



The Bluestocking Institute

for Global Peace and Justice

Annual Report 2015-2016

Purpose

The Bluestocking Institute fosters dialogue on issues of global importance including peace building, sustainable development and social movements. Its purpose is to inform and inspire people to become active and engaged citizens in their local communities and beyond. We work in four main areas: globalisation, social inclusion, knowledge and power, and peace and conflict. The Institute provides public education through workshops, discussion groups, publications and its website.

Report from the Management Committee

Over the past financial year (1 July 2015 – 30 June 2016), we've been focused on community education and engagement with contemporary debates. We've done this through a bookclub held in Perth, a World Press Photo Exhibition tour, and a social media activity for Bluestocking Week. Our Bluestocking website was also upgraded - <https://bluestockinginstitute.org/>. We look forward to continuing the work of the Bluestocking Institute in the coming year.

- Shae Garwood, Sky Croeser, Kelly Gerard, Karen O'Sullivan, Lucy Roberts, Michelle Hackett.

Activities

Book and film club

The Bluestocking Institute's Bookclub now meets on a more casual basis. This year we discussed the books: *Black flags and windmills: hope, anarchy, and the common ground collective* by Scott Crow; *The Great Divide: Unequal Societies and What We Can Do about Them* by Joseph Stiglitz; and *Talkin' Up To the White Woman: Indigenous Women and Feminism* by Aileen Moreton-Robison. Members who have attended the meetings have reported it is a useful and interesting forum.

Photo Exhibition

The Bluestocking Institute organised a private tour of the World Press Photo Exhibition in Perth. The Exhibition was hosted by the Western Australian Museum and the tour was conducted by the curator of World Press on 4 July 2015. We were also extremely lucky to have a personal audience with Raphaela Rosella - the young Indigenous Australian photographer whose captivating photograph 'Laurinda' won the portrait section of the competition - and Brenda Keneally - the acclaimed New York photojournalist who has spent a lifetime working with youth and families on the margins.

The tour was acclaimed by attendees for its fascinating insights into photojournalism and the social justice issues which it highlights. Money raised from the tour (\$330) was donated to the YMCA Belmont in Perth towards their youth arts program. See our website for more details.

Bluestocking Week

For the 2015 NTEU Bluestocking Week - celebrating women in academia - we sent out daily tweets exploring the history of Australian women in academia, ongoing challenges that women face within academia, and the experiences of marginalised women. Many of these were re-tweeted several times by Bluestocking Twitter followers from the broader community.

Looking ahead

The Bluestocking Institute is organizing another World Press Photo event in Perth for late 2016. This will be a special film screening of the award-winning documentary 'The Long Night' by Tim Matsui. The film is an exploration of sex trafficking and sex work in the US as told by seven different young women.

Several other projects are being considered, surrounding the themes of: sexual violence, women's economic security, and parenting-and-politics. Of particular interest are a series of 'letters to the editor', addressing these themes as they arise in mainstream media; and increasing our social media presence with a focus on these issues.

Membership

From inception until 30 June 2016, 63 members have signed up through the Bluestocking website and other forums, and 112 people have joined the Bluestocking Institute's Facebook group.

Governance

The management committee is responsible for the governance of the Institute. For the financial year, the committee board consisted of Shae Garwood (Chair), Sky Croeser (Vice Chair), Kelly Gerard (Treasurer), Michelle Hackett (Secretary), Karen O'Sullivan, and Lucy Roberts.

Treasurer's Report

The balance of the account as of 30 June 2016 was \$667.