults too) books have recently been donated to the Sophia Library and are currently on display.

'In My Blood It Runs' (2023) by Dujan Hoosan, Margaret Anderson and Carol Turner is based on an award winning film and has vivid illustrations by Blak Douglas (winner of the Archibald Prize in 2022). It is narrated by Dujan Hoosan, a 10-year-old Arrernte/Garawa boy who is wise and cheeky. He is also a healer. Out in the bush his healing power is wise but in town, it gets him into trouble. His family send him to live out bush to learn the ways and history of the old people.

'Tamarra - A story of termites on Gurindji Country' (2023) is a fascinating and informative book that celebrates termites through the stories of the Gurindji people. With full page artworks and photos, this is the outcome of a collaboration between over thirty First Nations and non-Indigenous artists, storytellers, Gurindji Elders, scientists and a linguist. It is written in traditional Gurindji, Gurindji Kriol and English with a glossary and pronunciation guide. A great read!

In the First Knowledges for Younger People series, *'Songlines'* (2023) is written by Margo Neale and Lynne Kelly and illustrated by Blak Douglas. This is most definitely a book for adults as well as children. It is an introduction to Indigenous traditional knowledges including history, art, song and science. It tells us how Songlines work and "how they can help all people thrive into the future."

Come into the Sophia Library to browse or borrow these books and check out other new books on display!

Fiona Johnston