

Early successes for new imprint

Spinifex Press, Australia's award winning feminist publisher, plans a wide and varied portfolio for the coming year

A NEW PUBLISHING venture, Spinifex Press got off to a flying start in March 1991. Its founders, writers Renate Klein and Susan Hawthorne set out to publish innovative and controversial feminist



Susan Hawthorne (left) and Renate Klein (right) are elated by their early successes

books across a range of writing styles, including fiction, poetry, drama, feminist theory, health, art and a quiz book.

In the very short time that it has been operating Spinifex Press has made its mark on the publishing scene—both locally and internationally. Its first book, *Angels of Power*, an anthology of fiction, drama and poetry on reproductive technologies was selected as an Australian Feminist Book Fortnight Favourite, while another publication on women's reproductive health and the right to safe accessible abortion services, *RU 486: Misconceptions, Myths and Morals* received the Human Rights Award, Certificate of Commendation

for 1991. The year culminated with international recognition with the Pandora New Venture Award, sponsored by Women in Publishing in the UK.

Co-founder, Susan Hawthorne, sees Spinifex Press as reversing a trend of recessionary times whereby feminist books are the first to be dropped from publishers' lists. The Spinifex list is optimistic, radical and diverse, recognising the importance of both a thorough-going seriousness and a sense of humour.

Publishing plans for 1992 include poetry by expatriate, Gillian Hanscombe, *Sybil: The Glide of Her Tongue*, a 'prophetic fugue in lesbian past, present and future time'; a novel by Susan Hawthorne *The Falling Woman* which explores ancient and modern myths from the Garden of Eden to the mystique of epilepsy (also the author of *The Spinifex Book of Women's Answers*); a book that challenges and explains postmodernism by Canadian, Somer Brodribb, *Nothing Mat(t)ers*; and work by Australia's newest feminist crime fiction writer and author of *Too Rich*, Melissa Chan, *Getting Your Man*. Later in the year comes a new book by Dale Spender providing a feminist perspective on computers and information technology; and a book of art photographs that make us look in new ways at flowers, *If Passion Were A Flower*, by Lariane Fonseca.

Spinifex books are available through bookshops and direct and mail order sales from 504 Queensberry Street, North Melbourne, 3051.

Susan Hawthorne

Occupational Health and Safety

THE FEBRUARY meeting of the Board of Education considered the needs of library and information personnel for information about industrial matters, in particular, Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) issues. Like so many issues, it is not a simple matter, as there are varying requirements in different states, according to state legislation. However, the University Librarian, University of New South Wales,

Christine Henderson, has most generously made available the expertise of Isabella Trahn, Staff Development Librarian at UNSW, to ALIA members.

If you have a query about OH&S issues (use of VDUs, environmental hazards, equipment hazards, moving and lifting library materials, and so on) call Isabella Trahn at the University of New South Wales Library, Tel (02) 697 2599.

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