ADVANCE ANNOUNCEMENT

The Australian Women’s History Forum will hold a major gathering in Canberra in March 2014. This exciting event will attract considerable attention and we want to provide you with this early notice before invitations are sent out next month.

This event will be a headline debate on the proposition that:

Australia doesn’t need Women’s History Month

We will be inviting all women parliamentarians, and a wide array of representatives of women’s organisations. We also hope many members of the public will attend.

The debate will take place at the Albert Hall, Canberra on the evening of Wednesday 26 March 2014 and will be followed by a reception.

Some background:

Women’s History Month in Australia, launched in 2002 at Parliament House in Canberra by Senators Margaret Reid and Amanda Vanstone and MHR Carmen Lawrence, has been celebrated for a decade.

The success of Women’s History Month in the USA, a national event since a 1987 resolution of Congress, and in Canada where it was proclaimed in 1992, had inspired this initiative in Australia.

But here, the celebration of Women’s History Month has remained a series of voluntary endeavours, in recent years encouraged and overseen by a small Canberra-based team.

This debate will mark the end of the Australia-wide events, coordinated online since 2003. In a unique event, prominent thinkers will debate in the national capital on why – or whether – Australia is different.
Debaters will include:


- **Ms Alix Biggs**, ANU student, national and international debater and a former Australian Young Historian of the Year

- **Professor Marnie Hughes-Warrington**, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) at the Australian National University, historiographer and author of several books including *Revisionist Histories* (2013) and a winner of the Prime Minister’s Award for University Teacher of the Year

- **Professor Marilyn Lake**, University of Melbourne historian and current president of the Australian Historical Association, whose publications reflect her special interest in the political history of Australian women

- **Professor Angela Woollacott**, Professor of History at the Australian National University, editor of the Cambridge University Press *History for the Australian Curriculum* series and author of many works on women and history

Adjudicators will include:

- **Professor Tony Taylor**, Department of Education, Monash University, Director of the Commonwealth’s National Centre for History Education 2001-2007.

- **Professor Kim Rubenstein**, Director of the ANU Centre for International and Public Law and founding convenor of the ANU Gender Institute

Audience members will also participate in deciding whether the question has been affirmed or negated!

---

**Time:** 6 for 6.30 pm Wednesday, March 26, 2014  
**Venue:** Albert Hall, Commonwealth Avenue, Canberra  
**Cost:** $15 ($12 concession)  
**Bookings:** [www.trybooking.com/DVGO](http://www.trybooking.com/DVGO)  
**Updates:** [www.womenshistory.net.au](http://www.womenshistory.net.au)