

the fourth in a series of

CANBERRA CONVERSATIONS

Monday 26 October 2009, 6 - 9pm

Theo Notaras Multicultural Centre, London Circuit

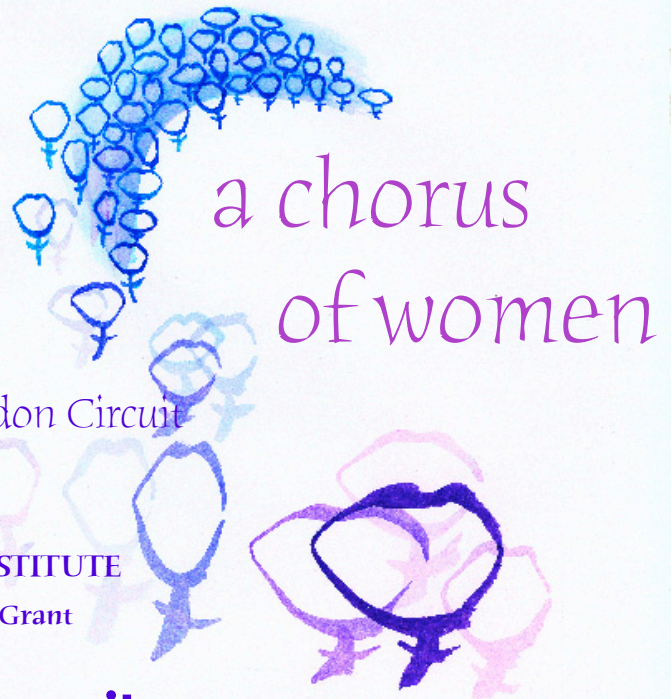
presented by A CHORUS OF WOMEN

in collaboration with ANU CLIMATE CHANGE INSTITUTE

with assistance from an ACT Government Environment Grant

Transport for the Canberra community

THINKING TOGETHER ABOUT WISE MOVES



RSVP by 22 October to hoffie@iinet.net.au

Transport is a significant contributor to Canberra's greenhouse gas emissions. With low urban density, Canberra has become highly car-dependent with low uptake of public transport.

- What are the dimensions of Canberra's transport systems in relation to climate change?
- What role does urban design play and what room do we have to move here?
- How can the principles of 'integrated transport' best be realised?
- What can we do in the short term and how do we factor in longer term needs and possibilities?
- How can policy makers, planners, developers, business people and the community work together to improve our transport systems?

This Canberra Conversation will seek to unravel the complexities of this topic and stimulate innovative ways forward.

WHO WILL BE THERE?

PROFESSOR WILL STEFFEN (Executive Director, ANU Climate Change Institute) will bring a climate change and sustainability perspective to the conversation, particularly in relation to integrated approaches to transport.

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 has developed 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).

In a discussion (or debate) people usually hold fixed positions and try to convince others to change. At best this may produce agreement or compromise, but it rarely gives rise to creative solutions. If issues of fundamental importance are involved, positions tend to become more entrenched and the discussion may either become confrontational or turn into a polite avoidance of the issues. In this process, benefits tend to be exaggerated, and risks and uncertainties downplayed.

In a dialogue, participants listen to each other with sufficient interest and empathy to understand the meaning and motivations of other positions properly. Importantly, they bring an openness to changing or modifying their initial position as a result of the process. In this type of discussion, uncertainties and fears can be realistically acknowledged, while benefits and risks can be examined honestly. This allows the proper analysis of evidence that is needed for creative thinking and wise actions.

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

CONTACTS FOR RSVP & FURTHER INFORMATION

- TIME** Monday 26 October, 5.30 for 6-9pm (light refreshments provided)
- PLACE** Theo Notaras Multicultural Centre Function Room, London Circuit
(across Civic Square from the Legislative Assembly)
- RSVP** to Sue Hoffmann by COB, Thursday 22 October. EMAIL hoffie@iinet.net.au
- CONTACT** For further information contact Janet Salisbury: janetsalisbury25@gmail.com
or Sue Hoffmann: hoffie@iinet.net.au or phone 6262 7374.
- WEBSITES** www.chorusofwomen.org www.anu.edu.au/climatechange



a chorus of women